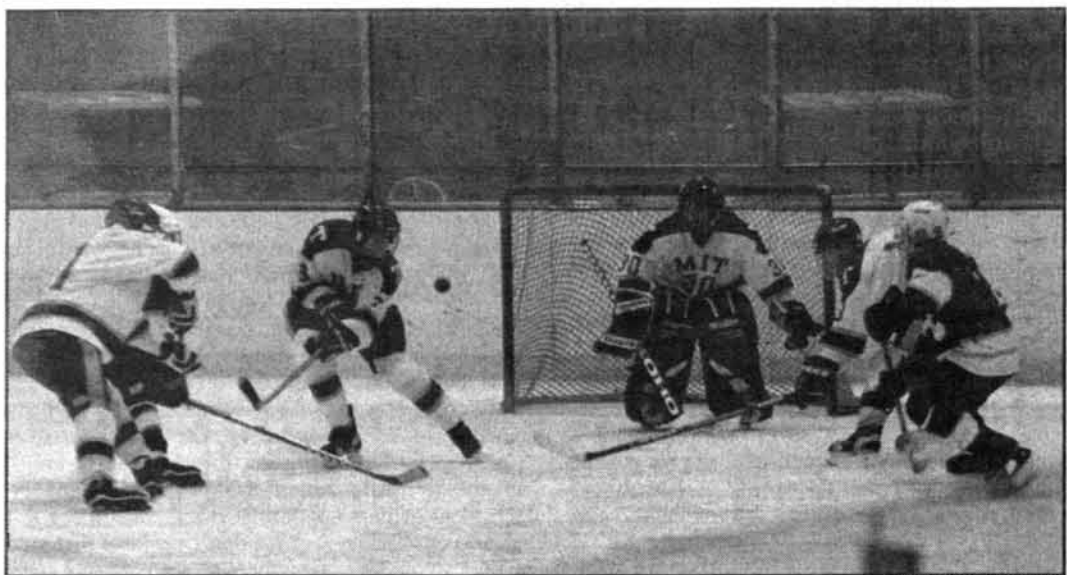




Goalie John Zeheren '99 and his teammates defend their net against an onslaught of Springfield College opponents Tuesday. MIT held off the Springfield offense and won the game 7-1.

ANNIE CHOI—THE TECH

Chomsky Speaks About the Effect Of Wealth on U.S. Foreign Policy

By Sanjay Basu
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Institute Professor of Linguistics Noam A. Chomsky addressed the influence of wealth over world politics in a speech entitled "Foundations of World Order: Fifty Years of the U.N., World Bank, IMF, and Declaration of Human Rights" Monday before a packed 10-250.

An author of several books on politics and world order, Chomsky has often been described as a public intellectual, having earned a reputation as a dissident against injustices by the U.S. government. In his most recent speech, Chomsky continued to fulfill that role through his acute criticism of the U.S. government's approach to foreign affairs.

The 70-year old speaker addressed the crowd with a personal reflection upon what he called the "three pillars of world order:" the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the UN, and the proposal of the Bretton Wood international economic system.

"These are the pillars of the human rights regime which was constituted on the wreckage of World War II," Chomsky said. "The main question is, 'What has been the fate of the three basic pillars of world order?' And, perhaps more importantly, 'What has been the role of U.S. in all of this?'"

Speaker discusses wealth disparity

Before addressing those central questions, Chomsky "took a detour" to discuss issues that he believed are relevant to the topic of world order.

"First, I simply want to remind everyone of what we already know," he said. "These questions are not abstract. We're dealing with questions of life and death, of pain and despair."

Chomsky proceeded to describe how world politics revolve around the lives of the rich, leaving behind poor individuals and impoverished countries.

He then discussed the recent G-7 meetings, a series of international talks between representatives of the seven richest economic countries in the world.

"The rich and famous all come and flock there," Chomsky said. "You get people like Robert Rubin, who might be called co-President of

the United States; after all, you have to give Alan Greenspan at least half the credit."

Though joking at times, Chomsky maintained a serious line of thought as he contrasted the vast press coverage of the G-7 meetings

Chomsky, Page 21

Mani, Lin Campaign For Increased School Spirit

By Laura McGrath Moulton
STAFF REPORTER

Continuing the recent positive changes in the Undergraduate Association is the goal of Karthik M. Mani '00 and Rita H. Lin '00, running mates for president and vice-president.

Mani and Lin seek to create a UA that provides adequate funding for student groups and fosters social interaction on campus.

A resident of Baker House and a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, Mani said that his breadth of experience will help him to truly represent students.

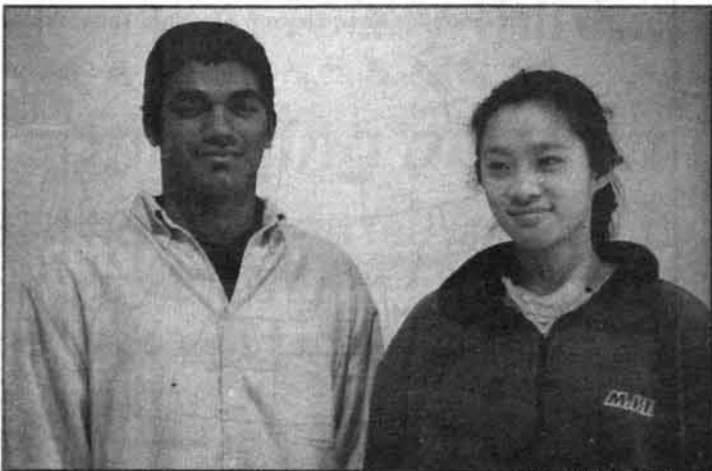
Mani has served as the Junior Class Vice President and the chair of last year's fall festival.

Lin, a member of the UA Social Board during her freshman year, said that the UA must continue to play a role in campus social life.

She said that the UA social board is currently "not as effective" as it should be.

Both Lin and Mani said that increased funding for class councils is important, since the coun-

Mani, Page 20



Karthik M. Mani '00 and Rita H. Lin '00

GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

McGann, Nemzer Want Students Involved in UA

By Kristen Landino
STAFF REPORTER

Undergraduate Association presidential candidate Matthew L. McGann '00 and his vice-pres-

dential running mate Lex Nemzer '00 seek to increase student involvement in the administrative decision making process at MIT.

"Our primary concern is making sure student opinions and perspectives are respected. We believe people affected by administrative decisions should have input into these decisions," McGann said.

McGann and Nemzer bring experience in the areas of Institute issues, as both are significantly involved in campus committees.

McGann, a resident of Baker House, serves as chair of the UA Committee on Housing and Orientation and worked to gain student input on the design of the new dormitory. He also served as a full-time orientation intern and logistics coordinator of the new orientation program last fall.

Nemzer currently serves as treasurer of East Campus and is a

McGann, Page 20



Matthew L. McGann '00 and Lex Nemzer '00

WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

Baker House residents return home to a flooded front desk after a pipe bursts.



Comics

The Center for Bilingual and Bicultural Studies opened this term with a lecture series and an undergraduate class.

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WORLD & NATION

Strong U.S. Economic Reports Raise Fears of Interest Rate Hikes

LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK

A batch of strong business reports Thursday jarred investors already worried about rising interest rates, and they provided evidence that manufacturing — long the only weak link in a sparkling U.S. economy — is reviving.

While many analysts said Thursday's reports probably overstated the current vigor of the economy, others fretted that the scenario could lead to higher inflation and further increases in lending costs. That, in turn, could put a damper on consumers' spending for houses, cars and other goods.

"A somewhat slower growth rate would be a welcome relief for the financial markets," said Stan Shipley, an economist with Merrill Lynch & Co. in New York.

But on balance, the latest reports added to fears that the U.S. economy is maintaining its torrid expansion of last year, and thus might give the Federal Reserve cause to push interest rates higher, analysts said.

Russians Consider Primakov's Plan to Curtail Democracy

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MOSCOW

Frustrated by disorder and hardship, Russians are asking whether the time has come to rein in democracy and effectively reinstate the Soviet system of strict, centralized state control.

Prime Minister Yevgeny M. Primakov opened the debate this week by proposing that the constitution be amended to end the free election of governors and suggesting that they instead be appointed by the president.

Primakov's proposal would significantly curtail democracy in Russia. But so far, few are speaking out against it.

"I am deeply convinced that until there is a solid and reliable 'vertical' power structure in Russia, the country will keep eking out a miserable existence," said Dmitry F. Ayatskov, the governor of the Saratov region, who is generally considered liberal and pro-Western — and whose power would be curtailed under the proposal.

"There's significant concern here that the center is collapsing and the regions are becoming more self-interested," said Alan Rousso, director of the Carnegie Moscow Center think tank.

U.N. Report Shows Guatemala Committed Most Rights Abuses

LOS ANGELES TIMES

GUATEMALA CITY

The Guatemalan government allowed the army to carry out a policy of genocide against Mayan Indians during the bloodiest era of Guatemala's 35-year civil war, a U.N. truth commission declared Thursday.

As a standing-room-only crowd wept and cheered, the Commission for Historical Clarification presented a report that found the government responsible for a stunning 93 percent of the 42,275 human rights violations that the panel investigated in 18 months of interviews and other research.

The country's Marxist guerrillas committed 3 percent of the violations, and responsibility for 4 percent could not be determined, according to the 3,600-page report, "Memory of Silence."

More than 200,000 people, mostly civilians, died during the conflict that ended with a peace agreement in December 1996. The United States, U.S. companies in Guatemala and Cuba also played direct roles in prolonging the fighting, the commission found.

Clinton Praises Effort To Use Surplus to Fund Social Security

By Elizabeth Shogren

LOS ANGELES TIMES

TUCSON, ARIZ.

President Clinton Thursday hailed a bipartisan consensus to earmark 62 percent of a projected budget surplus for Social Security, a proposal so novel when he introduced it during his State of the Union address last month that many Republicans accused him of budgetary sleight of hand.

"There seems now to be broad agreement among leaders and rank-and-file members in both parties of Congress to set aside the lion's share of the surplus to save Social Security," Clinton told a partisan crowd of 2,000 at the Tucson Convention Center. Basking in the relief of the end of his impeachment trial, Clinton received a warm welcome in Tucson.

Talking about his plans for spending the projected surplus of \$4.47 trillion over the next 15 years, Clinton explained, "I know it would be a lot more popular to say, 'We have got a surplus, it's your money, I am just going to give it back to you.' And then you could all cheer, and I could go home. We'd go watch baseball or do something else."

Clinton's remarks followed

House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert's, R-Ill., embrace of the proposal on Wednesday.

House and Senate GOP leaders, meeting in early evening Thursday, agreed in principle to "put a lock" on 62 percent of all federal budget surpluses starting this year for Social Security.

But the bipartisan agreement on how much to earmark for keeping Social Security retirement program solvent for the baby boom generation does little to mask the policy disputes still ahead.

For one thing, Republicans and Democrats have not agreed on how to use the surplus funds. For another, they are still arguing about how much of the anticipated surplus to use for tax cuts.

Republicans want to use most of the remaining 38 percent of the surplus for tax cuts, and conservatives in particular feel strongly about pushing through large tax reductions.

Before the speech, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said that Clinton would use the opportunity to "tweak" Republicans for their tax cut proposals. But he did not.

Instead, Clinton cited positive movement targeting tax relief to certain groups instead of offering

an across-the-board approach, such as removing the so-called marriage penalty in the tax code.

"There is, I think, some movement toward reaching some consensus about the nature of tax cuts, that they ought to be targeted and benefit people that need it most," Clinton said.

Republicans lost no time in responding to Clinton's apparent olive branch. Hastert issued a statement saying he was pleased Clinton "has started to come our way" toward tax relief.

But congressional Republicans are deeply skeptical of Clinton's plan to use another 15 percent of the expected surplus to bolster Medicare, the health insurance program for the elderly and disabled, which could be insolvent within 10 years.

"We don't yet have that kind of agreement on setting aside some of the surplus for Medicare, and I think we should," Clinton said.

"This is the threshold issue," the Democratic leader told reporters. "If we can make this decision in a bipartisan way... then I think the stage is set to sit down and go through the other matters that have to be looked at to solve further problems" involving Social Security.

U.S. Warns of Chinese Military Buildup, Condemns Rights Abuses

By Bob Drogin

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The United States delivered a one-two punch to China on Thursday, with a Pentagon report detailing Beijing's missile and military buildup near Taiwan and a strongly worded Senate resolution condemning China's recent human rights record.

The two moves are the latest evidence of the rift between Washington and Beijing that has been growing in the eight months since President Clinton visited China in a summit that had appeared to herald a new era in U.S.-Sino relations.

Instead, Beijing's increasing military presence in the South China Sea, its alleged use of U.S. satellite technology for military purposes, its recent crackdown on political dissi-

dents and its \$60 billion annual trade surplus with the United States are dominating the stage as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright leaves Friday for a two-day visit to Beijing. Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji is expected to visit Washington in April.

The 27-page Pentagon report, a sanitized version of a classified report sent to Congress earlier in the week, warns that China's short-range ballistic-missile force "is expected to grow substantially" in the next several years. The report said China is likely to introduce long-range, land-attack cruise missiles as part of a sweeping modernization of its military.

In a separate move Thursday, the Senate condemned China's human rights policy in a resolution

approved by all 99 members present. Next week, the House of Representatives is expected to support the resolution, which is a non-binding expression of congressional opinion and does not have the force of law.

The resolution accuses China of "widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in China and Tibet and... coercive implementation of family planning policies and the sale of human organs taken from executed prisoners."

Clinton will not decide whether to push such a resolution, which China has bitterly fought in the past, until after Albright's meetings with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and other leaders Monday and Tuesday, according to another senior administration official.

WEATHER

Winter Weather Finally Makes an Appearance

By Bill Ramstrom

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

After keeping us in suspense for weeks, winter has finally come in full force this week, bringing both cold temperatures and a real snowstorm. Any snow still falling this morning should come to an end by early afternoon, with slowly clearing skies and cold temperatures. But there is good news for everyone from warmer climates without a big sweater collection — the cold will stay only into Saturday. By the afternoon, temperatures will warm into the 40s, with light winds and plenty of melting snow. Sunday will also be fair, with continued pleasant temperatures, though clouds will begin to filter in during the afternoon.

A high pressure system in the wake of yesterday's snowstorm will build across the Great Lake states today, slowly heading southeastward off the coast of South Carolina. A developing storm will follow a familiar path for this winter, moving northeastward from the Texas panhandle into the upper Midwest, then into Canada by Sunday. This will again leave us on the warm, eastern side of the storm, so we can expect rain showers and southerly winds for Sunday night. Clouds and showers seem likely to continue into the day on Monday as well.

Today: Early flurries, then slow clearing. High 33°F (1°C).

Tonight: Clearing early, and cold. Low 24°F (-4°C).

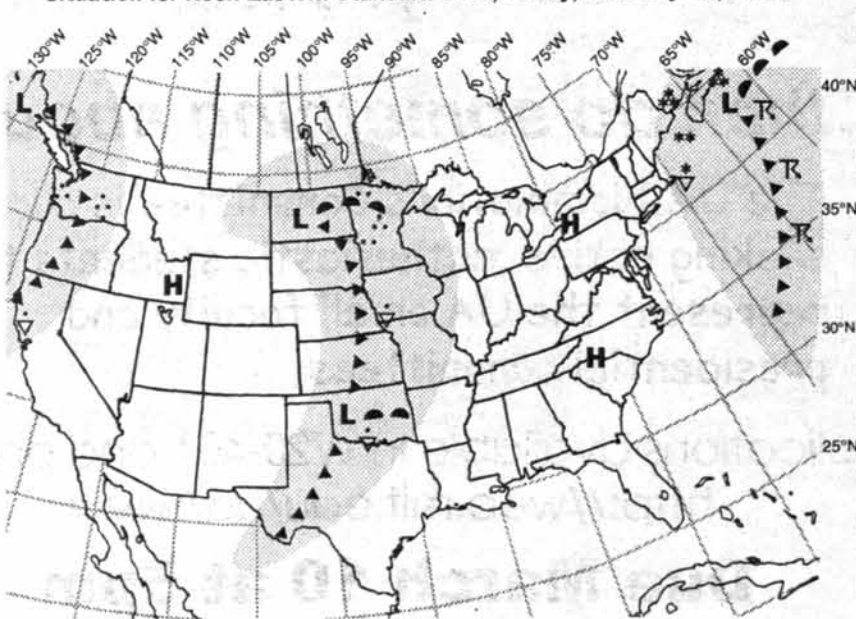
Saturday: Sunny and warming. High 43°F (6°C).

Saturday Night: Fair and cool. Low 28°F (-2°C).

Sunday: Sunny early, then clouding up. High 42°F (6°C).

Sunday Night and Monday: Rain showers. Low upper 30s; high lower 40s.

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, February 26, 1999



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

NRA Proposes Legislation To Protect Gunmakers from Lawsuits

By Sharon Walsh
THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK

Moving swiftly, the National Rifle Association has succeeded in getting legislation under way in at least 10 states that would preclude local governments from suing gun manufacturers and distributors. The latest bill, proposed earlier this week in Florida, is the toughest so far, making it a felony for any local official to file such a lawsuit.

The Florida bill, expected to advance rapidly, would make it a crime punishable by up to five years in jail and a \$5,000 fine for any local government official or employee to file suit against gun makers. The bill includes a retroactive provision that would quash a suit filed by Miami-Dade County in January that seeks to

hold gunmakers liable for what the city spends on police and county hospital services because of gun violence. It would also prevent suits from at least two other Florida cities, Tampa and St. Petersburg, that are considering taking gun manufacturers to court.

"We are responsible for the Florida legislation," said James J. Baker, chief lobbyist for the NRA, which has joined hands with the gun industry to fight the lawsuits.

"We think this is an outrageous attempt to prevent Miami-Dade from asserting the legal rights of its citizens," said Dennis Henigan, legal director of the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, a non-profit organization that is helping Miami in its lawsuit. "We allow ordinary citizens and cities to assert their rights in court. If a suit is friv-

olous, the courts have a right to sanction....But we don't threaten people with jail," he said, noting that the Florida bill could lead to jailing the mayor of Miami.

Gun-control activists have said that some of the state bills are likely to be challenged in court.

Encouraged by the passage in a matter of weeks of a bill to prevent gun suits in Georgia — and worried by a recent landmark jury decision in Brooklyn where gunmakers were successfully held liable for negligence in marketing handguns — the NRA and others have moved quickly to head off more lawsuits. Legislation also has been or is about to be introduced in Texas, Michigan, Kansas, Vermont, Wyoming, Louisiana, Minnesota and Alabama.

Livingston Sounds Conciliatory Note While Leaving Congress For Good

By Juliet Elperin
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., largely silent in the two months since he shocked his colleagues by announcing plans to resign rather than stand for House Speaker, emerged Thursday to make a final plea for moderation and consensus as he ended his 21-year legislative career.

