Dorms Dealing with Crowding; Rush Numbers Still Uncertain

Low pledge numbers, heavily subscribed dorms leave several freshmen still in limbo

By Frank Dabek

Twenty-five freshmen received no housing assignments in yesterday's dormitory lottery due to heavy crowding at MIT this year.

Philip M. Bernard, program director of residence life, said there were about 40 fewer pledges than we need to run the lottery efficiently.

Those students who did not receive assignments will be assigned to housing sometime today after additional pledging creates additional spaces, he said.

As of 2 p.m., when the lottery was run, 268 freshmen had pledged fraternities, sororities or independent living groups, Bernard said.

That number is expected to rise over the coming days as freshmen continue to accept bids.

The low number of pledges combined with a large number of upperclassmen living in the dormitory system also led to 11 students receiving assignments in a dormitory that they ranked fifth choice or lower. Last year, only 10 students received their third choice, and no student received lower than that.

Bernard said that the low number of pledgers at the time of the lottery could have resulted from changes to Orientation which moved the time the freshmen were

By Naveen Sunkavally

As undergraduate orientation draws to a close this week and freshmen are settling into their new living groups, about 1500 graduate students are just beginning their introduction to the Institute.

Unlike undergraduate orientation, graduate orientation is more department-oriented; a large portion of the activities occur within a student's department. However, the Graduate Student Council "has spent about $35,000," organizing and sponsoring several high-profile activities designed to give graduate students the chance to meet their students outside their department, said GSC President Luis A. Ortiz G.

Ortiz said that he expects about half of Sloan's students, who in comparison, international students, about "600 are international students," said Dalmia. For comparison, international students comprise eight percent of the new undergraduate freshmen class.

Dorms, Page 16

Houses are mixed about generally weaker rush

By Frank Dabek

This year's rush continues to defy classification even as it winds down — important indicators point to a slow rush while many houses say that rush has gone well.

As of 11 p.m. yesterday night, 322 freshmen had pledged fraternities, sororities and independent living groups, according to Neal H. Burton, associate director for residence life and student life programs and adviser to FSILGs.

The overall number of pledges as of 2 p.m. yesterday was 268, said Philip M. Bernard, program director for residence life. That figure resulted in heavy crowding in the dormitory system when the lottery was run yesterday afternoon.

Rush is ongoing, however, and, so the number of pledges is likely to rise further in the coming days. Bernard said that last year about 70 additional freshmen

Orientation Begins for Grad Students

"We expect 1,200 students" to come to the welcome speech and lunch shortly afterwards, said Dalmia.

In the camera safari students will be going sightseeing in Boston and Cambridge, and they can win prizes for taking the most outstanding photos.

For the first time, "students will also be receiving free T-shirts," said Dalmia. For comparison, international students, about "600 are international students," said Dalmia. For comparison, international students comprise eight percent of the new undergraduate freshmen class.
Israel and Palestinian Talks Stall Over Dispute Over Prisoners

By Edwina Edelman and Roberto Suro
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON - Palestinian and Israeli negotiators suspended their talks Wednesday to protest a new Israeli policy that limits the release of Palestinian prisoners.

The suspension of the meetings - only the second since September - came amid indications that some officials in those agencies may have known as long ago as 1996 that D. Podesta has spoken with Reno about the issue of the release of prisoners. Podesta's remarks were aimed at building pressure on Congress to provide more funds for research and development programs.

The talks were expected to resume today.

The White House said Wednesday that efforts in Congress to reduce federal spending on science and mathematics teaching at the college level. Specifically, according to the White House, this would result in the elimination of federal funding for 14,000 jobs in research and development programs. The House and Senate return next week from their August recess to complete work on the fiscal 2000 budget, which takes effect Oct. 1.

The overall proposed cuts under consideration in the House would total $1.8 billion, or 8 percent to 10 percent of the amount Clinton proposed.

Researchers Create Smarter Mice

By adding a single gene to fertilized eggs, Princeton University researchers have been able to create smarter mice, a feat that could lead to lighter drugs and treatments for the prevention of memory loss in the elderly, they reported today.

The researchers used a single gene that facilitates the development of new neural pathways in the brain. This gene is found in humans, but its function is not known. The researchers used it to create a new mouse strain that is better able to learn new tasks and remember them.

