



The Tech

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MIT's
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Newspaper

The Weather

Today: Mostly cloudy, 52°F (11°C)
Tonight: Clearing skies, 35°F (3°C)
Tomorrow: Clear, 52°F (11°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 119, Number 64

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, December 7, 1999

More Apply Early To Institute

Early Action Numbers Rise by Forty Percent

By Sanjay Basu
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Late last summer, admissions officers across the nation braced themselves for what was expected to be the largest ever early applicant pool in history. But few here could have anticipated the incredible increase in early action applications to MIT this year.

MIT's Office of Admissions has received 3,080 early action applications, up 41 percent from last year's total. In 1998, the board received 2,182 early applications — an increase of only five percent from the previous year.

This year's early applicant pool is nearly three times the size of previous pools. Prior to 1995, the Institute received an average of only 1,200 early applications. Since then, the number has risen by small steps, until this year's giant leap.

Peer institutions change policies

Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones attributed the change to altered policies at three major competing institutions: Harvard, Brown, and Georgetown.

All three schools traditionally used a restricted early action system that prevented students from applying early to more than one school.

Now students can simultaneously apply early to Harvard, Brown, Georgetown, and any other school

Early Action, Page 24

Chancellor to Unveil Residence Decision

New System to be Implemented Fall 2001

By Rima Arnaout
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 will present his decision for the redesign of MIT's residence system Thursday, to be implemented by fall 2001. Bacow will make his presentation Thursday at 5 p.m. in Room 3-270.

"I regret that the report has been delayed so that it is now coming out on the eve of finals. I had hoped to have it finished earlier, but I have been working with DormCon, IFC, and others to resolve a number of open issues," Bacow said.

Bacow refused to comment both on the content of the report and the basic elements of its organization. Paper copies will be distributed in Institute lobbies and the Student Center. The report will be available online at <http://web.mit.edu/residence/systemdesign> tomorrow.

Student input pivotal in decision

Bacow said the final report draws equally from earlier proposals by the Residence System Steering

Committee and the Unified Response to the RSSC Proposal, presented by the student-run Strategic Advisory Committee to the Chancellor.

"I see what the SAC did was to refine what the RSSC did, using it as a jumping-off point... I've basically tried to do the same, blending the two reports," Bacow said.

Bacow stressed the importance of student input, stating that he has worked with the leaders of MIT's student governments to develop a plan "that's workable from all perspectives."

"I've been working very closely with the President of the UA, the head of Dormcon, and the head of the IFC to ensure that we have a plan that's workable from all perspectives," Bacow added. "Student input has been critical."

"If Chancellor Bacow's final report reflects what students want, it's because [the SAC report] was done so well," said Undergraduate

Residence, Page 28



GARRY MASKALY—THE TECH

The 1999 Prudential Center Tree is one of the many signs that Christmas is fast approaching.

PKS Brothers Fined, Avoid Charges

By Matthew F. Palmer
STAFF REPORTER

In a closed hearing Friday in Cambridge District Court, a magistrate ordered three Phi Kappa Sigma brothers to pay \$1,306.42 in restitution and perform eight hours of community service each in connection with an accidental explosion that occurred outside 10-250 in October.

Under the agreement, no misde-

meanor charges will be filed against PKS brothers Aaron A. Griswold '03, Robert H. Lee '02, and Rupal B. Nathuji '02 if they make the restitution and do not commit any further offenses. A similar complaint against a PKS alumnus was dismissed.

Middlesex County Assistant Clerk Magistrate Robert Pacheco continued the complaints of illegal possession and use of fireworks and disturbing the peace without a finding until September 1, 2000.

PKS gives \$14K to leukemia fund

Thursday, members of PKS donated \$14,267 to the Leukemia Society of America, the charity

which would have benefitted from their canceled "Skuffle" party and haunted house. The money was raised at a rally in support of the fraternity on the steps of 77 Massachusetts Avenue on October 31.

"We are grateful to the members of Phi Kappa Sigma for their commitment to the Leukemia Society," said Iris Gleason, the Massachusetts chapter's executive director, in a printed report. "As a fraternity, they have traditionally recognized the importance of our mission. We appreciate that."

"We wanted to make sure some-

PKS, Page 14

DormCon, RFSC Develop Plan To Inspect Dorms' Fire Safety

By Karen E. Robinson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Beginning next fall, all MIT dormitory rooms will be inspected for fire safety under a plan currently being developed by the Dormitory Council and the Residential Fire Safety Committee.

Inspections will be scheduled up to a week in advance, and inspectors will not open drawers or otherwise ask to see the students' belongings. "We're working really hard to make sure the students are comfortable with the policy," said Jennifer A. Frank '00, DormCon President.

Halston W. Taylor, Burton-Conner housemaster and RFSC member, cautioned that "if the inspectors happen to see something in clear view, it will be their responsibility to report it, same as mechanics or housekeepers."

"We're hoping to make it more apparent what is and is not allowed" before the time of the inspections, Frank said.

Frank mentioned that, contrary to many students' belief, halogen lamps are allowed in dorm rooms.

Inspection, Page 17

UA Allocates Funds Held In Reserve

Dana Levine
STAFF REPORTER

The Undergraduate Association voted Monday night to allocate a \$184,846.79 budget surplus, disbursing \$106,453.16 and issuing a request for proposals to allocate the remaining funds.

The UA voted to increase its invested reserve, renovate the Small Activity Office, build new booths for lobby 10, allocate seed money to the Spring Weekend Planning committee, and allocate funds to ease the transition to a new funding system.

During the past three years, the UA has accumulated a \$184,846.79 surplus as a result of student groups failing to spend all allocated funds. Under the previous funding model, unspent student group funds were left to accumulate for a student activities endowment.

"This is not practical — it would require \$5 million to endow our student groups. That would require a \$50,000 surplus for ten years," said UA President Matthew McGann.

Past regulations cause surpluses

In the past, UA regulations have prevented the allocation of more than 97 percent of available funds,

UA, Page 13



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Professor Thomas DeFrantz plays Thelonious Monk in *Monk's Mood*, a production by members of the theater department, held this weekend in Kresge Little Theater.



Senior Susan Mierau wins a Rhodes Scholarship.

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Comics

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Beginning this issue, *The Tech* will be printed by Charles River Publishing, Inc. Readers can expect a return to weekly full-color photographs and distribution beginning at 9 a.m. This is the last scheduled issue for 1999. *The Tech* will be published on the four Wednesdays of IAP.

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WORLD & NATION

Boy Wounds Fellow Students in Oklahoma School Shooting

LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOUSTON

He wasn't a loner. Neither was he a scapegoat, a poor student or even, at least to outside appearances, a child in any distress at all.

Although he didn't fit the labels appended to other perpetrators of school violence, yet another public school student opened fire Monday on his classmates — this time in Fort Gibson, Okla. It was the seventh school shooting in two years.

Blank-faced and calm, the skinny 13-year-old emptied a 9mm semi-automatic handgun into a crowd of schoolmates Monday morning, hitting four children. Wounded in the arms, legs or face, all the students were reported to be out of danger Monday night, although one underwent surgery. A fifth student reportedly suffered abrasions and bruises.

School superintendent Steve Wilmoth said the boy began shooting outside the school around 7:45 a.m. The child was still trying to shoot when science teacher and school safety officer Ronnie Holuby approached and pinned him against a wall. Well-trained in school disaster management, Fort Gibson Middle School teachers promptly ushered unhurt students into the cafeteria after the shots. Injured students were whisked to hospitals in Muskogee and Tulsa.

ValuJet Contractor Guilty of Hazardous Material Violations

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MIAMI

A federal jury on Monday found an airline maintenance company guilty of nine hazardous materials violations in connection with the handling of oxygen containers blamed for the 1996 crash of ValuJet Flight 592, which killed 110 people.

SabreTech was cleared of the more serious charges of conspiracy and causing a destructive device to be put aboard an airplane.

The company — which no longer exists as such — faces possible fines of up to \$2.25 million and may have to compensate the victims' families as well.

However, SabreTech lawyer Ken Quinn said that the company had "a negative net worth" and was unable to pay anything. He said the verdicts would be appealed.

The jury also found two former SabreTech employees — mechanic Eugene Florence and Daniel Gonzalez, then a maintenance vice president — not guilty of falsifying records and mishandling a dangerous cargo of oxygen generators, which investigators said caught fire and led to the crash of the DC-9.

Government Lawyers Failed To Preserve Evidence in Lawsuit

WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

A court-appointed special master on Monday released a blistering report accusing federal government lawyers of failing to preserve potential evidence in a class action lawsuit brought by Native Americans and then keeping the destruction a secret for more than three months.

The 162 boxes of documents included papers that could have been relevant to a suit challenging the government's management of Indian trust funds, special master Alan L. Balaran reported. They were apparently shredded as part of a routine housecleaning at a Treasury Department facility in the Washington suburb of Hyattsville, Md. The suit alleges that the Treasury and Interior Departments have mismanaged the trusts for decades.

Besides condemning the conduct of Treasury attorneys, Balaran said the actions were "part of a general pattern of obfuscation" by government officials involved in the litigation.

Scientists Make Last Effort To Contact the Mars Lander

By Kathy Sawyer

THE WASHINGTON POST

PASADENA, CA

NASA's Mars team was poised to try one last-ditch effort between midnight and dawn Tuesday to contact its missing lander on the Red Planet.

Hopes had all but faded that they will recover the Mars Polar Lander or the two microprobes it was carrying when the craft entered the Martian atmosphere Friday, handlers admitted early Monday.

"Tuesday night will be pretty much the last high-probability chance that we'll have," flight operations manager Richard Cook told reporters at a Monday briefing here at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which manages the Mars missions for NASA.

If that effort failed, it will certainly leave the team in the previously unthinkable position of having lost three landers and one orbiter — the entire \$360 million panoply of robots aimed at Mars this year — in what was to have been a vital second wave of research in a sequenced exploration of Mars.

The team, working carefully through a series of hypotheses about the missing Lander's condition, has

eliminated almost all the most likely single-problem scenarios.

After that, the assumptions take the engineers deeper into complexity and rapidly lower in probability of success, according to flight operations manager Sam Thurman, though efforts will continue on for two weeks before the mission is formally pronounced deceased.

Monday night's exercise would again employ the spacecraft's omnidirectional UHF antenna, which does not require accurate pointing. It was to transmit to NASA's orbiting Mars Global Surveyor as it passed 250 miles overhead, carrying an instrument that would act as a relay. The same gambit failed Sunday, but in the meantime, controllers have sent the lander new commands that would switch it into a different "mode" that could produce better results.

Handlers decided to postpone until Tuesday night a major full-sky search originally planned for Monday night. It would use a totally separate communications path: the spacecraft's main antenna, a medium-speed dish that has to be accurately pointed. Setting up the scan was taking longer than expected, Cook said, adding that there is not

much hope for success with this approach in any case.

Managers of the two experimental penetrating microprobes also heard nothing but silence through another long night. The probes, which hitchhiked aboard the Polar Lander on its 416-million-mile journey, were supposed to have separated as the three craft entered the Martian atmosphere about 3 p.m. Friday. They were to slam into the surface at 400 mph, send back a signal and prospect for subsurface water ice.

As NASA braced for the fallout, planetary experts were raising questions about whether the push to make missions cheaper has gone too far and whether the degree of risk accepted on this mission was too high. Some were focusing on the specifics of how to prevent such problems on the next missions in the pipeline to Mars.

If the lander is at that spot, engineers would then know that the parachute, retro-rockets and other crucial components during the complex descent had worked properly and could be checked off the list, said project scientist Richard Zurek. But controllers said that process could take a couple of weeks.

U.S. Supreme Court Rethinks Miranda Suspect Protections

By Joan Biskupic

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court announced Monday that it would decide whether its 1966 *Miranda* decision, the legendary ruling that requires police to tell suspects in custody their rights, is still good law.

At stake is one of the best-known principles of the American legal system: that police must inform suspects of their right to remain silent, that anything they say can be used against them in a court of law, and that they have a right to have a lawyer present during questioning. The *Miranda* protections are a hallmark of the liberal era of Chief Justice Earl Warren and, through their repetition in movies and television, a staple of American

popular culture.

A challenge to the landmark decision has arisen, however, because this year a Richmond, Va.-based federal appeals court ruled that Congress effectively reversed *Miranda* with a law passed in 1968. Though never enforced, the law enabled confessions to be used at trial even when criminals had not been warned of their right to remain silent. The February decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, which covers Virginia, Maryland and three neighboring states, shocked the legal community at the time, but it has been embraced by a small but forceful band of conservative lawyers who believe *Miranda* has handicapped law enforcement efforts.

The case, *Dickerson v. United*

States, will present one of the most significant tests to date of how far the Rehnquist Court will go in bolstering law enforcement over defendants' rights. It will also put the spotlight on the aggressive jurisprudence of the 4th Circuit, a panel that has cut a large swath in recent years with its conservative decisions and bold rhetoric. Neither side in the *Dickerson* case — concerning a bank robber who claimed he had not been properly read his rights — had questioned the validity of *Miranda*; the 4th Circuit took it upon itself to revive the 1968 law passed to abolish *Miranda*.

The justices also announced Monday that they would take up a high-profile case concerning federal court judges' oversight of prison conditions.

WEATHER

The Sun Is Still Shining

By Veronique Bugnion and Peter Huybers

STAFF METEOROLOGISTS

The mercury climbed to 60°F (15°C) on Sunday at the Blue Hills observatory in Milton, tying the record set on this date in 1973. The normal high for a December 5th is approximately 41°F (5°C).

The front which brought us rain showers yesterday has already drifted over the Gulf of Maine. Moving in behind is an area of high pressure which is gradually building along the Appalachians. It should provide dry and sunny conditions at least through Friday. Daytime high temperatures will manage to stay above 50°F (10°C) for most of the week. Temperatures will drop close to the freezing point at night because clear skies allow the heat accumulated during the day to escape to space.

The numerical models are predicting that the area of low pressure which will begin to form in the lee of the Rockies on Thursday will deepen and move rapidly towards New England on Saturday, bringing with it cloudy skies and a good chance of rain for the weekend.

