

# Monday Classes Today

MIT's  
Oldest and Largest  
Newspaper



### The Weather

Today: Sunny, 44°F (6°C)  
Tonight: Clear, cold, 31°F (-1°C)  
Tomorrow: Rain, 39°F (3°C)  
Details, Page 2

Volume 119, Number 5

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, February 16, 1999

## Grade Modifiers Will Likely Remain for Internal Use Only

By Kristen Landino  
STAFF REPORTER

After evaluating the results of a three-year experiment on the use plus-minus modifiers on internal grade reports, the Committee on the Undergraduate Program will propose that the faculty continue to restrict grade modifiers to internal use only.

Before the experiment began in the fall of 1995, MIT students could only receive grades of "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F," with no plus or minus modifiers attached.

According to the recommendation which will be brought forward by the CUP, plus-minus modifiers will not appear on official MIT transcripts but still appear on reports to academic advisors. The faculty will vote on the issue in April.

"In general, the MIT faculty wanted external grade modifiers; however, the overwhelming student consensus indicated a desire for intermediate grades to remain internal," said Professor of Foreign Languages and Literatures Suzanne Flynn, chair of the CUP.

"I believe our decision represented a compromise between both students and faculty at MIT," Flynn said.

Van L. Chu '99, Cristian A. Gonzalez '99, Nathaniel J. Grier '00, and Matthew L. McGann '00 all offered their input to the committee as student representatives to the CUP.

The majority of CUP members supported the decision to keep grade modifiers internal for several different reasons.

"I think everyone agreed that the modifiers helped both students and advisors to better determine performance in their coursework... but another key consideration was the fact that a non-trivial percentage of faculty members do not opt to use modifiers, particularly the 'A+' so there would not be uniformity in external representation," Grier said.

"Statistics showed that neither grade distributions nor GPAs changed with any statistical significance because of modifiers, and the benefit of increased feedback remained the same, regardless of

whether the grade modifiers were internal or external. Making the modifiers external would only serve to increase pressure at MIT," McGann said.

Although students and faculty on the whole had divergent interests, those on the CUP reached an almost unanimous consensus after months of discussion and research.

"The CUP really listened to student input and concerns. It also was a rarity in the land of MIT committees in that it did not disregard the subcommittee's report; indeed, it endorsed them in full," McGann said.

The CUP decided in December that they would not try to alter the status quo. Once the decision was made, Flynn asked student representatives on the CUP to organize an open forum with the help of the Student Committee on Educational Performance during IAP to discuss the CUP's decision. However, this idea fell through due to lack of interest.

Grades, Page 18



KRZYSZTOF GAJOS—THE TECH

The Association of Taiwanese Students sponsored a dinner to celebrate Chinese New Year Saturday at Edgerton House. Following the feast, students relaxed and played Mah-jong, a traditional Chinese game.

## Dormcon Announces Event Grant Following Influx of HFS Funding

By Priya Prahalad  
STAFF REPORTER

Dormitory Council is soliciting proposals for a \$3,000 grant to fund any dormitory group organizing a spring semester campus-wide event.

"Proposals for the event will be held on February 25th in the Baker conference room," said Bill W. Venderson '99, Dormcon vice president. The proposed events should be open to the entire MIT community, indicate in a detailed budget how the money will be used, have an established record of success, and

commit to advertise the event as sponsored in part by Dormcon.

"Our motive is simply to promote community interaction and cohesiveness through such events that are open to all of MIT," said Manju V. Madhavan '99, Dormcon president.

An established event will likely receive the grant, since the sum isn't large enough to put on a new campus-wide event, Madhavan said.

"The decision by Dormcon to make this money available for event organizers on campus is a good one,

and hopefully the money will be put to good use. Events like Burton-Conner's DTYD could potentially benefit from this money, so there may eventually be a proposal for that. Right now, though, it's up to the event organizers themselves," said Gabriel M. Rockefeller '00, president of Burton-Conner.

### Overdue funds finance grant

Every year, Dormcon receives \$1 per dormitory resident per

Dormcon, Page 18

## Students React to Clinton Acquittal, Mirror Their National Party's View

By Kevin R. Lang  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Much like Friday's Senate vote to acquit President Bill Clinton of high crimes and misdemeanors, reactions among MIT's student political groups fell decisively along party lines.

The trial ended when both articles of impeachment failed to garner the necessary two-thirds majority in the Senate. The first article, levying perjury charges

against the President, was defeated 45 to 55, while the second, alleging obstruction of justice, ended in a 50 to 50 tie. Immediately following the announcement, members of the MIT College Democrats (MIT-CDS) held a rally in Lobby 7 and a march through the Infinite Corridor.

MIT-CDS member Anna K. Benefiel '00 said that she organized the acquittal demonstration to celebrate the trial's conclusion. "We generated many smiles along the

Infinite Corridor Friday afternoon, and someone even leaned over the second floor balcony of Lobby 10 to applaud us," Benefiel said. Signs carried by MIT-CDS members included "The circus has left the building", "Q.E.D.", and "The fat lady has sung."

"We wanted to express our enthusiasm regarding the closure of such an ugly process, which

Acquittal, Page 17



MICHELLE POVINELLI—THE TECH

Ricardo Ramirez '02 and Jason Parris '02, members of GAMIT, participate in a symbolic marriage to honor National Freedom To Marry Day Friday in Lobby 7.



MIT students participate in US First Competition.

Page 9



Comics

Page 10

The Tech begins publication of its "Features" section with a story about the history of hacks at MIT. The section will appear every Tuesday.

Page 6

World & Nation	2
Opinion	4
Features	6
TechCalendar	7
Sports	20

# WORLD & NATION

## Scientists Will Begin Testing Novel Malaria Vaccine in Monkeys

NEWSDAY

The first vaccine with enough weapons to have a real chance against malaria is about to be tested in monkeys, scientists announced Monday.

The new vaccine has shown strong promise in the laboratory and will be tried in monkeys in March, said molecular biologist Altaf Lal, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. If it works, human testing will not be far off.

"The unique feature is that we're targeting different stages" in the malaria parasite's migration through the human body, Lal said. "And at each stage we're targeting several different parts" of the parasite's anatomy.

Vaccines typically work by alerting the body's main line of defense, the immune system, to the danger of a potential infection. Once alerted, the immune defense system remains armed and ready for war if a real infection arrives.

This standard vaccine approach works well against measles, smallpox and many other infections. But it has not been very effective against malaria, because the malaria organism keeps changing its uniform.

Now Lal and nine of his colleagues at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute of Immunology in India, the Naval Medical Research Institute in Maryland, Case Western Reserve University in Ohio and Johns Hopkins University in Maryland have engineered this vaccine to hit all stages of the infection.

## Hillary 'Would Be Terrific In The Senate' According to President

THE WASHINGTON POST

TEMOZON, MEXICO

If first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is seriously thinking about running for the U.S. Senate from New York, she isn't saying so yet. But at least one well-placed source suggested Monday that she is taking a hard look at it.

President Clinton told reporters during a brief visit to Mexico that his wife "would be terrific in the Senate" and that he would support her "enthusiastically" if she chooses to run. While many supporters have been lobbying her to run, he added, she needs a chance to reflect before making a decision.

"She'd be great if she did it," he said at a photo opportunity with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo. "But she hasn't had anything like the requisite amount of time to talk to people and to assess it, and I'm sure that everyone will understand and appreciate it."

His comments were the most explicit suggestion to date that the Hillary Clinton-for-Senate campaign might be more than a pipe dream among Empire State Democrats seeking a strong candidate to take on New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani (R) for the seat being vacated by Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D) in 2000.

That Hillary Clinton has not quashed the talk has encouraged many to assume she is interested. Neither of the Clintons had commented publicly on the idea before Monday and the president's words indicated that he, at least, appeared to be taking it seriously.

## Iraqis Fail Mission In Turkey

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

ANKARA, TURKEY

Hoping to drive a wedge between the United States and a key ally, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz instead came away empty-handed from a meeting here Monday with Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit.

Emerging from nearly three hours of talks with the new leftist premier, Aziz said, "We discussed our legitimate concerns in a friendly manner." In a predictable swipe at the United States, he added that "we have to deal with our bilateral relations in a direct straightforward manner, and we shall not let foreigners to interfere in those relations."

But even as the Iraqi official was meeting with Ecevit, U.S. warplanes stationed at a NATO base in southern Turkey attacked Iraqi air defenses in northern Iraq. And shortly after, Ecevit justified the attacks, saying they had been carried out in "self-defense." It was the first time Ecevit has publicly condoned U.S. action against Iraq.

A senior Turkish official close to Monday's talks, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that Aziz had demanded that Ecevit scrap the mandate under which U.S. and British warplanes stationed at the Incirlik base patrol the skies over Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq. The so-called "Kurdish safe haven" there was established at the end of the 1991 Persian Gulf War in the aftermath of the Kurds' failed rebellion against Baghdad.

"The answer he got was a big no," the official said.

## WEATHER

**Tuesday afternoon:** Sunny, high 44°F (6°C), low pressure dome entering Boston, bringing drizzle by night. Relative humidity 61%, winds from SW at 10 mph.

**Tuesday night:** Low 33°F (1°C) Clear, with temperature dropping by early morning. Winds shift from SW to NW, humidity increases.

**Wednesday:** Heavy rain as low pressure dome covers Cambridge, high 39°F (3°C), low 30°F (-1°C). Temperature sharply drop between midnight and morning. Winds continue approach from NW, humidity stabilizes.

**Thursday:** Rain turns to snow, high pressures enters area from Canada, high 36°F (2°C), low 29°F (-1°C).

## Moscow Denies Selling Air Defense Equipment to Iraq

By David Hoffman  
THE WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW

Russia denied Monday a British newspaper report that Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov recently approved a \$160 million deal to sell air-defense and warplane-modernization equipment to Iraq in violation of the U.N. arms embargo imposed after Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The London Sunday Telegraph, quoting diplomatic sources in Moscow, said the deal would allow Russia to "upgrade and overhaul Iraq's aging squadrons of MiG jet fighters and restore Iraq's air defenses to combat readiness" at a time when Iraq is engaged in frequent hostilities with U.S. and British aircraft enforcing "no-fly" zones in Iraqi airspace. The zones were established by the Gulf War allies to prevent the government of President Saddam Hussein from using air power to suppress restive populations in northern and southern Iraq.

The newspaper said the deal was signed in January during a visit to Moscow by Iraq's transport and

communications minister, Ahmed Murtada Ahmed Khalil — a visit that followed one a month earlier by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. Published reports at the time of the transport minister's trip said his mission had to do with the purchase of Russian-built civilian aircraft, ships and vehicles.

The Telegraph story said the deals were Russia's answer to U.S. and British bombing raids on Iraq, which Russia has strongly opposed. The story also noted that Primakov, an expert on Arabic affairs, has long-standing ties to Saddam. Primakov was a correspondent for the Soviet Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* in the Middle East during the late 1960s and, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, served as head of Russia's foreign intelligence agency.

"The information absolutely does not correspond to reality," said Valentin Zapevalov, a spokesman for the state arms-export agency. "It's a lie. Why is it a lie? Because we did not sign any contracts."

Primakov made no comment on the report, but a government

spokesman reiterated Russia's long-standing claim that it fully adheres to the U.N. arms embargo on Iraq.