"Politician is not a dirty word, and compromise is the glue that renders democracy possible," Livingston said in his valedictory address on the House floor. "To my friends on the left: Government left unwatched can lead to injustice. To my friends on the right:

Government is not inherently evil."

Livingston's conciliatory address seemed to capture the mood of a Congress that is struggling to move past impeachment and forge at least some meaningful legislative compromises. His words were also strikingly bereft of the kind of bitterness one might expect from this chief casualty of the impeachment process: Livingston resigned the same day the House impeached President Clinton last December, following his admission of his own extramarital affairs.

Indeed, in a subsequent interview Thursday afternoon, Livingston offered few regrets about his brief and tumultuous tenure as would-be successor to former House

speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga.

"I really haven't let myself dwell on any of this stuff," he said. "I've always treated politics as a gamble. When you're riding high and the dice are rolling sevens and elevens, life is good. When they come up snake eyes — well, then you've got to make other decisions."

Having given up the chance to serve as the third-highest officer in the nation, Livingston is preparing to enter Washington's exclusive lobbying realm, making little pretense of his desire to make good money after years of occasional grousing about the difficulties making ends meet in Congress by opening his own company with his two top aides.

Researchers Link Bacterial Infection to Heart Disease

LOS ANGELES TIMES

ONTARIO

Researchers say they have for the first time demonstrated a direct link between bacterial infection and heart disease, confirming a suspicion that has been floating through the cardiology community for the better part of a decade.

The proof of a link suggests that at least some of the 961,000 deaths from heart disease in the United States every year could be prevented by treatment with antibiotics or, even better, by immunization against the responsible organisms.

In the new study, to be reported Friday in the journal *Science*, researchers, including Dr. Josef M. Penninger, from the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto found that injecting mice with proteins from chlamydia bacteria can produce heart disease. As many as 95 percent of people are exposed to chlamydia during their lives.

The chlamydia protein, which sits on the bacterium's surface, is virtually identical to one found in healthy heart tissue. When the mouse's immune system gears up to attack the protein, it also damages the heart and coronary arteries.

The results do not mean that high cholesterol, smoking, obesity and hypertension are not important factors in heart disease, said Dr. Paul Ridker of the Harvard Medical School. Rather, the findings add one more risk factor to the constellation of health problems that lead to heart attacks.

Rudder Movement Suspected in Emergency Landing Incident

THE WASHINGTON POST

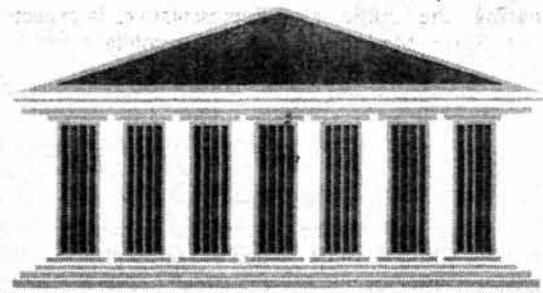
WASHINGTON

Investigators believe the MetroJet Boeing 737 jet that made an emergency landing Wednesday at Baltimore-Washington International Airport experienced a rudder movement, but they don't know why and have expressed frustration that they will get limited help from the plane's older flight data recorder.

A preliminary reading of the jet's recorder indicates that the rudder movement may have occurred slowly in the seconds before the crew noticed the problem and took action. Both crew members had recently been trained in recovery techniques for just such situations. Sources said the plane made no abrupt movements that would have shaken passengers.

The National Transportation Safety Board is particularly interested in what happened to MetroJet Orlando-Hartford Flight 2710 because a rudder malfunction is suspected in the Sept. 8, 1994, crash of USAir Flight 427 at Pittsburgh, which killed 132 people.

Analysis of the recorder began Wednesday night, and investigators also began an examination of the rudder power control unit that was removed from the plane after it landed late Wednesday morning.



Undergraduate Association

MIT's Undergraduate Student Government

think the curriculum needs some work?

too many writing requirements?

med-center not responsive enough?

Tell them what
you really think...

...then do something about it !

The UA Nominations Committee is currently seeking active, enthusiastic students to represent the UA on all faculty and presidential committees

Applications available in W20-401 and online at
<http://web.mit.edu/ua/www>

Due March 10 at 5pm

A list of committees is available in W20-401 or online at:
<http://web.mit.edu/committees>
questions? email <bigdeis@mit.edu>

FREE DONUTS

...and UA candidates



Join us for 2 more
study breaks!

Meet the candidates:

March 1 7-9pm
in Burton-Conner

Prez/VP Debates:

March 9 7-9 pm
location TBA

questions? email <ryanp> or <fifo@mit.edu>

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Disturbing Senior Survey Results

As a relatively new member of the MIT community and one anxious to learn more about the overall educational environment of the Institute, I read with great interest the findings of the recent 1998 Senior Survey, conducted by the Office of Academic Services.

While the survey saw only 35 percent participation by the senior class, the 460 respondents provide substantial evidence that the Institute is failing to educate properly its students. I am specifically concerned with the student responses to the questions, "How important to you personally are each of the following types of knowledge and abilities," and the follow-up question, "To what extent has your MIT education improved the following types of knowledge and abilities?"

At first glance, the findings from the first question appear mundane and predictable: 100 percent of respondents feel that analytical and problem-solving skills, writing skills, and academic self-confidence are important or very important to them. MIT seniors overwhelmingly express the importance they place on good writing, public speaking, an artistic aesthetic, awareness of social issues, and the body politic. Awareness of ethical issues, evaluating the role of science and technology in society, and placing current problems in a historical, cultural, or political perspective were rated lower, but still over 80% of respondents called these goals important or very important.

The unsettling part of the survey is the students' response to the question, "To what extent has your MIT education improved the following types of knowledge and abilities?" In what I would consider a great failure of any university and egregious in the case of a

world-renowned institution like MIT, the following results stand out:

- 62% of students feel that four years at MIT improved their ability to write not at all or only a little.

- 65% of students feel that four years at MIT improved their creative ability not at all or only a little.

- 70% of respondents feel that four years at MIT improved their appreciation of literature, art, music and drama not at all or only a little.

- 74% of students feel that four years at MIT improved their ability to place current problems in a historical, cultural, or political perspective not at all or only a little.

- 75% of students feel that four years at MIT improved their awareness of ethical issues not at all or only a little.

- 82% of students feel that four years at MIT improved their awareness of social and political issues not at all or only a little.

There are some signs of hope. I am aware of movement within the Institute to change, and hopefully improve, the way writing is taught, at least with respect to the current Phase II requirement. I also applaud articles like "Does Poetry Matter?" by Professor John Hildebidle (*MIT Faculty Newsletter*, November/December 1998), the initiative of the recently organized New Horizons Group, and similar organizations at MIT and their efforts to spur socio-political discourse between students, staff and faculty. I see challenges for the entire MIT community and particularly the central administration. The former must engage themselves more overtly in seeking and espousing the ideals of a liberal education, as this will engage and entice others to similar breadth of discovery. The administration must produce the leadership and resources necessary to alter the staid environment which has produced these statistics.

Finally, 98 percent of students feel that their time at MIT has moderately or greatly improved their analytical and problem-solving skills. For some reason, and despite being an engineer myself, I can't seem to get up and cheer.

Scott D. Sewell
Academic Administrator
Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences

The Value of Style

In the column "Trendy Tailfins and iMacs" this Tuesday, Eric Plosky says "consumers must educate themselves to make sure the computers and other high-tech goods they buy aren't unnecessarily laden with chrome."

I disagree. If I ever have a chance to buy high-tech goods laden with unnecessary chrome, I'm going to jump at the opportunity. The same goes for goods laden with artificial fur, translucent plastic, and exotic wood veneers.

Computer hardware becomes obsolete in months or weeks. Isn't it time to move on from the cheap beige box as well?

Abie D. Flaxman '00

Erratum

An article in Tuesday's issue ["Hip-Hop Artist Busta Rhymes to Headline Spring Weekend Events"] incorrectly stated that Rhymes last album was "When Disaster Strikes." His most recent album was in fact "E.L.E. The Final World Front."

POST-IMPEACHMENT TRIAL UPDATE



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.

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MIT's Housing Failures

Dan McGuire

The Undergraduate Association and the Interfraternity Council inaugurated the beginning of the new term by tacitly acknowledging the collapse of the student government's role in the ongoing debate about MIT's housing system. The move was not unexpected, but depressing nonetheless.

Last fall, Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 announced that MIT would hold a public contest to determine the future form of MIT's undergraduate residence system. MIT made almost no pretense of going through the bodies that ostensibly represent students: the IFC, Dormitory Council, and the UA. Members of the UA and the IFC, instead of trying to create a more active role for their organizations in the design process, instead jumped ship and formed teams to tackle the problem as freelancers.

The administrators' decision to go to the students directly rather than work with the student government is easy to decipher. In past meetings, the UA, the IFC, and Dormcon have proven themselves to be singularly ineffective. The IFC effort opposing Vest's decision has petered out. The UA decided to bring out the big guns months after the issue had already been decided and has yet to develop a coherent plan on where it wants to go after getting back the results of the referendum it held in the fall. Dormcon, as always, is absent. So why should busy administrators take time out to deal with groups that can't offer any particularly compelling ideas or promise to whip their constituents into line if a sufficiently sweet compromise solution is offered?

The reps' figuring is similarly easy to read. Early on, they managed to create noisy, undirected student protests. But nothing came of them, and the average student decided that his or her time would be better spent elsewhere. The most recent joint IFC-UA protest consisted of one rep thrusting orange ribbons at passing students while a few other politicians hung out near a table holding hot cocoa to refresh the crowd that never materialized.

The student government members have decided that their organizations are politically bankrupt. The best thing to do, they figure, is to simply go through the motions of governance while trying to effect real change on the side by forming design teams. We may well be the only institution in the country where the real decisions are made by student government reps moonlighting from their jobs as representatives of the student body.

These events are symptoms of a more serious set of problems. The first is that the administration seems to have decided that the official organs of student governance do not have any credibility, either on their own or as representatives of the student body at large.

That's regrettable, but there is something even more sinister going on. We are seeing that we as students have no body capable of competently representing us. We are involved in the debate about housing because the administration has decided that student input in this matter is important. In order to get student input, it's providing everything from staffers and money to judges for the contest.

What will happen when the administration decides to take up less earthshaking issues that involve student's welfare? The answer will probably be nothing. The idea of a "housing design contest" is unprecedented, and is a product of the extraordinary times that we're going through. It's doubtful that similar programs will pop up every time a dean needs to make a decision about student welfare.

While these problems are not new, the housing issue has highlighted the rot that permeates student government. We are going through one of the most intensive redesigns of housing in 50 years. Student reps recognize this and are participating in it. But the student government as an organization has yet to rouse itself into action. A government that cannot address its constituents' most important concern — housing — is not one that can address the other issues that pop up over the course of the year. This state of affairs cannot continue. Students deserve effective government. If the existing structures cannot deliver it, they should either be reformed or replaced.

Reflections on Chomsky's Dissent

Kris Schnee

I was excited when I first saw the posters advertising Noam Chomsky's upcoming speech. I'd heard of him before, as the author of some brilliant work on linguistic theory. I was eager to hear him speak on these topics. But his speech's topic was "Pillars of World Order: Fifty Years of the U.N., World Bank, IMF, and Declaration of Rights." A friend explained to me that Chomsky doesn't publicly speak much about his main field of study these days. Still, a celebration of fifty years of "world order" sounded interesting, so I went.

At the lecture, I pushed through the crowds to a table selling some of Chomsky's books. There were several criticizing American foreign policy or the American economy, one about "thought control in democratic societies", and an aptly named biography called "Life of Dissent". Strangely, I saw no sign that MIT's Institute Professor of Linguistics studied linguistics at all. Next to that table was another table covered with non-Chomsky political tracts for sale, with an anarchical bent. There was an interesting bumper sticker on display telling me that, "If voting could do anything, it'd be illegal."

When I found the professor's speech on TV, he was talking about the global economy. He mentioned a recent meeting of the "G15" [sic] nations, sixteen semi-powerful countries trying to plan their own economic health and growth but, he said, being deliberately kept down by American investors working in concert to suppress market reforms. I was even more surprised when he discussed the economic class structure in many nations: a small, wealthy elite, a lower class of "disposable people," and a group between them which was "somewhere between survival and suffering"—the strangest phrase I'd ever

heard for a middle class. He then muttered that because "we're a more civilized society," we Americans don't treat our own "disposable people" the way other nations do — "we just throw 'em in jail on various fraudulent [criminal charges] instead of sending out the death squads." I was so startled to hear this and write it down that I missed his analysis of "what the Cold War was really about." My guess is that it was not, for Chomsky, about defeating communism.

The idea that the United States encourages freedom and democracy throughout the world reminded Chomsky of "medieval and mythological dogma." He argued those who believe in American benevolence ignore the obvious facts. The facts, of course, were that America routinely acts in underhanded and even malevolent ways. Specifically, he says the U.S. government has tried to overthrow democratic elections in Third World nations because they chose to elect "parties of the poor" (a phrase he used repeatedly, probably as a euphemism for "communist parties"). Chomsky said the International Monetary Fund is also a tool for manipulating governments, and that President Clinton even personally orchestrated the overthrow of Indonesia's former President Suharto for disobeying IMF orders.

Routinely, Chomsky said, the U.S. disregards "international law" passed by the United Nations and ignores the decisions of the World Court. Somehow, these laws apply to us whether we have agreed to be bound by the U.N. or not. What does our defiance in foreign policy make us? Says Chomsky: "We are a violent, lawless, criminal rogue state."

There was some material about domestic politics as well. I found most interesting his analysis of the reason behind modern conservatives' attempts to reduce the power of the federal government. He argues since "the role of

government" in society is really "the role of the people", any move to shrink the federal government is actually undemocratic, and the current attacks on our "era of big government" are little more than a corporate conspiracy.

I found Chomsky's positions so intriguing that I looked up more of his work online. I read through an interview titled "Expanding the Floor of the Cage." "There is a very committed effort," he argues in it, "to convert the U.S. into something which has the basic structure of a Third World society," with many "superfluous people." Whoever is behind it is using crime, making people worry about it specifically to make people "hate and fear one another" so that "they don't notice that something is wrong and do something about it."

I realized that I now know the origin of an old stereotype: the ivory-tower professor, a man who spits on the country which pays his salary, invents things on which he relies, and allows him to speak out without fear. But I wasn't ready to condemn him entirely. Despite his apparent view of America as the root of all evil, he is a valuable contributor to the ongoing national debate. It is worth thinking about problems with our foreign policy, for instance. If our country really is guilty of unscrupulous deeds throughout the world, we need people to publicize them, so that we can root out this corruption and wrongdoing. I respect Professor Chomsky for that, at least.

But then, what does he hope to accomplish with his work? Does he act out of civic duty? He declares: "The federal government... is fundamentally illegitimate..." A true patriot, then!

Noam Chomsky may be a brilliant linguist and will continue to improve our understanding of how we speak. But as for how he speaks, as for his strange brew of socialism and anarchy — I think I'll stick to something more moderate.

Pennies from Hell

Veena Thomas

Cleaning out my room, I came across something innocently lying in the corner. But upon closer inspection, the small, circular object turned out not to be so innocent after all. It was a penny.

I can hear you scoff, "A penny? A penny is innocent! What has a penny ever done to you?" I could have forgiven one penny. But as I continued to clean my room, I found another one in the opposite corner.

Both were heads up, which to some people might mean good luck. But to me, there is nothing lucky about a penny. Pennies are the most useless form of currency. Even the strange and inconvenient Susan B. Anthony dollar can be forgiven because it's worth a dollar. It can buy a soda. A penny can't buy anything anymore. Even penny candy costs more than that nowadays.

I hate change in general, but pennies are the worst. I am so anxious to get rid of all of my change that I carry around some of it with me, and I attempt to pay for everything in exact change. I don't mind receiving a quarter back, but it's the pennies that irritate me.

I carry around some pennies with me, but they are harder to eliminate than other coins. If a bill comes to be \$2.31, it's easy enough to

hand one penny over to the cashier. This works for an extra two cents, perhaps even three. Four pennies becomes a little trickier. If I need to pay \$2.39, either I can dig out nine pennies and risk incurring the wrath of both the cashier and the people in line behind me, or I can swallow my pride, spend four dimes, get one penny back, and appease everyone but myself.

I didn't realize how obsessed I was over eliminating spare change until I went to a store with my sister. We waited in line together as she stood there with a pile of spare change in her hand. The bill required thirty-six cents in change, which I noticed she could easily pay exactly with what she had in her hand. But instead, she handed over two quarters to the cashier, and received a dime and four pennies back. Four pennies? Oh, no!

As we left the store I realized that I was practically shaking. She didn't have to get those pennies! She could have gotten rid of a penny, instead of acquiring more. I tried to explain this to her. She told me, in no uncertain terms, that I was insane.

When I was younger and the world seemed brighter, I believed in the power of a lucky penny, especially one found heads up. If I saw a penny on the street, I would stop and pick it up, marveling that I would have good luck for the day. Then I grew up and became bitter and cynical. I realized that all the pennies I had

picked up were still sitting in my change jar. And good luck? I wasn't going to get good luck from a piece of metal. And why were all those pennies on the street anyway? No one ever sees a ten dollar bill lying around in the street. Just pennies.

Those take-a-penny-leave-a-penny jars are a good idea for some, but I don't like them either. I suppose they provide a way for me to get rid of the pennies I receive in change by leaving them in the jar. But in addition to being obsessive-compulsive, I'm also cheap. Why should I give away my hard-earned penny just so a total stranger can take it? I might hate my penny, but it's still mine.

I vividly recall my proudest penny moment. It was a seemingly ordinary afternoon in January when I headed to the Coop. After presenting my purchases to the cashier, she told me the total came to be \$12.13. I immediately found the twelve dollars, but then said the words that I say so often, the words that every cashier dreads: "Let me see if I have some change." There was no one in line behind me. I fished around in my wallet, in my backpack, and in my spare change pouch before finally emerging triumphant, clutching thirteen pennies in my fist. I proudly handed them to the cashier, who didn't seem to care. I guess some people just don't understand these things.

An End to Political Correctness

Julia C. Lipman

I still remember that day in 1990 or 1991, when Newsweek arrived in the mail bearing dire warnings about a new McCarthyism that threatened free speech on college campuses, a new thought police that could have you boot-ed out and thrown into sensitivity camp for any act of thoughtcrime. As a First Amendment absolutist 13-year-old and an Orwell fan besides, I thought this "political correctness" movement was about the most doubleplusgood thing to happen to free speech since the Chicago police attacked demonstrators at the '68 Democratic convention.

Since then, I've figured out that there really isn't a "PC movement" and that complaining about your fellow student's prominently displayed Confederate flag doesn't constitute a violation of the First Amendment any more than complaining about your neighbor's prominently displayed plastic flamingo does. New stories about PC gone awry have been scarce these days, leaving the anti-PC crowd to rely on tried-and-true standards, like the one about the feminist professor who claimed

she was sexually harassed by a painting or the six-year-old boy thrown out of class for sexual harassment.