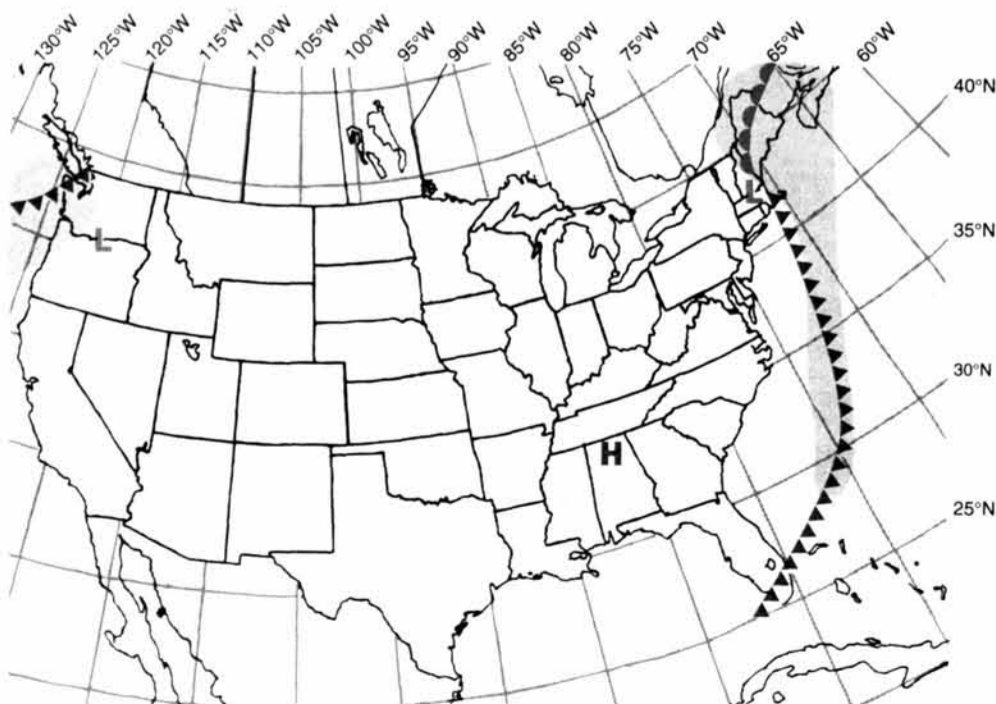
Today: Mostly cloudy, high 52°F (11°C). Northwest-wind 15 mph.

Tonight: Clearing skies, low of 35°F (3°C).

Wednesday: Clear, high of 52°F (11°C).

Thursday: Clear, high of 50°F (10°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, December 7, 1999



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	☉ Snow	☁ Fog
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	☂ Showers	⚡ Thunderstorm
S Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	☂ Light	☁ Haze
	▲▲ Stationary Front	☂ Moderate	
		☂ Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Russian Planes Warn Chechen Civilians of Intensified Strikes

By Daniel Williams
THE WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW

Russian planes dropped leaflets Monday over Grozny, the devastated capital of breakaway Chechnya, delivering a stark ultimatum to civilians: Leave by Saturday or face intensified air and artillery strikes.

Leaflets also warned Grozny's defenders to give up or die, and officials said new, heavier armaments will be used to batter the city. "Everyone who fails to leave ... will be destroyed," the leaflets said.

Russian officials described the ultimatum as the start of a new phase in the combat against the separatist region. Rebels will be wiped out or expelled from urban areas and forced into the mountainous south, where they will be pounded by pursuing jets and artillery, they said.

The two ultimatums support the

growing perception that Russian generals urgently want to retake the city from which they were expelled three years ago at the end of Chechnya's independence war. They appeared intent on creating an urban free-fire zone in which anything that moves will be considered a legitimate military target.

Up to 20,000 civilians remain in the city, the Russians said. Chechen officials put the number at 40,000.

President Clinton sharply criticized the Russian ultimatum to civilians, calling it "a threat to the lives of the old, the infirm, the injured people and other innocent civilians who simply cannot leave or are too scared to leave their homes."

"Russia will pay a heavy price for those actions, with each passing day sinking more deeply into a morass that will intensify extremism and diminish its own standing in the

world," Clinton said at the White House.

The expressed aim of the conflict is to free Chechnya of "terrorists" and restore Russian rule. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has elevated the war to a battle for the very existence of Russia. Over the weekend, he responded to intense Western criticism of the campaign's brutality by saying Moscow could not be expected to build friendly relations with foreign countries "at the price of breaking up our state."

There is political significance for Putin in the timing of the planned offensive. Russian parliamentary elections are scheduled for Dec. 19, and the results are regarded as a bellwether for next year's presidential vote. Putin has staked his presidential candidacy on the war's outcome, and so far his popularity has soared. He backs the Unity party in the parliamentary vote

Japan's Third Quarter GDP Falls One Percent, Renewing Criticism

By Clay Chandler
THE WASHINGTON POST

HONG KONG

Japan's economy contracted more severely than expected in the quarter ended September 30, dashing government and investor hopes that the once-vigorous nation had finally shaken off its eight-year malaise.

The Japanese government reported Monday that third-quarter gross domestic product — the nation's total output of goods and services — shrank 1.0 percent from the previous three months.

The downturn, a reversal from two quarters of solid growth, was considerably sharper than the 0.1 percent decline expected by private economists. On an annualized, seasonally adjusted basis, Japan, the world's second-largest economy

and a key U.S. trade partner, suffered a staggering 3.8 percent drop.

The report provided fresh ammunition for skeptics in the high-stakes debate about whether the Japanese economy is on the mend. "The clear message here is that Japan has lost momentum," declared Robert Alan Feldman, chief economist at Morgan Stanley Japan Ltd.

Feldman predicted the Japanese economy will shrink 1.3 percent in 2000; he is one of a number of high-profile Western analysts who have argued that a genuine recovery is still a long way off.

"This is not a report that is going to be welcomed by foreign governments," Feldman said. "It makes it very difficult to imagine that the other industrial economies will be eager to cooperate with Japanese requests for intervention in the cur-

rency markets."

But Nikko Salomon Smith Barney economist Jeffrey Young, who is optimistic about Japan, said Monday's announcement did not shake his faith. He described the July-September figure as "part of a zigzag pattern around a rising trend."

"At the end of the day," Young said, "we're still talking about an economy that is growing by about 1 percent a year or slightly stronger and is on its way to growth of about 2 percent or slightly stronger."

Even the bulls, though, conceded Japan isn't likely to post strong growth rates over the next three to six months and will be hard pressed to achieve Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's growth target of 0.6 percent for the fiscal year ending March 31.

Drug Czar Calls for Mandatory Rehab Treatment of Criminals

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The director of the administration's war on drugs called Monday for a "historic shift" toward mandating drug treatment for hundreds of thousands of criminals, saying that policies aimed at simply locking up state and federal offenders without curing their addictions have failed.

"This is not a soft-on-crime issue. It's trying to get good corrections policy combined with good drug treatment policy," Barry McCaffrey, who heads the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, told reporters. "The current system is broken."

McCaffrey will deliver that same basic message Tuesday to 900 prominent law-enforcement officials, health administrators and government policy analysts gathering in Washington for a major conference on the issue. Attorney General Janet Reno and Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala also will participate in the conference.

Law-enforcement officials in some states have moved in the last decade to develop drug courts and other ways of offering treatment to drug-addicted criminals. But McCaffrey said that, with as many as 85 percent of the nation's nearly two million prisoners thought to be chronic drug users, a new national direction is needed to break the cycle of addiction.

Physicist, Nuclear Arms Expert Richard Latter Dies at 76

WASHINGTON POST

Richard Latter, 76, a theoretical physicist who warned of clandestine ways to cheat arms-reduction treaties during the Cold War, died of lung cancer Dec. 2. He lived in McLean, Va.

Latter, who once was termed "conservative cubed" politically, headed what became the physics department at Rand Corp. in the 1960s.

He later became a founder and vice president of the defense technology think tank R and D Associates (RDA) in 1971. He led RDA's Washington office from 1974 to 1979. Logicon Inc., now a subsidiary of Northrup Grumman, bought RDA in the early 1980s.

In the 1960s, Latter warned of the ease of skirting nuclear-arms-testing regulations while a member of the U.S. delegation to the Geneva-based Conference for the Discontinuance of Nuclear Weapons Tests and a science adviser to the strategic arms limitation talks (SALT).

Underground tests, he said, could be conceived in a filled cavity, thereby minimizing the seismic waves of the explosion.

Not only could this happen in the event of a small blast, but also one larger than 10 kilotons, said Harold Brode, a theoretical nuclear physicist who specialized in the effects of weapons blast radiation.

Latter helped work with Soviet scientists at the Geneva conference to develop what would in 1964 become a treaty banning atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons.

Latter, a Chicago native, was a Navy veteran of World War II. He was a 1942 physics graduate of the California Institute of Technology, from which he also received a doctorate in theoretical physics.



The MIT
Graduate
Student
Council

office: Walker Memorial, 50-220 (above the Muddy)

phone: 253-2195

website: www.mit.edu/activities/gsc

email: gsc-request@mit.edu

Friday Social

Come celebrate the holidays with the GSC! Holiday Social for graduate students:

- * Friday, December 10th @ 5:30 PM
- * GSC lounge, Room 50-220.

All graduate students are welcome. Come with friends and unwind before finals, enjoy a variety of refreshments and conversation. Proper ID required.

National Grad Student Crisis Line

The holidays often compound the anxiety of graduate studies with isolation or unmet expectations. When it seems too much to handle, there is someone who understands.

- Call : 1-877-GRAD-HLP
- * staffed by trained counselors
- * free-of-charge

For more info, check out:
<http://www.gradresources.org>

December - Calendar

- 7 Muddy Charles Board Meeting
- 8 General Council Meeting*

All graduate students are welcome. Food is provided.
* @ 5:30 in 50-220 (above the muddy)

OPINION

Final Decision Shouldn't End Input

This Thursday, Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 will release his final recommendations on the future shape of the MIT housing system.

Editorial

This report will encapsulate one of the most important policy drafts in recent memory. Every student at MIT in the coming decades will be directly affected by the recommendations of this report.

Unfortunately, the timing for the release of this report is very poor. Students have precious little time in the twilight of the semester to devote to anything other than classwork. Many students preoccupied with exams will find it most convenient to ignore the release of this report. The chancellor, student leaders, and students themselves must not let this happen.

Chancellor Bacow must redouble his efforts to insure that students give serious consideration to the release of his report. At his presentation Thursday he must make every

effort to stress the great importance of this report and encourage all students to read his findings.

Student leaders must also urge their respective constituencies to read the report. If leaders expect to receive feedback from the students they represent, they must stress to students the importance of understanding and reacting to this report. Student leaders have shown admirable dedication to participating in the process which lead up to the release of this report. That dedication to provide student input should continue through the implementation of Bacow's report.

Finally, students themselves must take responsibility and find time to review Chancellor Bacow's recommendations. Housing is an integral part of the MIT experience, and students should make their opinions known to the administration on this pivotal issue.

Chancellor Bacow, student leaders, and individual students have an obligation to give the report proper consideration despite the inopportune timing of its release.



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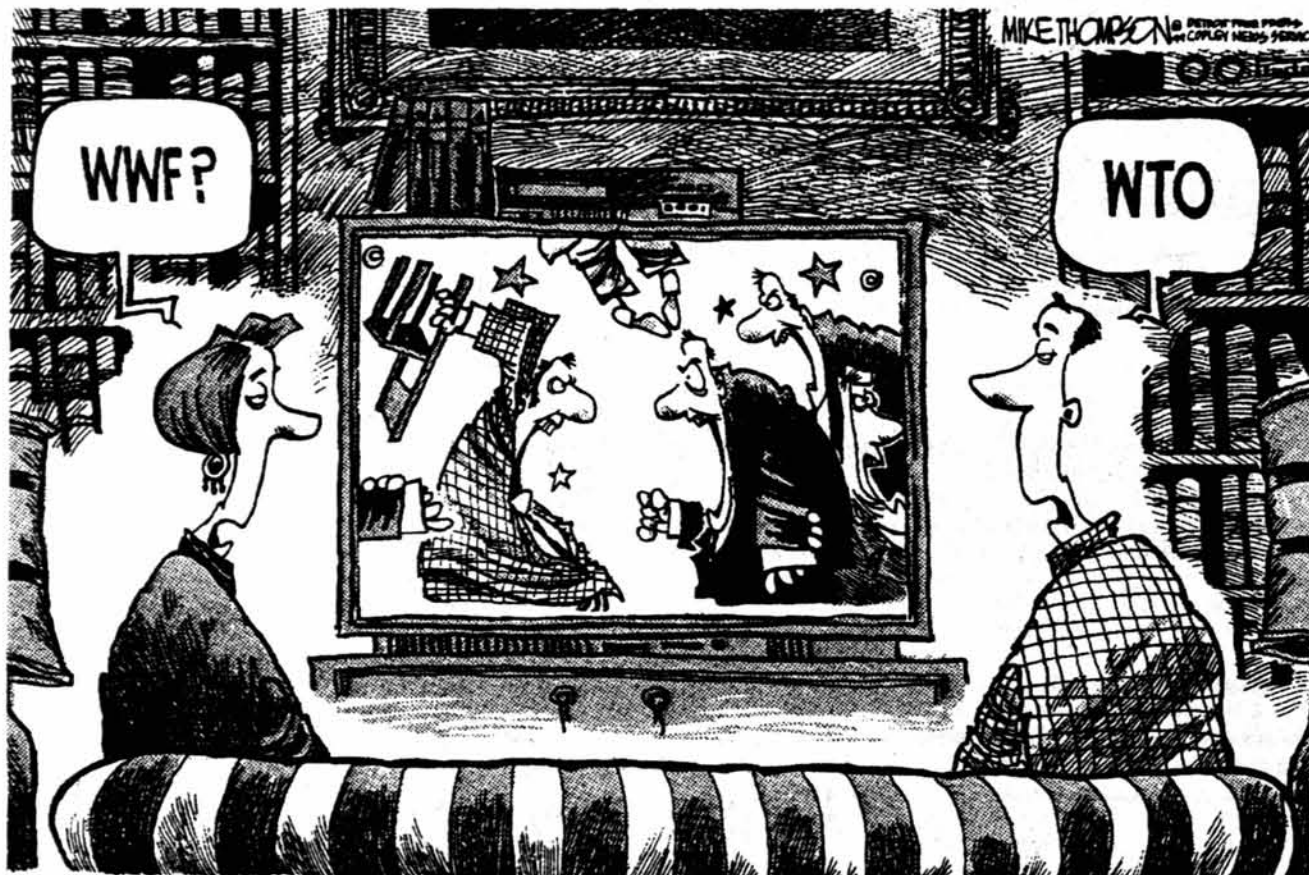
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"Don't give this to Dad till he's been softened up by at LEAST three schmaltzy Christmas movies."