A Western diplomat here said attempts to learn more about any arms contract between Russia and Iraq had turned up no evidence to support the report. But he speculated the deals could be under negotiation in anticipation of the lifting of U.N. sanctions at some point. Other Russian companies, such as the oil cartel Lukoil, have already worked out trade agreements with Iraq for whenever the sanctions are lifted.

Despite Russia's protests that it would not break the U.N. arms embargo, Iraqi arms procurers have made repeated forays here in search of military hardware. In one instance, middlemen working for Iraq purchased ballistic missile guidance systems here and shipped them out of the country.

In another case, a delegation of top missile experts from Iraq went on a shopping trip to Russia in late 1994 and signed documents to acquire missile engines, technology and services despite the U.N. sanctions.

## Watergate Participant, Nixon Aide Ehrlichman Dies at 73

By Martin Weil

THE WASHINGTON POST

John D. Ehrlichman, 73, the White House domestic affairs adviser imprisoned for his role in the Watergate scandal, died Feb. 14 at his home in Atlanta. Mr. Ehrlichman's son Tom said his father had diabetes.

Mr. Ehrlichman was one of the most prominent members of the administration of Richard M. Nixon. Often scowling, with bristling eyebrows, the energetic Mr. Ehrlichman seemed to symbolize, in his pugnacity, the administration's determination to confront its foes and reshape policy over a wide front.

He was convicted in the Watergate coverup along with H.R. Haldeman, the White House chief of staff, and John N. Mitchell, the attorney general. In a separate trial, he was convicted for the break-in at the office of the psychiatrist of Daniel Ellsberg, a Vietnam War

critic.

After serving 18 months in federal prison, Mr. Ehrlichman, disbarred from the practice of law, made a new career as an author and appeared to have changed his personality as well. Once known as a brusque stickler for efficiency, he grew a beard and seemed mellow, relaxed and amiable.

"I was never the person everybody saw in the Watergate hearings," he said in 1979. Arguing for a balanced view of the administration in which he was a principal figure, he cited such accomplishments as its passage of significant environmental legislation.

Yet the Watergate scandal cast a long shadow on American public life, and it was for his identification with it that Mr. Ehrlichman achieved his greatest prominence.

Specifically, he was accused of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury in the matter that started with the June 17, 1972, break-in at

Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate office building in the District of Columbia. Five men with cameras and electronic gear were arrested at 2:30 a.m. in the Democratic Party offices.

Watergate, and the high-level efforts to cover it up, forced Nixon's resignation. The term was expanded to include other abuses of power traced to the administration.

As the matter unraveled, senior White House officials were implicated not only in covering up the break-in, but also in the use of government agencies in a campaign of "dirty tricks" aimed at damaging the reputations of Democratic opponents.

Nixon resigned Aug. 9, 1974, as impeachment loomed, and was pardoned by his successor, Gerald R. Ford. Mr. Ehrlichman spent 18 months at Swift Trail Camp, a minimum-security federal facility near Safford, Ariz. He was released on parole in 1978.

## Clinton, Mexican President Sign Anti-Drug Trafficking Agreement

By Mary Beth Sheridan  
and Elizabeth Shogren

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MERIDA, MEXICO

President Clinton on Monday strongly endorsed Mexico's narcotics-fighting efforts, weeks before an expected showdown with Congress over whether to give this country its annual passing grade as an ally in the drug war.

"Mexico should not be penalized for having the courage to confront its problems," the visiting Clinton said in a speech at an ornate turn-of-the-century theater here in the capital of Yucatan state, signaling that he will certify Mexico as he has in the past.

As a highlight of his 23-hour trip, Clinton also reached agreement with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo on a detailed list of steps their countries will take in fighting narcotics trafficking. It was one of eight agreements on cross-border concerns, ranging from immigration

to tuberculosis, announced during the trip.

But the drug agreement seemed an incremental step rather than a major announcement that could appease congressional critics of Mexico's anti-drug performance. And the U.S. anti-drug czar, Barry R. McCaffrey, who was part of Clinton's entourage, sidestepped questions about what will happen if the two countries fail to meet the anti-drug goals.

"The goal of this isn't so much a grading sheet as trying to keep us both on this cooperative track," McCaffrey told reporters.

Mexico has emerged in recent years as the major route for traffickers sending cocaine to the United States. It also produces significant amounts of heroin and marijuana.

Clinton's visit appeared aimed, in part, at building support for Mexico before the annual U.S. review of drug-fighting allies, which the president must announce by

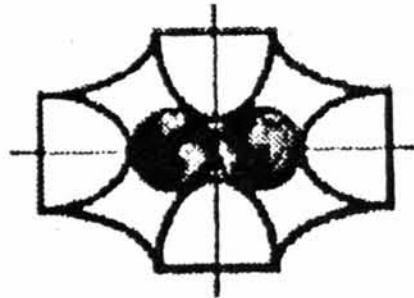
March 1. Administration officials expect Congress to fight to overturn a presidential certification of Mexico. Such a move could lead to economic sanctions against Mexico, the United States' No. 2 trading partner.

In recent years, the drug certification process has become the most bitter subject in relations between the neighbors.

In his speech, Clinton singled out what he called Zedillo's efforts to fight corruption, which has riddled the Mexican police.

Among the other agreements signed during the trip was one to expand communication between Mexican and U.S. law enforcement officials on the border to reduce deaths of or injuries to migrants.

The visit underlined the warm relations between Clinton and Zedillo, who were meeting for the 10th time. The two men repeatedly hugged and smiled as they chatted.



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JOBS

JOBS

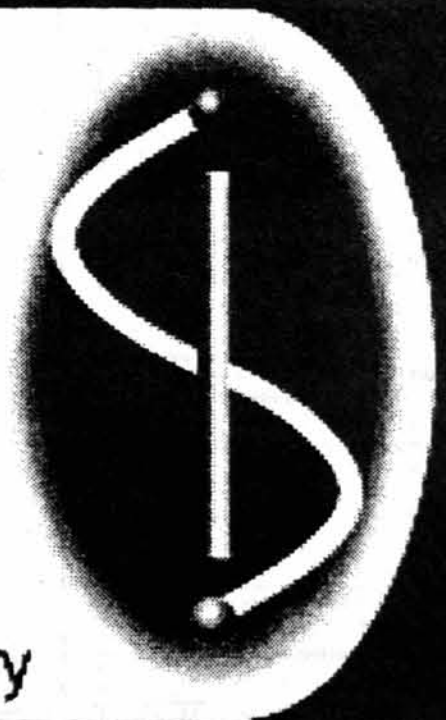
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### Schnee's Misguided View on Education

Kris Schnee ("Misguided Values in Education," Feb. 12) asserts that grade-school education has been increasingly promoting "ideological" curricula to advance radical political ends contrary to America's interests. Schnee writes, "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

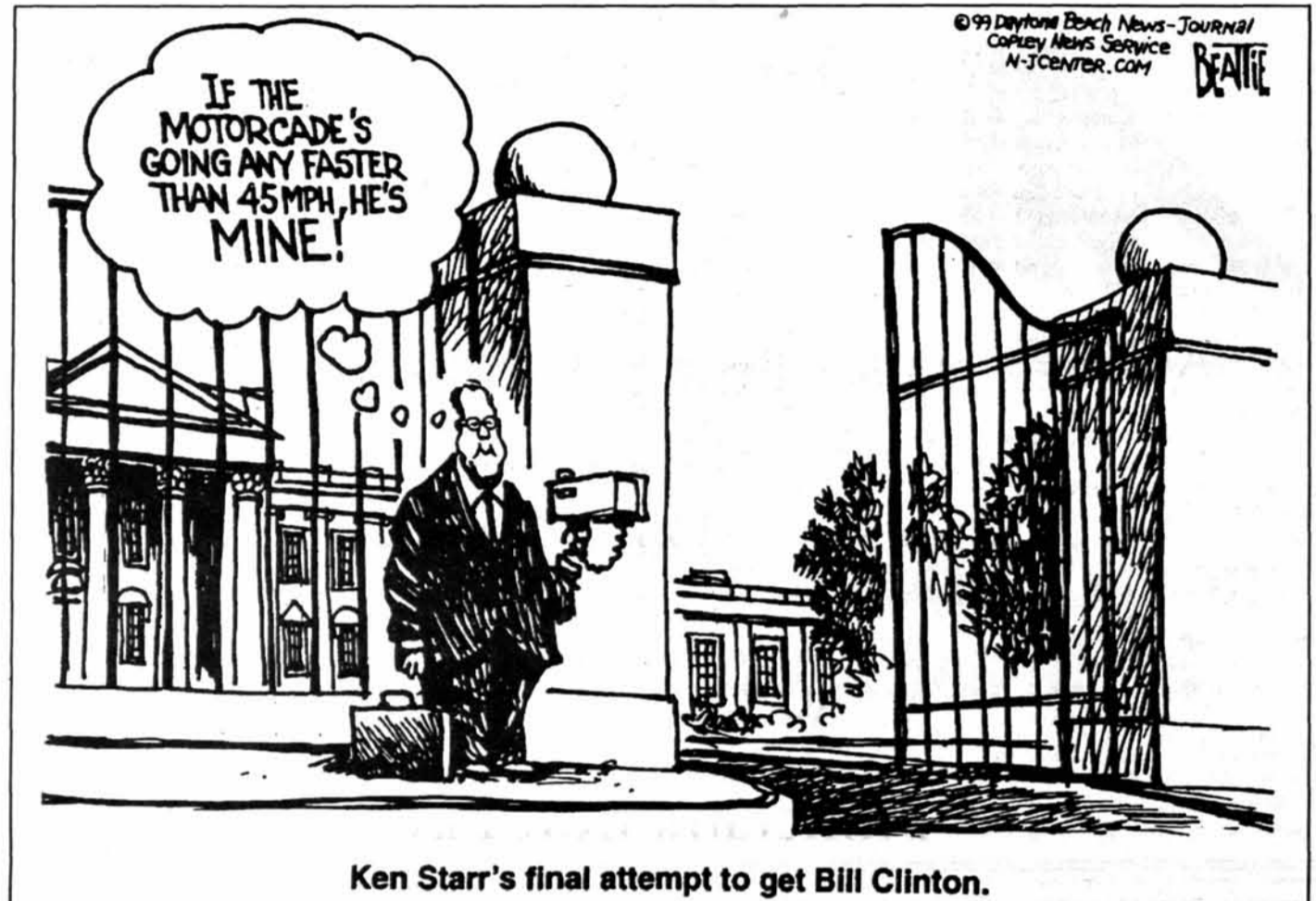
lives for it? It would be better to have no political messages at all in the school curriculum than to spread doctrines which teach Americans to be hostile to America."