The accomplishment demonstrates for the first time that a complex trait such as intelligence can be genetically manipulated in mammals. It also suggests that such traits may be influenced by genes that control the development of the brain.

The added gene enabled the otherwise ordinary mice to learn new tasks more quickly and to remember them longer, a team from Princeton University and Emory University in Atlanta reported in the journal Science.

The team used a technique called gene targeting to add the gene to fertilized mouse eggs. The gene was then inserted into the DNA of the embryos, which were then implanted into surrogate mothers.

The offspring of the transgenic mice showed a marked improvement in learning and memory compared to their nontransgenic littermates. The researchers also found that the transgenic mice had more neurons in certain regions of the brain than their nontransgenic counterparts.

The team plans to use the transgenic mice to study the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying learning and memory. They also hope to use the mice to develop new treatments for memory disorders such as Alzheimer's disease.

The research was supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.
Russian Officials Say U.S. Media Exaggerate Corruption Scandal

By Maura Reynolds

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Top Russian officials acknowledged Wednesday that Russia has serious problems with corruption and other financial crimes but accused U.S. media of exaggerating the problem as part of an anti-Russian smear campaign.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin and Foreign Minister Igor S. Ivanov — the two highest-ranking officials to respond to recent allegations of widespread money laundering — accused U.S. journalists and politicians of rushing to judgment in the face of evidence that the governor succeeded in diverting either World Bank loans or Indonesian public funds.

Ivanov accused some U.S. publications of using unproven allegations against individuals and companies to condemn Russia as a whole.

"They are trying to bash us," Ivanov said.

"And it all leaks-proof? Clearly it isn’t. But is it better to stay away and hope for purity?"

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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 197029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

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

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Start From the Heart
International Orientation: A Welcoming Time for Foreign Students

Guest Column
Vishwanath Venugopalan

It was the great mingling of the hordes. Killian Kickoff was hanging in the air and everyone was wondering why it took so long to begin. We stood under the trees and brushed the side sipping lemonade, not knowing what to talk about — much less what to talk about and excited about how rush would be for us.

We were international students in a new country and we felt like we had to find our place in a freeing attempt to keep up polite conversation. I asked the group. "How has Orientation been for you?" Everyone answered and said the same reply straight from the heart, students trying to fit in with a day but better than regular Orientation.

I was talking to a few upperclassmen about their first year in the United States and vividly remember this reply: it was the unique experience of international students at MIT.

Every year international students arrive and meet each other at least three days before the rest of the class arrives. This crucial time is the origin of many lasting friendships and a small preface allows them to bond with each other and with upperclassmen.

Share some similar concerns about the way of life and how to begin. All this ultimately leads to a well-cemented and special relationship among international students even before their first day on campus.

Earlier in the summer, many international students were part of an electronic mailing list. They were asked to entertain reporters’ questions on an understandable position at MIT. With the comment, it is an effective means of expressing one’s exact circulation, particularly in radio, outside the reporter. I explained myself as clearly as I could, and took pains to verify the facts as much as possible.

Instead of saying, "I don't know, but I have no interest in starting a gender-difer- ence war, so I'm going to leave that comment.

Most swarms consisted of both males and females. Each girl in the swarm had a T-shirt with 'The Class of 2003', and all of them were wearing a shirt with a prominent chest stripe, matching the class colors.

The girls were even harder to tell apart. Each girl, whether she was twelve or nineteen, was walking with a slightly taller than the rest, wearing with a bit more confidence, and showing more independence.

As I was walking around the mall, teenagers swarming in big groups, strolling around. My mom never went to the mall when I was younger. I never seem to match; at the theatre, I was wearing a tight camisole and Jean pants, and it didn't usually correspond to what's on the clock showing of my friends.