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. Hard copy submissions may be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

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

To Reach Us

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

Cambridge City Council's Y2K Problem

Michael J. Ring

The Cambridge City Council will soon face a Y2K problem of its own.

No, the city's computers are not going to crash (so we hope) with the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve. This Y2K problem is of a political, not a technological, nature. When the new council is sworn in next year, one of its first orders of business will be choosing the city's new mayor. And for the second consecutive mayoral election, blood is likely to be spilled.

In the 1998 election, then-councilor Katherine Triantafillou, who won more votes than any other progressive candidate in that campaign, appeared to have five of the nine councilors behind her bid for mayor. But, at the last minute, fellow councilors Frank Duehay, Kathleen Born, and Henrietta Davis, who along with Triantafillou were members of the liberal Cambridge Civic Association, broke ranks and joined with two moderates, Anthony Galluccio and Sheila Russell, to install Duehay as mayor. The 1998 mayoral election was the beginning of the end for Triantafillou, who promptly quit the CCA, and was ousted in last month's election.

This time around, three of the nine councilors-elect are seeking the largely ceremonial position of mayor. Current vice-mayor Galluccio, the top vote-winner in last month's election, is seeking the job. Councilor Kathleen Born, who finished second to Galluccio, also wants the position. Councilor Michael Sullivan is the third candidate.

Currently Born has the support of fellow CCA members Davis and Jim Braude. Councilor Tim Toomey is believed to be supporting Sullivan. Councilor Ken Reeves and Councilors-elect Marjorie Decker and David Maher are currently uncommitted, although Maher is likely to support either Galluccio or Sullivan, depending on who shows more strength.

At first glance, Galluccio is the logical choice for mayor. Even his critics must concede he is currently the most popular member

of the Cambridge City Council. He trounced the other candidates, tallying 2,716 first-place votes (Born was second with 1,662), and was the only candidate to exceed quota on the first count.

But Galluccio should not be chosen mayor, because he is too hungry for power and willing to pander for the position. The power play reeking of unprofessional backroom politics he revealed this week in the *Cambridge Chronicle* should lead the other councilors to question his motives.

The December 1 edition of the *Chronicle* reported that Galluccio has told State Representative Alice Wolf, who represents North and West Cambridge, that he would not run against her in the 2000 Democratic

One of the Cambridge City Council's first orders of business will be choosing the new mayor. And for the second consecutive mayoral election, blood is likely to be spilled.

primary if he were elected mayor. Wolf and Galluccio have sparred twice over the seat since the 1996 resignation of then-Speaker Charles Flaherty; Wolf has emerged victorious both times. And if Galluccio isn't elected mayor, he says it is "very probable" that he would oppose Wolf a third time for the state representative seat. Galluccio's ploy appears targeted at Councilor-elect Marjorie Decker, a former Wolf campaign manager who maintains close ties to the state representative.

The stench of politicking in the Mayor's Office is the last thing Cambridge needs. The last Council was damaged by the trickery pulled against Triantafillou. Cambridge doesn't need another City Council torn by bitter-

ness over the mayoral election. Galluccio's candidacy should be turned back in favor of a Mayor who can unite all councilors, and whom all councilors can trust.

Fortunately, Galluccio's election is far from guaranteed. His ploy against Wolf may not sway Decker, who is now in a difficult position. Despite all her talk about being unaligned with either the progressive or moderate blocs the council, Decker's constituency is clearly liberal. The five candidates selected most frequently by Decker supporters for number-2 votes — Triantafillou, Braude, Born, Davis, and Reeves — are all progressive. Therefore, Decker's constituents strongly favor her voting for Born, and as a freshman councilor she may not have the political capital to do otherwise.

Even with Decker's support, Galluccio faces another major hurdle in his election campaign. Sullivan, one of his competitors, shares the vice-mayor's moderate ideology. If they split that constituency, Born — the only liberal seeking the office — might win. But will she, and would that be desirable? If Born gets Decker's support, she still only has four votes. Reeves, the fifth liberal of the council, may not be inclined to vote for Born. Reeves is politically and personally close to Triantafillou, and is still angered by Triantafillou's failed mayoral bid. And there lies the problem with Born — like Galluccio, she is a politician with blood on her hands. Born was one of those who backstabbed Triantafillou. Born is a link to a past of backroom dealing — not a fresh, honest future.

Of the three councilors-elect expressing interest in the position, Michael Sullivan is the best choice for mayor of Cambridge. Although he finished eighth in balloting, Sullivan is the only one of the three candidates not involved in the mayoral dealings and shenanigans of the past several years. Sullivan brings an extensive knowledge of city affairs to the position and could be a mayor councilors and citizens alike could trust. Cambridge needs a fresh start, and Sullivan is the mayoral candidate best able to provide it.

Getting Home On January 1

Eric J. Plosky

It's an hour or two into the year 2000, and you're beginning to freeze your Beantown patootie off after a night of raucous millennial celebration. Time to go home!

Better hurry up and wait — the T won't be in any particular rush to get you there.

This New Year's Eve is expected to be one of the most active nights in Boston memory; hundreds of thousands will be out on the street for First Night events and other Y2K festivities. Naturally, given the unique circumstances surrounding this Dec. 31, one would think that the T would run all night, thereby making an exception to its normal operating hours, which end at about 12:30 AM. But the brains at MBTA headquarters figure that not even the once-in-a-thousand-years turnout expected on New Year's Eve is enough reason to institute frequent service throughout the night.

Oh, there will be service — it's not that the T wants to force you to hoof it. According to the MBTA's web site, for example, Red Line trains should operate at 18-minute intervals between 2:00 and 6:00 AM; the No. 1 bus will run at 35-minute intervals. Other buses and subway lines, including the Green Line, will provide similar service. It's obvious, though, that such infrequent service will simply not be enough.

Urban transit systems in metropolitan areas are often overburdened following the conclusion of major events. If you've ever tried to board a Green Line trolley at North Station following a Celtics or Bruins game, you know precisely what I mean. Considering that this New Year's Eve, in terms of participants, is likely to be the equivalent of at least a dozen packed-to-the-gills Fleet Centers, 18-minute service on the Red Line surely will be insufficient to avert a transportation catastrophe.

Sure, Boston isn't used to operating its transit system throughout the night. But neither is San Francisco, which is nonetheless planning all sorts of extra BART service on New Year's Eve. In fact, to make travel easier, BART last month began selling "Millennium Flash Passes" — \$5.00 tickets good for unlimited travel between 6:00 PM on Dec. 31 and 6 PM on Jan. 1. The T, of course, would never have thought of that.

Neither has the T followed Chicago's example. The Chicago Transit Authority, in addition to providing extra service on buses and trains, will charge 'millennium revelers' only a one-cent fare. On the CTA website, chairman Valerie Jarrett wisely says, "The Penny Ride program encourages customers to make the CTA their 'designated driver' on this busy holiday." Boston considers this concept alien.

London Transport, although unaccustomed to round-the-clock service, will also operate throughout the night. Last month, in polite British, LT actually posted on its web site an apology to customers — it seems that despite the agency's desire to provide the best possible New Year's Eve service, it is simply impossible, due to the limits of signaling and switching technologies, to run more than twenty trains an hour. The Piccadilly Line will run under Trafalgar Square every three minutes, the Red Line will stop at Kendall every 18 minutes — and *London Transport* posted an apology? How comical. Still, don't bother looking for it; LT removed the apology from its web site — to make room for an announcement stating that all transit service will be free on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Boston will not have frequent, free transit service this New Year's. Boston will have a terrific mess on its hands; several hundred thousand New Year's revelers will have a whale of a time getting home. T stations will be swamped with people waiting to buy tokens and to board trains; the streets will overflow with freezing, increasingly irritable masses. And, most dangerously, tens of thousands will get into cars — designated drivers and otherwise.

If it really aspires to "world city" status, Boston should look to world cities like San Francisco, Chicago and London for some transportation advice, at least for this New Year's. And there's always New York, of course, whose 24-hour subway and bus service makes the special case of New Year's Eve just another ordinary couple of hours' worth of New York minutes. Ever wonder how a million people can crowd into Times Square to watch the ball drop, and then get home without utter pandemonium? The subway is what makes it possible. Boston would do well to remember that the same is true here.

'Tis the Season

Make Christmas, not War; Remember the Holiday's Origin and Spirit

Veena Thomas

This isn't going to be a column lamenting the loss of the "true meaning of Christmas." Plenty has already been written about how nobody appreciates Christmas anymore. Everyone complains about the commercialization of Christmas. People moan and groan about how no one realizes that Christmas is supposed to be a day to honor and to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Perhaps this is true; the abbreviation "X-mas" completely destroys the meaning of the word by removing "Christ." Why do we need an abbreviation, anyway? It isn't such a long word.

But we all, Christian or not, know the origin of Christmas. We might forget or overlook it in the frantic rush of the holiday season, but we know what it is. Yes, we should pay more attention to the "true meaning of Christmas." But to hear some people talk, you might think that they want to remove all of the trappings of the season, the Christmas trees, the decorations, the spirit. Should we ignore the festivity and not mention Christmas until December 25, when Christians would then go to church, and that would be all?

I'd prefer not. I speak for many when I say that the Christmas season is my favorite part of the year. I love decorating my house with decorations and foil snowflakes. I enjoy pulling out the ornament box each year and sifting through all of our ornaments. They range from fancy glass ones to ones my sister and I made out of construction paper many years ago.

Ornaments accumulated over time are remnants of the past. An ornament of Santa Claus with his leg in a cast reminds me of the year my dad broke his foot. Some ornaments bring to mind the friends who gave them to us. Hanging up a walnut that I made in nursery school, painted red and studded with fake pearls, is the highlight of my tree-decorating. It's like seeing an old friend, year after year.

I like all of the traditions: decorating, drinking egg nog, baking cookies, and hanging up stockings. Of course, none of these actually relate to the birth of Christ in any way. Rather, they represent the secularization of Christmas. I don't think it's wrong to look

upon the Christmas season as a time extending above and beyond Christians. Christmas originated as a religious holiday, and it remains a religious holiday. However, I think we should, and we have, secularly extend the meaning of Christmas beyond its original intent.

Christmas has become a time to spend with family and friends and to celebrate with those you care about. It is a season of giving and a season to recognize those less fortunate. People become more generous "in the spirit of the holiday." Some have parties to share the merriment and the general happiness of the season. We pass out candy canes to our friends, and we wear red and green. We make countless fruitcakes (though no one actually likes them). We listen to odd Christmas parodies on the radio. Undoubtedly, none of this actually relates to the "true meaning of Christmas." Why can't we have an alternate, secular "true meaning of Christmas?"

Seinfeld joked about "Festivus," a non-denominational winter holiday that everyone, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, or otherwise, could celebrate. Perhaps that is what Christmas is starting to become — a season of giving, of love, and of family and friends. It can have a greater, overlying meaning for everyone, Christian or not. Yet sometimes it appears that even this second meaning of Christmas gets abandoned in the holiday shuffle. Gift-giving, while not religious, originated as an act of love. People who really cared about others gave them something meaningful as a token of affection. It didn't have to be expensive, but it was usually thoughtful, and the giver knew the recipient would like it.

Giving gifts today has, more often than not, lost that meaning. The holiday shopping season begins even before Thanksgiving. Stores extort everyone into spending as much money as possible. Kids make mile-long lists of expensive toys they want from Santa Claus. Parents can go into debt attempting to satisfy their children's demands. Craze like Tickle Me Elmo and Furby demonstrate the worst part of the holiday greed, as harried and stressed parents wait in line for hours and fight with other parents, spend exorbitant amounts of money, and return home cranky, all to appease their three-year-old — who will have more fun playing with the box the toy

came in.

Giving a gift to someone often becomes a matter of obligation and not of any real feeling. People buy others presents simply so they will get something in return. I once knew a girl who would distribute her Christmas presents to her friends and casual acquaintances a week before Christmas so they would feel obligated to buy her a present while they still had the chance. What about Secret Santa exchanges? My friends from home and I would always do a Secret Santa exchange, ranging over the course of several weeks as people would send others anonymous cards and leave little gifts. All of it served to increase the fun and build anticipation for the final present, when the Secret Santas would reveal their identities. We had a great time in the process, and it made things easier because a person didn't have to attempt to find presents for everyone in the group, just one, and everyone would get a present in return.

Sadly, such exchanges often turn into large anonymous gift trades. People may not know each other that well, if at all, so everyone buys something as generic as possible for their person, and they receive something as anonymous in return. There's no spirit of the holiday in such an exchange. In the words of Jerry Davidson, "We exchange presents like exchanging gunfire in a war: 'Why did she get me something? I didn't get her anything! Now I have to go all the way back to the store...'"