The elements of ideology are constantly being generated by every conceivable source: family, school, popular culture, advertisements, television, the workplace, and so on. Even given the arguably major influence that education has on developing minds, assuming that "politicized" education will leave children brainwashed ignores every other societal influence. When faced with competing value systems, people are more

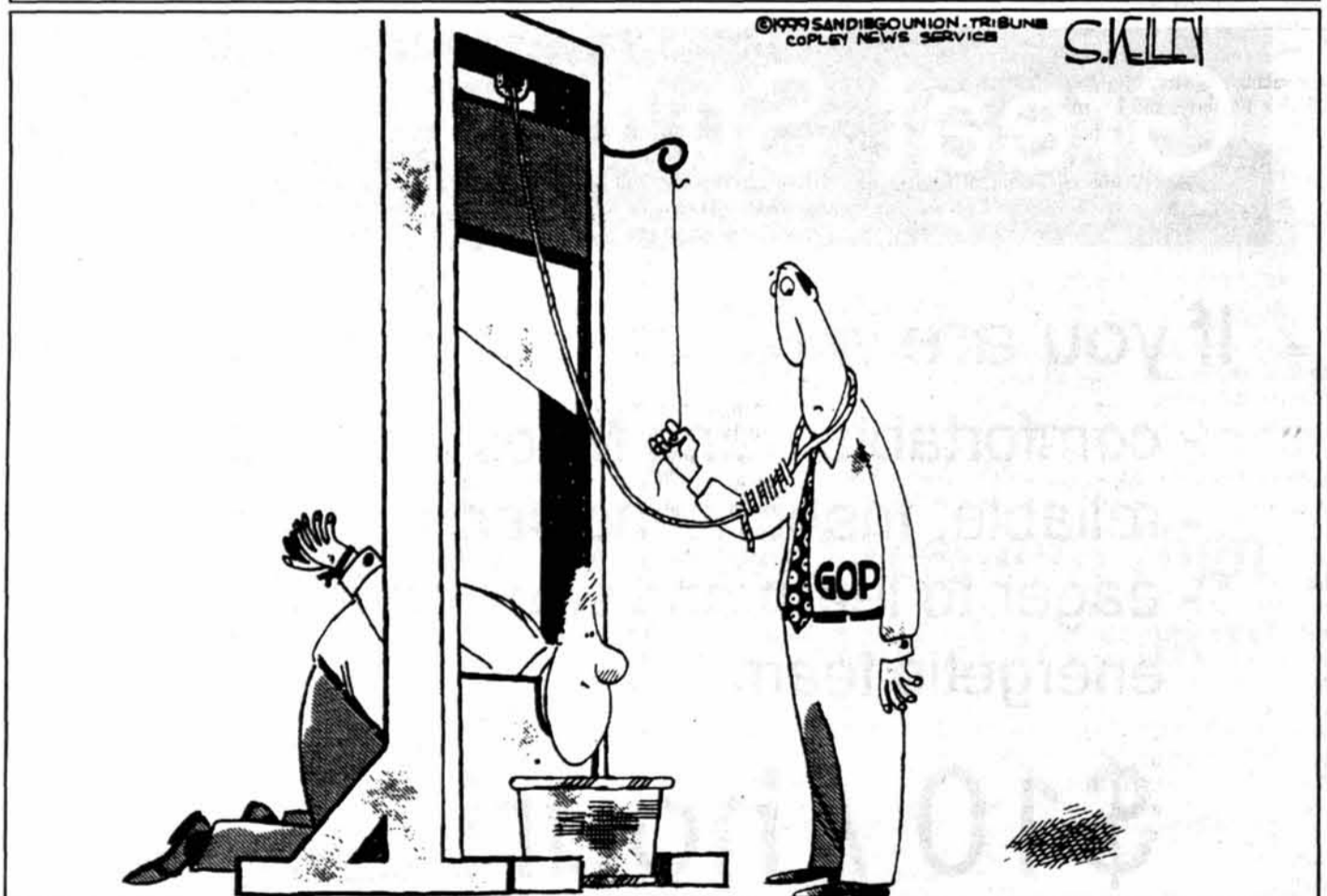
likely to question all of the systems than to accept blindly one or the other.

Schnee's supposedly "post-ideological" version of education ("no political messages at all") is more likely to leave students indoctrinated with political messages than a supposedly politicized curriculum that causes students to question values that students formerly thought universal. It is far better to educate future citizens to think critically about the controversial moral issues of their day than to create unquestioning patriots willing to kill and be killed for their fatherland.

Aram W. Harrow '01



Ken Starr's final attempt to get Bill Clinton.



### 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.

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# Addressing the Suicide Problem

MIT could set bold example among universities by working to prevent suicide

Eric J. Plosky

Depending on circumstances, controversy — or lack thereof — can be desirable. Response to controversial situations is always strategic, for controversy, properly controlled and manipulated, can lead to media coverage and public perception that ultimately benefits an individual's or a group's public image. Conversely, issues are often spun as non-controversial when it appears that drawing attention to them would yield no public-image benefit.

As a tragically illustrative pair of examples, take the Institute's responses to the deaths of Scott S. Krueger '01 and Michael P. Manley '02. No one would dispute the controversial nature of Krueger's death; the MIT community has been schizophrenically up in arms ever since and repercussions have radiated nationwide. Campus life has changed dramatically and the entire undergraduate residential system will soon bear no resemblance to its former, pre-Krueger self.

Yet the suicide of Manley, no less tragic, is not labeled "controversial." As Julia C. Lipman '99 wrote in this space on Friday with bitter accuracy, "There will be no restructuring of the residential system and no administrative committees appointed as a result of [Manley's suicide]. Instead, it will be business as usual." ["Treating Depression," Feb. 12]

Why? Is it because there will be no media coverage of Manley's death, nothing comparable to the press frenzy that has surrounded the Krueger issue? Partly. Lipman notes that "media coverage can force immediate action," as in the Krueger case; contrariwise, a lack of coverage removes much of the urgency that would provoke an immediate response.

Will it be business as usual because there is no easy response to suicide, nothing MIT can really do to address the situation? No; Lipman points out a variety of reasonable

tactics, including publicizing counseling services and establishing a task force on suicide prevention. The question really then becomes, "Why won't the administration — which has hurried through wholesale reforms in response to an alcohol-related death — do anything in response to suicide?" Bryan E. Weir '99 asked this plaintive question several times in a letter on Friday, suggesting administrative confusion as a possible answer. ["Alcohol vs. Suicide," Feb. 12]

The answer is not that the administration doesn't know what to do. It is not that nothing can be done; it is not merely the lack of media scrutiny. The administration won't respond to suicide, won't respond to Manley in the same way as to Krueger, mostly because any measures taken will have no immediate external benefit. It is not in the administration's best interest to stir up controversy by drawing attention to a suicide-prevention campaign or to a new task force on student depression. This is in contrast to the Krueger incident, in which the administration's quick responses were portrayed positively by the media. The often hasty measures taken by administrators were justified, it seemed to the media, because the situation was so controversial and action was needed immediately. That action was taken immediately made MIT worthy of praise in spite of the tragic circumstances.

Of course there will be internal benefits, and overall societal benefits, to directly and effectively address the problem of suicide. Preventing suicide is an unquestionably worthwhile goal — that is, prevention in the sense of eliminating suicidal depression, not in the sense of physically attempting to prevent suicide by blocking windows. However, in order to implement any of Lipman's common-sense tactics, as Lipman herself notes, MIT will have "to admit that [it] has a suicide problem." But that admission would create a controversy that does not yet exist — or is not yet recognized as such — beyond the confines of campus. This is

another contrast between the Manley and Krueger cases; controversy surrounded Krueger from the outset and the administration had no choice but to admit it.

So, since administrators are not willing to declare suicide a problem, they are limited to installing safety windows at MacGregor. Such measures do not require the admission of an overarching problem because the administration can admit the presence of safety windows while still skirting the issue of suicide.

It should be clear by now that MIT must address its suicide problem. The administration, effectively, is therefore obligated to create a media controversy where none now exists. That this leaves a bad taste in administrators' mouths is understandable. But it's either that or simply hoping that suicide will go away; common sense and the series of suicides over the past few years both indicate that the problem will not simply disappear.

The Institute should not be principally concerned with reaping media rewards from the actions it takes in response to controversy. MIT's primary concern should be its own community — the education, the environment, and the health of its students. If setting priorities in order means stoking the embers of a quiet issue into a blaze of controversy, so must it be.

However, there is no reason the administration cannot combine the worthy goal of suicide prevention with the practical desire to look good to the rest of the nation. President Charles M. Vest should use this opportunity to firmly establish MIT as a pioneer in suicide prevention. He should take the offensive, admitting the current problem and replacing defensive cover-up tactics with bold, courageous initiative. Doing so would finally and honestly address a serious problem on campus — and could also, as a distinctly less important corollary, ultimately benefit MIT's public image.

# Giving Grad Students Some Relief

Elaine Wan

It is time for the MIT administration to realize that graduate students are important to the MIT community. If the Institute's goals are to attract talented students, keep our prestige, and increase satisfaction, then it is imperative for us to focus on the interests of graduates as well as the interests of undergraduates. Although undergraduate housing takes precedence over graduate housing, the administration should provide more housing options to graduate students to demonstrate it has concerns for all members of the MIT community.

In order to execute President Vest's decision to house all freshmen on campus by 2001, the administration may delay its plans for the graduate student housing project in order to build the new undergraduate dormitory. To the administration, the change in plan is just a result of prioritization. But to graduate students, this may be an indefinite postponement of their long promised wish.

Since MIT cannot afford to complete all of its current projects, the administration will decide next week which less urgent projects will have their funding cut. The Graduate Student Council has expressed its dismay that graduate student housing has not been the focus of concern, and it fears that its housing project will be the one judged to be lower on the priority list.

Last November, to ease fears of undergraduate overcrowding, some graduate students in Tang Hall moved to allotted spaces in Worthington Place to make room for 140 undergraduate juniors and seniors. The graduate students will likely be able to move back in by next fall, but the available graduate housing in Ashdown House, Green Hall, Tang Hall, and Edgerton Hall will cover less than one third of the graduate student body. Students currently in the Worthington complex will also no longer have the benefit of paying Tang leasing prices.

Graduate students are expected to find housing on their own since the administration does not guarantee graduate on-campus housing. The financial assistance received from fellowships, grants, or being a teaching assistant enables many graduate students to afford a comfortable living environment. However, with the lack of affordable off-campus housing, graduate students who pay tuition without any financial assistance find it very difficult to balance academics and research, while earning enough to eat and preventing the accumulation of a huge debt after graduation.

Graduate students who pay tuition like undergraduates should receive the same undergraduate benefits, including housing. If the MIT administration does not provide assistance to such students, then it is deterring talented students from attending graduate school here.

The MIT administration guarantees undergraduates on-campus housing because undergraduates pay a high tuition which in most cases is fully supported by parents. The money that undergraduates earn from UROPs or as deskworkers is only enough to cover personal expenses. On the other hand, graduate students are expected to find their own sources of funding to support living and educational expenses, since they are older and wiser. After all, they will have to go through the same process of finding living accommodations and supporting themselves after they graduate and move from job to job.

However, it would be very tasking for graduate students who have never been away from home or for those from overseas to find affordable off-campus housing. Finding a reasonable living environment is a process that takes weeks of searching and negotiating that may ultimately affect education and the decision to attend MIT. This is why there must be good resources for graduate students, including a helpful off-campus housing office and graduate housing for those who need it.

Graduate students are an important component of the MIT community. They bolster our advancing research, teach us the shortcuts to problem sets, share with us their past experiences, and most importantly, they inspire those of us who plan to follow in their footsteps. Providing undergraduate housing is a priority, but it is also necessary for the administration to deal with the needs of the graduate students. Housing must be available for those graduate students who cannot afford the increasing costs of off-campus housing.