Sometimes, PC humor can be innovative and funny. But far too often, humor based on political correctness becomes unfunny and, well, strident. It's hard to read James Finn Garner's bestseller "Politically Correct Bedtime Stories" now without embarrassment that we thought it was so funny back in '94. The same goes for those countless lists of "PC terms," forwarded over e-mail or sold as books. The fact that most of them were invented by right-wing humorists rather than earnest left-wing academics doesn't help.

So why isn't a lot of anti-PC humor actually funny? One view, held by many liberals, is that satire is meant to be used by the powerless against the powerful, and when the order is reversed it's no longer true satire. But this view fails to explain, among others, H. L. Mencken and Ambrose Bierce, who managed to be great satirists in spite of their misogyny, anti-Semitism, and utter contempt for the common people. The real problem is that a true satirist must also be an individual, fighting the conventional wisdom of the day. PC-bashing, on the other hand, is the conventional

wisdom of the day. It's accepted without question that offending everyone is a desirable goal, that anything else is dishonest or sanitized. But every third-grader knows, or should know, that tossing a few barbs at the popular kids doesn't make it okay to taunt the shy kid in the corner.

And sometimes, being "politically incorrect" is seen as a substitute for judgment or insight. Bill Maher, who has built an entire career around the term "politically incorrect," uses the title of his show to deflect every criticism of it. He summarizes, "Politically incorrect means not flinching from saying what actually is."

By making fun of liberals for insisting on terms like "differently abled," the right wing has come up with the most effective and popular euphemism of the decade. Nothing is ever racist, or sexist, or needlessly raunchy, or just plain cruel anymore; it's "politically incorrect." No longer even just a rallying cry for the right, the phrase has devolved into a meaningless term that simply cries, "Look at me! I'm being daring and provocative!" It's time to scrap this tired phrase that has more than served its purpose, and the mentality that goes with it.

THE ARTS

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Boston Coffee Shops

Stay up on tastes that keep you up

By Shao-Fei Moy

SPORTS EDITOR

In an attempt to make our lives at the institute of all-nighters more bearable, I've taken the opportunity to review coffee, our last source of stimulation when the clock strikes twelve and a long night of problem setting awaits. The following review is meant to offer a description of some of the good, and not so good, coffees found at or around MIT.

First stop: Toscanini's. Owned by a guy named Gus, Tosci's has become a favorite hang out among MIT students over the years. Don't let the alternative feel of the atmosphere intimidate you, because Tosci's, although known primarily for its ice cream, houses some of the finest coffee in Boston. A favorite drink of mine is the hot vanilla latte. This blend of steamed milk, vanilla, and a double shot of espresso has the perfect balance of flavor and caffeine intensity. For those of you not too fond of the bitterness of espresso, have no fear — the hot vanilla polishes off the rough edges of espresso to make your palette think more chocolate milk than coffee. If, however, you're just in the mood for a simple cup of coffee, I urge you to give the Yrgachffe grounds a try. A bit more refined than the French Roast, a cup of Yrgachffe goes down smoother, especially late at night, than your everyday coffee.

Another place to get some fine coffee on campus is the Building 4 coffee shop. Be careful not to assume that all Aramark coffee is as good as the brew offered at this particular outlet, because this shop, located at a main junction of the infinite corridor, owns a particular flavor unfamiliar to the rest of its family. The one that I've often tried, and liked, is the hazelnut coffee. Mixed with the right amount of sugar and half-and-half, the hazelnut blend produces a creamy and nutty taste much to the resemblance of caramel glazed peanuts. The coffee shop also offers other interesting flavors, including toasted almond creme, french vanilla, and chocolate raspberry, though none are as satisfying as the hazelnut.

Given that the times when we need coffee the most are those not concurrent to normal business hours, it's good to know that there is a 24-hour coffee shop located on the third floor of the student center. Upon entering you will find not only a splattering of offerings in coffee flavors, but also in the sizes of the cups. The flavors range from the MIT Midnight Rebel, a rough and tough darker roast, to the hah-vahd yahd decaf (need I explain?), and the sizes run from a pint size small to a bladder bustin' bazorg. Though I haven't tasted every single coffee offered, the ones that I have tried are more than acceptable in taste. Even better than the coffee at the Top of the Hub.

Given enough time to venture off campus to enjoy a cup of coffee, there are several places where one can find some delectable

brew. Dunkin Donuts, though never quite thought of as a gourmet entity, certainly churns out some flavorful coffee. With its closest location in Central Square, it is no more than a fifteen minute walk away. Again, it is the hazelnut I find most pleasing. Much like in Building 4, there is a natural creaminess to the Dunkin Donuts hazelnut coffee. And for just a little over a dollar a cup, its richness in flavor comes at fast food prices. Not to be overlooked is the regular as well as French vanilla coffee. And don't forget to bring your Student Advantage card to claim your free donut with any medium coffee order.

Moving up the scale in the coffee hierarchy we enter the doors of Starbucks. Seemingly on every street corner, the least you can say about Starbucks is that it's just there, no matter where you are. The coffee, on the other hand, has never been there. Their strong brew seems fitting only for the veteran coffee drinker. There seems less room for coffee

appreciation and more room for a quick caffeine fix. One sip and my natural reaction is to grimace. This does not necessarily relegate Starbucks to the category of bad coffee, but for a lack of a better phrase, it's certainly not my cup of tea. Not to go down without a fight, the Starbucks espresso bar pounds out a fantastic cup of mocha latte. The richness of the chocolate tamed by the espresso shots creates a potent yet tasty cure to drowsiness.

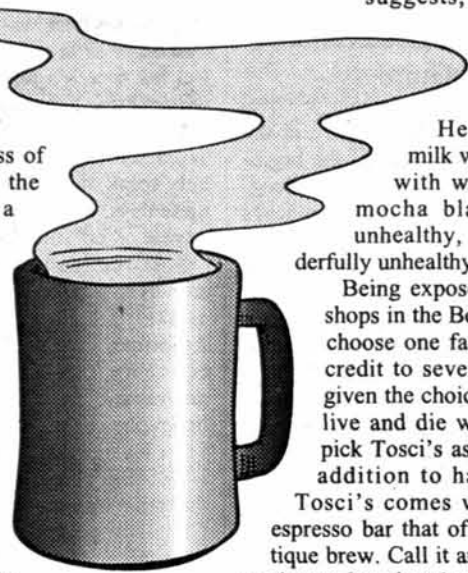
Finally, there's Au Bon Pain. Much like Starbucks, Au Bon Pain has a variety of locations, as well as a variety of coffee and espresso drinks. I have noticed a difference in the quality of coffee depending on the location. One of their most reliable shops is the one located in Harvard Square. And one of their most reli-

able drinks in terms of satisfying taste buds is their iced mocha blast. Although this isn't the season to be slurping down chilled coffee, the iced mocha blast offers a refreshing dose of caffeine during the warm season. As its name suggests, this drink involves

adding chocolate to a coffee base. The flavor produced is much like

Hershey's chocolate milk with a bite. Topped off with whip cream, the iced mocha blast not only looks unhealthy, but also tastes wonderfully unhealthy.

Being exposed to so many coffee shops in the Boston area, it's hard to choose one favorite without giving credit to several other places. But given the choice of only one shop to live and die with, I would have to pick Tosci's as my second home. In addition to having great coffee, Tosci's comes with a fully stocked espresso bar that offers a variety of boutique brew. Call it an addiction to its convenience, but there's still a certain quality packed in every cup.



LECTURE REVIEW

Langston and Martin

Voices of yesterday and today

By Michael K. Dowe

In honor of Black History month, two celebrated actors, Danny Glover and Felix Justice, commemorated the words of Langston Hughes and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a unique lecture/performance, entitled *An Evening with Langston and Martin*. The performance and theatrical readings were presented last Thursday by the Northeastern University Center for the Arts.

Actor/director Felix Justice began the evening with a portrayal of one of Reverend King's most memorable and inspiring speeches,

recreating the power of the legendary civil rights leader. Justice performed the last speech King would ever deliver on April 3, 1968 in Memphis. Though he was not a stranger to death threats, Reverend King received one in 1968 that rang too close, and Justice specifically chose that speech because he felt it was "the sum of King's concerns in his last hours." Justice asked the audience to close their eyes and "go back to Memphis as midnight approaches." Armed with nothing but himself and the speech, Justice embodied the persona of Reverend King and within minutes, virtually transformed a performance on a campus stage to an oration in the heart of the civil rights era.

Justice then introduced acclaimed actor Danny Glover as "an old friend of mine I think you may have heard of, a man of all seasons." Glover brought to life the words and rhythms of celebrated writer Langston Hughes. Giving his own insights into Hughes' writing, Glover ran the gamut of the poet's collection, spanning his first poem, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," to one of his last, "Birmingham Sunday," a response to the tragic death of four girls in a church bombing in 1963. At the end of the evening, the audience applauded with a resounding standing ovation.

It has been argued that in order to be a successful artist or activist, the two must be separated, but these men have shown this theory to be false. At San Francisco State College in the 1960's, Glover was heavily influenced by what was going on in the surrounding communities, and he asserted, "I'm an actor because of what I want to express politically... I was there before I ever stepped on stage." Glover returns to college campuses now for the students "to hear their voices and the issues prevalent to them."



Actor/director Felix Justice recreated the power of Rev. Martin Luther King in a portrayal of his final speech.

She is surrounded by warring factions, both political and religious, and has to suffer treason and backstage machinations, all while trying to survive attacks from France, Spain, and the Vatican, not to mention domestic foes.

What *Elizabeth* goes through is similar to what Michael Corleone has to go through: Her transformation, from the trusting young girl who dances in the fields with her friends to the cold and calculating monarch, is the main storyline. And the climax — a series of cruel deeds cut with scenes of the mastermind praying in church — feels like a direct quotation. To be fair, I'm not accusing *Elizabeth* of creative pilfering, since the scene is still quite original.

Kapur's style of directing is fresh, and provides an eye-ful even when the story hits a weaker spot. *Elizabeth* is concerned with epic events, grand on scale and importance. It would take a film twice as long and five times as expensive to put all of the historical happenings on screen with at least some degree of authenticity. Kapur does it the opposite way, by emphasizing telling details, most of them throwaway, all of them rewarding. A good deal of plot and character motivation rides on unspoken thoughts, communicated through brief glances. I especially liked when one of the characters, after a sudden wave of poisonings in court, courteously refuses a glass of water offered by a potential foe — no

words, one glance, speaking volumes.

This strategy — withholding the epic scope and telling the story via minute details — is paramount in the visual aspect as well. Kapur rarely gives master shots, instead keeping them tight and perfectly framed, once in a while even keeping the main action blurry in the background while focusing on an object to the fore. The cinematic techniques work quite well with the narrative flow, better than most recent movies.

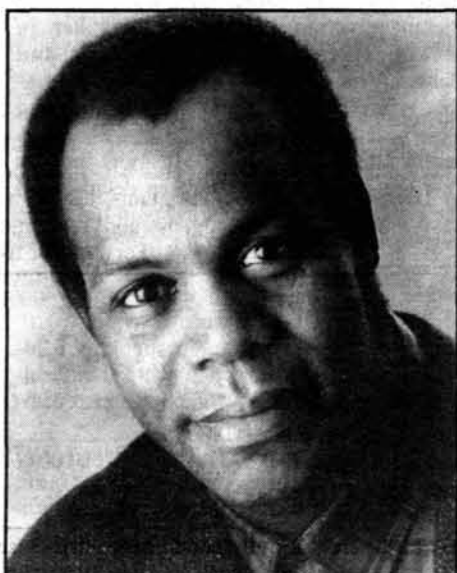
And this camera work helps save the day when the narrative falters. *Elizabeth* is somewhat overwritten and overplotted, a rare problem in modern films, with the entire middle section devoted to many characters scheming against each other. It's always lucid and usually interesting; the problem is that it's never really profound. The characters don't seem to matter much, at least when compared with the events they participate in. This happens because the screenplay attempts to tell about actual events (or a reasonable facsimile of such) and creates the characters to fit the storyline. This is a rather complicated task, and doesn't quite feel natural.

The actors do much to hide this fact. Blanchett, on screen almost every minute of the film, gives a totally seamless performance; I believed she was the true ruler of England. Supporting cast fares almost as well, with the real standout being Geoffrey Rush, who creates a character so powerful

that by the end of the film his mere presence in a scene speaks volumes. Another Shakespeare in Love thespian, Joseph Fiennes, is very good as well, but it took me a while to stop thinking about him as Will Shakespeare.

I was somewhat less than riveted by some scenes in the second half of the movie; since I knew how the Virgin Queen fared in real life, and the narrative became predictable, the only things that kept the movie going were acting and direction; at least, until the very finale.

The finale is stunning. When *Elizabeth* finally morphs into the historical person we know her to be — one of England's two most important rulers, the woman who built the country into a dominant world power — the ending achieves dazzling brilliance. It's perfectly clear that what we're witnessing is nothing else than the creation of future — the rise of absolute monarchy from the ruins of religious and territorial squabbles. Both Blanchett and Kapur nail the scene, but the most important element in it is the ethereal music by Mozart. I can't think of a better musical choice than his Requiem to end this story. The music bridges from the sixteenth century to the eighteenth, and by extension, to the twentieth. This is really why I like good historical dramas: At their best, they are not about their time, but about ours.



Actor Danny Glover brought to life the words of writer Langston Hughes to commemorate Black History Month.

MOVIE REVIEW

Elizabeth

Godmother

By Vladimir Zlevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

Directed by Shekhar Kapur.

Written by Michael Hirst.

With Cate Blanchett, Geoffrey Rush, Joseph Fiennes, Richard Attenborough, Christopher Eccleston.

Not to knock Merchant and Ivory, but the best period dramas are the ones directed by those who can provide the artistic sensibilities complementary to the historical setting. The results were superlative when Martin Scorsese directed *The Age of Innocence* and Iain Softley did *The Wings of the Dove*. This fall saw the release of another movie which falls into this category: *Elizabeth* is directed by Shekhar Kapur, primarily known as the director of the Indian outlaw story *Bandit Queen*. And while I didn't see it when it was first released, I got a second chance after it received a Best Picture Oscar nomination. The attention this film is getting is very much deserved.

Kapur brings to *Elizabeth* visual inventiveness and a sense of historical immediacy, which helps keep this historical drama from feeling like a historical drama. Instead, *Elizabeth* feels more like *The Godfather*, since the similarities are remarkable. This is the story of innocent young princess Elizabeth (Cate Blanchett), who is suddenly thrust into the throne of England.

MOVIE REVIEW

Office Space

Judge's bite toothless

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

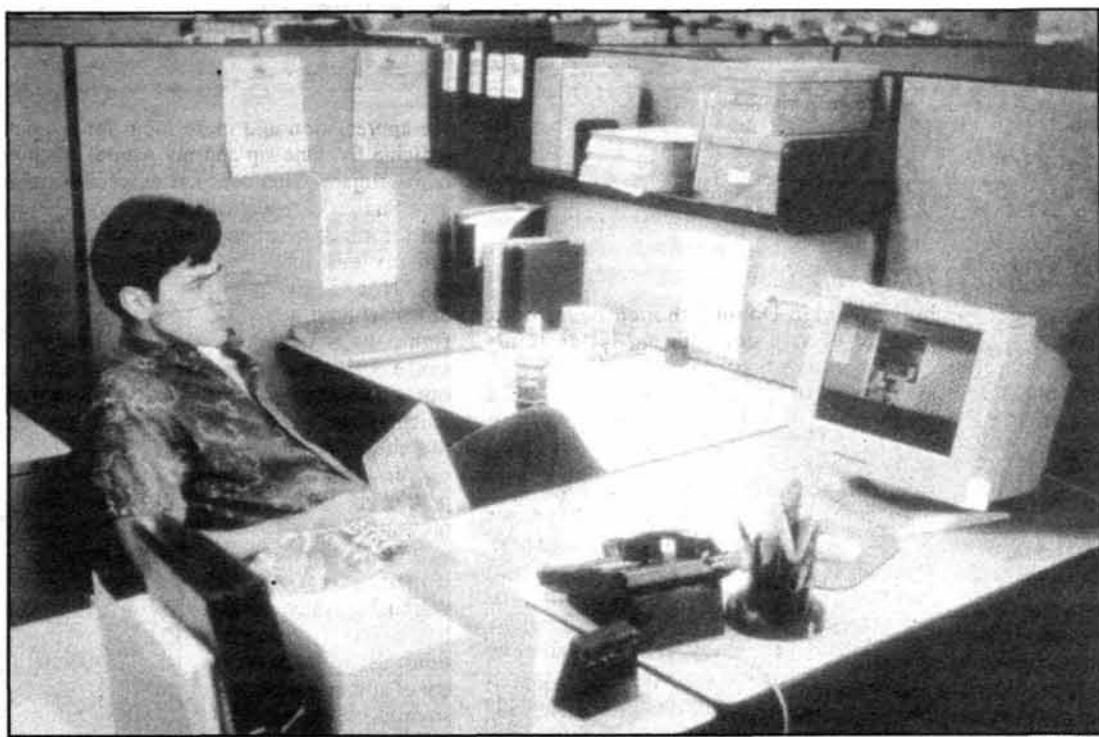
STAFF REPORTER

Written and directed by Mike Judge.
With Ron Livingston, Gary Cole, Jennifer Aniston.

Satire closes by Sunday night, and that doesn't bode well for movies. Perhaps this is why satire is the most underrepresented genre in modern filmmaking. Last year, we had the relatively unnoticed (and, notably, financially underperforming) *Wag the Dog* and *Bullworth*, and that's about it. Now Mike Judge (*Beavis and Butthead*, *King of the Hill*) tries his hand at it, and flunks it. Judge displayed his skill at creating exciting characters in *King*, and healthy viciousness with *B&B*. And while you'd think he'd do a good job with the trials and tribulations of the office space minions, *Office Space* is just entirely too nice.

The story is that of corporate drone Peter Gibbons (Ron Livingston), who gets a major attitude change at the hypnotist when stressed and panicky existence segues into a nirvana state. Now he sleeps in, skips meetings, ignores dress code, pays zero attention to his boss (Gary Cole, amusingly deadpan), and skips work to romance Joanne, a waitress in the diner next door (Jennifer Aniston).

Judge has a sharp eye, and his recreation of the cubicle universe is note-perfect. The minor details (the boss who never parts with his coffee mug, the fight for a better stapler, the pink-slip-wielding consultants, the pointless morale-building slogans) are great, and herein lies a certain problem. For most of its

Ron Livingston stars as a computer programmer in *Office Space*.

first half, *Office Space* bubbles merrily along, content to point out the ridiculous details of its milieu; but it never reaches the boiling point, thus remaining realistic.

My question is: Why? Sure, I could easily relate to the workspace drones of Judge's corporate anthill, but it all makes for a rather low-grade hilarity, with smiles of recognition aplenty, but with real laughs coming only once in a few minutes. Satire can't pull punches; it can't be mild, and it certainly can't leave the impression of being loose and limp. This movie does.