Teenagers tend to clump into groups removed from a majority of freshmen. On the contrary, people who identify to me seem comfortable, sincere, and sincere and straight from the heart. It's only as a survivor, I found myself slightly overestimated at the number of national students. I had been used to an envi- ronment where I was the only one else, and it is at the very least preemptive to connect the dots of Guy and Krueger and identify a trend, especially for the sake of identifying a trend. As in all tragic situations, explanations for everything are foolish and it doesn't usually correspond to what's on the clock showing of the middle of the mall, teenagers swarming around me, I felt slightly out of place in my black leggings and yellow dot on her back. I can't be a queen bee without my independence, so why would I want to hide that confidence? I suppose there's safety in numbers, completing the song "Summer Girls," which says I like girls who wear Abercrombie, jeans. But quite frankly, I liked it that way. I never seemed to match at the theatre, I was wearing a tight camisole and Jean pants, and it doesn't usually correspond to what's on the clock showing of my friends.

I don't have an aversion suddenly became clear to me. I watched the swarms of teenagers at the mall with a pair of eyes.

First, I noticed an exhibit on bees and how they live. A colony of bees and their honey- combs is a massive human-like effort that seems to be the final solution to the cold, wet, and windy environment. Besides, especially in these countries, the bees are the workers, and only the queen bee stood out, being slightly larger than the rest. The term was coined by a trained people-watcher who could observe someone in each cluster standing a life- time taller than the rest.

To the casual observer, the members of each swarm often look to be on the same footpath. I was interested in the social position of the queen bee, and it doesn't usually correspond to what's on the clock showing of the middle of the mall, teenagers swarming around me, I felt slightly out of place in my black leggings and yellow dot on her back.

I can't be a queen bee without my independence, so why would I want to hide that confidence? I suppose there's safety in numbers, completing the song "Summer Girls," which says I like girls who wear Abercrombie, jeans. But quite frankly, I liked it that way. I never seemed to match at the theatre, I was wearing a tight camisole and Jean pants, and it doesn't usually correspond to what's on the clock showing of my friends.

But instead, no better, no worse. Few will tease you if you don't like it, I'm not going to fly my own path. I can't be a queen bee without my independence, so why would I want to hide that confidence? I suppose there's safety in numbers, completing the song "Summer Girls," which says I like girls who wear Abercrombie, jeans. But quite frankly, I liked it that way. I never seemed to match at the theatre, I was wearing a tight camisole and Jean pants, and it doesn't usually correspond to what's on the clock showing of my friends.

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Down with Science

Okay, so apparently many of you have never heard of this game 'MASH' that I was playing the other day.

Accordingly, I will take this opportunity to explain it to those who are confused.

Those of you who were not confused can direct your attention to the other side.

the crass rat

Hi... My Son Got In To MIT!

My Son Got In To MIT!

My Son Got In To MIT!

Mom - Everyone's Kid Got In To MIT...

Hi... My Son Got In To MIT!

My Son Got In To MIT!

My Son Got In To MIT!

Mom - Everyone's Kid Got In To MIT...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FoxTrot</th>
<th>by Bill Amend</th>
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<tr>
<td>OH. PETER - ON YOUR WAY WOULD YOU MIND RETURNING THESE BOOKS TO THE LIBRARY?</td>
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<tr>
<td>YOU JUST CHECKED THESE OUT TWO DAYS AGO. YOU'RE GIVING UP THAT QUICKLY?</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHY COULDN'T THE SCHOOL ASSIGN MY SUMMER READING LIST TO HER?</td>
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<th>Dilbert®</th>
<th>by Scott Adams</th>
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<td>EVERY EMPLOYEE GETS A LOVELY MUG WITH OUR NEW MOTTOS, &quot;I MADE A DIFFERENCE.&quot;</td>
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<td>MAY I HAVE A MUG THAT SAYS, &quot;I DIDN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE&quot;?</td>
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Thursday's Events

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. - Christian Fellowship Lounge. Come to the Christian Fellowship Lounge! Find out more about Christian life at MIT and in the Boston area. Drop by to meet friendly people, to snack on some food, or to play some games.

10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Graduate Student Council (GSC) Information Booth. Come obtain information on the GSC and MIT in general. Obtains tickets for the various graduate student orientation events. Stop by. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council.

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Graduate Student Council (GSC) Information Booth. Come obtain information on the GSC and MIT in general. Obtains tickets for the various graduate student orientation events. Stop by. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Graduate Student Council Trolley Tour. Trolley Tours of Boston. Admission 50-200 Walker Memorial. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council.

2:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Camera Safari. Go around a tour of Boston with a group of fellow graduate students and have an afternoon full of fun. Take a lot of cool pictures on your way and win a prize for the most funny/imaginative photograph! Kresge Oval. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council.

6:00 p.m. - Graduate Student Dinner. Dinner, Music, Sports, Killian Court. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council.

Friday's Events

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Christian Fellowship Lounge. Come to the Christian Fellowship Lounge! Find out more about Christian life at MIT and in the Boston area. Drop by to meet friendly people, to snack on some food, or to play some games.

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2:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Graduate Student Trolley Tour. Trolley Tours of Boston. Admission 50-200 Walker Memorial. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council.

3:30 - 7:30 p.m. - GSC Social. All graduate students are welcome and we especially encourage new graduate students to join us. Free food and beverages will be provided. 50-200 Walker Memorial. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council.

7:00 - 12:30 a.m. - MIT Anime Club Showing. 7:00 Escaflowne 1-2 (subtitled) 7:10 Tench Muo 1-2 (subtitled) 7:50 Esperanza 1-2 (subtitled) 8:05 Blue Seed 1-2 (subtitled) 11:30 Card Captuer Sakura 1-2 (subtitled). Free! Come anytime.

8:00 p.m. - Little Shop of Horrors. Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman; music by Alan Menken. $9; $8 MIT faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students; $6 MIT/Wellesley students; $3 MIT freshmen. Kresge Little Theater.

Saturday's Events

7:00 - 10:00 a.m. - Graduate Student Hiking Trip. For new graduate students. Leave from Ashdown House. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council.

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Christian Fellowship Lounge. Come to the Christian Fellowship Lounge! Find out more about Christian life at MIT and in the Boston area. Drop by to meet friendly people, to snack on some food, or to play some games.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Graduate Student Council (GSC) Information Booth. Come obtain information on the GSC and MIT in general. Obtains tickets for the various graduate student orientation events. Stop by. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council.

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Graduate Student Trolley Tour. Trolley Tours of Boston. Admission 50-200 Walker Memorial. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council.

7:30 - 12:00 a.m. - Graduate Student Night on the Town. All new and current graduate students are welcome to join us. Some people will go to bars and others to clubs. Start in 50-200. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council.

8:00 p.m. - Little Shop of Horrors. Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman; music by Alan Menken. $9; $8 MIT faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students; $6 MIT/Wellesley students; $3 MIT freshmen. Kresge Little Theater.

Sunday's Events

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10 a.m. - Learn to Sail, Weekend Classes - Bring a change of clothes and a towel. Sailing Pavilion. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council.

7:30 - 10:30 a.m. - Graduate Student Harbour Cruise. Cruise along Boston Harbour. Admission 10. Long Wharf. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council.

8:00 p.m. - Little Shop of Horrors. Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman; music by Alan Menken. $9; $8 MIT faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students; $6 MIT/Wellesley students; $3 MIT freshmen. Kresge Little Theater.

Monday's Events

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Book Exchange. Come and sell books at the APO Book Exchange. W20-West Lounge (2nd Flr). Sponsor: Alpha Phi Omega.

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. - Christian Fellowship Lounge. Come to the Christian Fellowship Lounge! Find out more about Christian life at MIT and in the Boston area. Drop by to meet friendly people, to snack on some food, or to play some games.

12:00 - 2:00 p.m. - United Christian Orientation BBQ. Free! Food! You’ve probably had a lot of it in the past week, but here’s one more. Come eat some good burgers, listen to some acapella music, and hang out with some Christians from MIT. Johnson BBQ Pits. Sponsor: Cross Products.

2:00 p.m. - Little Shop of Horrors. Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman; music by Alan Menken. $9; $8 MIT faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students; $6 MIT/Wellesley students; $3 MIT freshmen. Kresge Little Theater.

Tuesday's Events

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Book Exchange. Come and buy and sell books at the APO Book Exchange. W20-West Lounge (2nd Flr). Sponsor: Alpha Phi Omega.

4:00 p.m. - Boat Club BBQ - Crew Kickoff. The MIT Boat Club will be hosting a BBQ for everyone interested in rowing this year. The event will also be a chance to meet coaches and other rowers and learn about practice schedules. H.W.Friese Boathouse (WB). Sponsor: MIT Boat Club.