# Finneran's Iron Fist

Michael J. Ring

The year was 1996, the speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives was Charles Flaherty, and his majority leader and expected heir apparent was Richard Voke, a liberal Democrat from working-class Chelsea.

When the feds came calling for Speaker Flaherty on tax and ethics charges, Richie Voke had most Democratic representatives lined up with him. The speakership, it seemed, was all but his.

But as any student of Massachusetts politics knows, it ain't over till it's over. And when the vote to replace Charlie Flaherty was taken, his loyal servant, poor Richie Voke, had been reduced to a backbencher, soon to be up and out of the General Court. At the rostrum was a new speaker elected under the most unlikely of circumstances, one Thomas M. Finneran of Mattapan.

While Voke had won the support of most liberals and mainstream Democrats, Finneran forged an unusual alliance to win the Speaker's gavel. He led a coalition of conservative Democrats and Republicans in his fight for the chair, getting the Republican minority to support him instead of nominating their own sacrificial lamb candidate. This Democratic speaker was elected on Republican votes. Voke allies soon found themselves out of plum committee chairs and assignments, and some soon left the legislature altogether.

For the past three years Finneran has been known as the Man with the Iron Fist on Beacon Hill. Any piece of legislation that gets passed must go through him.

Indifferent to political and public opinion, he wields nearly absolute power over a body largely submissive to his demands.

In the last legislative session, however, as a minimum wage increase, an ATM surcharge ban, and HMO reform died in the House, the backbenchers began to get restless. And in this new legislative session there are signs of a liberal resurgence and revolt on Beacon Hill — a sign that progressives are mad as hell and not going to take it anymore.

Recently, a group of House liberals and a Republican caucus becoming increasingly disenchanted with the man they elected speaker united to attempt to loosen Finneran's choking grasp on the rules process. Their rebellion failed and Finneran actually emerged with more power than before. And many of the liberal dissidents, such as Lexington's Jay Kaufman, Peabody's John Slattery, and Arlington's Jim Marzilli soon found themselves shipped off to the Federal Financial Assistance Committee, an obscure body currently debating such momentous legislation as whether to institute year-round daylight savings time in the Commonwealth.

Is this democracy or dictatorship? Are those residents who elect legislators at odds with Finneran entitled to a little representation? Or are they second-class citizens to be crushed by the Man with the Iron Fist?

The reforms sought by the backbenchers were anything but radical. Their main demands were to restrict the use of graveyard committees and to draft a fairer debating structure. The disenchanted House members were simply looking for a little infusion of democracy.

With a firm grasp on the loyalty of the House's moderate and conservative Democrats, Finneran was destined to succeed in quashing the rules rebellion. Still, it is promising that a group of rank-and-file members would stand up to this speaker and fight for their causes and their rights as members.

This odd coalition of liberals and Republicans will need to speak and speak loudly in this legislative session. The speaker has set his sights on two-year budgeting, by which the legislature would only need to pass one budget per session. At first glance, this idea may be appealing: Proponents such as Finneran could argue it cuts down on acrimony and partisan battle.

But sometimes a little donnybrook is just what the legislature needs to pass something substantive. Each and every member should have ample opportunity to scrutinize the budget and suggest amendments or changes. Without such an opportunity, the governor and a small group of powerful legislators can easily cut a backroom deal and bang the budget through on a fast gavel. With \$20 billion being budgeted per annum by this state, anything but a slow and deliberate democratic process in approving the budget is inexcusable.

Admittedly, Speaker Finneran has done a very good job in administering the House and should be admired for his refusal to cave in to public pressure. But like Jefferson, I like a little rebellion now and then to give our democratic institutions a shot in the arm. Judging from his recent behavior, I think Mr. Speaker may need a large dosage of that medicine.



# FEATURES

## Hacking at MIT

Ingenious practical jokes enhance the school's culture.

By May K. Tse  
SENIOR EDITOR

Even the most casual of MIT acquaintances is at least somewhat familiar with that creative prank called a "hack."

National press has not been unkind in reporting this aspect of MIT, covering most recently the silhouette of an Academy Award Oscar in the strategically lighted rooms of the Green Building and previously the Campus Police vehicle mounted atop the Great Dome. The MIT Museum, too, has long since recognized the addictive nature of hacks with the maintenance of the long-running MIT Hall of Hacks.

All this attention has only emphasized the association of MIT with hacks, adding to the oral tradition passed from student to student and leading to several published volumes about hacks by various MIT affiliates.

"A hack is a parodic, practical joke designed to debunk authority," said Professor of Linguistics Emeritus Samuel J. Keyser, former associate dean for institute life and a generally well-reputed official source on aspects of MIT culture such as hacks.

"Hacks are non-damaging, funny to most people, sometimes they are engineering feats and sometimes just humorous," said Theresa V. Iuzzolino G, who works with the MIT Museum's hacks archives.

Hackers are often prompted to act for dif-



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Hacks, like this one of a Campus Police car that was put on the MIT dome, when taken down are stored in the MIT Museum.

ferent reasons. "Hackers like to amuse the people of MIT and the Boston community. Also, hackers want to achieve something extremely difficult. They might also want to avoid classes by performing a great engineering feat while avoiding homework," Iuzzolino said.

"Hacks provide sunglasses for every MIT student to wear when MIT becomes too bright," Keyser added.

### Jack Florey speaks out about hacks

But what do hackers think of hacks?

The implementation of hacks begins with a treasurer, said Jack Florey, one of MIT's most infamous hackers.

"Hacks generally start with a hacker's vision of something normal becoming something entirely different," Florey said. The treasurer, who occupies an obligatory and rotating position, tallies the required materials and, with an appropriate amount of funds procured through various means, obtains the materials.

"Once we have the raw materials, we just acquire the necessary tools and go with it," Florey said. He admitted that hackers "tend to be rather secretive about the hacks until after they are finished and deployed," because the deployment of hacks is not strictly legal.

"Hacks are our response to MIT campus life and how broken it is," he added. "The

entire campus is perpetually *praying* to be hacked — everywhere you look, one mundane sight after another."

Unfortunately, layhackers in the recent past have complained that these mundane sights haven't been hacked in awhile.

"Part of the problem is that the hacks *do* appear, but are removed almost instantly," Florey said. According to Florey, one recent hack entitled "Aramark Monopoly" (a large Monopoly game board constructed at the end of last spring, representing the MIT dining contractor) was "removed less than six hours after it was put up." Only the sheer number of large orange ribbons erected a few months ago in the spirit of ILTFP (or "I love this place") ensured that some of the gargantuan symbols would still be around for students to see; "the enormous 50' x 20' ribbon on the side of [Building] 16 was taken down in two hours," for instance, and many others were removed "within three or four hours."

Additionally, "the [Great] Dome is too easy to access now, what with the scaffolding," Florey said. "We're concentrating on other areas, lest the Dome become *passé*. Keep your eyes open; we'll be around."

### MIT has a well-trained hack removal team

But after the hacks go up, they must eventually be taken down. The work of hack removal

is generally accomplished by a special group from the Safety Office, the Confined Space Rescue Team. Whenever a hack is reported, the Safety Office is notified, and the CSRT has frequently been in charge of removing the hacks.

"We have been involved in removing several hacks from various locations. To name a few: the 'Entertainment and Hacking' from Lobby 7, the gargoyles from Lobby 7, the Christmas tree from Lobby 7, a piano from Dome 10, the beanie hat from Dome 10, various signs from the Dome 10 'front,' signs from Building 54, various signs from Dome 7, and the 'smiling faces' from the great sail statue (McDermott Court) and its miniature statue at Building 9," said David M. Barber, CSRT Coordinator.

To be certified members of the CSRT team, "the CSRT members all have passed 40-hour Confined Space Rescue class, are medically trained to a minimum of First Responder level and continue to participate in monthly drills. A lot of the training deals with rope rescue techniques (high angle rescue type), anchoring, fall protection and personal protection," Barber said.

Barber described the procedure the CSRT follows once a hack is reported. "When we are notified about a hack (usually from either Operations Center or from Campus Police) we first go out to the site and assess the hack for safety concerns. We will take into account such items as weather (like wind, rain, lightning), location, traffic patterns (both pedestrian and vehicular), fire hazards, damage to buildings and the quality of rigging involved. The determination about safety takes priority over everything else: if a hack is deemed unsafe in any way, then the priority is to remove the hack as quickly and safely as possible."

"If a hack is deemed to be safe, then the schedules of those who will be removing the hack will determine when the hack will be removed (all of us have other duties, so if safety is not the overriding factor, then work schedules take over). Usually, with the *better* hacks there are very detailed instructions on how the hacks were installed and how to remove them safely. These instructions are a vital help to us in the dismantling of the hacks," Barber said.

Once the hacks are removed, their future location is determined. "We contact the MIT Museum after we have removed all hacks and ask if they want the hack to be sent to them or not. If they want it, the movers from Facilities take the hack to the museum. If not, the hack is disposed of at an appropriate location," Barber said.

The CSRT is currently undergoing a change in its make-up right now, Barber said. "This has happened for a variety of reasons, Re-engineering, early retirement, members leaving MIT and task assignments. There is a separate group called the Emergency Response Group (ERG) that responds to fire alarms, chemical spills, toxic gas alarms and related 'emergency' situations across campus. The ERG team members are mostly culled from the coaches and supervisory positions throughout Facilities. The CSRT members were originally chosen in the same way, but is now being altered to a line-up that is determined by the Safety Office and is intermixed with other training disciplines," Barber said.

## VIEWPOINT

This week's question:

Do you think you need to have alcohol to have a good time?

"No, having a good time depends on attitude and creativity."

Steven K. Wong '99

"I don't think you need to have alcohol to have a good time in general, but you need it to attract a lot of people to a party. It helps you meet people or see people you already know, which doesn't happen here because people are too busy."

Katherine C. Dixon '00

"On this campus, yes. It's sad, but true."

Victoria D. Canto-Ponce '00

"Having attended both types of parties, I had a better time at the ones without alcohol."

Jason G. Skalski '02

"No. I have a good time all the time, with alcohol or without. It isn't necessary."

Adrienne R. Craig-Williams '02

"I don't know if everyone needs it, but I want it."

James F. Calcagno '01

"No, I don't believe in that, especially in Boston, where there are so many things to do. At other schools, where they do not have a city or as many activities, the people think all there is to do is to go to a party and drink."

Neeti Nundy '02

"No. I only want to have alcohol if I'm having a good time, not the other way around."

Ana G. Isasi '99

"No, you don't but a lot of people don't go out unless alcohol is present. It's an instigator."

Anshu Sinha G

"No. Alcohol is bad. It comes from the devil. I don't touch the stuff."

Kim H. Har '00

Compiled by Shawdee Eshghi

## Spotlight of the Week

### MIT Outing Club

By Katie Jeffreys

STAFF REPORTER

Like many MIT student groups, the MIT Outing Club holds events throughout the year, the most recent being Winter School, held each year during IAP. The class included on-campus lectures on topics such as safety, winter attire, and snowshoeing.

The classroom sessions were led by students, with a guest lecture on Cold Weather Injuries given by Murray Hamlet of the US Army. The participants then departed on day trips to the White Mountains, which culminated in a hike up Mt. Washington, the highest peak of the Presidentials.