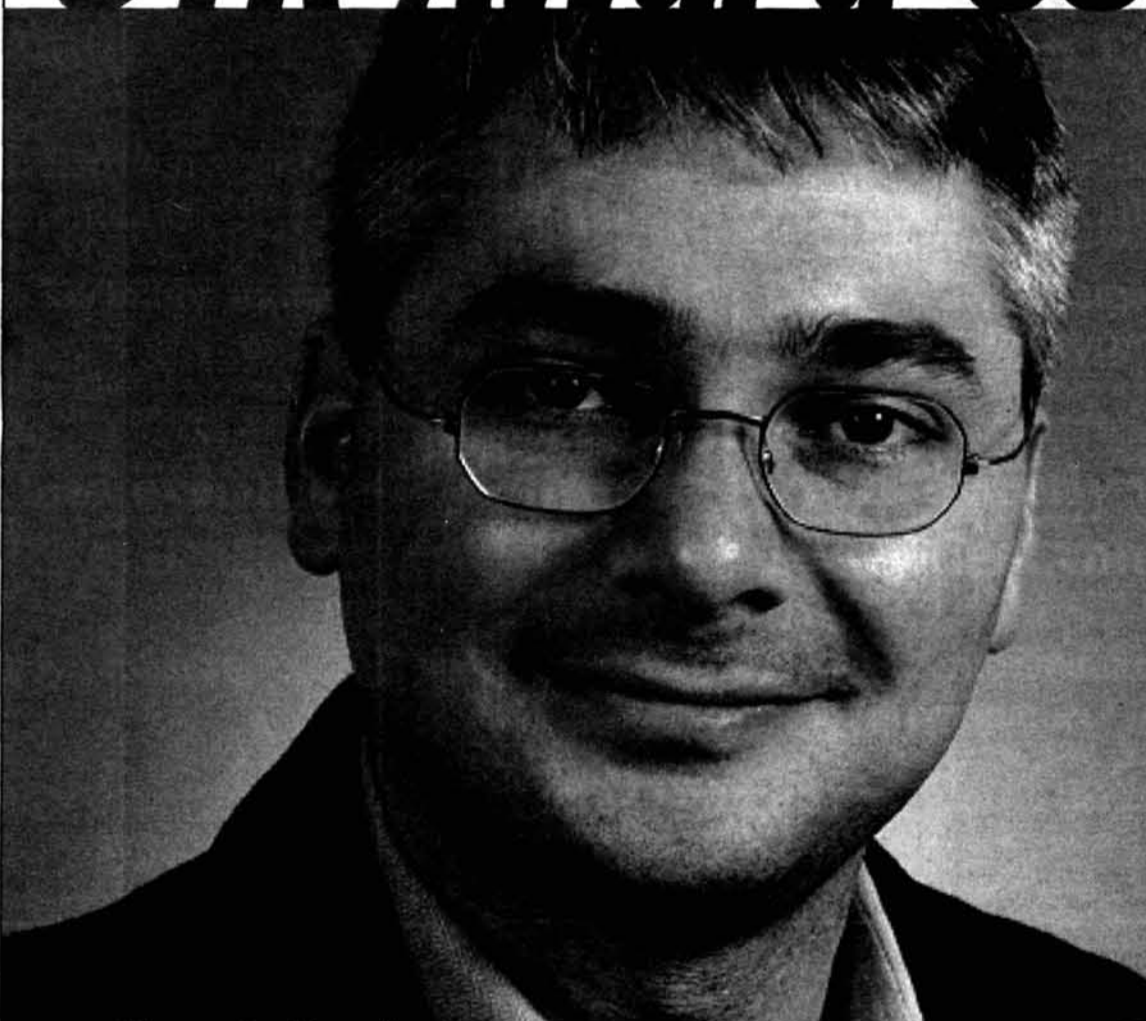
This Christmas, I urge you to change this. If you feel moved to give a gift to someone, and can do so with no expectations, then do so. Don't give gifts for the sake of getting something back — that's an exchange, not a true gift. If you feel obligated to give someone a present, then don't do it; something given out of obligation isn't a real gift either.

Save yourself the time and money. Instead, enjoy the happiness and generosity of the holiday. Spend time with family and friends, and spread the merriment. Continue your traditions. If you are Christian, remember the religious meaning of the holiday, but even if you aren't, consider celebrating the secular aspects of the holiday and reveling in the spirit. Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, or otherwise, we can spread the feelings of joy, caring, and generosity, and make the holiday season a happier time for all of us.

MIT \$50K

Entrepreneurship Competition

\$1K Award Ceremony



Keynote Speaker:

Rick Barry

'88, M.E. '89, and Ph.D. '93,
Founder and Chief Technical Officer
of Sycamore Networks, Inc.

"The P.T. Barnum of Biotech"
Wall Street Journal

Wednesday, December 8, 1999

7:00 pm

*Wong Auditorium, Building E51
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology*

<http://50k.mit.edu/>

FEATURES

Internship Opportunities Abound

By Bushra Makiya
STAFF REPORTER

This article is part of a series on finding employment, and is the second of two focusing on internship opportunities available through MIT.

With IAP just around the corner, many students will soon begin the summer job hunt in earnest. For many students the search will end within the boundaries of MIT, and may result in an internship far from campus. The many departments at MIT offer a great array of internships, both for pay and for credit, and ranging from year-long programs in Germany to shorter ones right here during IAP.

One opportunity, the Engineering Internship Program is offered through the School of Engineering to students in Courses I, II, III, XIII, XVI, and XXII and leads to the simultaneous awarding of two degrees, S.B. and S.M. The program combines off campus work experience with on campus academic programs. Its purpose is to give students experience in their respective fields and enable them to become better informed about their career options. For more information about EIP, go to <http://web.mit.edu/eip/www/>.

The Leaders for Manufacturing Program is another opportunity which offers MIT stu-

dents the opportunity to work in industry. This program is described as a partnership between MIT and many U.S. manufacturing firms which culminates in internships at companies such as Polaroid, Motorola, and Intel. For more information, see their website at <http://web.mit.edu/lfm/www/>.

The Washington Internship program, run through the political science department, is open to all MIT students and offers them the opportunity to spend a summer working in public policy in Washington DC and course XIV is also beginning an undergraduate internship program in Washington. The political science department also sponsors a local internship for credit and helps students find other internships in Cambridge, Boston, and Washington. Contact Tobie Weiner, Undergraduate Academic Administrator, in the political science department for more information.

The MIT Germany program, part of the MIT Science and Technology Initiative, is sponsored by the department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. It offers students, both undergraduate and graduate, the opportunity to combine their studies of the German Language with working in science or engineering with German companies. Internships range from three months during the summer

to six to twelve months during the year, often after graduation or as part of a PhD program. For more information, visit <http://web.mit.edu/mit-germany/home.htm>. There are also opportunities to work in other countries, including, China, Japan and India.

Course-specific programs available

An opportunity for Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics is the Space Grant Consortium which offers summer positions in industry to undergraduates, and some graduates. The consortium also sponsors UROPs and various lectures. Contact Marie Stuppard, undergraduate and graduate administrator, for more information.

Another internship program for engineers is the VI-A internship program in which students in Computer Science and Engineering are paid and/or receive academic credit while gaining valuable industry experience. Students in this program work with the same company for two summers before graduation and are encouraged to continue there after matriculation. For more information about this program visit their website at <http://web.mit.edu/acadinfo/undergrad/chart/s/6/courseVIA.html>.

A similar program, run by the Department of Physics, is open to both undergraduate and graduate physics students. Contact Professor Peter Wolff for more information.

The Industrial Internship Program, offered through Course III allows Materials Science and Engineering students to participate in two ten week work periods in industry or government positions. The second of these periods may, in some cases, be accepted instead of an undergraduate thesis. This program is coordinated by Professors Ronald Latanision and Joseph Dhosi.

Course V students can take advantage of a similar program is the Chemistry Industrial Internship Program through which students can receive academic credit and/or monetary compensation. Contact Miriam R. Diamond, Chemistry Education coordinator or M.T. Kouo, Personnel Administrator for more information.

IAP internships also available

The architecture department offers an Architecture Internship Program over IAP sponsored by the Office of Career Services, F/ASIP, and Pre-professional Advising. Students receive six units of academic credit for this program which involves working full-time in an architect's office in Boston or Cambridge for the month of January. This opportunity is available for both undergraduates and graduates. For more information, see the IAP guide under courses 4.280 and 4.287.

This is only a sampling of the many internships offered through MIT but it demonstrates the variety and depth of opportunities available. Internships are a great way for students to find work and to get real world experience in a field in which they may be interested.

Viewpoint

What are your plans for New Year's Eve?

I'll be in Times Square
Peggy Wang '02



Going home to New Zealand where my parents are. The last time I've seen them was Spring Break.
M. Camilla Fiazza '02

I'm watching the Three Stooges marathon like every year.

Elizabeth M. Resendes '01



To go to the capital.
Chris D. Smith '01

My family and I are going to church and celebrating New Year's with my entire west coast family.

Joanne Chang '03



I was thinking I would bring some people and go up to the top of a mountain near L.A., overlooking the city.
David E. Robison '00

I'm not kidding when I say this ... I'm going to Disney World!

Andrew D. Montgomery '01

I will probably be back here, in Boston, doing the First Night thing.

Jeffrey J. Tooley '01

Compiled by Katharyn Jeffries

This Week in MIT History

By Aaron Mihalik
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

During the first week of December in 1986 Ronald E. McNair PhD '76, one of the seven members of the ill-fated Challenger mission, was honored with a daylong symposium on Friday, December 5th. The symposium was spent by McNair's friends and MIT administrations discussing the accomplishments of the astronaut.

Cheryl M. McNair, Ronald McNair's widow, presented then MIT President Paul E. Gray '54 and the Institute with the 'T' patch, representing for MIT, which McNair took aboard Challenger. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration found the patch in the space shuttle wreckage and had returned it to McNair's family.

Also at the symposium, Building 37, home to the Center for Space Research and part of the aeronautics and astronautics department, was dedicated to McNair.

Michael S. Feld '63, McNair's thesis advisor and director of the Spectroscopy Laboratory, noted that the dedication of an MIT building is rare. "The greatest of care is taken ... some are named for great scientists, some for great leaders, only a handful are named after our sons and daughters. Ronald McNair's essence is being transformed into something permanent."

McNair received his doctorate in physics and later joined the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's mission specialist program in 1978. In addition to his contributions to laser research, McNair was also an accomplished saxophone player, a karate expert, and a dedicated father, Feld explained.

It is these qualities — technical accomplishment, social contribution, and personal fulfillment — that MIT hopes to instill in others, Feld said.

In the lobby of Building 37, there is an engraving to signify the dedication. The inscription on the engraving is a quote of McNair and reads:

My wish is that we would allow this planet to be the beautiful oasis that she is and allow ourselves to live more in the peace that she generates.

Cheryl McNair summarized, "The consideration and respect it took to motivate an entire community to come together to do just such a dedication" is very special. Her husband would have been honored, she said.

On January 28, 1986, the Challenger took off in the freezing morning air at Kennedy Space Center. Seventy three seconds into flight, Challenger exploded, killing all seven of its crew.

The MIT Societo por Esperanto
invites you to

Learn

Esperanto

<http://web.mit.edu/esperanto/www/>

over IAP

Esperanto is an invented language introduced in 1887. It is designed to be easy to learn by anyone through its simple and regular grammar (all the rules can fit on one page and there are no exceptions to memorize!). Esperanto is also intended as a language for international communication. It does not replace native languages, but is rather a second language through which people of different native languages can communicate. And because Esperanto is invented, it is politically neutral and therefore does not favor one nation or culture over another.

Esperanto I: Intensive Course for Beginners
Mon-Fri January 4-7 and 10-14, 2-3pm in Room 4-231

Esperanto II
Mon-Fri January 18-21 and 24-28, 2-3pm in Room 4-237

More details in the IAP guide!

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

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - **Kendo Practice**. Come learn the Japanese art of swordfighting under the instruction of sensei Junji Himeno, 7th dan from Harvard. No experience is necessary. McCormick Gym. Sponsor: MIT Kendo Club.

7:00 - 10:00 p.m. - **"Chess" Auditions**. The Cold War musical by Richard Nelson (book), Benny Andersson & Bjorn Ulvaeus (music) and Tim Rice (lyrics). Bring a prepared song, in English and sheet music. Wear clothes suitable for movement. Admission 0. Kresge Rehearsal Rm B. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. - **Chi Alpha Campus Meeting**. Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship will be sponsoring a series on the book of Revelation at our weekly meeting. There will be time for worship and fellowship as we study the Bible. PDR 3, Student Center. Sponsor: Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship.

12:00 p.m. - **Space, Place, and Extension: Where Things Are in Greek Physics, Helen Lang, Trinity College**. Please call if you plan to attend: 253-6989 OR Send an email: dibner@mit.edu. Open. More info: Call Trudy Kontoff at 253-6989. Email kontoff@mit.edu. Rm E56-100.

4:15 p.m. - **Robust Control of Rotating Stall and Surge in a Low Speed Axim Compressor, Mr. Shengfang Liao, Gas Turbine Laboratory - MIT**. Refreshments 4:15p.m. Lecture 4:30p.m. Open. More info: Call Lori Martinez at 253-2481. Email dragonl@mit.edu. Rm 31-161.

4:30 p.m. - **The Ledger of Acculturation & De-culturation: German Self-Understanding of German-American Migration, Michael Ermarth, Professor of History, Dartmouth College**. A session of the Inter-University Seminar on International Migration. Open. More info: Call Jessica Wattman at 253-1288. Email jwattman@mit.edu. Rm E38-714.

5:00 p.m. - **French Initiatives in Research, Development and Innovation, Claude Allègre, Minister of Education, Research and Technology in France**. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 5 p.m., Bartos Theater - E15 (Media Lab), 20 Ames Street. More info: call S. Berka at 253-6982 or e-mail sberka@mit.edu. Open. More info: Call Sigrid Berka at 253-6982. Email sberka@mit.edu. Media Lab, Bartos Theatre.

8:00 p.m. - **What do Late Nights, Pajamas, and Finals Have in Common?, Elizabeth Young and Laurie Ward, Office of Academic Services**. Snacks and refreshments will be served. Closed. More info: Call Van Chu at 258-0691. Email deepblue@mit.edu. Web: <http://web.mit.edu/arc/tnb/tuesdays.html>. Baker Dining.

Wednesday's Events

12:00 p.m. - **Lemelson-MIT \$30,000 Student Prize**. MIT seniors & grad students are eligible, regardless of major or area of study. Deadline is January 7, 2000. Download an application at <http://web.mit.edu/invent/www/stuprize.html>, or call 253-3352. Admission 0. Sponsor: Lemelson-MIT Program.