At 88 minutes, it feels long and undercooked, with undercranked tempo and many

rather pointless sequences. Still, the first half is rather agreeable, buoyed by an excellent performance by Cole, who already demonstrated his amazing talent for mimicry in *The Brady Bunch Movie* (he played Mike) and *A Simple Plan*. Here, with his delivery droll and uninflected, each line starting with drawn out "Yyyyyyyyyyaaaaahhhhhh," continuing with some inane request, and ending with "that'd beeee just greeaaaaaaaat" he is a shrewd comic creation.

The rest of the characters are rather bland, looking rather like lifeless cartoons, with no more than two character details to distinguish them from each other. Jennifer Aniston is very

exact on a faulty fax machine.

The ending is rather obvious and not very engaging, and the story really feels like a squandering of a great idea. The most interesting plot tangent — when Peter mentions that from now on he won't be doing anything he doesn't want to, like paying bills and such — is not developed at all. The heart of *Office Space* is, of course, entirely in the right place, but the execution is listless. This movie ends up being cute and easy, and that's not the best choice for what cries out to be a ruthlessly funny satire.

As a postscript, I'd like to mention that I wrote this whole review without mentioning Dilbert even once. Uhh, until now. Oops.

MUSIC REVIEW

Imperial Teen

Catchy tunes and pleasant surprises

By Daniel J. Katz

STAFF REPORTER

There's a pretty good chance that these lyrics ring a bell, but you can't connect a band's name to them: "You're one, you're one, peace and love and empathy..."

Imperial Teen's *You're One* became a minor alternative radio hit in 1996, but despite critical acclaim for the band's debut album, *Seasick*, they never really broke into the mainstream. Now Imperial Teen's second

opportunity for success has come, in the form of their new album, *What Is Not To Love* (London/Slash) and an opening slot on the Marilyn Manson/Hole tour, which will roll into the Worcester Centrum on April 9.

Most of the publicity for this album should come from its first single, *Yoo Hoo*, a steadily grooving toe-tapper which can currently be heard in commercials for the movie *Jawbreaker*. Any listener expecting more of the same on the album will be pretty much unfazed by its first four songs, all quick and

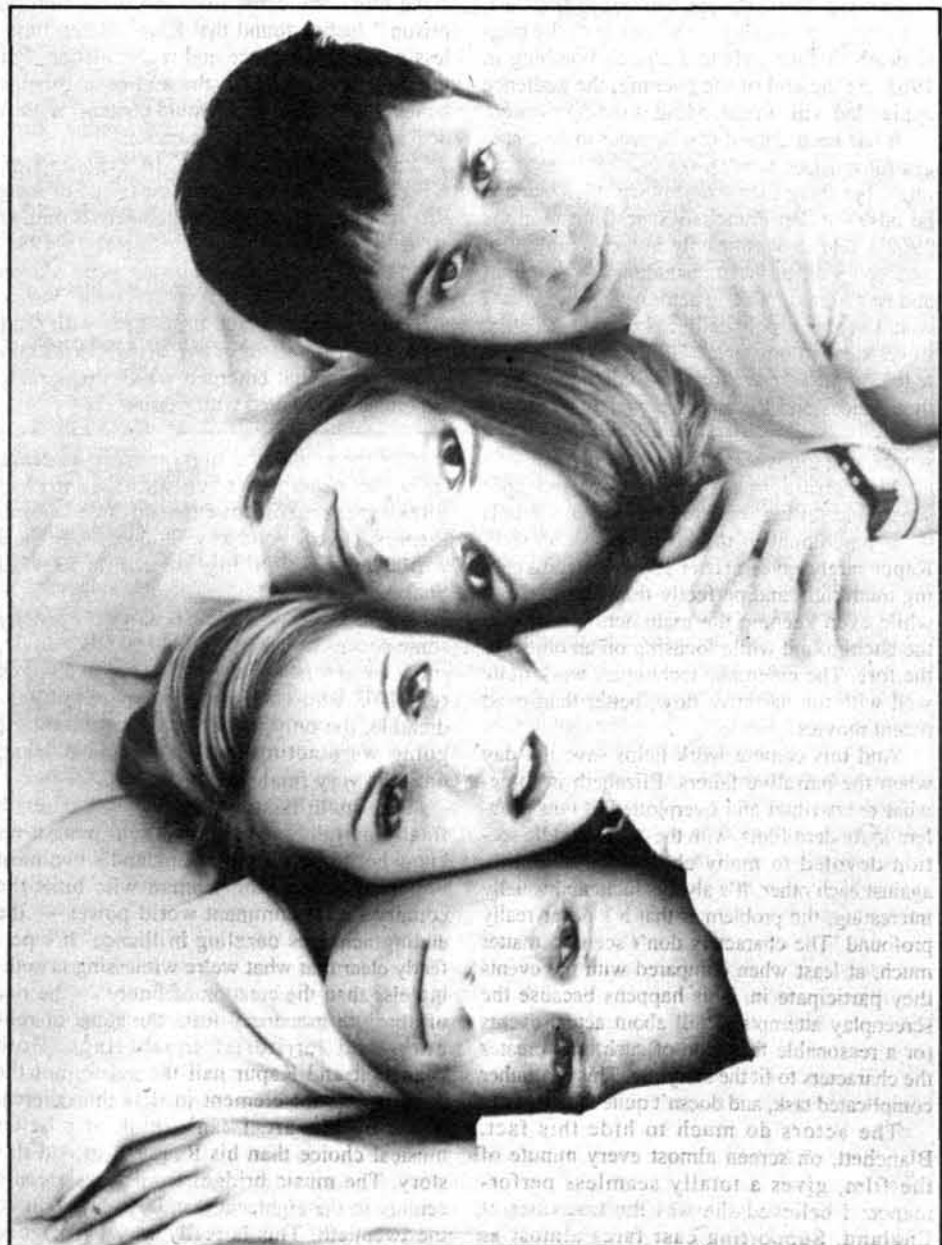
humable pop tunes, including the stumbling rhythms and distortion of *Birthday Girl*, and the fourth track, *Lipstick*, which manages to be driving and restrained at the same time.

After these four songs, however, comes the first surprise of the album, as a mysterious flute sample ushers in *Alone In The Grass*, seven minutes of eerily muffled grunge with a menacing bass line and intermittently piercing guitars. Imperial Teen's vocals are tender and harmonic, and the effect in this song is wonderful, as whispers and echoes of lyrics like "the animal bites only if you provoke it, are delicately laid over the instrumentation." The vocals are also nice in the next track, *Crucible*, but while the song is very pleasant and relaxing, it breaks the momentum of the album somewhat, and might have been better placed at the end.

There are more intriguing moments on the

album: *Seven* is another peaceful ballad, one that doesn't sound quite as empty *Crucible*, and my favorite track, *Hooray*, only features about five lines (including "Hooray for you, hooray for you, looking black, turning blue") which are repeated in various orders for seven minutes. At first glance, this would seem like overkill, but the addition of over-driven guitar noise and screaming vocals develop the song into a delectable piece of organized chaos.

The majority of *What Is Not To Love* is made up of inviting three-minute pop songs that set in with a riff, verse, and chorus, and get out before you have the chance to get bored (a style that reminds me of *Elastica*, whose new album sadly was never released last year). But the deviations from this norm are a breath of fresh air, creating an enjoyable album which functions well for casual listening, but which draws you in at the same time.



(Top to Bottom) Will Schwartz, Lynn Perko, Jone Stebbins and Roddy Bottum of the band Imperial Teen

Gene Siskel
Thumbs up. Hats off.

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

This week saw the passing of one of the most influential of the modern film critics, Gene Siskel. With his colleague, Roger Ebert, he used his TV show with the trademark "thumbs up — thumbs down" rating system to remind filmgoers all over the world of many things about the movies, things so obvious that they usually tend to be forgotten. Remembering Siskel, one can not forget these things.

Movies are fun. In this era when the dominating interest is the sickly curiosity in the peculiar institution of celebrity, when the financial aspects of filmmaking have nearly drowned all the artistic ones, when the studios' giant advertising machines can make a blockbuster out of any expensive stinker, when the movies are gauged to perform for a specific audience segment — in this era, Siskel and Ebert reminded the viewers that the movies still can be fun. I know Siskel watched around three hundred movies a year; the sheer volume would seem certain to dull one's interest in this particular art form. And yet it didn't happen. The best moments on the show were when these two critics — as if purposefully cast for comic reasons, tall and lanky Siskel versus short and stout Ebert — disagreed with each other. Then there would be some passion: real, unrehearsed and unfeigned passion for the medium, which was even more startling if it concerned some run-of-the-mill Hollywood movie of the week. He was lucky to really care for his job.

It's subjectivity that matters. There's nothing as useless as an objective review. Even if such a review could exist, it would be most likely limited to the listing of cast and crew. What really matters in art criticism is subjectivity. Listening to Siskel week after week, one would gain quite a good impression of his personal likes and dislikes, and would be able to predict one's own response to the film. It was like having a good friend, the one who you would trust on comedies and romances, and who, you were sure, would hate just the kind of an action blockbuster you'd love. It was even more impressive when a disagreeing Siskel would listen to Ebert and then suddenly, right on the air, change his opinion. There's nothing better to demonstrate one's integrity than the admission that you're fallible.

It's all about thumbs up or down. Art criticism, which spans a huge spectrum from a dime-a-dozen one paragraph summaries in your free town weekly to the serious books on the theory of film as an art form, is really nothing but the way to express one of two thoughts. I liked it. I didn't like it. And, ultimately, that's all there is. Movies should be fun. And if we give thumbs down, it's not because we like to hate stuff; no, it's because we hope it gets better.

The show must go on, of course, like everything in showbiz. Ebert might get a new partner, or he might do the show by himself, or the studio might just hire two new critics. But Gene Siskel will be remembered.

Thumbs up. Hats off.

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

Gauntlet Legends

Hours of fun for everyone

By Josh Bittker
CHAIRMAN

The success of a video game can be measured by how much money it brings in and by how enjoyable it is to play. Gauntlet Legends wins on both counts. It has action that is as addictive as many of the other well know hits around today. Unlike some modern simulation games that require an investment of dollars at a time and provide 45 seconds worth of play, Legends provides the feeling that something is being accomplished while pulling the coins from your pocket.

A remake of the original Gauntlet from the 80's, Legends is another great example of how far video game design has come. The best features from the original game, including 4 player cooperative play, the omnipresent voice providing advice (and imploring you to sink more money into the game), and enemies such as Death are all revisited in this version. (Death steals 100 points if you don't use magic on it, and each 50 cent credit buys 500 health; in what other game can you say that Death costs 10 cents?) In addition, there is a rich storyline and a great improvement on game play and involvement.

The goal of the game is to collect the 4 keys required to open the Altar of Skorne, as well as the 12 rune stones to defeat the enemy found there. There are 4 realms to choose from, each with several levels. The rune stones are hidden throughout the realms, while the keys are held by the bosses at the end of each realm.

There are several more subtle themes throughout the game. Each player control corresponds to a color (red, blue, green, and yellow) and each color corresponds to one of the four realms (mountain, castle, forest, and pyramid). The appearances of each character varies depending on the color being used; for example, yellow characters have an Egyptian look to them.

One of the best and most attractive improvements to the game is the ability to save characters and return to them later on. This

allows the accumulation of experience, levels, and completed missions. Each player can select initials and a password, which allows characters to be built, improved upon, and saved for later. One of the reasons this game is such a great money maker is that it becomes easier the more you play, since your character becomes more powerful and can more easily defeat the lower levels of the game.

Saving characters reveals special abilities as each character gains more experience. The four basic characters are the same as the original Gauntlet, warrior, valkyrie, archer, and wizard, each with its own advantages and disadvantages. However, at higher levels, each becomes more powerful and unique. The wizard can become a mage at level 10, and at even higher levels, characters such as the warrior and valkyrie can become a minotaur or tigress. Individual ability points like strength or magic can also be purchased with gold collected during play.

Even without playing for hours to reach these levels, Legends is much more involved than the original Gauntlet because of the many powerups and special attacks available. Unlike the original, where each player could only have one powerup at a time, Legends allows multiple powers and attacks. It is possible to be an invisible, invulnerable mage with five way shot and acid breath.

Special attacks have also been upgraded. Magic can be used to form a longer lasting shield to kill enemies in addition to blasting everyone on the screen. Even more impressive are the turbo attacks, controlled by a power meter that slowly regenerates. Allowing three levels of power, these special attacks are unique to each character, allowing attacks such as the wizard's demon skull or the archer's amusing BFG (a well known acronym to assassin types).

Other humorous elements have also been added to make for interesting play. To play on the common problem of one player stealing the treasure in a chest another player has opened, the voices of the characters now



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

John Plourde explores a desert city in Gauntlet Legends.

argue when items are stolen. Some of the more interesting powerups are anti-Death power, which lets you steal life points from Death, and the Pojo egg, which lets you become Pojo, the fire-breathing chicken.

There are some problems with the game play of the arcade version. One of these is the difficulty in coordinating all four players at once. The screen will zoom out as players move apart, but there is a limit to this, after which players can be trapped on opposite sides of the screen. While this encourages cooperation, it makes the reality of the game less impressive. Another difficulty is in using the joysticks for the two outer players on the game. The sticks are calibrated such that towards the screen is forward, but it is neces-

sary to stand sideways to play with four people, resulting in more confusing control.

Clearly, however, a lot of people are willing to spend a lot of money on this game, as indicated by the fact that there is often a crowd around the game, both playing and watching while waiting to play. Fortunately for all of our wallets, this game is coming out for Nintendo 64 and Sony Playstation this spring. Sony will only support two player simultaneous play, eliminating one of the best features of the game, but Nintendo will support four player play, the way the game is meant to be. The anticipated release date for Nintendo is May 25. Fortunately for students, this is after finals this year, or many grades would undoubtedly suffer.

FOOD REVIEW

Burdick Chocolates

Chocolate to die for

By Kate Samranvedhya
STAFF REPORTER

L. A. Burdick
Handmade Chocolates
52 Brattle Street
Cambridge, MA

As I was looking for a perfect place to write on a cold winter night during Valentine's weekend, I saw a petite Chocolate shop on Brattle street. It reminded me of a small artisan shop in Europe. I knew then, I'd found my romantic Valentine's place.

I went in for a cup of hot chocolate.

Mr. Burdick was not there for an interview, but his hot chocolate spoke for the fine quality of Burdick chocolate. Topped with the foam of steamed milk, his hot chocolate was rich, thick, and creamy. Each sip filled my mouth with the fullness of chocolate, unlike any hot chocolate I had ever tried before. My chocolate break on a tiny table for two was perfect for such a cold winter night.

Like any other cafe, Burdick Chocolate offers a variety of fine tea, many forms of coffee, a choice of fruit salad, and perhaps a plate of green salad with prosciutto. The main attraction, however, is Burdick Chocolate. Each little piece of Burdick Chocolate is made by hand. Each ingredient that goes into his chocolate is of superb quality, such as Valrhona from France. If you think Godiva is good, Burdick has a different, higher standard. When you have tried his chocolate, the taste will linger in your mind, making

you return again and again.

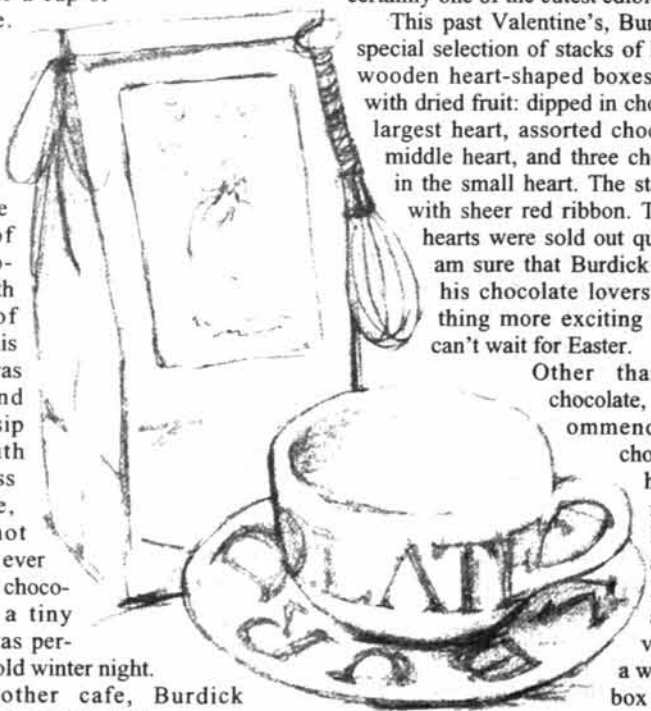
Everything about Burdick Chocolate reminds me of the best-quality French small chocolate producers. They are good, rare, and, for a chocolate fan like I am, to-die-for. And now, chocolate of such quality is right here in Harvard square, not New York, not Paris.

To sample his chocolate, make sure you get one of the inch-high mice. Each mouse comes with almond ears and a silk tail. The dark chocolate mice have the orange tint, while the milk ones have dark chocolate with mocha, and the white chocolate mice are filled with dark chocolate and cinnamon. They are certainly one of the cutest edible mice.

This past Valentine's, Burdick made a special selection of stacks of hearts. Three wooden heart-shaped boxes were filled with dried fruit: dipped in chocolate in the largest heart, assorted chocolate in the middle heart, and three chocolate mice in the small heart. The stack was tied with sheer red ribbon. The stacks of hearts were sold out quickly. Yet, I am sure that Burdick will present his chocolate lovers with something more exciting each time. I can't wait for Easter.

Other than assorted chocolate, which I recommend, Burdick chocolate offers hot chocolate mix with Burdick cup and saucer, Linzer torte, a rum-flavored cigar in a wooden box, a box of 16 mice, chocolate-dipped dried fruit, or even a picnic basket of chocolate.

The only thing I would recommend is more tables in his Cambridge branch. I find it hard to get a seat, especially on a cold night when everyone seems to want a cup of hot chocolate. If you are lucky enough to be seated, treat yourself with some pastries, which are equally good with the chocolate. Drink the hot chocolate to the last drip and you will see what lies on the bottom of Burdick chocolate.



FOOD REVIEW

The Essential Vegetarian

More than just lettuce

By Katharyn Jeffreys
STAFF REPORTER

Welcome to the Essential Vegetarian, a new column focused on being vegetarian. Each week I will bring you recipes, restaurant reviews, and strange but true vegetarian facts. This week's column is just a brief introduction to vegetarianism, and to me, your faithful columnist.

Me first. I am a sophomore here at MIT studying Environmental Engineering and Literature. "What a load of tree huggin' hippy bullshit," you say. Well, maybe. But I think that vegetarianism is a good thing for many reasons.

I have been a vegetarian for over three years now. It was not hard to give up meat. I spent a summer eating very little meat, and when I came home, my mother served me a large, juicy steak. "Yum yum," you say. While this may have been appealing to me at one time, I just couldn't stomach the flesh. So from then on I was a veggie girl in a meat and potatoes household.