In the spring and fall, the MITOC organizes "Circuses," which are weekend trips that include canoeing, hiking, and rock climbing expeditions. Other activities which the club participates in include whitewater and sea kayaking.

The members include both graduate and undergraduate students of both sexes. They work together to learn the various skills required for outdoor activities. As Julie Ma '99 said, "If you are willing to find people who know their stuff, you can go really far."

As many of the activities take place in New Hampshire, a car is sometimes necessary. Fortunately for the club, many members have cars and offer rides. "I really got into rock climbing. There were a lot of people who could teach me and take me out," Ma said.

Members also enjoy the benefit of access to MITOC's extensive supply of hiking gear, camping supplies, kayaks and canoes, as well as their two cabins in New Hampshire. Elections are approaching for approximately twenty positions within the club, from Cabin Manager to Equipment Manager to President.



PHOTO COURTESY LUKE SOSNOWSKI

Matt Hollingworth G and Hector Bricenao prepare to climb in Flume River Gorge on an MIT Outing Club trip this January.

# 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

- 12:00 p.m. – **The Cuneiform Text TU 11: A Link Between Older and Newer Prediction Schemes in Ancient Mesopotamia.** Lis Brack-Bernsen. Dibner Institute Lunchtime Colloquia. Room E56-100.
- 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.
- 4:30 p.m. – **Gas Turbine Engine Internal Air Systems.** Mr. Jayant Sabnis, Pratt & Whitney. Gas Turbine Seminar Series. Refreshments at 4:15 p.m. Room 31-161.
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. – **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum Auditions.** Musical Theatre Guild's spring production. Book by Burt Shevelove & Larry Gelbart; music/lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Bring prepared song, in English w/sheet music; wear clothes suitable for movement. Student Center, 4th flr.

## Wednesday's Events

- 12:10 p.m. – **The propagation of Rossby waves through barriers.** Joe Pedlosky, WHOI. Physical Oceanography Sack Lunch Seminars at MIT. Room 54-915.
- 12:00 p.m. – **Portals - What? Why? And For How Much?** Sajai Krishnan, Principal, Booz Allen & Hamilton. If not a MCC member, please see an officer at the meeting. Room E51-215. Sponsor: Sloan Management Consulting Club.
- 3:30 p.m. – **Lecture on Careers: Self-assessment.** Hannah Bernstein and Elizabeth Reed, MIT Career Services and Preprofessional Advising. Ashdown House, Hulsizer Room. Sponsor: GSC.
- 5:10 p.m. – **LEM Service and Supper.** Eucharist in the Chapel, followed by a free fellowship supper and discussion. Chapel and W11. Sponsor: Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.
- 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. – **She Stoops to Conquer Auditions.** For May production of Oliver Goldsmith's comedy. Room 1-135.
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. – **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum Auditions.** Musical Theatre Guild's spring production. Book by Burt Shevelove & Larry Gelbart; music/lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Bring prepared song, in English w/sheet music; wear clothes suitable for movement. Student Center, 4th flr.
- 7:30 p.m. – **Living in Two Languages Series—Yoko Tawada: "Metamorphoses: A Trilingual Reading."** Presentation by the author of *Hikon*, *Orpheus* oder *Izangi* and *The Bridgroom was a Dog*. Followed by book signing. Killian Hall.

## Thursday's Events

- 12:00 p.m. – **MIT Chapel Concert. Andrew Cook, saxophone.** MIT Chapel Concert. Andrew Cook, saxophone. MIT Chapel.
- 4:00 p.m. – **Beyond the Ivory Tower: Academic Discourse in the Age of Popular Media.** Stephen J. Gould, Harvard; Lester Thurow, MIT, Alan Lightman, MIT. Media Lab, Bartos Theatre. Sponsored by Communications Forum with Markle Foundation; Media-in-transition Project.
- 4:15 p.m. – **Non-perturbative QCD: Teraflops, Gigabytes, and Physics.** Prof. Robert Mawhinney, Columbia University. Physics Colloquium. Refreshments in Room 4-339 at 3:45 pm. Room 10-250. Sponsor: Physics.
- 5:00 p.m. – **The Voice Transcribed, The Text Performed.** Roger Chartier, Director of Studies, Ecoles des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris. This lecture is part of the Sahin Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the HTC Spring Forum Series; Department of Architecture - History, Theory, Criticism Section. Room 56-114.
- 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. – **She Stoops to Conquer Auditions.** For May production of Oliver Goldsmith's comedy. Room 1-135.
- 7:00 p.m. – **Readings in Science Fiction: Contributors to Future Boston.** Alex Jablovkov, Steven Popkas, David Alexander Smith, and Sarah Smith, local SF authors. Room 10-250.

## Friday's Events

- 3:00 p.m. – **Protein Adsorption Dynamics at the Oil/Water Interface.** Clayton J. Radke, University of Calif., Berkeley, Department of Chemical Engineering. Reception, 2:45 p.m. Room 66-110. Sponsor: Chemical Engineering.
- 4:00 p.m. – **On River and Tidal Networks: Optimality, Randomness, Self-Organization and Allometry in Natural Networks.** Professor Andrea Rinaldo, MIT. EAPS Department Lecture Series. Refreshments, 3:30 pm, Ida Green Lounge. Room 54-915.
- 7:00 p.m. – **American History X (1998).** 117 min, rated R, with DTS digital sound. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
- 7:30 p.m. – **Treasure Island (1950).** 96 min, not rated. Admission \$2.50. Room 10-250. Sponsor: LSC.
- 9:00 p.m. – **Potluck Performance Art Party.** AKA show+tell. Bring video, poetry, slides, anything to read, show, perform and/or consume. Admission \$4.00. Room N52-115.
- 9:00 p.m. – **SP@MIT.** Sonic Processing, Synchronized Poses, Swing & Super Powers. Dance Mix Coalition, Dance Troupe, the Anime Club & the Ballroom Dance Team team for a multimedia phenomenon. Bring your dancing shoes. Sala de Puerto Rico.
- 10:00 p.m. – **American History X (1998).** 117 min, rated R, with DTS digital sound. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

## Saturday's Events

- 7:00 p.m. – **What Dreams May Come (1998).** 113 min, rated PG-13, with DTS digital sound. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
- 8:00 p.m. – **MIT Concert Band Concert.** Founded in 1948 and continuously conducted by John Corley, the group of 80-90 students and alumni play original compositions for wind ensemble and annually commission and premiere new works. Kresge Auditorium.
- 10:00 p.m. – **What Dreams May Come (1998).** 113 min, rated PG-13, with DTS digital sound. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

## Sunday's Events

- 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. – **Will Social Security be There for You.** An interactive discussion on Social Security. Featuring Congressman Michael Capuano (MA-8). Q&A period to follow all speakers. Fill out a survey to be sent to Congress. Room 6-120. Sponsor: MIT College Democrats.
- 7:00 p.m. – **American History X (1998).** 117 min, rated R, with DTS digital sound. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
- 10:00 p.m. – **What Dreams May Come (1998).** 113 min, rated PG-13, with DTS digital sound. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

## Monday's Events

- 12:10 p.m. – **Use of ERS-1 SAR wave mode spectral retrievals for global ocean surface wave modeling.** Patrick Heimbach, MIT. Physical Oceanography Sack Lunch Seminars at MIT. Room 54-1613.
- 4:00 p.m. – **Image and Imagination: The Formation of Global Environmental Consciousness.** Sheila Jasanoff, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard. Program in Science, Technology, and Society 1999 Spring Colloquia. Room E51-095.
- 4:00 p.m. – **DSP: How Did We Get To Where We're Going.** Prof. Alan Oppenheim, MIT, EECS and RLE. Refreshments served at 3:45 p.m. Room 34-101. MIT-EECS 1999 Spring Semester Colloquium Series.
- 4:30 p.m. – **Arthur D. Little Lectureship in Physical Chemistry.** Professor Richard Friesner, Columbia University, Dept. of Chemistry. Room 6-120. Sponsor: Chemistry
- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. – **Unbuilt Ruins—Reception.** Reception for Unbuilt Ruins: Digital Interpretations of Eight Projects by Louis I. Kahn. Computer simulations by Kent Larson, MIT Dept of Architecture research scientist. Exhibit runs Feb 8-March 19. Compton Gallery.
- 7:30 p.m. – **An Evening with James Ellroy.** MIT Writers Series presents the author of *LA Confidential* and *Crime Wave*. Room 26-100.



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## Meet an MIT Graduate

Informational Seminar: February 23, 1999

5:30 pm, Room 4-149

Refreshments will be served

Interviews: February 24, 1999

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## Grad Student Wins Inventiveness Prize

By Kristen Landino  
STAFF REPORTER

Daniel J. DiLorenzo G is the recipient of this year's Lemelson-MIT Program \$30,000 student prize for inventiveness.

DiLorenzo, a PhD candidate in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, won the award based on his commitment to the research and development of innovations in the health sciences and for his record of creating new devices and technologies in this field.

"It is a distinct honor to have been selected by the Lemelson-MIT Program as a role model for inventiveness. I have been very fortunate to have had many exceptional mentors and advisers, and it is a privilege to have the opportunity to serve as a role model for the next generation," DiLorenzo said.

Beginning in 1995, Jerome H. Lemelson, and his wife Dorothy, established the Lemelson-MIT awards program at MIT to recognize and reward outstanding inventors and innovators within the MIT student body in the hope of encouraging more young people to pursue careers in science, engineering, technology, and entrepreneurship.

The judging panel responsible for selecting the winner consists of MIT alumni who are successful scientists, technologists, and entrepreneurs.

### DiLorenzo fuses several interests

DiLorenzo is also an M.D. student in the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences. He earned his bachelor and master's degrees in the field of electrical engineering from MIT.

DiLorenzo holds two patents and has two more pending. One of his patented inventions includes a device to control intraoperative brain swelling.

He has also developed an

implantable device that electrically stimulates a peripheral nerve to provide sensation from an artificial limb.

DiLorenzo describes his success in the fields of medical research and technological innovation as "a synergy between two interests — I've always wanted to be a doctor since I was very young, and I also love building things."

Early in his childhood, DiLorenzo began to build circuits, robots, and elaborate electronic devices.

In fifth grade he built his first circuit, and in tenth grade he created a robot compatible with high magnetic fields to be used for military experiments.

Currently, DiLorenzo is working to understand how the brain controls movement of the arm. He hopes to utilize his background in robotics and electrical engineering to develop new devices which help patients with neurological damage or disease.

"I would like to develop systems which restore function to people who are paralyzed; it would be immensely rewarding. There are also a number of other neurological diseases which may be amenable to treatment with neural modulation and neural augmentation systems, including Parkinson's Disease, epilepsy, pain artificial limb communication, and others which may become treatable with emerging technologies."

DiLorenzo intends to become an academic neurosurgeon and will be attending the University of Utah, a leading research center in the area of implantable microelectrodes and neural prostheses in July 1999.

DiLorenzo praises the goal of the MIT-Lemelson Program: "Its mission to emphasize the role of science and technology in society is well-founded. Children especially need to have more role models in these areas."