5:00 p.m. - **MIT Chamber Music Society**. Brahms' Clarinet Trio in a minor; Anton Arensky's Trio in D Minor, Op. 32. Admission 0. Killian Hall. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

6:00 p.m. - **Gallery Talk**. Kimberly Alexander Shilland, curator, Architecture & Design, presented in conjunction w/Dreams in Brick & Mortar: MIT, Alvar Aalto & the Design of Baker House (Compton Gallery 3/3-1/28). RSVP. Admission 0. Compton Gallery. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

7:00 p.m. - **MIT Chamber Music Society**. Thea Musgrave's Trio for flute, oboe & piano; Schubert's Quintet in A major (the "Trout" Quintet) D 667 (op. post. 114); Dvorak's String Quartet in F, Op. 96 "American". Admission 0. Killian Hall. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

12:00 p.m. - **Anthrax: The Investigation of a Lethal Outbreak, Professor Jeanne Guillemin, Department of Sociology, Boston College**. Bag lunch, refreshments will be provided. Open. More info: Call Lynne Levine at 253-0133. Email llevine@mit.edu. Web: <http://web.mit.edu/ssp/>. Rm E38-615.

12:10 p.m. - **Supercomputing at home: Better, faster, cheaper?, Chris Hill, MIT**. Open. More info: Call Markus Jochum at 3-2922. Email mjochum@mit.edu. Web: <http://www.mit.edu/~mjochum/sack.html>. Rm 54-915.

4:00 p.m. - **Sediment Gravity Flows: From Submarine Debris Flows to Martian Dust Storms, Dr. Jeffrey Parsons, MIT**. Refreshments, 3:30 pm, Ida Green Lounge. Open. More info: Call Beverly Kozol-Tattlebaum at 253-3382. Email bevkt@mit.edu. Web: http://www-eaps.mit.edu/dept_sem.html. Rm 54-915.

5:15 p.m. - **Local Stationarity and Simulation of Intrinsic Random Functions, Professor Michael L. Stein, University of Chicago**. Refreshments will be served at 4:45 PM in room 2-349. Open. More info: Call Marc Genton at 253-4390. Email genton@math.mit.edu. Rm 2-105.

6:00 p.m. - **10-250 Case Presentation** Monthly program for entrepreneurs with speakers and technology-oriented companies focused on the issues of building and growing the business. Students: Free; \$10/Forum members; \$15/non-members. Open. More info: Call MIT Enterprise Forum/Camb at 253-8240. Email mitefcmb@mit.edu. Web: <http://www.mitforum-cambridge.org>. Rm 10-250.

Thursday's Events

3:00 - 6:00 p.m. - **Class Exhibition**. Student projects from "Special Topics at the

Center for Advanced Visual Studies" (MAS 879. Faculty: Steve Benton & Glorianna Davenport). Admission 0. Rm N52-390 (studio). Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - **Class Exhibition**. Prof John Maeda's "Organic Form" class exhibit their interactive artworks. Admission 0. E15 Atrium. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

5:00 p.m. - **MIT Chamber Music Society**. Telemann's Trio for Flute, Oboe, Cello, and Harpsichord "Tafelmusik"; John Cage's Variations II; Monteverdi's Fili cara e amata and Brahms' Drei Gesnge; Mendelssohn's Quartet, Op. 12. Admission 0. Killian Hall. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

7:00 p.m. - **Bowfinger**. Bobby Bowfinger (Steven Martin), a run-down actor-producer-director, decides to take one last shot at fame. To get his film produced, he must pretend that Kit Ramsey (Eddie Murphy) is starring. Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. - **MIT Writers Series: Gerald Early**. The director of African and Afro-American Studies at Washington University St. Louis will read from his paper, "Sammy Davis Jr.: The Last Great American Hipster.". Admission 0. Rm 66-110. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

8:00 p.m. - **A Philadelphia Story**. MIT Community Players production. Ronni Marshak, director. \$10; \$8 for other students, MIT/Wellesley community members, and sr citizens; \$6 for MIT/Wellesley students. Admission 6.00. Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

10:00 p.m. - **Bowfinger**. Bobby Bowfinger (Steven Martin), a run-down actor-producer-director, decides to take one last shot at fame. To get his film produced, he must pretend that Kit Ramsey (Eddie Murphy) is starring. Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

4:00 p.m. - **Some Mathematical Models of Cancer Treatment, Lawrence M. Wein, Professor of Management Science, Sloan School, MIT**. Refreshments to follow in Room E40-106. Open. More info: Call Alp Muharremoglu at 253-7412. Email armacost@mit.edu. Web: <http://web.mit.edu/orc/www>. Rm E40-298.

4:00 p.m. - **When Things Start to Think, Dr. Neil Gershenfeld, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**. Open. More info: Call Donna Wilker at 253-2021. Email dwilker@mit.edu. Rm 3-370.

Friday's Events

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **UROP's IAP Research Mentor Program**. Deadline for Research Mentor applications. Upperclassmen interested in acting as IAP 2000 Research Mentors, should see the URL below and submit their applications, ASAP. 7-103. Sponsor: UROP.

1:30 p.m. - **Young Composers' Ensemble Premiere Concert**. Student ensembles perform works by fellow students. Admission 0. Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

4:30 p.m. - **MIT's Annual "Messiah" Sing**. Scores provided; refreshments served. Admission free. Twenty Chimney. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

5:00 p.m. - **MIT Chamber Music Society**. Max Reger's Serenade for Flute, Violin, and Viola, Op. 77a; John Harbison's Twilight Music; Dvorak's Trio for Violin, Cello, and Piano in F minor, Op. 65; Jazz Combo — selections will be announced. Admission 0. Killian Hall. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

7:00 p.m. - **The Sixth Sense**. Malcolm Crowe (Bruce Willis) is a child psychologist who takes on the task of curing a young boy who "sees dead people". Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:30 p.m. - **Cross Products Fall Concert**. MIT's a capella Christian ensemble. Admission 0. Rm 10-250. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

7:30 p.m. - **Cross Products Fall/Winter Concert**. Come see MIT's own Christian a capella group, Cross Products, jam with X.ado from Dartmouth College, and Jubilation from Columbia University. Free admission. 10-250. Sponsor: Cross Products.

8:00 p.m. - **The Living Tradition of Bali**. A concert of traditional and modern Balinese music and dance, featuring the U.S. debut of masked dancer Gusti Ngurah Ketut Artawan. Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Gamelan Galak Tika.

8:00 p.m. - **Gamelan Galak Tika: "The Living Tradition of Bali"**. Evan Ziporyn, director. Balinese music and dance featuring the US debut of masked dancer Gusti Ngurah Ketut Artawan. Admission 0. Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

8:00 p.m. - **A Philadelphia Story**. MIT Community Players production. Ronni Marshak, director. \$10; \$8 for other students, MIT/Wellesley community members, and sr citizens; \$6 for MIT/Wellesley students. Admission 6.00. Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

10:00 p.m. - **The Sixth Sense**. Malcolm Crowe (Bruce Willis) is a child psychologist who takes on the task of curing a young boy who "sees dead people". Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

4:00 p.m. - **Liquid Lithium Experiments in the CDX-U Spherical Torus, Robert Kaita, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory**. Refreshments served at 3:45 pm. Open. More info: Call Paul Rivenberg at 253-8101. Email rivenberg@psfc.mit.edu. Web: <http://www.pfc.mit.edu/>. Rm NW17-218.

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December 7, 1999

COMICS

The Tech

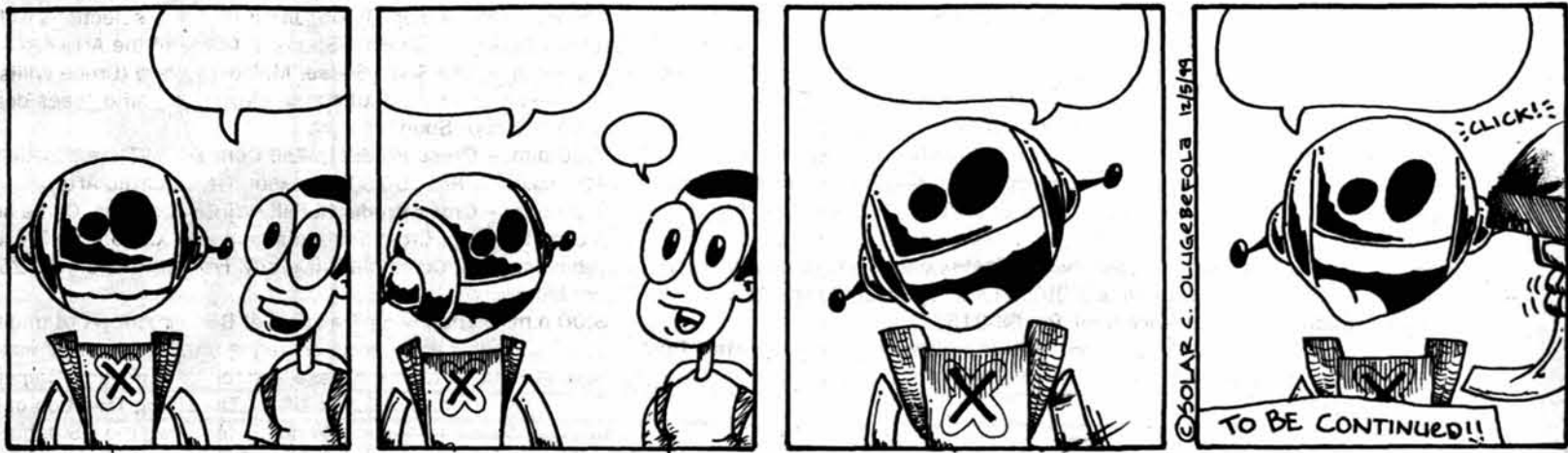
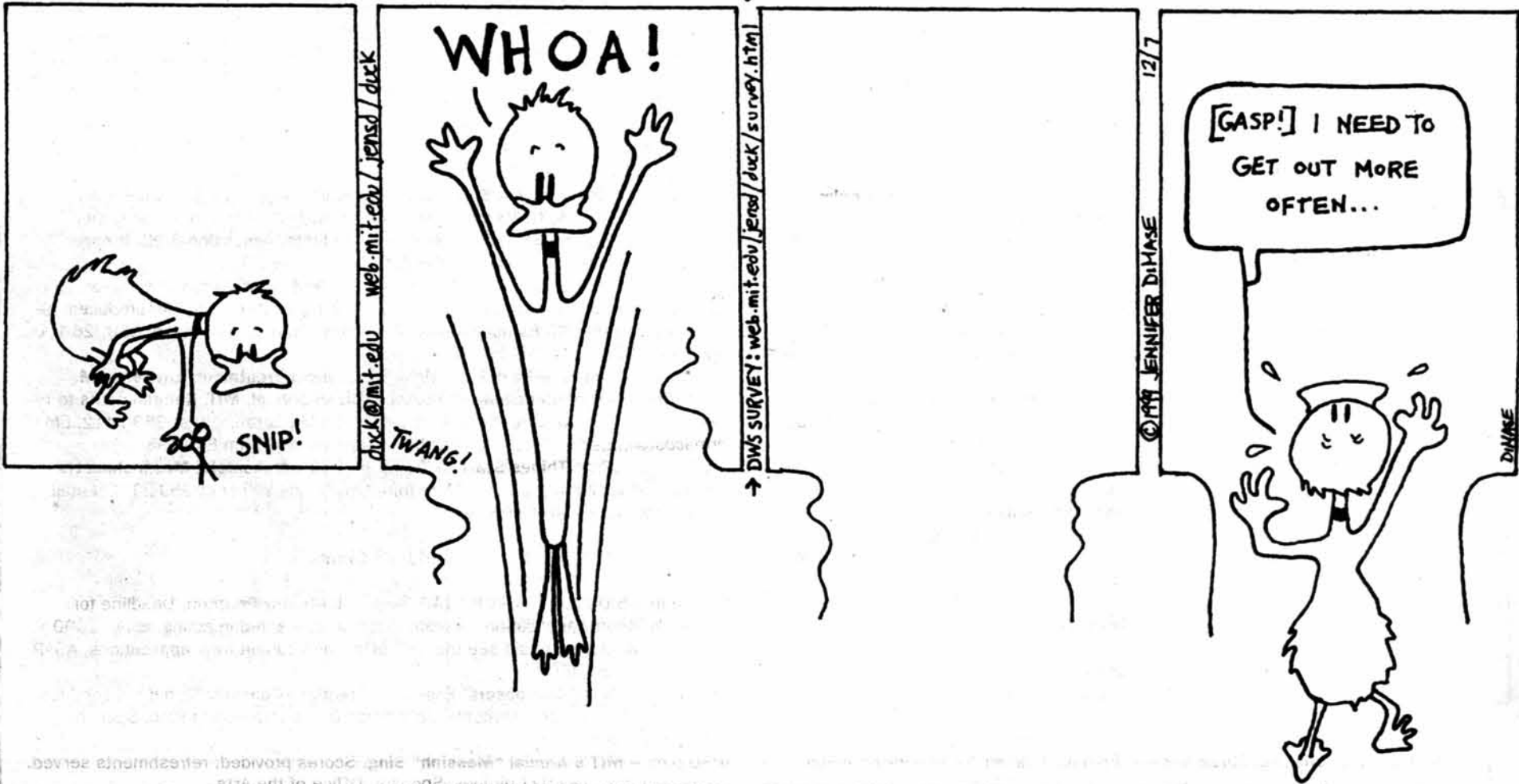
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Page 9