Since declaring my distaste for meat I have discovered many other reasons why being vegetarian is good. Aside from the obvious health benefits of eliminating fatty animal products from one's diet, vegetarianism has many environmental benefits.

Random Fact Number One: According to a study published this month by the USDA, a dairy cow produces over 20 tons of manure each year, and a meat cow produces about half that. This amounts to approximately five tons of manure for each American. That is a lot, considering the average American only produces about 80 pounds of the stuff.

Aside from the obvious aesthetic displeasure associated with feces, manure has important environmental impact when nutrients from it enter our water systems (some of which we then consume). Most of the water then travels to large bodies of water, causing fish to be killed.

"Isn't manure a fertilizer, and therefore good?" you ask. Yes, manure is in fact full of nutrients that in moderation helps plants grow. Unfortunately this concentration of phosphorus, nitrogen, etc., leaching into water supplies results in excessive growth and decay of algae. This in turn causes the depletion of dissolved oxygen in the water, or hypoxia, meaning that fish and other organisms cannot survive. In the Gulf of Mexico, the algae in the nutrient enriched waters have created a 7,000 square mile "dead zone" that can no longer support life.

One final reason to be vegetarian is the animal rights aspect. Animals raised for slaughter often live in unreasonable and unsanitary conditions. It is an unpleasant thought, indeed, to consider that your Big Mac once waded through a slop composed of blood, waste, and dirt on its way to slaughter.

On that happy note, I will now answer that question that I know you are asking, "What exactly is a vegetarian anyhow?" The proper, accepted definition is a person who consumes no animal flesh (meat). Yes fish are animals. So are chickens. So anyone who eats fish or poultry and calls themselves a vegetarian is in fact not one. But I would applaud their efforts to reduce meat consumption.

This is also the reason why I get slightly miffed at restaurants, such as Border Cafe in Harvard Square, who put fish on their vegetarian menu. If it once had fur, fins, feathers, or a face, it is NOT vegetarian!

Enough ranting for one week, I don't want to scare all you readers away. If you have any questions about vegetarianism, or if you just want to yell at me, feel free to e-mail me (jeffreys@mit.edu) and I will answer your questions in this column. Next week I will have a more typical column filled with talk about vegetarian food, which I promise you will go far beyond lettuce.

DANCE REVIEW

SP@MIT

Celebrate —
don't inebriateBy Fred Choi
STAFF REPORTER

The signs for SP@MIT first appeared around campus a few weeks ago. They were rather enigmatic, consisting of an "SP" followed by a picture of a cute cartoon character wearing headphones (the MITDMC's logo, "Mixie," created by president and founder Philip Tan, '01), followed by "MIT." People wondered what the picture had to do with "Stupid People @ MIT," the phrase usually associated with the acronym "SPAMIT," but it didn't take too long for the word to be redefined in its new context. All last week the MIT Dance Music Coalition, a group formed to provide opportunities for MIT's student disc jockeys to interact musically and socially, played music in Lobby 10 and passed out flyers advertising their "Sudden Party." The flyer described the event as being a "multi-media spontaneous spinning spectacle" that would involve the Anime Club, the Dance Troupe, the Ballroom Dance Troupe, as well as two guest DJs. However, the publicity confused more than one reader as to how much of the event would be dancing as opposed to watching other people dance. Regardless, a good number of people turned out for the event, approximately 400-450 in total, and at its peak about 200-250 people at one time.

The inspiration for SP@MIT came to Tan last December. He said, "the idea was to have [a first year] anniversary party for the MITDMC. Then some of my friends who do ballroom dancing showed me how some of my music could be used for ballroom dance, and the idea stuck. From there, Dance Troupe was

a pretty obvious idea." Tan also relates that the idea for showing Anime in the background came from a practice gig MITDMC had at East Campus where it worked well, and that he got in touch with the Anime club after that.

Although SP@MIT was scheduled to begin at 9:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 19 and Maggie Oh '00, the first DJ of the night, started her set at that time, the doors to La Sala de Puerto Rico, where the event was being held, didn't actually open until around 9:20 p.m. Even though it made sense for the DMC to wait until there was a decent-sized crowd before letting people onto the dance floor so that the place didn't look dead as people trickled in, many of the people who had come itching to dance had complaints about having to wait. Fortunately this was the only real cause for complaint for what turned out to be a fun and unique event.

By the time I arrived at La Sala around 9:30 p.m., there was a large circle of about 30 people dancing, as well as the expected number of wallflowers hanging around watching and drinking soda. Things quickly picked up, though, as more and more people came. By 10:30 p.m. the dance floor was comfortably full. The evening's DJing was lead by Maggie Oh, who made her MITDMC debut without batting an eye. Paragon Productions, made up of Dan Wang, an MIT alum, and George Hu (DJ Envy), from the Boston area, followed, and then Jeremy Warner, '99, performed. The music was a variety of electronic music, including progressive house, euro, electronica, bubblegum, and house/rave techno. To break the possible monotony there were also some hip-hop tracks played during the night.

A notable event of the evening was the 5 minute turntablist performance of DJ Obi-1 (Isaac Murakami, MIT Alum), based in Washington DC. Turntablism, a relatively new DJ style, showcases a DJ's ability to manipulate the turntables rather than on producing actual danceable music. Although there were a few people dancing to Obi-1's music and there were several people who

were familiar with turntablism who cheered the DJ as he performed his feats (like taking normal 4/4 tracks and warping them into different time signatures), most people stood around fairly bored as they waited for the dance music to come back on. The final DJ of the evening, Shwilly B (from the Boston area), played a more hardcore techno set which I personally enjoyed the most out of all the music played that night.

However, there were quite a few people who did not find the music to their taste, and left soon after the start of his set.

Along with playing great music, there were also 4 large platforms, a few feet high, that provided extra entertainment. These were set up around the dance floor and those who were feeling particularly inspired to show off their moves could dance on them. As the evening went on, more and more people danced on the platforms in large groups. In addition to the platforms, there was also a screen set up behind the tables where the DJs were set up. The screen featured various slides, such as the one which featured Mixie and the words, "Celebrate - Don't inebriate," a point that Tan and the DMC feel strongly about. There were also slides for the DJs names as they performed their sets, and throughout

the night anime, provided by the Anime Club, was shot up on the right side of the screen. Many of the videos shown were from compilations from the Anime Club, which showcased a broad spectrum of genres, ranging from recent anime TV series such as *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, to a fantasy movie called, *Dragon Half*. The videos provided entertainment for people taking a break from dancing.

A pause in the dancing occurred at 10:00

p.m. when four girls began dancing in formation, "a choreographed dance which often involves identical movements which concentrate on the precision of the preformed steps." The four (Jen Hammock G, Yen-Hong Lim G, Wendy Luo G, and Vikky Kheifets '00) immediately drew attention and people stopped dancing to watch them dance to a latin house track. The routine was originally choreographed by Russel Jackson of the Fred Astair's Dance Studio of Boston, but was modified to fit the event. Tan says that, "The

Ballroom Dance Team dancers worked very hard on this piece and in close cooperation with the MIT Dance Mix Coalition. It was a unique experience for all of us." Kheifets agrees, that although the dancing was different from what she normally does it was "very interesting," and that the transition between their dance and the rest of the dancing was very smooth. The crowd was extremely appreciative of the Ballroom Dance Team members' exhibition, and many would have liked to have seen more from them and other campus dance groups. (Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Dance Troupe was unable to perform as scheduled).

Overall I found SP@MIT to be very enjoyable. The worst complaints that I had were that the music was a little louder than it needed to be, the coat situation wasn't ideal, and there weren't any snacks to munch on. The lights, music, and space were club-esque, but the variety of music, anime, and Ballroom Dance Team's appearance made the event a truly unique and fun experience. For those of you who like dancing and missed SP@MIT, we can only wait and see if next year the MITDMC will organize another great campus-wide event like this one.

LECTURE REVIEW

James Ellroy

Ellroy Rules! Chomsky Drools!

By Tzu-Mai Chen

On the back of James Ellroy's latest book, *Crime Wave* (Vintage Books, 288 pages, \$12), the publisher describes the collection as "written in prose as wounding as an ice pick." Those who have sampled Ellroy's stories know that this description is apt: He writes clearly and forcefully, frequently repeating words and phrases until they stab straight into the mind.

Ellroy looks like a man who might very well decide to take after somebody with an ice pick himself. In the photo on the inside of *Crime Wave*, he is a large, intimidating presence, hunched forward with eyes glaring up at the viewer. After seeing this picture, one can easily understand how Ellroy received the moniker of "Demon Dog of American Literature."

His first novel, *Brown's Requiem*, was published in 1981. Since then, he has written ten other novels dealing with crime and corruption, including *L.A. Confidential*, which was adapted into an Oscar-winning film.

He has also written a memoir, *My Dark Places*, about his mother's unsolved murder, which happened in 1958 when Ellroy was only ten. At that time, his parents were divorced, and despite his desire to stay with his father, Ellroy was forced to live with his mother for the majority of each week. As a result, he grew to resent and even hate Jean Ellroy. Her death was initially a relief, an act which finally gave him the freedom to move in with his idolized father.

However, Ellroy gradually came to realize that his life was being molded by his mother, whether he liked it or not. His obsession with crime can be easily traced back to his mother's death. "My mother's murder mandated my intellectual agenda for the next forty years," he told me during our interview. As for his father? "I became disillusioned with my father over time," Ellroy said. "I understood that he was a pathological liar. He doesn't have much allure for me, he doesn't hold any surprises."

His father died when Ellroy was seventeen. Ellroy was already a high school dropout, and he had just dropped out of the army as well. His life quickly spiraled downwards in a whirlwind of drugs and alcohol. He was evicted from several apartments, committing petty crimes, and ended up doing some

time in jail. Finally, in 1975, Ellroy was nearly driven insane through drug overuse. It was then that he decided it was time to clean up.

"I'm happy with the way things turned out," he said. "I turned my life around when I was 29 years old." The cynicism that can be found in his books isn't in him. He told me, "There was a leftist pundit, I think, who once said 'Who are we to give up hope?' I'm a hopeful... very happily married guy who tries hard to live a decent life."

On Monday evening, the night of Ellroy's reading, I saw a large group of people standing in Lobby 10, looking up at a television screen that, for the moment, was flashing a black-and-white advertisement for Networks. I found out later that these were people who had failed to arrive early enough to fit either in the lecture hall where Noam Chomsky was scheduled to speak, or in the overflow room that had been allocated for that talk. As a result, these people were forced to wait for Chomsky's speech to appear on MITV.

Ellroy's reading was well-attended, but at nowhere near the full capacity of 26-100. No matter, immediately after being introduced by Associate Dean Perelman, Ellroy strode to the blackboard. He picked up a piece of dark pink chalk and proceeded to write in proud letters, "Ellroy Rules! Chomsky Drools!" The audience cheered wildly. That set the tone for the rest of the evening.

Ellroy extolled the virtues of his books in a manner not unlike that of a quack doctor preaching his wares. "These books cure AIDS!" he shouted. "These books cure cancer, the common cold and the creeping crud!" Holding up a copy of *Crime Wave*, he promised, "If each and every one of you buy one thousand copies of this book, you will be able to have unlimited sex with each and every person on this Earth that you desire, every night for the rest of your lives!"

Next, Ellroy read an excerpt from *Tijuana, Mon Amour*, one of the novellas that can be found in *Crime Wave*. Taking place in the '50s, the satirical story is narrated by Danny Getchell, the fictional editor-in-chief of a sleazy Hollywood tabloid named *Hush-Hush*. Ellroy's grandiose and booming voice matches that of Getchell perfectly, perhaps because both are exquisite performers who know how to grab attention. When Ellroy finished reading from his excerpt, he flung the book care-

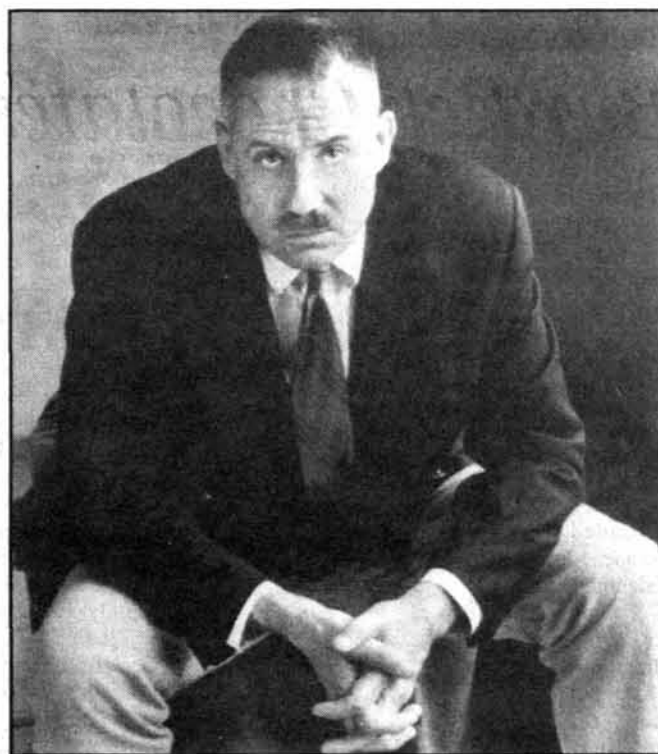
lessly aside and raised his arms like a career politician after a speech. The audience burst into tumultuous applause.

Crime Wave is a collection of stories and essays that were published in *GQ* magazine between 1993 and 1999. The book is divided up into four sections, the first which is titled *Unsolved*. It contains three non-fictional essays, each detailing the investigation of a different unsolved murder, including that of Ellroy's mother. Ellroy describes each case in a detached and clinical fashion, creating a stark depiction of the harrowing nature of police work. Ellroy makes sure readers understand what happened in each unsolved crime. As a result, he makes it very easy for readers to grasp his own obsession with his mother's death.

The second section is titled *Getchell*. It contains two stories, *Hush-Hush* and *Tijuana, Mon Amour*, set in a fictionalized version of L.A. in the '50s. Getchell is the caricatured anti-hero of both, telling tales of corruption among the celebrities of that era. His style of narration is more than distracting; Getchell has a nasty habit of thinking in alliterative form, with lines such as, "The truth is my moral mandate. Dirt digs define my devotion to that difficult discipline." It may be difficult for some readers to slog through the sticky morass of words. But if one can accomplish that, what's left are two highly entertaining stories that sketch out an alternative world where everyone in L.A. has gone comically insane with greed.

Contino is the third section, and contains an essay and novella. The essay, "Out of the Past," relates the true history of Dick Contino, who, in 1947, at the age of seventeen, found national fame as an accordion player. His reputation was tarnished, however, when he was drafted into the Korean War and fled boot camp out of pure, simple fear. Contino did eventually make it over to Korea, but, the damage had been done. After the war, he never again regained his full celebrity status.

Ellroy, who faked his way out of army service shortly before the Vietnam War, latched

James Ellroy, author of *Crime Wave*.

onto Contino as a key to his own past. The result is *Hollywood Shakedown*, which fictionalizes Contino as its hero. *Shakedown* contains a much different atmosphere than any of the Getchell stories; this world is darker and more serious in tone. Unlike Getchell, Contino is a three-dimensional character, and through his explorations, Ellroy again manages to travel the corrupt side of Hollywood.

The final section is titled *L.A.*, and contains scathing indictment of O.J. Simpson, a wonderfully human look into the workings of the Homicide Department of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, an article about the filming of the movie adaptation of *L.A. Confidential*, and an affectionate look back at Ellroy's junior high school, which he describes as "my own Camelot." The essays are written with a great deal of passion, and it is very clear that Ellroy has accomplished more than a simple recounting of fact; imbued in each essay are pieces of Ellroy himself.

But this should come as no surprise. Whether speaking or writing, James Ellroy is a direct man who allows his actions to be honestly driven by strong emotion. "The Demon Dog of American Literature" is not a sham. Neither are his stories, and in that fact lies their power.

Popular Music

Avalon

Next: 423-NEXT.
Mar. 4: Soul Brains. \$15.
Mar. 13: Better Than Ezra. \$15.
Mar. 17: rubyhorse. \$12. On sale Feb. 27 at 10 a.m.
Mar. 18: Salt-N-Pepa. \$17.50.
Mar. 19: The Corrs. \$15.
Mar. 20: Buffalo Tom. \$16.
Mar. 22: Stabbing Westward + Placebo. \$15.
Apr. 3: Love + Rockets. \$18. On sale 2/27 at 10 a.m.
Apr. 9: moe. \$15. On sale Feb. 27 at 10 a.m.

The Orpheum Theatre

Ticketmaster: 931-2000.
Mar. 13: Jonny Lang. \$27.50.
Mar. 20: Jeff Beck. Sold out.
May 4: Sheryl Crow + Semisonic. \$32.50, \$27.50. On sale Feb. 27 at 10 a.m.

Fleet Center

Ticketmaster: 931-2000.
Feb. 28: Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band. Sold out.
Mar. 3: Rod Stewart. \$85.25, \$50.25, \$38.75.
Mar. 16: 'N Sync. Sold out.
Mar. 22-23: The Rolling Stones + Goo Goo Dolls. Sold out.
Mar. 27: Jay-Z + DMX + Method Man. Sold out.

The Roxy

Ticketmaster: 931-2000.
Mar. 16: Sebadoh. \$13.
Worcester Centrum Centre
Ticketmaster: 931-2000.
Mar. 22: Jay-Z + DMX + Method Man. \$35, \$25.
Apr. 9: Marilyn Manson + Hole + Monster Magnet. \$29.50.

Great Woods

Ticketmaster: 931-2000.
Mar. 24: 'N Sync. \$39.50 pavilion, \$24.50 lawn.

The Middle East

Ticketmaster: 931-2000.
Feb. 26: One Fell Swoop
Feb. 26: Psychotic Larry
Feb. 27: Schleigho.
Feb. 27: Everything + Heavy Metal Horns.
Feb. 28: Get High.
Mar. 1: Jon Pousette-Dart.
Mar. 5: Lee 'Scratch' Perry.
Mar. 18: Blue Oyster Cult.

Paradise Rock Club

Next: 423-NEXT.
Feb. 26: The Nields.
Feb. 27: Gigolo Aunts.
Mar. 8: Eagle Eye Cherry.
Mar. 11: Max Creek.
Mar. 12: Rufus Wainwright.
Mar. 13: Entrain.
Mar. 19: Dance Hall Crashers.
Mar. 20: Barry and the Remains.
Mar. 23: Silverchair.

On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston
February 26 – March 5

Compiled by Joel M. Rosenberg

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

Mar. 24: Hepcat.
Mar. 25: Gov't Mule.

Axis

Ticketmaster: 931-2000.
Feb. 24: DeeJay Punk Roc + Barry Ashworth. \$8.
Mar. 6: Low Fidelity Allstars. \$6.
Mar. 23: Kid Rock. \$9.
Mar. 24: Vast. \$7.