Free Computing for all MIT Students

Spring Term 1999 Minicourse Schedule



### Athena Minicourses Stop Wasting Your Time! Spring Term 1999

	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

**Your're already using Athena. Invest an hour or two and learn to use it efficiently.**

At our courses you'll get the basics of any Athena topic: word-processing, thesis, data-crunching, graphs, displays, communication, etc.

① ② ③... Wednesdays are Beginners' Days. You can take the introductory courses: ① **INTRO**, ② **BASIC WORD PROCESSING**, and ③ **WORKING ON ATHENA**.

• For course descriptions, future schedules: see the opposite page, or visit our Web-site: <http://web.mit.edu/minidev/>

• All minicourses taught in **Room 3-343**. Minicourses are **one hour each**.

**Last courses for the term. Don't wait! Take them now.**

**HOW TO REGISTER FOR A MINICOURSE:** You Can't! They're free! No Pre-registration Needed... JUST SHOW UP FOR THE CLASS.

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## HOW TO USE THE BATHROOM.

You're probably saying to yourself, any four-year-old knows how to use the bathroom. But you may not know that you use more water in the bathroom than anyplace else in your home. In fact, between the toilet, the shower and the sink you can use up to 55 gallons a day. Multiply that by the number of homes in the world, and that's a lot of natural resources going down the drain. Now, we're not saying you should stop taking showers or brushing your teeth. We're just suggesting some simple bathroom training. For instance, when you're brushing your teeth, turn off the water. Do the same when

you're shaving. And just because your shower sounds like an opera hall, don't feel the need to sing one. Shorter songs make for shorter showers. And for the biggest culprit of them all, the toilet, try putting a weighted jug in the tank. It will help save water every time you flush. Plus, don't forget to turn out the lights when you leave. You'll be helping to conserve electricity.

Save up to 15% more water by installing a weighted jug in your toilet tank.

And oh yeah, if you don't think you'll remember these things, take this newspaper with you the next time you go. This message brought to you by the 43 environmental charities that make up Earth Share. For more tips or information on how you can help, write Earth Share, 3400 International Drive NW, Suite 2K (AD2), Washington, D.C. 20008. Earth Share

IT'S A CONNECTED WORLD. DO YOUR SHARE.

# US First Competition Resembles MIT's 2.70

By Karen E. Robinson  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Over a semester of work is drawing to a close for a team of roughly 40 students from MIT and Cambridge Ringe and Latin High School as they complete a robot for the US First Robotics Competition.

The competition, which resembles MIT's 2.70 design competition, is for teams of high school students sponsored and aided by professional and university engineers. "The goal of the competition itself is to teach high school students principles of engineering and design, and work with them to build a robot in a community," said Rainuka Gupta '99, engineering team leader.

The Robotics Competitions are sponsored by US First, which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," a non-profit organization founded by Dean Kaman to "generate an interest in science and engineering among today's youth," according to the organization's statement.

The competition started in 1992 with involvement from Professor of Mechanical Engineering Woodie C. Flowers PhD '73. This is MIT's fourth year to enter a team in the competition, said Ela Ben-Ur G who headed the team last year.

At the beginning of last semester Gupta, Andrew Curtis G, and other MIT students started working with the high school students, teaching them engineering principles in weekly classes over the duration of the semester. "We started with 'This is a force, this is torque' and ended with 'okay, design a robot,'" Gupta said.

Work on the robot for competition began in early January when this year's rules and playing field were unveiled by national First officials at the competition's kickoff. Teams get two bins of supplies and components from contest officials, and are allowed to buy other items within contest restrictions. There are then six weeks to brainstorm, design, and build the robot. "Those six weeks are a very intensive time ... the kids get a very accelerated view of the job of an engineer," Gupta said.

### A mix of students attend First

"We recruit at the school just by posting," Gupta explained. Some students who came to classes "are very excited about engineering and robotics; some are just curious. They're good kids ... for me that's

the neatest thing, getting these kids who don't really know what they're opening themselves up to. It's a mix of kids and it's a lot of fun. The kids feed off of each others' enthusiasm and off our enthusiasm."

### Project nears completion

Work has been intense since Independent Activities Period began, but "this is the crunch time," Ben-Ur said. The completed robot must be shipped to the regional site next Monday. Fifteen high school students and roughly 25 MIT students will go to the regional competition in New Jersey this March, then to the national competition at Walt Disney World in April.

This contest is one of the biggest events Walt Disney World hosts each year, with 13,000 people expected in April. The competition field will be part of the innovations platform at Epcot Center in the spring and will be broadcast on ESPN, said administrative team leader Kailas N. Narendran '01. A year-round booth explaining the contest is currently under construction.

Most of students' time at both competitions will be spent on fine tuning, repairs, and practicing with the robot, said Frank Bentley '02, who is involved with the MIT team and also competed on a team as a high school student in Illinois. During competition rounds, three high school students operate the robot and two MIT students act as coaches. Other students are in the team's pit to mend and improve the robot between rounds. "You'll have to fix the robot, it's just a given," Bentley said.

After the competition is over most sites host activities for students, including Walt Disney World. "After the park shuts down, they keep attractions open for First students," Bentley said. "We get to ride all the rides ... It's really lots of fun."

### Companies sponsor robot teams

Most high school teams are sponsored by corporations and professional engineers — only about 10 to 15 percent have university sponsors, Gupta said. Engineers from Production Genesis were involved as well. In addition, companies such as Intelligent Automation Systems, Solid Works, and Math Works also contributed, and the Institute provided support.



## JAE H. KIM TAE KWON DO INSTITUTE



The Tae Kwon Do School Mr. Kim started in 1974 while he was a student at MIT has become one of the best known schools in the country. A major part of this success is his teaching style which combines the analytical approach acquired through his studies at MIT and other western institutions, with the expertise developed in the east over centuries by Tae Kwon Do masters.



The Jae H. Kim Institute is only minutes away from the MIT campus, next to Fenway Park in the Kenmore Square area. Mr. Kim is accepting new students now.

All MIT students are invited to come and observe as class at the Institute.

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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-requisites: 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



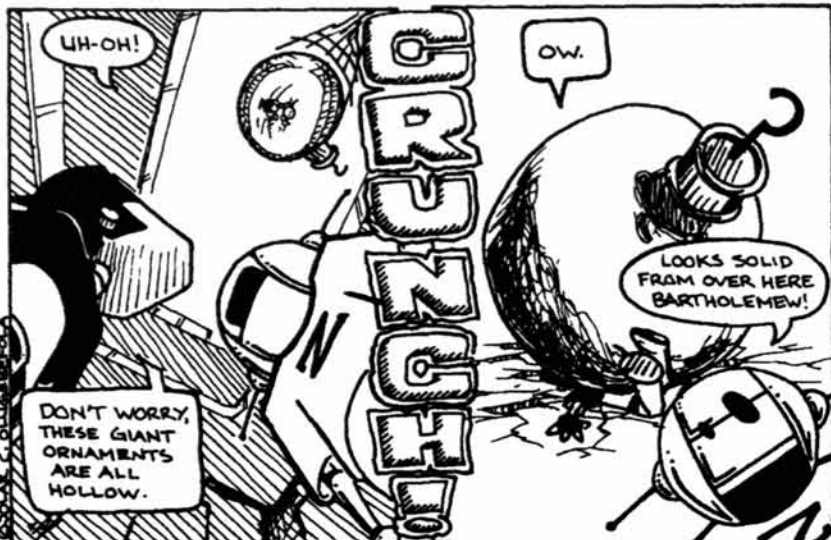
KAREN ROBINSON—THE TECH

Ela Ben-Ur G mills a mount for one of the robot's motors.

It claims good people  
UNTREATED  
DEPRESSION  
#1 Cause of Suicide

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BART



## Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase



## Graduate Student Council

OFFICE: Walker Memorial, 50-220 PHONE: 253-2195

EMAIL: [gsc-request@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-request@mit.edu) WEBSITE: [www.mit.edu/activities/gsc](http://www.mit.edu/activities/gsc)

## Professional Development Series

CAREERS (Wednesdays 3:30-5 PM Hulsizer Room, Ashdown):  
 Feb. 10 Manager, Researcher, or Professor (Lloyd Baird, BU)  
 Feb. 17 Self-Assessment (Hannah Bernstein & Elizabeth Reed, CSPA)

## Family & Single Graduate Housing Applications are On-line:

### APPLICATIONS:

Single students: <http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/sinapp.html>  
 Family students: <http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/famapp.html>

### LOTTERIES:

Single continuing: <http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/consingle.html>  
 Single new: <http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/newsingle.html>  
 Married continuing 1 bdrm: <http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/cononebdr.html>  
 Married continuing 2 bdrm: <http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/contwobdr.html>  
 Married new 1 bdrm: <http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/newonebdr.html>  
 Married new 2 bdrm: <http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/newtwobdr.html>

## Alcohol Ad Hoc Committee

An alcohol ad hoc committee has been formed to discuss MIT's alcohol policy. The first meeting is Wed, Feb 10 at 5:30 in 50-220.

## Calendar

### FEBRUARY

- 09 - Publicity committee meeting \*
- 10 - Professional Development seminar, 3:30 - 5 PM, Hulsizer Room, Ashdown
- 10 - Alcohol Ad Hoc committee meeting \*
- 11 - Academics, Research & Careers meeting \*
- 16 - Habitat Meeting, 5-5:45 PM, 50-220
- 17 - Professional Development seminar, 3:30 - 5 PM, Hulsizer Room, Ashdown
- 24 - Housing & Community Affairs meeting \*
- 24 - Professional Development seminar, 3:30 - 5 PM, Hulsizer Room, Ashdown

### MARCH

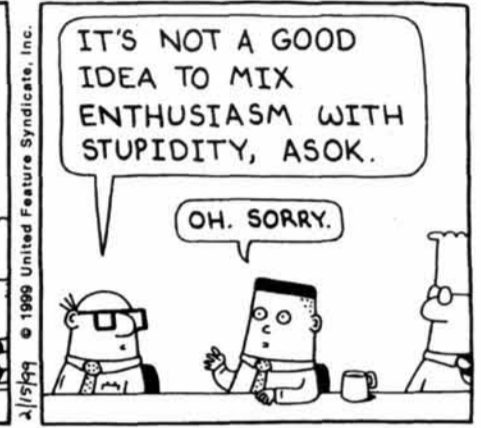
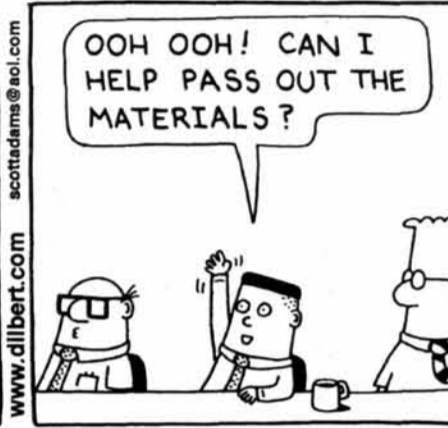
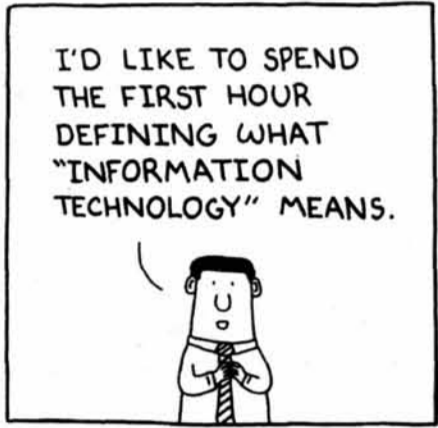
- 03 - General Council meeting \*

\* = at 5:30pm in Room 50-220. All graduate students are welcome. Food is provided.