PAGES

Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase

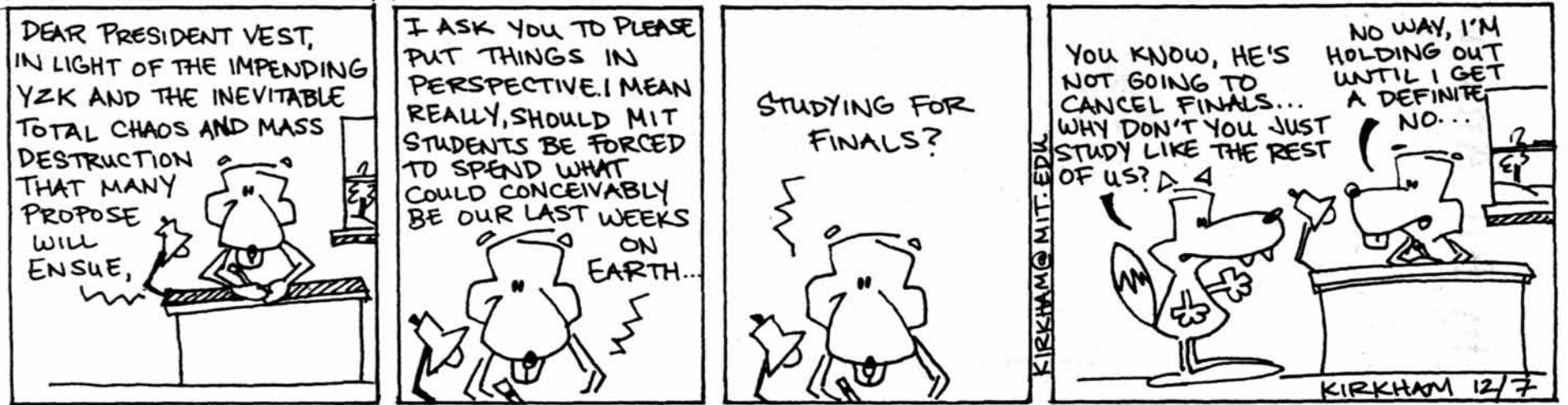


Comic @ MIT by jacylyn lin

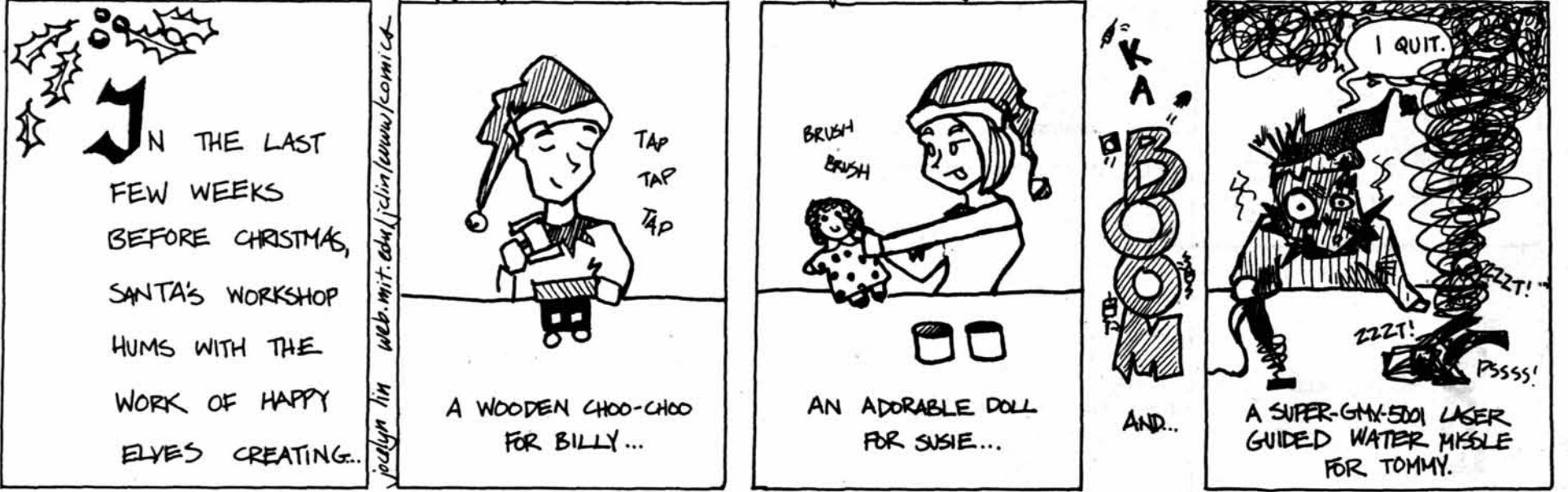


Turn the page for the crass rat, another fairytale@MIT, Dilbert, and Fox Trot!

the crass rat

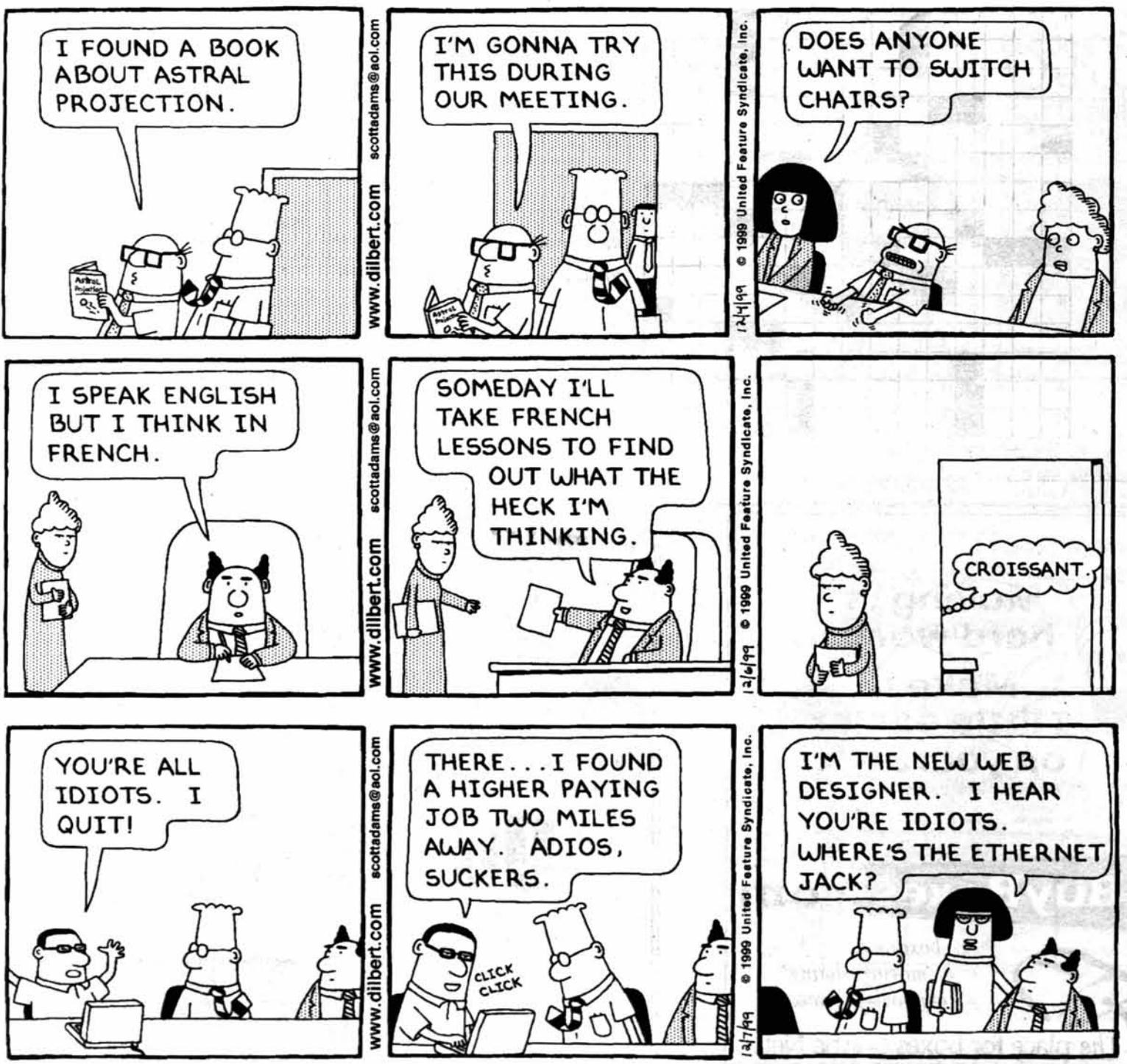


christmas ed. #2 by jodylin lin (i drew this one for friday, but... no friday issue, oops you lucky ducks, there's 2 strips in this issue now! yay.)



by Scott Adams

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UA Allocates Funds For Spring Weekend

UA, from Page 1

which has led to massive surpluses.

In an attempt to remedy this, the UA decided implement a policy of overfunding, that would allow over-allocation based on the unspent funding for the past term. To do this, the UA needed to allocate \$23,560 to cover any unforeseen group spending.

This money would allow the overallocation to begin this Spring rather than in Spring 2001. "The biggest problem that the Financial Board faces is the lack of funding. We could use money left over each term to help groups in the future," said McGann.

The UA Judicial Board recently decided that these funds may in fact be used in the same manner as uninvested reserve funds, which can be allocated by a two-thirds vote of the UA council.

UA requests funding proposals

The UA also issued a request for proposals to spend the remaining funds.

"The purpose of the UA is to fund student groups and also to be there in emergencies," McGann said.

The council also voted to give \$30,000 of seed money to the Spring Weekend Planning Committee, replacing the funds previously allocated by the now defunct large activities fund.

This will allow the Spring Weekend Planning Committee to make large cash expenditures in the expectation of inflows such as the sale of concert tickets.

Accounting mishap costs \$20,000

Following the transition to the new SAP accounting system, the Financial Board discovered that

\$22,670.17 had disappeared.

"One big pot for everyone to dip into wasn't a very good idea," said Mendel Chuang '02, the UA representative from the Finboard. Rather than taking an equal amount from each student group, the UA decided to use a portion of the excess funds to deal with this discrepancy.

The UA also voted to allocate \$6,680 towards renovations of the Small Activity office, which would include replacing cabinets and putting locks on storage space and the front office. "This better use of the office would alleviate the lack of storage space that groups do have at MIT," said ASA president Jocelyn L. Wiese '00.

The UA council also allocated \$9,000 to replace the aging booths in Lobby 10. These booths, which cost around \$900 each, are to be constructed by the MIT Hobby Shop. They are intended to be more comfortable and handicapped accessible than the current booths.

The UA currently has a group of funds marked as an invested reserve, money saved to cover any financial emergencies. The UA increased this invested reserve from \$17,397 to \$30,000, allowing for a two year buffer of operating expenses.

With the new model, the UA would be able to operate for two years without any MIT funding. Additionally, this would allow for the funding of student groups in the case that funding requirements were to exceed actual budgetary inflow.

"In the past we've been allowed to have a negative invested reserve because MIT wasn't very good at accounting. It's not likely that we'll be able to go negative in the future," said Nominations Committee Chair Christopher R. Rezek '99.

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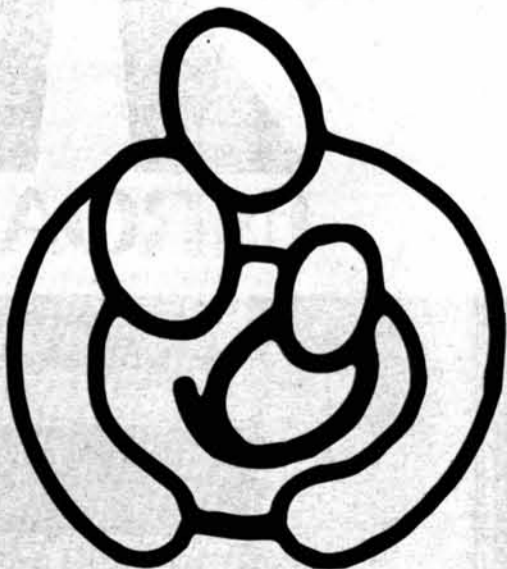
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PKS House Closed Following Explosion

PKS, from Page 1

thing good came out of this," said PKS President Lanny R. Chiu '00.

Brothers will abide by agreement

Chiu said the brothers planned to make the restitution. It was his understanding that if they did, "everything would be okay," Chiu said.

"We will follow through," Lee said. Lee expects the request for charges against them to be dropped.

In light of the events following the explosion, Chiu said that "Other fraternities should be careful."

The hearing was a result of the October 26 incident when the the-

atrical device Lee was carrying to advertise PKS's Halloween party "Skuffle" accidentally exploded, sending him to the hospital. Two other PKS brothers, Griswold and Nathuji, also suffered minor injuries as the three prepared to interrupt a lecture in Room 10-250. Campus Police closed Building 10 for most of the day as the Cambridge Bomb Squad and Fire Department investigated.

Boston's Inspectional Services Department closed PKS's house for building code violations, forcing the cancellation of Skuffle. Fear of similar sanctions from the inspectors led all fraternities to cancel their parties over Halloween weekend.

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AJAI BHARADWAJ—THE TECH
 David Campos G puts the ball past opposing Wesleyan blockers for a point at Sunday's Intercollegiate Volleyball Club Tournament held at MIT. IVC beat Wesleyan 2-0.