Jazz Music

Regattabar

Tickets: 661-5000.
Feb. 26-28: The Elvin Jones Jazz Machine.
Mar. 2: Matt Gordy Quintet.
Mar. 3-6: John Scofield Quartet.
Mar. 9: The Riverboat Stompers.
Mar. 10: The Fully Celebrated Orchestra.

Sculler's

Tickets: 562-4111
Feb. 26-27: Mark Murphy & Sheila Jordan.
Mar. 4: Victor Mendoza Latin Jazz Sextet.
Mar. 5-6: Roy Hargrove Sextet.
Mar. 13-15: Jimmy Scott.

Classical Music

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Tickets: 266-1492. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1:30 p.m. \$23-\$71; rush seats \$7.50 day of concert, on sale Fridays from 9 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m.. Free tickets for MIT students Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons, call 638-9478 for availability.

Feb. 26-27: Vivaldi, 'The Four Seasons.' Stravinsky, Suite from 'Pulcinella.' Sold out.
Mar. 4-6: James Conlon, Conductor. Sarah Chang, violin. Hindemith, 'Konzertmusik' for strings and brass. Bartok, Piano Concerto No. 2. Prokofiev, Suite from 'Romeo and Juliet.'

Theater

Blue Man Group

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

Valparaiso

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

The Master Builder

American Repertory Theatre at the Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge (547-8300), in repertory through March 21. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Feb. 27 and March 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 18, 19, and 20, and at 7 p.m. March 14; there are matinees at 2 p.m. Feb. 27 and March 6, 14, and 21, and at 10:30 a.m. March 19. Tix \$23 to \$55.

Ragtime

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

Shear Madness

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

Exhibits

Computer Museum

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

"People and Computers: Milestones of a Revolution," explores a number of ways computers impact everyday life. In the Smart Machines Theater a multi-media show features NASA's Mars Rover, R2-D2, Shakey, Sea Rover, and other robots. Through Nov. 30: "Wizards and Their Wonders: Portraits in Computing." Ongoing: "Virtual FishTank."

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston. (566-1401), Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$10, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID (\$3 on Wed.), free for children under 18. The museum, built in the style of a 15th-century Venetian palace, houses more than 2500 art objects, with emphasis on Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Dutch works. Among the highlights are works by Rembrandt, Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, and Whistler. Guided tours given Fridays at 2:30 p.m. Through April 25: "Josiah McElheney: The Story of Glass."

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. (267-9300), Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. West Wing open Thurs.-Fri. until 9:45 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$10, \$8 for students and seniors, children under 17 free; \$2 after 5 p.m. Thurs.-Fri., free Wed. after 4 p.m. Mon.-Fri.: introductory walks through all collections begin at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; "Asian, Egyptian, and Classical Walks" begin at 11:30 a.m.; "American Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 12:30 p.m.; "European Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 2:30 p.m.; Introductory

tours are also offered Sat. at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Museum of Science

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

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

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

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

SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR RYAN PHILLIPPE
and REESE WITHERSPOON

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BSO Rush Tickets

Not for the weak spirited

By Jonathan Richmond

ADVISORY BOARD

The music was mesmerizing: Pain rarely gets delivered with such rapture as from the agonized legato of the Boston Symphony Orchestra strings as they underlined Butterfly's destiny; or from brilliant wind playing whose elements of bright hope blended with other orchestral voices to spell plangent despair. This was Seiji Ozawa leading the BSO in a performance where music has no restrictions and the larger than life is entirely credible.

The spellbinding singing of Paula Delligatti, — the evening's Madame Butterfly — was special, for artifice seemed absent while the strangely fictitious truth that is art was projected with the purity which music alone can provide. The power of her performance drew on the stature of Ozawa's complex yet transparent conception: one in which music became unbridled emotion. This was a great orchestra at work and being led by genius through a golden age.

Ozawa's 25th anniversary season with the BSO is clearly special — and if you haven't planned in advance, there's a way to get in to a sold-out performance on the day as I did Wednesday night. 100 rush tickets are sold for every Tuesday and Thursday evening performance (and for the occasional Wednesday), starting at 5 p.m. They only cost \$8 and if you turn up an hour early you should generally be ok: the fact that the BSO makes you wait outside, coupled with the current freezing weather is helpful, as it deters those of weaker spirit.

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Uninsulated Pipe Freezes, Bursts at Baker House

By Dan McGuire
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

A sprinkler nozzle burst Wednesday evening in Baker House, dropping an inch of water onto the area around the dormitory's front desk and creating a miniature waterfall down the outer wall of the building.

The water rushing from burst nozzle also caused a drop in the water pressure of the dormitory's sprinkler system, setting off the fire alarm and forcing an evacuation of the building.

Professor William B. Watson, Baker House's housemaster, said that design and construction errors in last summer's renovation of the lobby area contributed to the sprinkler failure.

House Manager Kenneth Winsor said that before the renovation, the sprinkler pipes hung down from the ceiling into the room. As part of the renovation, the pipes were moved into a utility space between the drop ceiling and the roof of the building.

"As I understand it, what happened was that the sprinkler head over the front desk froze and then it thawed," he said. When the ice thawed, the nozzle broke. "The pipes were not adequately insulated for the area in which they resided."

Watson said that the sprinkler break was a symptom of a larger problem: the lack of heat in the front desk area. "We think that the front lobby is too cold and we want more heat in that area.... Desk workers have been complaining that it's too cold," he said. Portable heaters are currently being used to keep the desk area

warm.

Watson said that a permanent solution would probably need to wait until the summer to be implemented. In the interim, Winsor said that MIT had installed insulation on other pipes running over the front desk.

Leak causes little visible damage

The leak, while spectacular, did not cause any significant damage to the front desk. Volunteers managed to mop up most of the water before it had a chance to seep in and cause damage.

A computer set up to monitor the status of the dormitory's doors was damaged, said Winsor. Papers sitting at the front desk, such as catalogs, were also ruined.

Some pieces of mail were also drenched. "There was some [damage] to some Interdepartmental mail, I don't know for what dorms," said Christina L. Gehrke '99, the Baker House desk captain.

Gehrke said that residents' U.S. mail had not been affected. "Most of the packages were okay. Nobody's told me about any problems," she said.

Watson said that while the front desk itself weathered the spill, the front desk's ceiling may have suffered lasting damage.

False alarms not a new problem

Watson said that he raised the issue of frequent fire alarms at Baker House when he spoke before the Cambridge Licensing Commission this week on an alcohol issue. "I felt very badly that false alarms were very frequent [we were having them] once or twice a year," he said.

"We have a new system and I

don't expect the fire alarms and smoke detectors to malfunction because it's all very new," he said. "I was very confident that we had gotten over the previous problem where aging equipment would cause false alarms," he added.

Watson said that continued false

alarms could be a safety risk. "False alarms... breed false confidence in students," he said. "If we have a real fire in Baker house, students will think that it is just another false alarm," he said.

Watson said that he was pleased how Baker residents

responded to Wednesday's alarm. "When the alarm sounded everyone responded promptly to it. There were a couple of hundred people outside five minutes after the alarm sounded. My hope is that we take these alarms seriously in the future."



A freezing pipe triggered a fire sprinkler near Baker House's front desk Wednesday evening, causing a small flood.

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Sponsored by the Office of Career Services and Preprofessional Advising

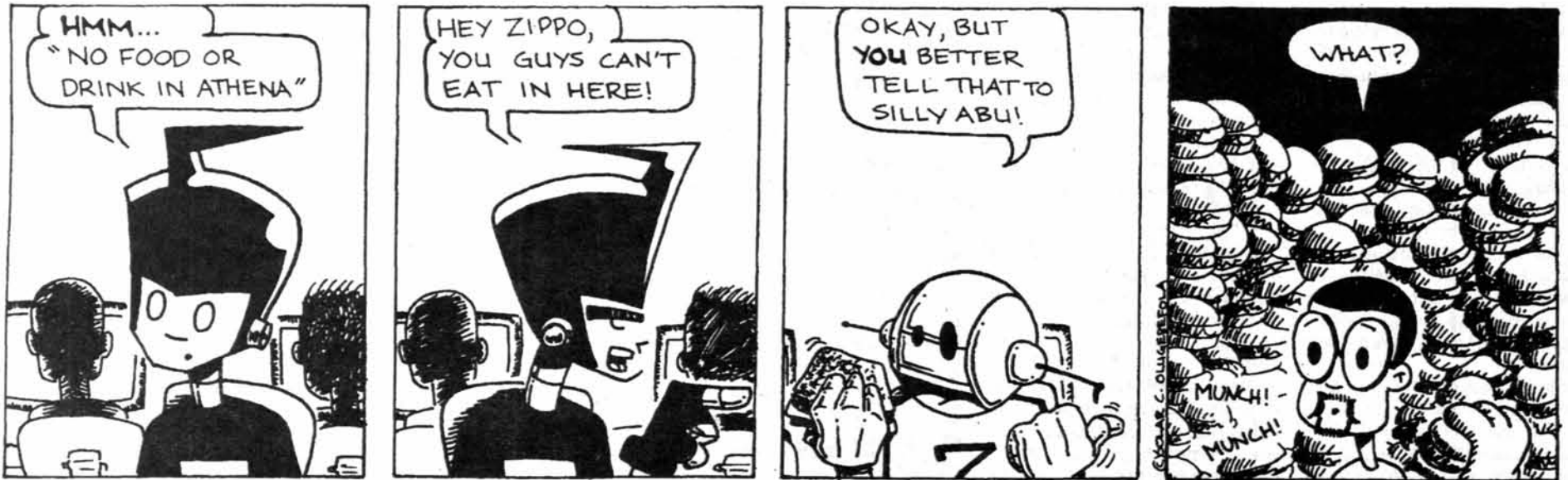
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Spring 1999 Workshops Include:

- Get a Job: Navigating OCSPA's New On-line System for Campus Recruitment
- Smart Resumes, Cover Letters, and CV's
- Winning Interview Techniques
- Navigating the Job & Internship Market: Effective Job Search Strategies
- Finding a Place to Start: Self-Assessment
- Competencies that Build Leaders in the New Millennium
- Special presentation for graduate students by Dr. Peter Fiske "To Boldly Go: Career Planning for Scientists and Engineers", April 9 at 2:00pm

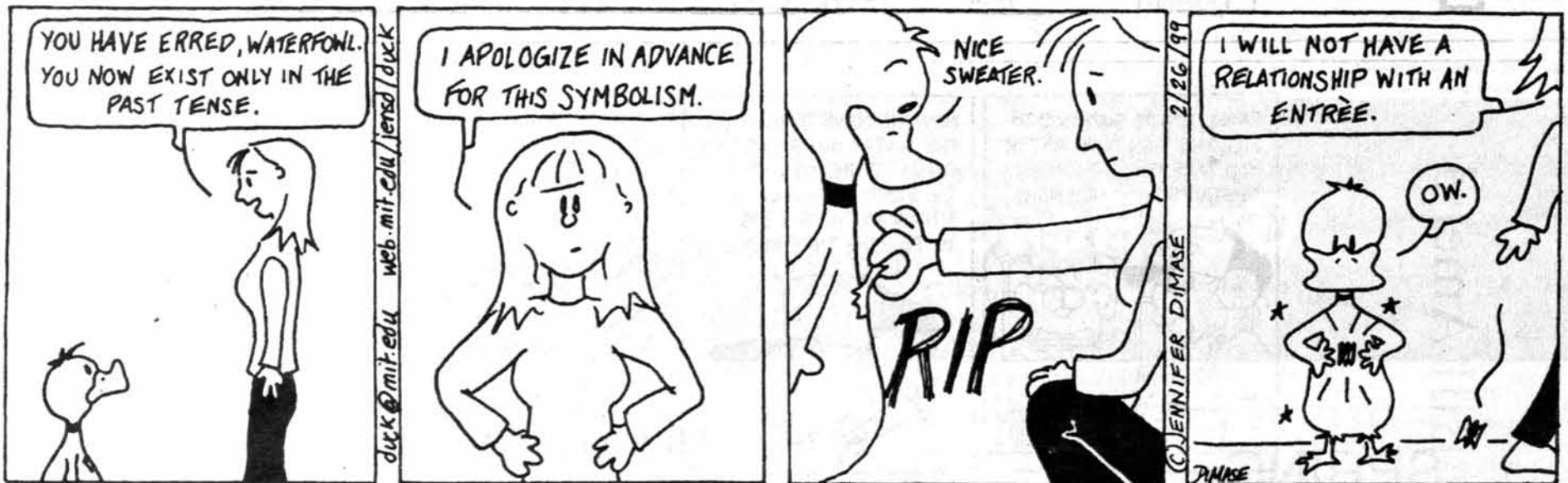
For additional information or to register for one of the workshops, please refer to the OCSPA website.
<http://web.mit.edu/career/www/calendar.html>

BARTHOLEMEW SQUEAK by SOLAR



Down with Science

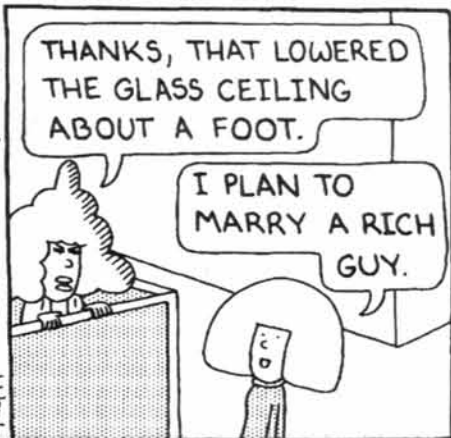
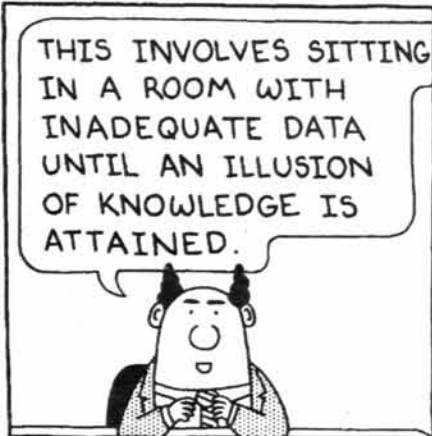
by Jennifer DiMase



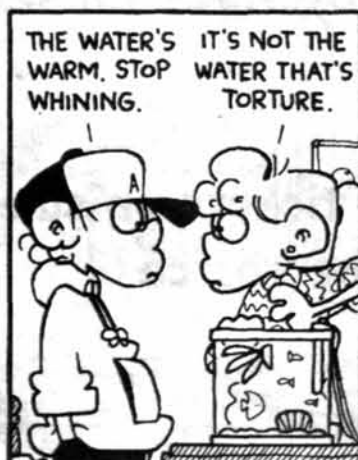
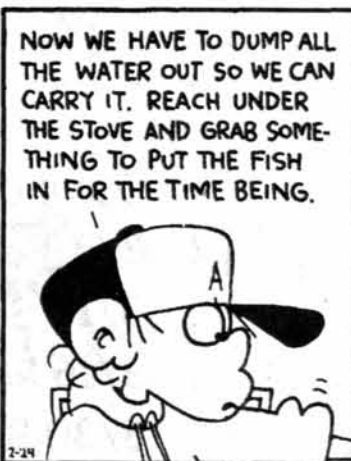
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TechCalendar

Visit and add events to TechCalendar online at <http://tech-calendar.mit.edu>

Friday's Events

- 12:10 p.m. – **GABLES Monthly Lunch.** A social get-together of the MIT Gay, Bisexual, and Lesbian Employees and Supporters group. Send e-mail to dfitz@mit.edu for location. Sponsor: GABLES.
- 3:00 p.m. – **Simulating Molecular Transformations over Catalytically Active Surfaces.** Matthew Neurock, University of Virginia, Department of Chemical Engineering. Reception held before seminars at 2:45 p.m. Room 66-110.
- 3:30 p.m. – **The "Chunnel" Fire: Thermal Spalling due to chemoplastic softening in rapidly heated concrete.** Franz-Josef Ulm, Professor, CEE. Engineering and Environmental Mechanics Group Seminar Series. Refreshments at 3:30. Room 1-350.
- 4:00 p.m. – **Associate Advisor Information Session.** Required session for all new applicants. Refreshments will be served. Room 5-233. Sponsor: Academic Resource Center.
- 4:00 p.m. – **Sediment Subduction and Consequences for the Continents.** Professor Terry Plank, University of Kansas. EAPS Department Lecture Series. Refreshments, 3:30 p.m., Ida Green Lounge. Room 54-915. Sponsor: EAPS.
- 5:30 p.m. – **African American and Latina/o Living History Museum.** Asst Profs Thomas Defrantz & Brenda Cotto-Escalera direct a staged pageant celebrating Black History Month (Feb) & Latin American History Month (March). This year's theme is artists & writers. Bush Room (10-105).
- 7:00 p.m. – **The WaterBoy.** Starring Adam Sandler and Kathy Bates. 89 minutes, rated PG-13, with DTS Digital Sound. Admission 2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
- 7:30 p.m. – **Raise the Red Lantern.** Cosponsored by the Women's Studies Program. 126 minutes, rated PG. 1991. Admission 2.50. Room 10-250. Sponsor: LSC.
- 8:00 p.m. – **MIT Guest Artist Concert: Avalon String Quartet.** Haydn's String Quartet Op 1, No. 1; Schuller's String Quartet No. 3 (1986); Beethoven's String Quartet, Op. 130. Kresge Auditorium.
- 10:00 p.m. – **The WaterBoy.** Starring Adam Sandler and Kathy Bates. 89 minutes, rated PG-13, with DTS Digital Sound. Admission 2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Saturday's Events

- 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. – **Lunch Meeting.** Come help us finish up the 1999 yearbook! Drop by and help out, or come see who we are. Lunch provided as always. Elections are coming up, see if you'd like to participate in the 2000 book. W20-451 (4th floor). Sponsor: Technique Yearbook.
- 6:00 p.m. – **Meet Joe Black.** Stars Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins, and Claire Forlani. 178 minutes, rated PG-13, with DTS Digital Sound. Admission 2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
- 7:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. – **The Other Y2K: An Ebony Affair.** A semi-formal evening of drama, comedy, music, and dance sponsored by the Black Graduate Student Association. Admission 12. Walker Memorial - Morss. Sponsor: Black Graduate Student Association.

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.

8:00 p.m. – **The Bala Ensemble.** Laxmi, Bharat Natyam dance; T. Viswanathan, flute; D. Knight, mridangam. MITHAS (MIT Heritage of S Asia) & the New Eng Hindu Temple presentation. Admission \$15, \$12—MITHAS/NEHT members/students. Kresge Little Theater.

10:00 p.m. – **Meet Joe Black.** Stars Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins, and Claire Forlani. 178 minutes, rated PG-13, with DTS Digital Sound. Admission 2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

11:59 p.m. – **Chorallaries Annual Concert in Bad Taste.** The Chorallaries of MIT step out of their a cappella shells for an evening of raucous entertainment lightly sprinkled with raunchy spice. Room 10-250.