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Reg Day Service. Anxiously about the first day of classes? Instead of frowning, consider joining us! Start off for singing, prayer, and a speaker session. La Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Cross Products.

8:00 p.m. - Little Shop of Horrors. Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman; music by Alan Menken. $9; $8 MIT faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students; $6 MIT/Wellesley students; $3 MIT freshmen. Kresge Little Theater.

9:00 - 11:00 p.m. - Christian Fellowship Lounge. Come to the Christian Fellowship Lounge! Find out more about Christian life at MIT and in the Boston area. Drop by to meet friendly people, to snack on some food, or to play some games.

Wednesday's Events

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Book Exchange. Come and sell books at the APO Book Exchange. W20-West Lounge (2nd Flr). Sponsor: Alpha Phi Omega.

12:10 p.m. - Generation of strong mesoscale eddies from weak meridional flows. Michael Spall, WHOL. Room 54-915. Sponsor: Physical Oceanography.

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. - James Randi: Skeptism.001. James Randi, magician, skeptic, entertainer, and TV personality, is another paranormal claims debunker who will entertain and educate you by showing how easy it is to be fooled. Tune up your B.S. detector! Free Admission. 26-100. Sponsor: Atheists, Agnostics, and Humanists, MIT.

Thursday's Events

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Book Exchange. Come and buy and sell books at the APO Book Exchange. W20-West Lounge (2nd Flr). Sponsor: Alpha Phi Omega.

3:00 p.m. - Experiences in Interactive Expression. Tod Machover, Associate Professor of Music and Media, MIT Media Lab. Experiences in Interactive Expression. 2 hours. Visiting artists who use digital media and interactivity or audience participation in their work, will focus in depth on one piece, with a quick overview of his/her work, followed by a discussion of strong points. MIT Museum, Room 390.

8:00 - 11:00 p.m. - Learn to Square Dance. Learn to square dance MIT-style! No partner or experience needed. Free intro night, refreshments will be served. Lobdell. 9:00 p.m. - Rule of Nines. Attend this seminar this semester on the right foot-or on the left. The MIT Dance Mix Coalition presents a stellar mixed night of dance music starting from the old school, taking it to the new. See Web for details.

Next Friday's Events

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Book Exchange. Come by and sell books at the APO Book Exchange. Admission 0. W20-West Lounge (2nd Flr). Sponsor: Alpha Phi Omega.

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. - European Club Welcome BBQ. Join new and current members of the European Club for food, drinks, and stimulating conversation. Kresge BBQ pits. Sponsor: European Club.
FILM REVIEW

**Mystery Men**

**Blade Runner meets Naked Gun**

**By Vladimir Zolotnisky**

Written by Neil Cuthbert, based on the comic book by Bob Burden

With Ben Stiller, William H. Macy, Geoffrey Rush, Janeane Garofalo, Paul Reubens, Greg Kinnear

Movies that both parody a certain genre and attempt to simultaneously belong to it cannot work; there must be some kind of a universal law to that effect. It's entirely to the credit of *Mystery Men* that it almost succeeds despite this.

Part camp, part Blade Runner, part Naked Gun, part something entirely new and original, *Mystery Men* is both a spoof of the over-direct ed, over-produced, and over-merchandised superhero genre and an attempt to genuinely thrill and wow the audience. Give this baby a touch more inventive script and a touch more superpower is that he gets really, really angry. Shovelhead (William H. Macy), who likes to hit his opponents with a shaved, and Blue Raja (Hank Azaria), the one who does about half a dozen voices on "The Simpsons," who throws forks and spoons.

This is the summary of the first ten minutes or so; *Mystery Men* delights in creating all sorts of stupid characters and situations. Some of the best character actors in the business have a chance to sink their creative teeth in some of the weirdest characters around — and still make them impressively human. Hank Azaria and Janeane Garofalo (who joins the ragtag team of his Champion City also owes a debt to the book by Bob Burden)

Directed by Kinka Usher

Written by Neil Cuthbert, based on the comic book by Bob Burden

**MUSIC REVIEW**

**Eartha Kitt**

**She's still here**

**By Zamirane Ansari**

E artha Kitt, legendary vocalist, played at the Scullers Jazz Club in Boston from August 18th to 21st. Around fifteen years ago, my cousins and I saw a video of her singing "I Chews My Fingers to the Bone." Her expression was intense, her eyes piercing, her voice groaningly husky, almost witch-like, the lyrics incomprehensible, almost scary: the youngest of us hid away in fear.