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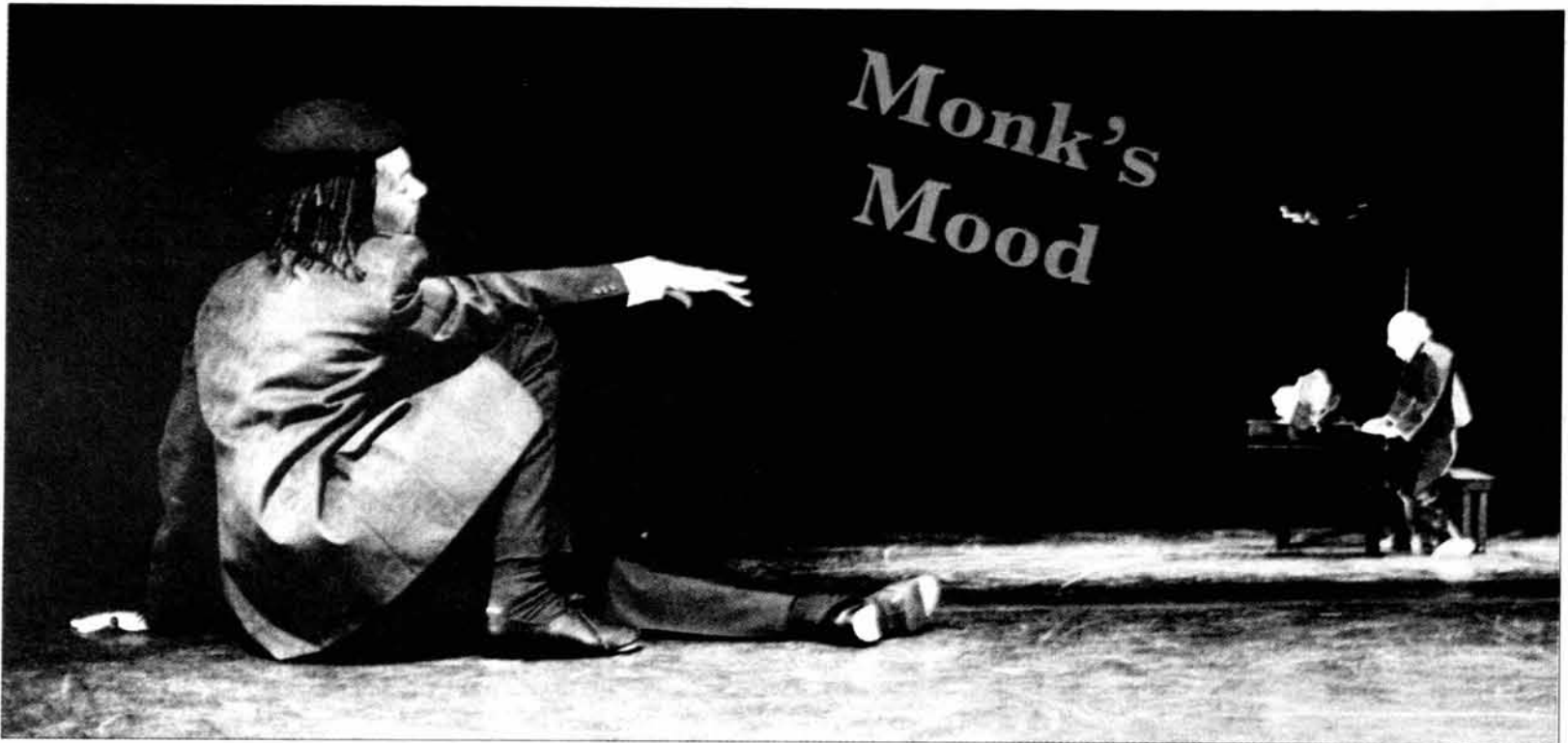
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MONK'S MOOD— an interpretive dance piece by Professors Thomas DeFrantz and Brenda Cotta-Escalera reflecting on the life of Thelonious Monk. The piece was performed by DeFrantz and Noelia Ortiz-Cortes Friday and Saturday in Little Kresge Theater.

Inspections To Aim Only for Fire Safety



ROSHAN BALIGA—THE TECH

Max the cat takes a break in a Baker lounge. DormCon is formulating a policy on pets in the dormitory system at the same time it considers fire safety inspections.

Inspection, from Page 1

Halogen lamps with long curtains near them or with clothes draped over them, however, are considered a fire hazard.

Room inspections will aim to ensure that both dormitory facilities and students' room arrangement are safe. "They'll be looking almost exclusively for fire safety issues: blocked sprinklers, poor or excessive wiring, blocked avenues of egress, stockpiles of full gasoline and propane tanks," said Gabriel M. Rockefeller '00, DormCon Vice President.

If there are problems with the room setup, the student will be given time to fix the problems, Rockefeller said. It has not been decided what will happen if the student does not make the required changes, but Rockefeller stated that "fines will probably not be necessary."

It is also unclear how fire hazards in public areas, such as in floor or suite lounges, will be addressed.

Procedure will vary by house

While inspection procedure will come partially from the RFSC, Frank said that each dorm's house manager will supervise inspections. The actual inspections will most likely be conducted by the house manager and a student, although the Safety Office or from the Office of Residential Life and Student Life Programs will assist in inspection until house managers are more comfortable with the process.

House managers and students will be given a list of hazardous

items. Rockefeller said that the list will be issued by the Safety Office.

Inspections will be scheduled during a time convenient for the student. Students will have a right to be present during the inspections, and the inspection will be rescheduled if the student is not home. Only after the student has missed the rescheduled appointment will the inspector be allowed to enter the room without the student's room without the student present.

"The Institute is completely within their rights" to conduct inspections, Frank stated, adding, "In fact, [the inspectors] really should, legally, be inspecting to make sure we're safe in the rooms."

Pet policy also being considered

The fate of pets is also uncertain under the new inspection policy. While cats are not currently allowed in any MIT dormitory, DormCon is considering some sort of official sanction. One policy under consideration would be to designate certain areas of a dorm for people who plan to have pets, Frank said. That way, freshmen choosing housing would know clearly what animals they can expect to find on a certain floor or dorm.



STEFAN CARP—THE TECH

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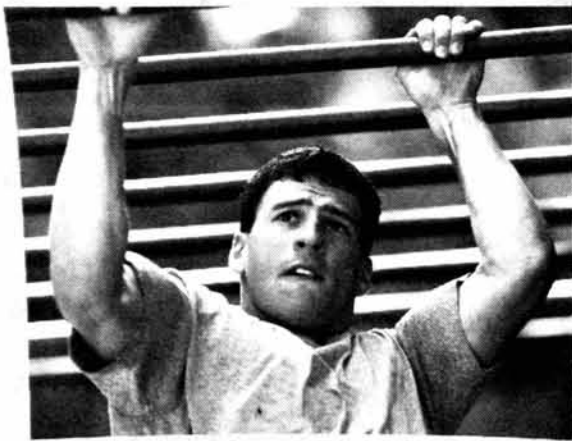
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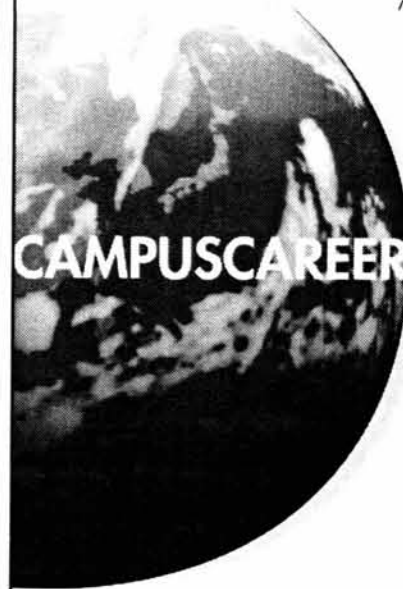


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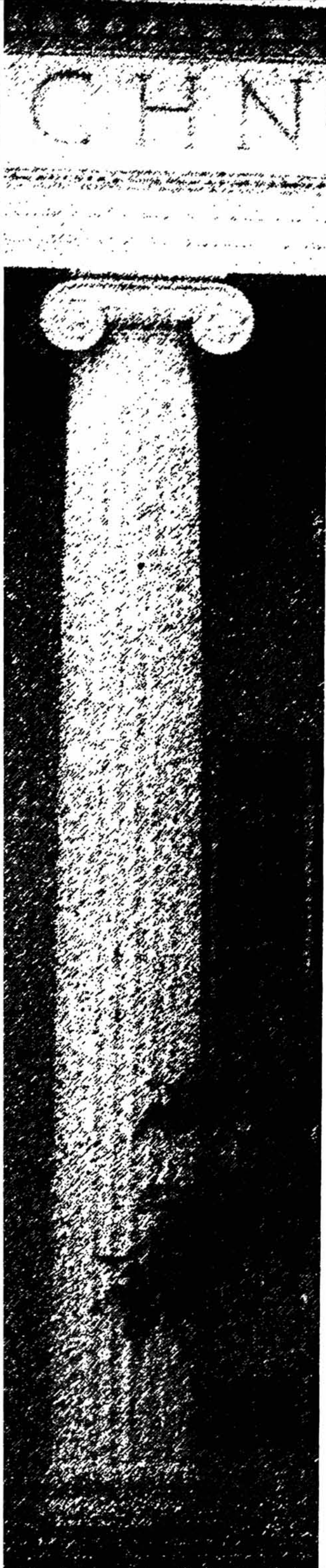
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Gaggle Cops 120th Tech Managing Board Elections

SPECIAL TO THE TECH

Cambridge is still recovering from the harrowing occurrences of last weekend's apocalyptic events. In the wake of this millennial disaster, reports are filtering in of widespread loss of electricity, running water, and network connectivity. The disaster, centered around MIT, touched off numerous riots, looting and left people around the world without food, water, and e-mail for over 17 hours.



A few brave souls, surviving the catastrophe, convened in the shambles of the Student Center to elect the new Managing Board of *The Tech*.

Those elected attempted to survive on stale pizza from Sunday's news meeting and quenched their desire for electronic communication in the oasis of *The Tech's* network, which had survived the onslaught by sheer fortune.

Satwiksai "Where's my gavel?" Seshasai '01 pounded his way to Chairmanship, and narrowly beat out his only competition — his ego.

A grim-faced Frank "pointy haired EIC" Dabek '00 rose, declaring that he and he alone had the ability to edit the newspaper in a post-apocalyptic world. The board, wowed by the would-be editor's resolution to take over the budgeting role of the Business Department, promptly elected him Editor in Chief.

Dabek celebrated his victory by strangling Navéen "Little Kahuna" Sunkavally '01 with a network cable and beat him to a bloody pulp with a newly acquired dictionary, which then exploded. A bloodied but unconquered Sunkavally gasped that he would return in a sequel or two, but must rest for a bit in the newly-created position of News Director.

Jasmine "Huanne" Richards

'02 survived the grilling of the Chairman and won the approval of the Board to act as Business Manager.

Ryan "Paul" Ochylski '01 stepped from behind the burning wreckage of a Macintosh G3 to explain to those assembled that the depressed, demoralized, heavily irradiated citizenry of the future would require a newspaper with a crisp, clean layout and a rich but austere collection of sans serif fonts to stave off madness. This erudite analysis earned Ochylski the position of Managing Editor.

Greg "nobody's better" Kuhnen '00 emerged from a black box to explain that his work as Executive Editor was not yet done, and that he needed at least one more term to complete the grandest operation yet undertaken by *The Tech*: rebuilding the world's great libraries around old bound volumes of *The Tech*.

As the Managing Board grew restless waiting for its News Editor candidates to step forth, it slowly became obvious that two had been left behind. Thus, only two prime suspects remained to repopulate the

news department, as the board approved of Kevin "Wonderbread Giant" Lang '02 and Rima Arnaut "In Bed" '02.

To protect against further horrors of the apocalypse, Mary "Drunk Monkey" Obelnicki G, Ian "No Comment" Lai '02, and Jordan "23-0-0" Rubin '02 were all bestowed with the Night Editor title. Vowing to battle words till the death, the trio emerged unscathed from the Board's trial.

Exiled from Cambridge politics, Mike "Wonderland" Ring '01 and Eric "Klepto" Plosky G returned to seek office in the only place they could win election: the Opinion Department.

Departing Arts Editor Vladimir "Remote Editor" Zelevensky '95 expressed confidence in the incumbent Rebecca Loh "Norton" '01 and even the untested youth Dan "Gray Box" Katz '03 in their quest to maintain cultural awareness amidst the new world order.

Ming-Tai "huh?" Huh '02 was thrust into his position when one of the last bastions of the old world, the noble zephyr, delivered the news that he would be the sole candidate for Sports Editor.

Suddenly, three haggard figures entered the room armed. After vigorously denouncing everyone present for their decadent bourgeois ways, Annie "Pikachu" Choi,

Karlene "Gaayr" Rosera '00, and James "Token Testosterone" Camp G, announced that they wished to be elected photography editors before returning to their black box for a life of quiet contemplation of CMYK color gamuts and loose crops. The board dutifully elected them to the positions they desired.

Suddenly the lights in *The Tech's* bunker died. The crowd murmured with fear before Joey "Uncle Moneybags" Dieckhans '00 and Huanne "With a little help from my friends" Thomas '02 lit a candle and explained that unanticipated shortfalls had prevented *The Tech* from paying the bunker's electric bill. The Managing Board hissed and booed until Dieckhans explained that the coming apocalypse would open up exciting new advertising opportunities for things like petrol sales and urine recycling systems. A relieved board elected Thomas and Dieckhans Advertising Manager to supervise these new opportunities.

Dan "The World is Not Enough" McGuire '99 resolved to restore order in the business office and was selected on the strength of his "wisdom" to serve as Operations Manager.

Shantonu "iSuc" Sen '02 convinced the board to reelect him to the position of Technology after

announcing that under his leadership *The Tech* had made significant headway towards stockpiling essential items, such as six-year-old Macintosh IIci's.

Gabor "Squash" Csanyi G and "Leisure Suit" Garry Maskaly '00, former denizens of the black box, emerged from under the table (it's dark under there, you see) to join Brett "Six Feet Under" Altschul G in being named Contributing Editor.

Pausing from her attempts to contact the outside world, Katharyn "Rubber Doll" Jeffreys '01 convinced the Board that she should serve as Features Editor for another term.

The managing board completed its grim task by naming those alumni and hangers-on who would advise *The Tech* after the apocalypse: B(ow) D(own) "To Me" Colen, Thomas "Tex" Huang '86, V. Michael "MAS" Bove '83, Robert "Hired Gun" Malchman '85, Joel "Riot in the Streets" Rosenberg '99, Josh "Isn't She Cute" Hartmann '93, Simson "and" Garfinkel '87, Tom "Information Architect" Karlo '96, Indy "N." Neogy '98, Saul "Speechless" Blumenthal '98, Jeremy "Reston" Hylton '94, Jonathan "See my tits" Richmond PhD '91, Barry "NY Times" Surman '84.