Sunday's Events

7:00 p.m. – **The WaterBoy.** Starring Adam Sandler and Kathy Bates. 89 minutes, rated PG-13, with DTS Digital Sound. Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

10:00 p.m. – **Meet Joe Black.** Stars Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins, and Claire Forlani. 178 minutes, rated PG-13, with DTS Digital Sound. Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Monday's Events

12:10 p.m. – **Variability of Deep-Ocean Mass Transport: Spectral Shapes and Spatial Scales.** Jin-Song von Storch, GKSS, Germany. Physical Oceanography Sack Lunch Seminars at MIT. Room 54-915.

3:30 p.m. – **Inertial Confinement Fusion.** Riccardo Betti, Associate Professor, University of Rochester, N.Y. Refreshments in Room NW12-222 at 3:00 pm. Room NW12-222. Sponsor: Nuclear Engineering.

4:00 p.m. – **Asia's Coming Energy Wars? Energy as a Source of Conflict or Cooperation.** Robert Manning, Director of Asian Studies, Council on Foreign Relations. A session of the Working Group on Asian Energy and Security. Room E38-615. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.

4:00 p.m. – **Environmentally Benign Semiconductor Manufacturing.** Prof. Raphael Reif, MIT, EECS and MTL. MIT-EECS 1999 Spring Semester Colloquium Series. Refreshments served at 3:45 p.m. Room 34-101. Sponsor: EECS.

Tuesdays Events

4:00 p.m. – **The Development of the AMD-K7 Multimedia x86 Processor.** Fred Weber, Advanced MicroDevices. MTL VLSI Seminar Series. Refreshments in lobby of room 34-101 at 3:30 p.m. Room 34-101.

4:30 p.m. – **Macro-Scale Gas Bearing Experiments for the MIT Micro-Engine Project.** Mr. D. J. Orr, MIT/GTL. Gas Turbine Seminar Series. Refreshments 4:15 p.m. Room 31-161. Sponsor: Gas Turbine Lab.

6:30 p.m. – **Certainty of Context.** Joseph M. Noero, architect, Washington University, St. Louis. Architecture Lecture Series. Room 10-250. Sponsor: Architecture.

Hey Seniors! Hang in there, 'cause it's only

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GRADUATION!**

Cinnabons and coffee this morning in lobby 7 for all seniors



Foxwoods tickets on sale now at the source

Spring Events:

3/5 Foxwoods

3/12 Senior Friday

3/16 Ragtime

3/30 Bruins Game

4/2 Senior Friday

4/7 Celtics Game

4/9 Senior Friday

4/16 Senior Friday

4/18 David Copperfield

4/22 Senior Thursday

4/25 Senior Ball

4/30 Senior Friday

5/7 Red Sox Game

5/21 Star Wars

6/2 Dessert at the Aquarium

6/4 Graduation!!

*** look for new events throughout the term! ***

D'Arbeloff Discusses Her Life And Defiance of Gender Roles

By Steve Hoberman
STAFF REPORTER

No one can accuse Brit D'Arbeloff SM '61 of holding back.

As the first woman to graduate with an engineering degree from Stanford University, she pursued careers in the space, heating, and retail industries, and raised four children.

As this year's third Department of Mechanical Engineering Distinguished Alumni Lecturer, she gave a lively but unblinking account of the challenges facing female engineers.

Gender was an obstacle throughout her career, including her college and graduate years. "I chose a man's field when there were few women in it," D'Arbeloff recalled. "Many of the practices when I started are now illegal." Despite the fact that she was first in her class at Stanford, D'Arbeloff was frustrated by the failure of so many in her field to take women seriously or respect their ideas. "Finding a job was hell," she said.

D'Arbeloff faced gender bias

D'Arbeloff grew up in Chicago, the daughter of a Swedish engineer

with over five hundred patents. "My father was not a talker... he was a thinker and a doer," D'Arbeloff said.

Her parents discouraged her from pursuing a liberal arts education, worrying that it would not provide her with the necessary job skills. D'Arbeloff felt her options were "to be an engineer or a teacher." Uninterested in teaching, she decided to major in engineering at college, and received her degree in 1957. "Stanford was wonderful," she said.

After college, she began to work with rockets. Unfortunately, there was little progress and even less money. However, the 1957 launch of the Russian spaceship Sputnik changed the industry. Panic about American inferiority in space-age technology flooded the defense industry with money. "The space industry came to my rescue" she said.

D'Arbeloff then left for graduate school at MIT to work in the field of heat transfer. Attitudes toward women were not much better than those in the workplace. "I was unable to find [academic guidance] here," she said.

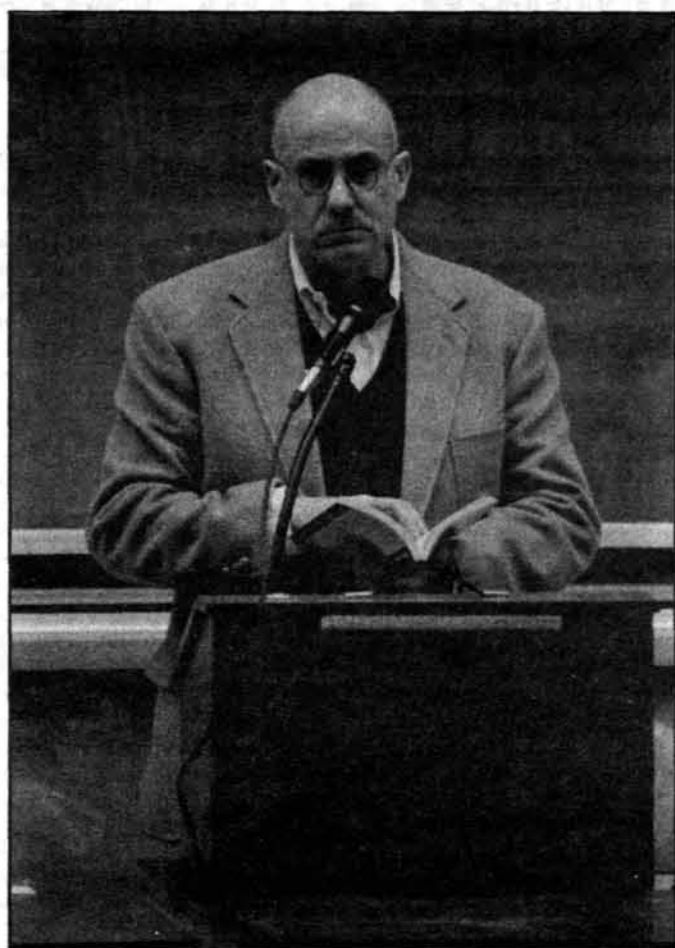
After completing her graduate

degree in 1961, D'Arbeloff worked for over ten years in the heating industry. "We were the experts in heat transfer," she recalled. "But it was frustrating when all those formulas I learned to faithfully in school didn't work."

She then took time off to raise her children. During this time, she wrote five yet-unpublished novels and enjoyed the adventures of child-rearing. "Every one of our children was an individual from day one," she said. "One had the ability to swallow yellow veggies but not green."

She returned to work in 1983 as a systems analyst. "Programming was the nearest thing to instant gratification I ever experienced," she joked.

D'Arbeloff then moved into the retail industry as a part-owner in a clothing store. Now retired, she lives with her husband, Alexander V. D'Arbeloff '59, who serves as Chairman of the Corporation. Although progress has been made with women in science and technology, D'Arbeloff is still adamant about the need to open the field to more women. "We must inspire them or we will lose them," she said.



DEBBIE CHANG

International bestselling author James Elroy gave a talk in 26-100 Monday. Elroy is the author of such bestsellers as *L.A. Confidential* and *Crime Wave*. See story page 9.

1999 RAPID GROWTH CAREER FAIR

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New Enterprise Career Club

Former Air Force Head Named Institute Professor

By Neena Kadaba
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

In December, Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics Sheila E. Widnall '60 was named an Institute Professor.

The title of Institute Professor, given to a professor that has "demonstrated exceptional distinction by a combination of leadership, accomplishment and service, in the scholarly, educational and general intellectual life of the Institute or wider academic community," is the highest honor awarded to faculty at MIT.

Professor Widnall received her BS in 1960, her MS in 1961, and PhD in 1964 in Aeronautics and

Astronautics, all at MIT. She was the first woman appointed to the MIT engineering faculty in 1964, and became the first woman to chair the faculty in 1979. She was appointed as the Abby Rockefeller Mauze Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 1986. From 1992 to 1993, she served as Associate Provost.

From 1993 to 1997, Widnall served as the Secretary of the Air Force. She was the first woman president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and is currently the vice-president of the National Academy of Engineering.

As Secretary of the Air Force, Widnall worked on a variety of affairs of the Department of the Air Force. Dr. Widnall was also involved in research prescribed by the President, the Secretary of Defense, and co-chaired the Department of Defense Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Discrimination.

Research continues at Institute

Since returning to her faculty position at MIT, she has been active in the Lean Aerospace Initiative, a consortium which focuses on streamlining the aerospace industry. Widnall is an expert in fluid dynamics and teaches courses in dynamics and aerodynamics, aerodynamics of

wings and bodies, acoustics and aerodynamic noise and aerospace vehicle vibration.

"Being an Institute Professor is a great honor," said Widnall. She expressed excitement with the opportunity to "go beyond her discipline in fluid mechanics to explore the policy and system aspects of her research" and "the increased freedom and flexibility that comes with the position."

Widnall also plays an active role in women's groups on campus. Personally, she "welcomes being a role model, if it will help," and wants to share her own successful experiences.

As one of the leaders in the creation of the new ROTC program, Widnall commented that the goal of changing the program was to take advantage of all of the resources available. By making it "open to all students, the Institute can focus on promoting leadership." As someone who stepped forward to expand the approach to ROTC programs, new changes are helping to bring parts of it together, Widnall said.

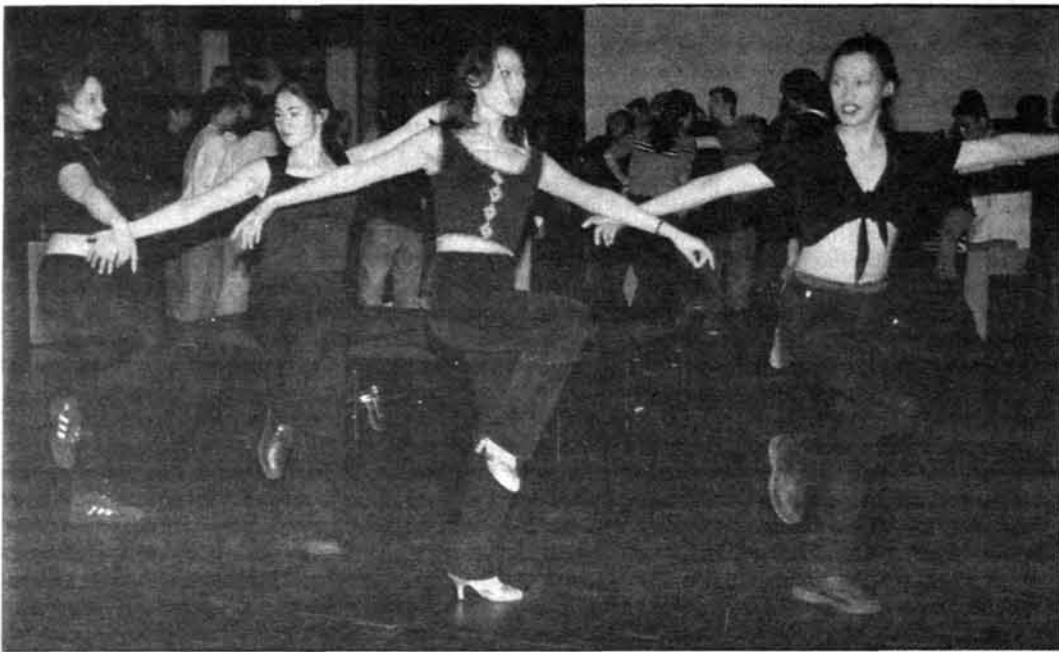
"MIT is uniquely positioned to play a leading role in national affairs. People here work very hard in diverse careers."

Widnall described the Institute as one of the only places where faculty have the ability to travel and connect to all aspects of their industry and then share their experience with students, creating a different kind of education.

When asked about the new Institute-wide changes to the residence system, she said "MIT always changes, it is never the same. The fact that it is always changing makes it such an innovative place, and I have confidence that MIT is choosing the right path for the future."

Widnall said that it was a great honor to be in the company of the other distinguished Institute Professors.

Current Institute Professors include Noam A. Chomsky, linguistics; John M. Deutch, chemistry; Mildred S. Dresselhaus, electrical engineering and physics; Jerome I. Friedman, physics; John H. Harbison, music; John D. C. Little '48, management; Isadore Singer, mathematics; and Daniel I. C. Wang '59, chemical engineering.



ANNIE CHOI—THE TECH

The Anime Club, Dance Troupe, Ballroom Dance Team, and Dance Mix Coalition joined forces to put on SP@MIT in La Sala de Puerto Rico Friday. The dance featured professional and student DJ's.

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Center Formed To Study Bilingualism

By Karen E. Robinson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Bilingual and Bicultural Studies Series, "Living in Two Languages," is the first event hosted by the new Center for Bilingual and Bicultural studies, a division of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

The series includes five lectures from held between Feb. 17 and April 29. Speakers are bilingual authors who have written memoirs describing their "discoveries, setbacks, etc., in going from one language and culture to the next," said Isabelle de Courtivron, professor of Foreign Language and Literatures and organizer of the Center for Bilingual and Bicultural Studies.

Eva Hoffman spoke on her experiences coming to Canada from Poland as a 14-year-old Wednesday.

On Mar. 11, Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, author of "Pharaoh's Daughter," "Selected Poems: Rogha Danta," "The Astrakhan Cloak," and "Me/Mise: Shoring up an Identity in Two Languages," will speak.

Various projects planned

Eventually, the center plans to invite visiting professors and host conferences on bilingualism.

Next fall, there will be a lecture series given by researchers studying the bilingual brain, said Professor Suzanne Flynn, who heads the department.

De Courtivron said that the center is also hoping to develop oral histories, such as those collected by the Department of Women's Studies, probably by pairing students with bicultural alumni.

"We have lots of ideas which link up with lots of other places around MIT," de Courtivron said. She hopes to do cross-disciplinary work with researchers in Women's Studies, Anthropology, and Linguistics, to name a few.

"There will be lots of interdisciplinary fertilization," Flynn said.

The Center currently offers one class and employs five students in the Undergraduate Research

Bilingual, Page 18



LUCY YANG—THE TECH

Eva Hoffman discusses her book *Lost in Translation: A Life in a New Language* in a talk sponsored by the Center for Bilingual and Bicultural studies Wednesday.

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Coop Student Board Election Update

The following student Coop members have been nominated by the stockholders as candidates for the Board of Directors for the 1999-00 academic year.

M.I.T. Undergraduate Students:

Oreoluwa Adeyemi George Berkowski

M.I.T. Graduate Students:

John Hollywood Larry Sass

Harvard Undergraduate Students:

Natalie Carnes Elena Schoenberger
David Nicoll

Harvard Graduate Students:

Carlos Lopez Tiziana Dearing
Carrie Owens

Any student Coop member may still petition to be on the ballot. Petition papers are available beginning Feb. 16 at the customer services desks of any Coop location or at the Member Services Office, 4th floor, main building at the Coop at Harvard Square. M-F, 9 AM-5 PM

For Information Call or e mail:
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The deadline to apply for
on campus summer and fall 99-00 vacancies in

**family and single graduate student apartments and dormitories
is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 1999.**

On March 1, 1999 there will be a housing lottery for any fully-registered continuing graduate student wanting on-campus housing for the 99-00 academic year.

Applications are available in Graduate Housing in E32-133, and must be returned by the deadline to the same office. Any questions, call 3-5148.

The Graduate Housing Office will be closed on Monday, March 1, 1999 due to the lottery.

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Tuesday, March 2, 7:15 a.m.

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McGann, Nemzer Will Centralize Government and Group Funding

McGann, from Page 1

executive board member of the Association of Student Activities. He was also integral in the organization of the orange ribbon campaign protesting housing freshman on campus.

Ticket would make UA accessible

"We would like to create an Undergraduate Association that is more student accessible," McGann said.

McGann and Nemzer plan to create a central web site which would include information on issues discussed at UA, faculty, Interfraternity Council, Dorm Committee, Graduate

Student Council, and other student group meetings.

"With this kind of information available at one place, students would be more likely to become informed about the issues that affect them," McGann said.

McGann and Nemzer also strive to change the way student groups get funding from the Institute.

"We want to assure the process of receiving funding from Finboard is fair for all student groups. We plan to increase the flexibility student groups have with allocated money, and we hope to decrease the bureaucracy involved in reimbursement," McGann said.

"Essentially, we would like to

streamline the way students are represented in both communications and allocations," Nemzer said.

McGann and Nemzer also feel that the medical transport issue is also an important one.

Currently, the Campus Police are only transportation available to the medical center in the event of an emergency. Unfortunately, the Campus Police are required to report any suspected illegal activity involved in the incident.

"This sets up a conflict between health and legal issues which should not exist. We believe that privacy is the best way to ensure student safety in this situation," McGann said.

Mani, Lin Attempt To Create Friendlier UA

Mani, from Page 1

cils currently must spend much of their time fundraising.

"I don't want funding to be an issue" for student activities, said Mani. He hopes to raise student groups' awareness of the UA funding and resources available to them.

Pair pledges to improve UA

Mani hopes to develop a more "user-friendly" UA, a process he said current UA President Paul T. Oppold '99 began. He supports Oppold's efforts to expand opportunity for student involvement in the UA and said that despite the serious work required, UA participation shouldn't be a "completely non-fun" experience.

He said that he would like to have a UA where students would feel free to "come in and chat with the president."

Echoing this sentiment, Lin said the work of the UA Program Board, of which she is currently a member, is moving in the right direction. She said that the Program Board's activities, such as the "Take Your Professor to Lunch" program and Spring Weekend, help to unite a campus often divided by living groups and cultural affiliations.

Mani agreed that events like Spring Weekend are vital to the campus. He said that this year's concert will be "on a par" with events at peer institutions.

Ticket neutral on alcohol policy

Mani and Lin do not have a specific platform regarding alcohol policies or housing decisions. Lin said that the UA cannot promise "miracles." Rather, Mani and Lin want to make sure that students are fully represented as the administration makes alcohol and housing decisions.

Last October, Mani was personally involved with the new alcohol policy as an organizer of an unregistered party on the third floor of Baker House during which an underage Simmons College student was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital after allegedly consuming alcohol at either that party or another on the fourth floor of Baker. In an e-mail advertising his party, Mani had offered "all the Fiji punch you can drink."

At that time, Mani said that while the party was crowded, the crowd was kept under control by strict supervision.