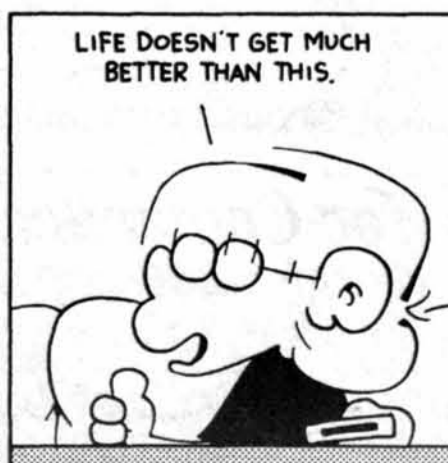
## Graduate Student News (GSN) Available Feb. 15

GSN will be available in Infinite Corridor and 50-220. Send submissions to Constance Lai at [con@mit.edu](mailto:con@mit.edu) for March 1 issue.

Dilbert® by Scott Adams



FoxTrot by Bill Amend



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April 5, 1999

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## 'Gay Wedding' Marks Freedom-to-Marry Day

By Steve Hoberman

Last Friday marked the second annual National Freedom-to-Marry Day, a holiday declared by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) as part of an effort to promote awareness of the legal status of gay and lesbian marriages.

GaMIT, MIT's gay, lesbian, and bisexual student organization, kicked-off the day by staging a symbolic gay marriage in Lobby 7.

The procession included GaMIT president Terrance D. Harmon '99, Ricardo A. Ramirez '02, Jason R. Parris '02, Jessica E. Hinel '02, and L. Kieran Kieckhefer '02. The group walked from E14 through the Infinite Corridor to Lobby 7.

Kieckhefer preceded Parris, who posed as a groom, and Ramirez, the bride, as they marched through the corridor. Harmon followed the trio with a boombox until they reached the Lobby 7, where they met Hinel, who posed as a priest. Ramirez and Parris then exchanged vows before ending the demonstration.

"I don't get to wear a wedding dress that often," Ramirez said. He and Parris drew a crowd of several curious students and fellow GaMIT members to the lobby.

Parris said that he, Ramirez, and Hinel were all friends and that he volunteered for the demonstration when GaMIT decided to organize an event for National Freedom to Marry Day. "We had been planning this about two weeks in advance," Harmon said.

Although the HRC did not sponsor the ceremony, many of the pamphlets distributed by GaMIT after the event were from national organizations like the HRC. Most of the brochures detailed the legal status of gay marriage in the United States.

### Gay marriage legality still in flux

According to pamphlets distributed by GaMIT, the legal status of gay marriage in the U.S. is determined by both the Defense of Marriage Act and the court case *Baehr v. Lewin*.

Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, allowing states to issue marriage licenses to gay couples. These licenses, however, confer fewer benefits than traditional marriage licenses.

Five years before the Defense of Marriage Act passed through Congress, a group of homosexual couples sued the state of Hawaii in the court case *Baehr v. Lewin*. The group claimed that Hawaii's refusal to grant marriage licenses to gays constituted an act of discrimination. In 1993, the Hawaii State Supreme Court agreed with the plaintiffs, declaring that the Hawaiian state legislature would need to demonstrate a compelling interest to make same-sex marriage illegal.



## Company Information Session

Tuesday, February 16th

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Building 4, Room 153

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**Grand prize: \$1,000**

**Two runner-up prizes of \$250 each**

## Schedule:

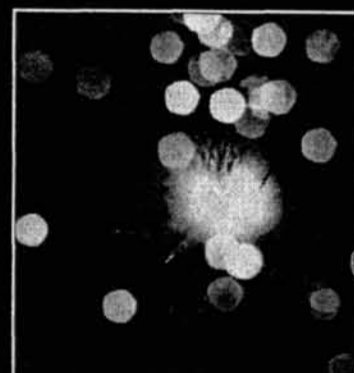
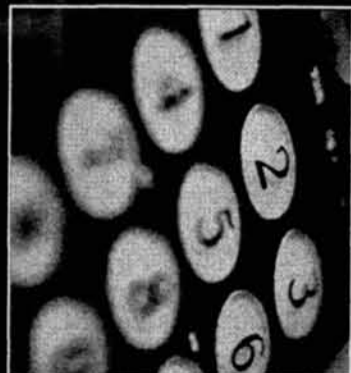
**February 16**  
Kick-off and  
Case Distribution  
Room 6-120  
7 to 9pm

**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

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# Clinton Budget Will Help NSF Research

By Neena S. Kadaba  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

President Clinton announced substantial budget increases for the National Science Foundation and other information technology research centers last week. The National Institutes of Health were given a less considerable increase.

While this new budget would positively affect NSF-funded research, other research may be hurt by the change. "It should be very good for the nation's effort in fundamental research, and as some of that research is performed at MIT with NSF funding, it should be good for MIT. Of course this is early in the budget process, and so we don't know how it will eventually turn out," said David J. Litster, vice president for research and dean for graduate education at MIT.

An article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* stated that "if the fiscal-2000 budget proposals are approved by Congress, the increases would lift total federal spending on university-based research by 2 percent, to \$15.5-billion. Spending on basic research would rise 4 percent, to \$18.2-billion."

According to the new budget plan, the NSF research budget

would rise 7 percent, the Agriculture Department's research budget would increase about 8 percent, and the Defense Department spending on research and development would decrease by 5 percent, "including the portion of the budget that goes to basic, applied, and advanced-technology research. Expenditures for that work, much of which is conducted by universities, would fall to \$7.3-billion next year," the *Chronicle* story stated.

Science programs at the Energy Department, however, would grow by 5 percent, with the new money going to basic science.

Julie T. Norris, director of the office of sponsored programs expressed her disappointment with the change as well as her hope for future increases.

"This year, however, the bulk of the increase is targeted in the area of information technology, with a small amount targeted for biophysical sciences. It is somewhat disappointing that, in the year of reported strong budget surpluses, there is not a greater amount targeted for fundamental research, particularly in colleges and universities," Norris said.

She also stated that MIT's strength in information technology will enable the Institute to compete effectively in these program areas.

There are also no significant funding reductions in other programs. The budget for the year 2000 is still in its planning stages and has not been approved by Congress as of yet.

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# Switchover to Computer-Based GRE Goes Unnoticed by OCPSA

By Dudley Lamming  
STAFF REPORTER

On April 10, thousands of college students will partake in a Saturday ritual for the last time. With number two pencils in hand, they will go to test centers located in college gymnasiums to take their Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). After that, students will take the GRE at various times throughout the week, and instead of a pencil they will be using a mouse.

In addition, beginning this month, the essay portion of the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) will be graded by computer.

## Changeover goes unnoticed

As many college juniors are aware, the paper-based version of the GRE is being phased out. It is being replaced by an adaptive test taken on the computer. Adaptive testing is somewhat controversial, but surprisingly, members of the Career Services and Preprofessional Advising Department were unaware that this changeover is taking place.

When asked about how students were being advised to the end of paper-based testing, Elizabeth A.

Reed, Associate Director of Career Services, responded, "I didn't know it was happening." Similarly, Christopher G. L. Pratt, Director of Career Services, was unaware of the changeover.

"I haven't heard any student concerns about it," he said. Staff counselors who work directly with students have also not heard any concern.

## Computer tests are individualized

The computer-based tests differ significantly from the paper-based versions. No two test takers will take the exact same test. Each question will, instead of being predetermined, instead be based on the question before it. As questions are answered correctly, the following questions will be raised in difficulty. As questions are answered incorrectly, following questions will be easier.

Since the answer to each question determines the next, test takers are unable to return to previous questions and fix their answers. Furthermore, the length of the test can vary dramatically. If someone answers all the questions correctly and quickly, the test itself

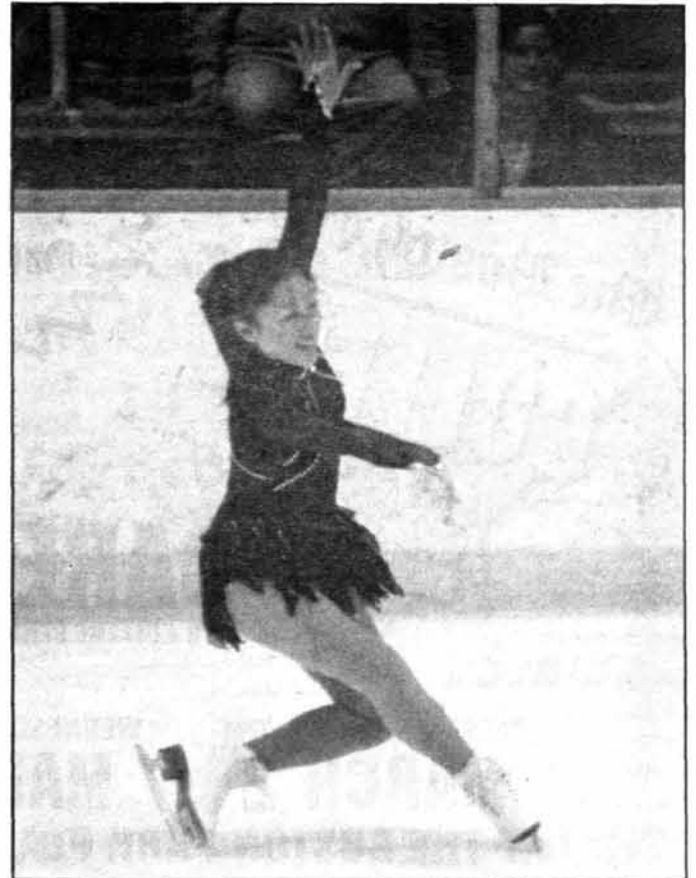
can be over in about an hour.

Since every test is different, the score is now computed based on statistical models of how many people get particular questions correct. Those departments that require the GRE exams plan to accept the computerized exams as equivalent with the paper exams. Decisions on how to use GRE scores are made on a departmental basis, as are all graduate admission decisions.

## Essay to be scored by computer

The switchover to computerized testing for the GRE is but a harbinger for things to come. Beginning this month, students who take the GMAT will have their essay read by a computer. This electronic reader, called e-rater, will evaluate organization, structural analysis, and presentation of ideas. All essays will, for now, still be read by at least one human. E-rater assigns scores based on previously scored essays on a specific topic; it is not completely independent of precedents.

ETS documentation state that "ETS has conducted research studies indicating that these scores are comparable."



AGNES BORSZEKI—THE TECH

Sue Lee from Cornell University, winner of the Senior Freestyle category, skates in her program at the Intercollegiate Championship Saturday in Johnson Athletic Center.

## How Do You Measure the Growth of A Child?

Unfortunately for children living in some of the poorest countries in the world, it takes more than fading marks on a wall.

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## Dartmouth Outlaws Single-Sex Housing

By Adam Brown

This weekend, students at Dartmouth University rallied against the decision by Dartmouth President James Wright which called for an end to single-sex housing as part of a Residential and Student Life Initiative announced last week.