Later, when I became reacquainted with Ms. Kitt, I thought her intensely sexy, her voice bewitching. I could laugh out loud at the often humorous, ambiguously, and even unambiguously risque lyrics. I was moved by her ballads. She sounded as if she sang with every inch of her body. On Thursday, August 19th, I finally saw her perform live when, dressed in a sexy black gown showing off her well-kept figure, Ms. Kitt sauntered on to the stage and began with an enthusiastic, determinedly strong rendition of "I'm Still Here," later on are most impressive; and Greg Kinnear, in a rather small part, is — and I'm not using this word lightly — brilliant.

All the issue proceedings are orchestrated by first-time director Kiska Usher, who clearly has a gift for visuals. Beyond obvious influences, his Champion City also owes a debt to such demoted visual artists as Marc Caro and Jean-Pierre Jeunet (The City of Lost Children). It's the storytelling that somewhat lags. The problem is that both the screenplay and the direction are done on a very moment-to-moment basis (not incidentally, this is also a major fault of the movies this one is trying to spoof). There's such a wealth of imagination in every shot and every wild plot and character creation that the through-lines — like character and plot arcs — are short-charged. These are present, to be sure, and in this aspect *Mystery Men* is already better than most Hollyood output; but they are largely simplistic.

For all of its running length, this film is enjoyable, funny, rather sweet, and very inven
tive, but, the thing is, it's rarely exciting. There's a hint of some when the superhero-warehouses ambush Frankenstein's lissomine in an under
ground garage, and there's also a great moment of two in the extended action finale. Otherwise, the screenplay is methodic, too much so. In the end, every one of its midb of heroes finds — for real — their powers to save the day. What's depressing is that most of them, they have such powers. I cared more about these people when they were just plain ordinary, folks with delusions of importance.

There are comic gems sprinkled aplenty throughout (Garofalo even manages to make a plea in favor of independent movies during the finale, and Reubens's character contains an eye
dull. I just wish the filmmakers paid a bit more attention to the genre they are spoofing. They clearly understand everything that doesn't work in it — they should also have taken care to note what does work in it.

She has been "still here" for over half a cen
tury; the audience was astonished to hear that on January 17th she had turned 72. Originally from South Carolina, Eartha Kitt was trained as a dancer and gained fame in post-war Paris, before her film debut in 1948's *Cahush*. Her most well-known and definitive character remains that of the gawking Catwoman in the 60's television series "Bat

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government smear campaign from late 60's to
ear the end, every one of its misfit band of heroes finds ...

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While one of her most popular songs is "I Want to Be Evil," her community service attests she's anything but. The reason why the immortal image sticks is because of her
dramatic and completely convincing theatrical style. She can flirt with a sweet innocent voice and then drop to the voice of a street-smart, witty, intelligent femme fatale.

The second song actually gave her age
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# 620

PLU # 620

PLU # 621
EAT IN THE TRENDS

The Essential Vegetarian
An adventure in Europe
By Katia Jeffreys

Welcome to another year of the Essential Vegetarian. For those of you who are not familiar with the column, it appears weekly, presenting restaurant reviews, recipes, facts and tips relevant to the vegetarian lifestyle. If you ever have any comments on the column, issues you would like addressed here, etc., I can be reached at veggie@agate-techt.net.edu.

I spent this summer in Europe, primarily working in Venice, Italy. I found that people there generally have a more difficult time understanding vegetarianism than Americans. Twice I met people who showed great excitement when I said I was a vegetarian, because they claimed to be also. I quickly found out that one of them meant he was very little red meat and would eat all other kinds of meat, and the other frequently ate fish. They didn't understand what the standard American definition of vegetarian meant (not consuming any meat: beef, poultry, pork, fish, etc.). This was not a function of the language barrier, but simply the rarity of true vegetarians in Europe.