Mani said that the incident is "not relevant to my campaign for the UA."

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Chomsky Addresses 'Hideous Atrocities' of the U.S.

Chomsky, from Page 1

to the poor coverage received by the G-15 meetings, a similar series including powerful but less moneyed countries.

"These are not minor countries," he said. "And you could read about them, if you subscribe to the leading journal in Egypt. Elsewhere, the media thinks it just isn't important enough to report on."

Chomsky then explained that what many have called an economic boom has really been a boom for the rich and an economic failure for everyone else.

"It's a globalization of the Third World Model," Chomsky said. "You get societies with small groups of extremely wealthy people."

"Greenspan attributed this 'fairytale' economy to greater economic insecurity: a system in which workers are afraid to ask for benefits and the like for fear of losing their jobs. And that contributes to what they call 'economic growth,'" he said. "Some of it is just straight corporate crime... which is especially strong when it is supported by a crooked state."

Chomsky criticizes foreign policy

Chomsky then began a long criticism of the U.S. government's role in foreign affairs and the claim that the United States supports democratic movements in other countries.

"The norms and conventions of discussing U.S. politics suggest that the goals, intentions, and purpose of the U.S. government are good, high, and benign," said Chomsky. "That is true, independent of fact."

Chomsky quoted an article written by a leading Middle East scholar. The scholar wrote, "The United States should more energetically promote its central policy themes such as democracy and human rights."

"Notice," said Chomsky, "that this is established as truth. It's like declaring, 'God is great.' It must be

true."

He then described to the audience what he called the "classic path" of U.S. policy toward other countries: "you're 'our kind of guy' if you have control, but when you stop following orders and you lose control, you're out."

Chomsky described the United States' role in Indonesia toward President Suharto as a classic example of U.S. policy.

"Right as Suharto continued to massacre peasants and kill students, the U.S. declared that he was 'our kind of guy,'" said Chomsky. "But then he apparently committed a crime in the mind of the United States, he apparently just lost control and allowed for democracy to come in. Then the U.S. advised that he give up his power."

Chomsky also discussed United States foreign policy toward Iraq, a mirror of U.S. policy toward Indonesia, and the refusal of the Pentagon to help clear mines in Laos.

"All of these facts are representative of the hideous atrocities committed by the United States," he said.

Pillars of world order are falling

In his diatribe against U.S. foreign policy, Chomsky declared that the charter of the United Nations had virtually been destroyed.

He described the refusal of the United States to abide by United Nations rules, specifically in the latest bombing of Iraq, as a key turning point.

"The threat or use of force is banned unless under Security Council authorization," said Chomsky. "In the U.S., there is virtually no discussion of this. If there is, it is portrayed as a technicality."

Chomsky declared that our nation's foreign policy officers are determined to prevent others from getting in the way of U.S. politics.

"We say that we are a violent, criminal, rogue state, and that is just," Chomsky said.

He quoted several U.S. officials who openly declared that the United States would act alone in military action without United Nations authorization and even without the approval of allies.

Chomsky quoted a U.S. officer who testified before the World Court saying, "We cannot accept World Court jurisdiction, because other countries do not agree with us."

"The flat rejection of the charter was blatant but secret in the 1940s," Chomsky said. "Now, under Clinton, it's lost all secrecy. Frankly, the first pillar of world order no longer remains."

Government and business converge

In addition to his talk on U.S. policy, Chomsky discussed the Bretton Woods international economic system, a system designed to deregulate capital flow.

Chomsky only briefly reflected on the purpose of the system and its eventual dismantling since 1970.

"This has a lot to do with rich people — rich, powerful people," he said. "We thought we had an economic miracle. Then rich people started getting hurt like others, and it turned into an economic crisis. The real crisis is much more fundamental."

Chomsky then gave the audience with two quotes, one from the president of the New York Stock Exchange and the other from David Rockefeller.

He first quoted the stock exchange president, who, when at a reception to support President Clinton during the Monica Lewinsky scandal, remarked, "Dr. [Martin Luther] King is surely smiling down on the President, recognizing how Clinton has showered many benefits on my little corner of Manhattan."

"His little corner of Manhattan," said Chomsky, "had purchased their presidential candidate. The other parts of Manhattan did not fare so well."

Chomsky cited a recent study showing that 95 percent of candidates who win political office are those with the most money.

"Notice that it's 95 percent in the U.S.," he said. "It's not like Russia, where you can predict the winner with 100 percent certainty."

Though he joked about the matter, Chomsky made it clear to the audience that current policy makers yield to the demands of businessmen.

He then quoted David Rockefeller, who, when commenting on the low number of Americans participating in government, said, "While the reduction of democratic participation is discouraging, someone has to fill the role of government, and business seems likely to do it."

"That's the opinion from the left side of the line," Chomsky said,

"and the right is much harsher."

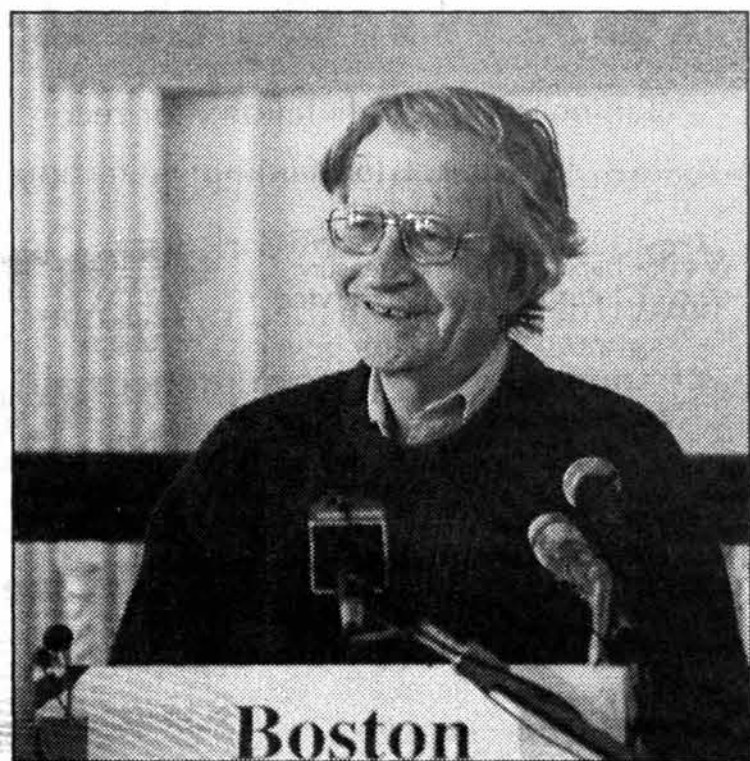
"The rich are not ordinary persons, they are immortal and powerful, and they demand national treatment — a right that no flesh-and-blood person can demand," Chomsky said.

"General Electric can function in Mexico," he said, "but no Mexican can function in New York."

The businesses "have a right and responsibility to take over the role of government," Chomsky said sarcastically. "Otherwise, you'd have democracy."

"Internally, they are tyrannical. Quite apart from their continuing assault against all good things, these tendencies, if tolerated, could lead to catastrophe."

"That's speculation," he said. "What isn't speculation is that these tendencies do not have to be tolerated. That's a choice."



Professor Noam Chomsky discussed the politics of wealth and its effect on world politics in a speech given in 10-250 Monday.

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If you would like to submit your resume for review, please send it via e-mail to the address above, or fax it to (609) 282-3199.

X-Country Teams Ready For Regional Championship

By Jim Berry
TEAM MEMBER

This past weekend, the men's and women's cross-country ski teams travelled to Osceola, New York for a Mid-East Conference meet against seven other schools. The event was hosted by Cornell University.

Saturday's race was a 10km freestyle event. Conditions were cold and icy. The course was difficult, with many steep uphill and several treacherous downhill. Up first were the women. Jessica Kleiss '00 screamed to a first-place finish, obliterating league rival Katie Johnson of Clarkson University by a decisive 50 second margin. Freshman Teresa Hung '02 also turned in a gutsy performance, finishing fifth overall.

"I could hear Coach yelling that I was beating [Johnson], but I tried to push it out of my mind," noted Kleiss. "I just tried to concentrate the whole way through."

The men's team, coming off of a huge win the previous weekend, hoped to extend the streak. Sam Coradetti '02 turned in a strong performance, earning himself second place, a mere 25 seconds off first. Derek Southwell '01 wasn't far behind with a fourth place finish. Tim Garnett '02, stepping up to the challenge in the absence of standout Jeff Doering '99, rounded out the team score with a personal-best ninth place. Unfortunately, the combined team score of 15 was not enough to beat the close competition from Clarkson, which squeaked out a victory with 14 points.

Sunday's race was a classic-style 3x5km relay. With revenge on their minds, the men's team of Coradetti, Garnett, and Jim Berry '99 left the other schools for dead, finishing a full 40 seconds ahead of the second-place team from Cornell University. The performance of the day went to Garnett, who took a ten second deficit at the first hand-off and turned it into a commanding 40 second lead by the time he finished his lap and tagged Coradetti. MIT's second team of Southwell, Andrew Grimm '01, and Karl McLetchie '02 also fared well, placing fifth overall.

The women were unable to field an official team, but Kleiss and Hung, racing on an unofficial team, turned in strong individual performances.

The team is gearing up for this coming weekend's Mid-East Conference regional championship in Bennington, Vermont. The following week they travel to Mammoth Mountain, California for the USCSA national championships.

Coach Jessie Donovan is confident as the team enters its last two meets.

"We've been improving all year and we're ready to take regionals," she said. "Above all, we ski for fun. Winning is fun."

Engineers Qualify For New England Div. III's

Women's Track, from Page 24

'02 who cleared 10'0". Championship expectations for these two vaulters are high, as they enter the New England Division III Championships ranked second and third. Princess Imoukhuede '02, MIT's top thrower, was somewhat disappointing with her 38'6 1/4" performance in the weight throw. But she put that behind her and came back in the shot put with an outstanding 37'3 1/2" toss. Fellow thrower Rebecca Mays '02 set personal records with a 29'1 3/4" in the weight throw and a 24'2 1/2" in the shot put.

Elaine Chen '99 broke the varsity record with a 15'3 1/2" long jump. Theresa Burianek '99 was not far behind, jumping a personal record of 15'2 1/4". Following in the triple, Burianek came heartbreakingly close to qualifying for the second week in a row. Her 30'11" jump tied her personal best, but was just one inch short of the Division III qualifying mark.

Mealanie Nakamura '00 finished her indoor season on a high note by getting a personal high jump record, surpassing expectations by clearing 4'1 3/4".

On the track, Alyssa Thorvaldsen '00 ran a superb race in the 55m hurdles to finish in 9.04. Thorvaldsen is ranked sixth going into Division III's.

Instead of competing in the 4x200m, the four legs of MIT's relay opted to run the open 200m. Each member ended up running a personal best, raising expectations for the relay's performance at Division III's. French and Kay Sullivan '02 both easily won their heats with times of 28.88 and 29.15, respectively. Chen broke the varsity record with an ECAC-qualifying time of 27.61. Adeline Kuo '02 broke the rookie record with 27.67, just 0.03s short of qualifying for ECACs.

The only athlete representing MIT in the 400m, Stephanie Hong, ran a personal best of 68.59 to comfortably win her heat. Yety Oke '02 ran well in the 55m, finishing in 8.84.

In the last individual event of the day, Patry Diaz '00 defined the meaning of a "last chance" meet by qualifying for Division III's in the 3000m. With teammates cheering her on and calling out split times, Diaz kicked in with a 40 second final lap to finish in 11:27.92.

On Saturday the team will again be at Smith, this time competing in the New England Division III's. With a record number of athletes competing, Tech looks forward to placing well in its first appearance at the indoor championships.

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SPORTS

Men's Fencing Wins New England Championships

By Evangelos Efstathiou
TEAM CAPTAIN

This weekend, the men's fencing team won the New England Championships, following three

consecutive second place finishes to Boston College.

Ten schools competed at the championships, including rivals Brown University, Tufts

University, Boston College, and University of New Hampshire. In the team event, the format matched up A, B and C fencers from each school, with the top nine fencers of

each weapon advancing to the finals.

The MIT men trailed Boston College for most of the day, despite key victories against their NCAA counterparts. Going into the final three rounds, team captain Evangelos Efstathiou '00 challenged his fencers to "win 27 straight bouts, and we can go home as champions!" Facing Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Hampshire College, and Dartmouth College, the men stepped up to the challenge, winning 26 of the remaining 27 bouts to secure the men's fencing team's first New England Championship title in ten years.

In an incredible display of depth, Ben Vandiver '00 (foil), Curtis Wade III '01 (epee), and Phil Miller '01 (sabre), MIT's C strip fencers, were undefeated in the team event, advancing to the finals.

Foilists Andre Van Horn '01 and Ali Ibrahim '01, and sabre fencers Brian Bower '99 and Efstathiou also advanced to the finals. Epeeists Matt DuPlessie '99 and Michael Krypel '01, despite solid performances against top ranked epee fencers, were each one victory away from

advancing.

"In all my years here, just once I wanted us to be champions," said sabre fencer and squad leader Bower, summarizing the sentiment of the upperclassmen. Bower lost only one bout throughout the day, and went undefeated in the finals to become the New England Sabre Champion. Bower has won New England three out of the last four years, and this was the fourth time in six years that an MIT fencer has won the sabre championship.

The foil squad had a brilliant finish, placing third among the New England squads. In the finals Van Horn took third place, Vandiver placed fourth, and Ibrahim placed sixth. In the sabre finals, Efstathiou finished third, and Miller finished sixth. Epeeist Curtis Wade III '01 finished seventh in the finals.

MIT fencers also brought home three freshmen championship titles. Richard Burstein '02 (sabre), Alan Asbeck '02 (epee) and Eric J. Cholankeril '02 (foil) all won gold medals in their respective weapons.

The men's team will travel to Cornell for the Intercollegiate Fencing Association championships on Sunday.



MIT Fencers pose with team coach Jarek Koniusz after winning the New England Championships on Saturday at the Boston College Athletic Center.

Women's Indoor Track Races at Smith Meet

By Adeline Kuo and Elaine Chen
TEAM MEMBERS

On Saturday, members of the women's indoor track team traveled to compete at the Smith College "Last Chance" Invitational meet. Some athletes took the meet off to rest up for the New England Division III Championships, while others went into the non-scoring meet hoping for a few more qualifying marks and some personal records.

The meet was the final competi-

tion of the regular season, making it the last opportunity for athletes to qualify for Division III's.

The highlight of the meet was in the pole vault, where the whole fieldhouse watched while Lila French '99 win with a vault of 10'6". The height not only tied French's personal best, it also set the Smith College Fieldhouse facility record. In second place was teammate Stephanie Norris

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, February 26

Men's Basketball, NEWMAC Tournament Semi-Finals

Saturday, February 27

Women's Gymnastics vs. Rhode Island College, 2:00 p.m.

Squash, NISRA Individual Championships

Pistol, Pistol Open

Sunday, February 28

Men's Basketball, NEWMAC Tournament Game

Squash, NISRA Individuals Championships

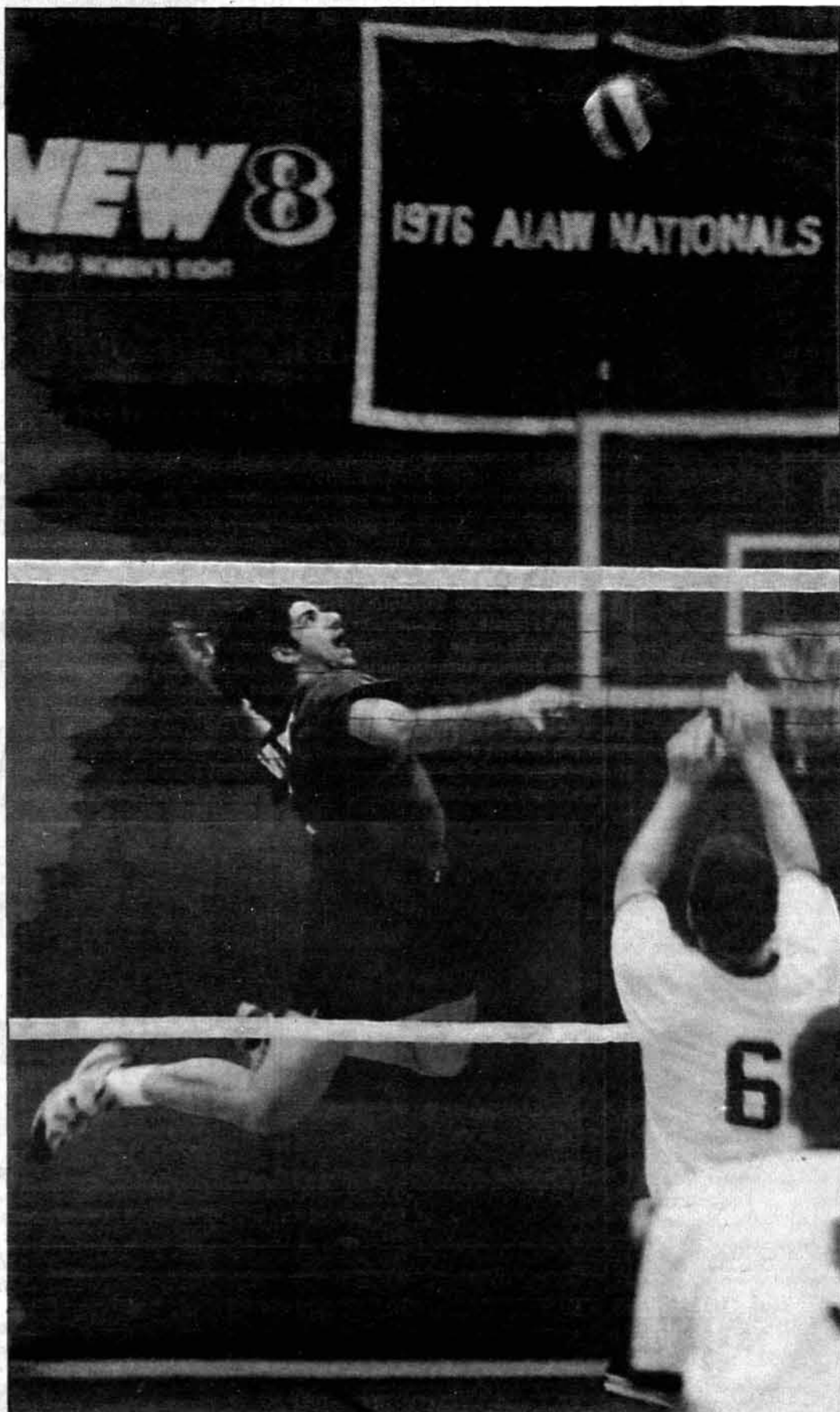
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Nikolaos Michalakakis '01 sets up for a powerful spike in Wednesday's game against Daniel Webster College. MIT won the match in five games.

RITA LIN—THE TECH