The initiative, which garnered the support of Dartmouth's Board of Trustees, outlines five principles on which the new residence system will be based, including making housing "substantially coed" and to offer "greater choice and continuity in living and residential space."

While the announcement by Dartmouth's president will have massive implications for Greek life at Dartmouth, Vicki W. Lin '01, MIT's Interfraternity Council Public Relations Chair said that MIT, which also has a sizable Greek population, will likely not face any major repercussions in the wake of Dartmouth's decision.

"Measures have already been taken" at MIT and "eliminating single-sex housing is not the most viable option," Lin said.

### Students stage weekend protests

The press release announcing the elimination of single-sex housing at Dartmouth was interpreted by the student body there as demanding the end of the fraternity and sorority system, provoking protests throughout the weekend.

In a Feb. 10 interview by *The Dartmouth*, a student-run newspaper, President Wright said that the initiative called for an end to Greek life "as we know it", and "a significant decrease in number" among single-sex fraternities and

sororities. Wright also said "this is not a referendum on these things. We are committed to doing this."

Though no timetable was set in the initiative itself, Wright said that the effects would begin with the rush of the class of 2003.

In protest, the Co-ed Fraternity and Sorority Council (CSFC) cancelled 21 Greek-sponsored events for this weekend, including the activities for the Winter Carnival, Dartmouth's largest event of the spring term.

In protest, 1,000 students gathered outside President Wright's house and sang the alma mater. Two Safety and Security officers attended the demonstration and the crowd dispersed peacefully.

The Winter Carnival was also the site of protests. When President Wright addressed the crowd, he commented that "I haven't been invited to any fraternity parties this year but I'm still intending to have a good time this weekend," eliciting a chorus of boos. Also, 600 people marched through Dartmouth's Campus in protest.

The Psi Upsilon fraternity hung a banner reading "Judas, Brutus, Arnold, Wright" and hosted a rally to replace the Keg Jump, a Winter Carnival tradition cancelled by the CSFC. Dartmouth senior Landis Fryer said "I see it as a chess game. You're checked and your next move has yet to be determined. Look carefully at the board, my mastermind colleagues. Sacrifice your rook if it means you take their king." About 400 students gathered in Psi Upsilon's front yard Saturday to protest the college's decision.

Roland Adams in Dartmouth's Office of Public Affairs said "We're formulating a process to facilitate the kind of community discussion that the trustees have called for on how to reach those goals." When asked what direction the reforms would take, and when asked about the effects on next year's rush, Adams said "I don't believe anybody has said for sure."

### Dartmouth builds more housing

Dartmouth has also begun a series of renovations, including the East Wheelock cluster of dormitories, Dartmouth's "vision of the future," according to Dartmouth junior Megan Daggett of Phi Tau. President Wright also wants to add approximately 400 new beds to attract the 200 undergraduate students who now live off-campus.

Daggett also said that she did not believe Dartmouth's actions were due to backlash from the death of Scott S. Krueger '01 at MIT.

President Wright's predecessor, President Freedman, also made known his desire to eliminate the single-sex fraternities and sororities. Wright served under him as dean of faculty and later dean of the college.

Dartmouth has 28 fraternities and sororities, of which three — Phi Tau, Alpha Theta, and the Tabard — are co-ed. About 1,700 of Dartmouth's undergraduate population of 4,100 live in Greek housing.

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# College Republicans Dismayed after Vote

Acquittal, from Page 1

plastered the front pages of newspapers for much too long," said MIT-CDS Co-President Aaron B. Strauss '02. Strauss said that MIT-CDS members also wanted to inform students of the trial's outcome.

"Even though the outcome of Friday's vote was preordained," Strauss said, "I, along with many Americans, breathed a sigh of relief." Strauss thought that "the one lesson I believe that Americans learned from these 13 months is the power of the media. The media, at all levels, determines what is public and what is private in people's lives."

The MIT College Republicans were less enthusiastic about Clinton's acquittal. "Although Friday's Senate vote was anticipated, my initial reaction was one of complete disgust," said MIT College Republicans First Vice-Chairman Jeffrey M. Davis '99. "The Senators' desire to conform to the attitudes expressed in the polls and to protect their public image by conducting a 'speedy trial' essentially resulted in an abrogation of their Constitutional duty," Davis said.

"I think from the beginning everyone knew that it wouldn't make it through the Senate," said Christopher M. Spadaccini G. "It would've been silly to think that you could get two-thirds." Spadaccini, who has not been an active member of the College Republicans for some time, said that he was almost glad to hear that the trial was over and thought that the nation wanted to move on. Despite

his opinion of the trial, he said, "there's a mark on his presidency which I think in a lot of ways is justified."

Scott D. Schneider '00, President of the MIT Libertarians, was disappointed with the trial's outcome for different reasons than the MIT College Republicans. Citing official Libertarian positions, Schneider said that "as usual, the Republicans have set their sights too low and failed to achieve them. Libertarians care not about the Lewinsky sex scandal, but about Clinton's routine violations of the United States Constitution."

However, the MIT Libertarians did not oppose Clinton's impeachment entirely. "Clinton should have been impeached for allegations of selling nuclear weapons delivery systems technology to the Chinese, abusing FBI files, endorsing a ban on homosexual marriages, signing two bills that censored the internet, signing the Brady Bill, limiting encryption technology, expanding asset forfeiture, and so on," Schneider said.

Regarding the acquittal itself, he said, "I was disappointed last Friday, when Clinton was acquitted, because it means that Congress and the President can return to their full-time job — violating the Constitution and increasing regulation of Americans' social and economic lives."

# TECH Shuttle Schedule

The following is the schedule for the TECH Shuttle which replaced the CRTMA shuttle. This schedule is effective Feb. 16. The shuttle runs every twenty minutes and provides service from the west end to the east end of campus.

**Service Monday-Friday  
7:15 a.m.-7:15p.m.**

Stop times shown as :XX minutes past the hour.

A. Kendall Sq. MBTA stop  
:15, :35, :55

B. Hayward at Amherst St.  
:16, :36, :56

C. MIT Building 39 rear  
:17, :37, :57

D. 84 Mass. Ave. MBTA stop  
:22, :42, :02

E. Burton House  
:23, :43, :03

F. Tang/Westgate  
:25, :45, :05

G. Prof. Learning Ctr.  
:26, :46, :06

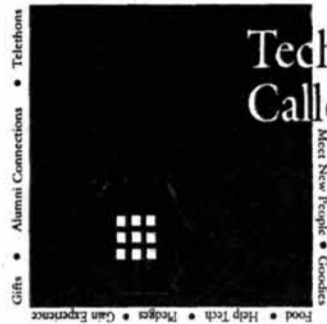
H. 600 Memorial Dr.  
:27, :47, :07

I. Vassar/Amesbury  
:28, :49, :08

J. Vassar/Mass Ave. MBTA stop  
:29, :50, :09

C. MIT Building 39 rear  
:30, :51, :10

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

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# Dormcon Seeks To Fund Large Events

Dormcon, from Page 1

semester from Housing and Food Services. For the past few semesters, Dormcon had not requested the money from HFS. This fall, Dormcon requested and received the overdue money. It was decided over IAP that \$10,000 would be given to the Spring Weekend Committee to arrange the Spring Concert. With the remaining balance in the treasury, Dormcon decided to give the money back to the students to organize an event.

"From my understanding, this practice was common in years past when Dormcon was regularly getting its funds. However, the practice had stopped somewhere along the way once the money was no longer requested or received," Madhavan said.

Dormcon serves as the governing body of the ten MIT undergraduate dormitories. Presently, Dormcon is serving as a student advocacy group that represents the interests of dormitory residents to the MIT administrative body.

# Grade Modifiers First Appear at MIT in 1995

Grades, from Page 1

The CUP was originally to have made their decision before the end of the spring 1998 semester, in time to implement a permanent decision beginning in the fall semester of 1999. However, the deadline was extended in order to gather more research on the issue.

### Grade modifiers appear in 1995

Experimental grade modifiers were first approved by the faculty in April of 1995. Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Nigel H. M. Wilson PhD '70, then the chair of the Committee on Academic Performance, said that the faculty would definitely reconsider the issue of intermediate grades after three years ["New Grade Scheme Suggested by CAP," April 7, 1995].

Professor of Aeronautics and

Astronautics Paul A. Lagace '78 led the subcommittee of the CUP responsible for researching the current grading system.

Three years ago, in an effort to improve the informative value of grades at MIT, the subcommittee decided to institute an experimental program which added internal modifiers to grades. The modifiers could only be viewed by MIT faculty and the students themselves.

At that time, faculty satisfaction with the grading system was at an all time low. According to one survey in 1995, only 25 percent were satisfied with the current system of grading.

Students in 1995 also showed some dissatisfaction with the grading system, as half of the 15 percent of students who responded expressed interest in a change in the grading system.



Aaron Rodriguez  
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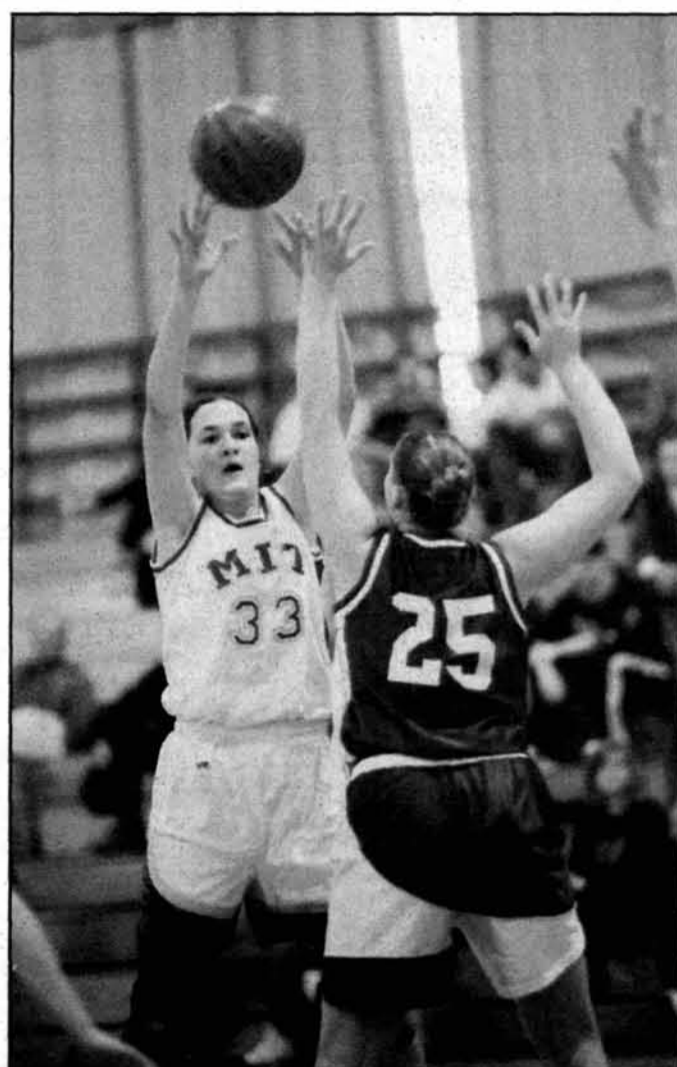


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