Consumption of meat in Europe extends beyond American standards as well, including horse meat as a moderately common dish. I found one entertaining example of the European attitude towards meat in a magazine advertisement. At first glance the image was of a field filled with pink and white flowers. Upon closer inspection I realized that the flowers were in fact made of the thinly sliced ham rimmed in white fat which is served with many meals. This juxtaposition of a field of wildflowers and the processed meat was composed of striker such as both.

One of my first chances in Venice was to establish myself as a vegetarian with the local restaurant staff. After a lot of questioning, I was able to explain my dietary restrictions to them, but was once served a dish containing tuna, having verified that there was no 'c' in it. I later learned this word, meaning 'meat' (which to me would include fish) implies beef, and sometimes pork, only. I quickly learned the local language for vegetables and vegetable products so as not to be surprised by little fish or meat sauce in my pasta.

When I chose to eat at the Venetian restaurants, I was able to create wonderful vegetarian meals, which took advantage of the fresh produce markets throughout the city, as well as the large kitchen in my apartment. I personally felt that the mixed vegetable pastas, hearty vegan lasagna, bruschetta, and garlic mashed potatoes which I served rivaled those found in many of Boston's (admittedly mediocre) Italian restaurants.

Next week's topic: Chinese. (European vegetarian friend) Until then, I will leave you with my recipe for veggie lasagna. I was surprised with the simplicity of this dish.

Wash the spinach, removing the stems. Chop the spinach in a food processor and fold it into the ricotta, adding the egg as you do so. Wash the spinach, removing the stems. Chop the spinach in a food processor and fold it into the ricotta, adding the egg as you do so. Baked until the cheese on the top becomes brown and the noodles around the edges become crispy. Allow the dish to "set" for about ten minutes before serving.

Baked until the cheese on the top becomes brown and the noodles around the edges become crispy. Allow the dish to "set" for about ten minutes before serving.

Lazagna noodles (one box or the equivalent of fresh noodles)

1 lb fresh spinach
1 egg
1/2 cups of fresh mushrooms (about 12 oz, cut into small pieces)

1 lb fresh mushrooms (about 12 oz, cut into small pieces)
**THEATER REVIEW**

**Little Shop of Horrors**

Quite appetizing

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

*MIT Musical Theatre*

Produced by MIT Musical Theatre Guild

Libretto by Howard Ashman

Music by Alan Menken

Directed by Christopher Lyon

Music directed by Jeff Flaster

Produced by Allison Clayton

With Welkin Pope '00, Steve Niemczyk G, Jamez Kirtley '94, and others

In Little Kresge, September 3-6, 16-18

Little Shop of Horrors is yet another show in the recent succession of highly enjoyable MIT Musical Theatre Guild productions: it's appealing, competent, and entertaining. MTG should also be credited by picking a show on the manageable scale (unlike, say, something as daunting as Fiddler on the Roof), and selecting an impressive cast and crew.

Little Shop is written by the team of lyricist/librettist Howard Ashman and composer Alan Menken, who later worked on a good deal of Disney animated films (like The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, and Aladdin). There are obvious parallels between the duo's work for the stage and the screen. Ashman is famous for creating beautiful, easily flowing lyrics out of plain boring everyday words, and Menken is every bit his match in inspired musical stylizations. There are even some direct similarities, such as the close resemblance between Little Shop's "Somewhere That's Green" and Little Mermaid's "Part of Your World." But Little Shop is also markedly different from anything that Ashman and Menken did for the Mouse House: it's a twisted black musical comedy.

I'll bypass the customary plot summary; if you know the story you won't need it, and if you don't (I managed to see the show knowing virtually nothing about it), you'll have the enjoyment of following the plot. The important thing about Little Shop is that it is a perfect show for MTG: it is rapidly paced, has only a few characters and no chorus, has a distinct yet very humanable but not too complicated score, and, above all, is a lot of fun — both for the performers and the audience.

Most of this fun translates well. The first thing that works is the cast. Welkin Pope, a regular at MTG, is finally getting a long-deserved lead part. Playing Audrey, the flower-shop clerk, Pope manages to create a character which is simultaneously highly stylized and completely recognizable and human. She also has the highlight of the show, "Somewhere That's Green" song, where every single aspect of the show — acting, singing, music, staging, lighting — combine for several mesmerizing minutes.