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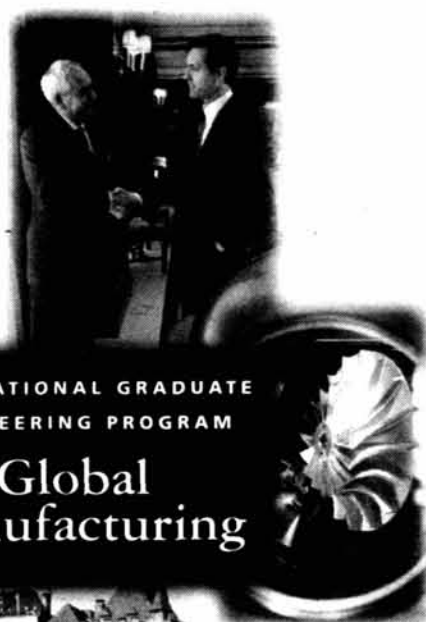
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Population Rise Causes Gain

Early Action, from Page 1

allowing students to send applications early to multiple colleges. MIT has never restricted the number of institutions to which early action applicants can apply.

"Because of this we know that there are students in our pool who are also applying to Harvard early," Jones said. "From admissions officers' point-of-view, that is a nightmare. Just getting the work done on time becomes a serious problem and it becomes very difficult to calculate yield."

But MIT is not alone in feeling the effects of the policy change. Brown has received 66 percent more early action applications than last year. Georgetown's early action application rate is up 44 percent, nearly twice Harvard's increase of 25 percent.

Population rise also responsible

While Jones attributed the early application increase primarily to the policy change, she also noted that the number of high school seniors applying to college is increasing on

a national scale.

"There are more 17-year-olds in the population," she said. "We have just begun to see the beginning of the second largest population in U.S. history after the Baby Boomers. This population should peak with the high school graduating class of 2007, so we have much more growth in our applicant pool ahead."

But Jones and others on the admissions board have already declared that the class of 2004 will not be any larger than previous classes.

"We plan to admit 500 [early action candidates] ... just under 30 percent of the freshman class," said Jones. "We know that we will also have an increase in regular action cases as well, and we want to be very conservative at this point."

"We will [have] over 10,000

applications this year, but we will not admit a larger class. If anything, the class may be a bit smaller."

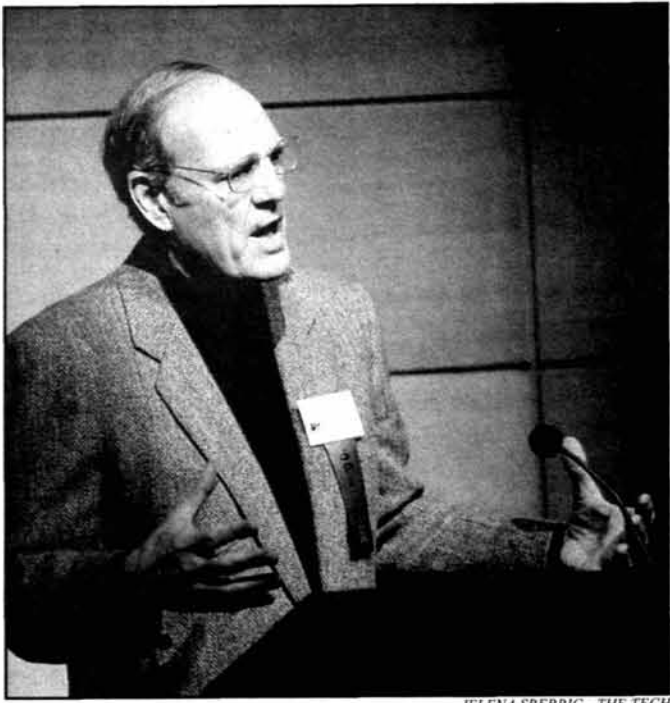
Growing numbers a national trend

While the increase in early action applicants will allow institutions to be more selective, many see the changes as a disturbing trend.

Some admissions directors are disturbed by the number of students applying early out of fear.

"Many schools now take half of their freshman classes early, which has created a panic that if someone plans to be admitted, they had better apply early," said Jones.

"You have no idea how upset everyone — college admissions offers and guidance counselors alike — has become over the trend toward early applications."



JELENA SREBRIC—THE TECH

William R. Hambrecht was the keynote speaker at the 2nd Annual Venture Capital Conference: "Financing Technologies in the Next Millennium" held last Saturday at the Sloan School. The conference is a major event for new ventures in the Boston area.



ANKUR MEHTA

Freshman files for the prospective class of 2004 piled up in the Admissions office as around 3000 early decision applications arrived.

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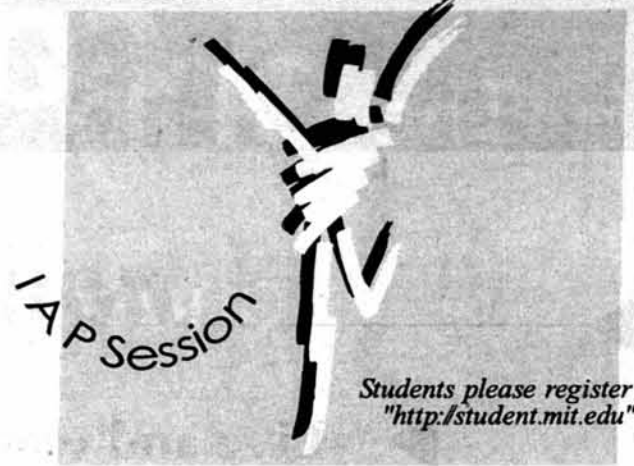
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For more information, an application, or the CCRR Resource Guide, contact: Dean Ayida Mthembu (mthembu@mit.edu, x3-4861) or Elizabeth Connors (econnors@mit.edu, x3-0764). web.mit.edu/ccrr/www/

NEXT DEADLINE

january 7th

CCRR MIT Committee on Campus Race Relations

Bacow Encourages Student Involvement

Residence, from Page 1

Association floor leader Andrew D. Montgomery '01.

"The chancellor's been very receptive to the ideas of the various groups that have been providing him with input," said Dormitory Council President Jennifer A. Frank '00.

Decision raises hope, concerns

Bacow stressed his hope that the MIT community will see the decision as an improvement to the current system. He encouraged students to "roll up their sleeves and get involved in the implementation process."

Frank concurred, stating, "The presentation is designed to lend closure to the process so that we can begin the implementation."

Bacow conceded that the decision leaves certain issues unresolved. "I consciously tried not to answer every question because some are best left to other groups," Bacow said.

"We'll wait to see the decision before we determine the exact first steps of implementing the decision," said UA President Matthew L.

McGann '00. "The UA, IFC, Dormcon, and GSC plan to collaborate again on the implementation process."

Students will have a chance to react to the decision, but according to RSSC and SAC member Jennifer C. Berk '01, "it looks like feedback will be directed to those implementing the decision."

Vest announced in the summer of 1998 that all freshmen will be housed on campus beginning in fall 2001. The decision necessitated a redesign of MIT's residence system.

Bacow formed the RSSC to submit a residence design plan in late fall 1998. The RSSC sponsored a Residence System Redesign Contest over IAP 1999 to gather student input.

After two drafts and community feedback, the RSSC's final report went to the chancellor on October 1, followed by another report submitted by the SAC later that month.

The decision, which passed through Academic Council last week, received the approval of President Charles M. Vest, Dean of Students Rosalind H. Williams, and Vice President and Secretary of the Corporation Kathryn A. Willmore.

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KATIE ALLEN

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18.01	6 Units	6 Units

- ★ Students taking one of these subjects cannot receive credit for more than 6 additional units in IAP.
- ★ Students taking two of these subjects cannot receive credit for additional units in IAP.
- ★ Students cannot receive credit for all three of these subjects.

<u>Subject (Begun in Spring)</u>	<u>Units Applied Toward IAP</u>	<u>Units Available For IAP</u>
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Guidelines approved by the Committee on Academic Performance and the IAP Policy Committee. For more information, call x8-6422 or 3-4164

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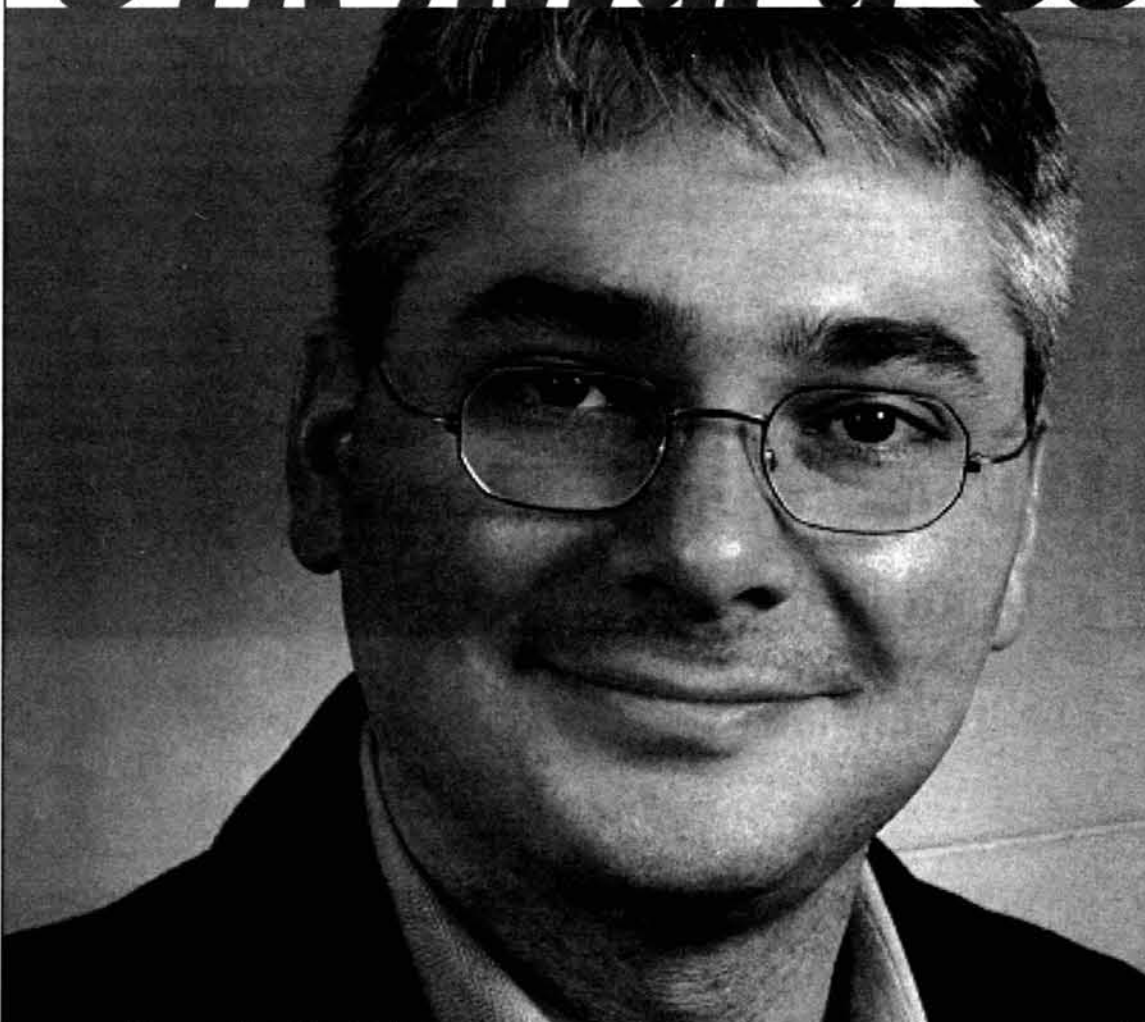
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Mierau Selected As New Rhodes Scholar

By Kevin R. Lang
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Susanna B. Mierau '00 has been named one of thirty-two U.S. Rhodes scholars for 2000.

Mierau is a resident of East Campus majoring in Brain and Cognitive Sciences in MIT's Whitaker College of Health Sciences and Technology.

Mierau said that she is currently deciding which specific area to study at England's Oxford University, but that her primary interest is neural pharmacology and neural transmitters.

"Right now, I'm going to talk to my advisors and see what they think," Mierau said. She currently plans to complete her PhD in three years, which is common at Oxford.

Mierau has concentrated on both cognitive science research and molecular biology research involving Alzheimer's disease. At Oxford, she hopes to focus her research somewhere in between the two. Eventually, Mierau hopes to conduct academic medical research in the U.S.

"I've enjoyed being at MIT so far," Mierau said. She expects Oxford to be drastically different from MIT, since teaching is based on a one-on-one tutorial system. While classes offer lectures, the program is essentially independent study.

ing from Kansas, Mierau was one of two selected to move on to the District VI competition, which includes most of the Midwest.

At the regional level, however, the competition intensified. An eight-person panel conducted the interview, including several scientists and a medical doctor. All panel members were Rhodes scholars themselves.

"At the state level, there was only one scientist on the committee," Mierau said. "At the regional level, there were several scientists." Also on the panel was a former MIT HST researcher.

Four regional finalists, including Mierau, were selected as Rhodes Scholars.



KARLENE ROSEBA—THE TECH

Susanna Mierau '00

Mierau is captain of the MIT Sailing team, and is also involved in the MIT Symphony Orchestra. She serves as vice president and housing chair for East Campus, and also works as a teaching assistant for Introduction to Psychology (9.00).

Rhodes scholars in recent years

Mierau is MIT's fourth Rhodes scholar in the past three years. Last year, Christopher Douglas '99 and Lisa A. Poyneer '98 were named Rhodes Scholars, following Toby H. Ayer '96 in 1998 and Pardis C. Sabeti '97 in 1997.

The Rhodes Scholarships, the oldest international fellowships, were started early this century. Regional selection committees choose thirty-two scholars each year from among those nominated by selection committees in each of the fifty states.

Rhodes scholars have traditionally demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, and athletic ability. They are appointed for two years of study in the University of Oxford, with the possibility of renewal for a third year. All educational costs such as matriculation, tuition, laboratory and certain other fees are paid. President Clinton and current Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley were Rhodes scholars.

Application process rigorous

Becoming a Rhodes scholar involves a rigorous application process beginning in October. Mierau was required to obtain eight letters of recommendation for her application.

Mierau applied in her home state of Kansas, and "toward the middle of November, I found out that I had an interview for the state," Mierau said.

"At the state interview, it was a lot of fun," Mierau said. Mierau said that both interviewers and candidates were easygoing. "The interviewers were really nice, and asked easy questions."

Of the nine candidates compet-

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