The rest of the show goes along as usual, with most things working, and some obstinately refusing to work. Act one's finale makes just about no sense, and there's not much chemistry between Seymour and Audrey (although that's probably because the libretto gives them all of one and a half scenes together). The admitdly nifty-looking set piece of little shop's exterior is quite superfluous as well: the only thing it adds is several long (and loud) pauses while it's dragged on and off the stage.

The only problem which is of some magnitude, though, is poor sound work: one of the characters is voiced from off-stage, and it's very hard to make out the words. It's somewhat mitigated by the fact that Jake Yara '93, who is doing the voicing, does very impressive emoting, so even when the words aren't clear, the meaning behind them usually is.

**Photos by Annie S. Choi**
MIT Science and Technology Initiatives

The MIT China Program

and

The MIT Japan Program

Japan Orientation Meeting: Monday, Sept. 13
4:30-5:30pm Mezzanine Lounge, W20-Student Ctr.

China Orientation Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 14
4:30-5:30pm Mezzanine Lounge, W20-Student Ctr.

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Results of the lottery will be available to participants on September 9th.

Late registration, based on availability, will begin September 9th between 10-4pm in the P.E. office W32-125.

Scuba Registration is taking place NOW in the P.E. office ONLY.

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Second Lottery May Be Needed.

Dorms, from Page 1

allowed to accept bids nearer to the time of the lottery. “Instead of getting three days of information, we get two days,” he said.

However, Bernard also said that in general “pledging is down... compared to what it was two years ago.”

Crowding heavy this year

The results of the lottery led to heavy crowding. One indicator: even Bexley Hall will be crowded this year.

MacGregor House was the second most popular dormitory this year. Several of MacGregor’s lounges were crowded last year, and the dorm could see even heavier crowding this year. Although only eight of MacGregor’s lounges have currently been crowded, “if we’re not able to get pledges or place [students] anywhere else... we’ll have to talk to MacGregor about using more lounges,” Bernard said.

Despite renovations which made it more difficult to rush, Baker was the most popular dormitory this year, and Bexley shot up the charts to become the third-most popular dorm.

Second lottery not unprecedented

In the past, an additional lottery has been necessary for students who did not receive a housing assignment, in the hopes that more students would pledge to off-campus living groups over the course of the week. In 1993, approximately 100 students were told to wait for a second round of the housing lottery, and more than half of those students were put through a third lottery. The lottery difficulties were in part related to original efforts to reduce crowding; 60 less spaces were available than in the previous year. At least 80 percent of freshmen were crowded in 1992, “the highest percentage of crowds in recent memory” according to an article in The Tech at the time.
Dear new and returning graduate students,

This year we have a vision of the Graduate Student Council (GSC) as a responsible representative voice for our graduate student needs to the MIT Administration. Supporting this vision is a network of representatives from many departments, programs, and living groups. We invite representatives to meet with their constituents, voice any concerns to the general body, and be involved in the running of our GSC. The GSC will continue to work on the issues of conducting a diversity study, communicating with graduate students through the Graduate Student News (GSN), pursuing graduate housing options that meet our needs, and funding as many graduate student organizations as possible.

The GSC is composed of six committees, which work to address student needs in a variety of areas. Each committee meets approximately once per month. All graduate students are invited and encouraged to attend both the GSC general council meetings and the various committee meetings. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in the GSC lounge (Walker Memorial 50-220) at 5:30 pm and last about an hour. Dinner is provided.

We hope to see you at one of our meetings (schedules are listed on each Tuesday’s Tech on page 3). Welcome and welcome back!

Luis Ortiz, President
Sanith Wijeyesinghe, Vice President
Sumit Gautam, Treasurer
Ying Li, Secretary

COMMITTEES

The committees of the Graduate Student Council work to address student needs in a variety of areas. Each committee is chaired by two people and meets approximately once per month. All graduate students are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly GSC general and committee meetings. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in the GSC lounge (Walker Memorial 50-220) at 5:30 pm and last about an hour. Dinner is provided.

Publications and Publicity Board

The Publications and Publicity Board produces the Graduate Student News publication to inform all graduate students about recent issues that affect them in addition to relevant goings-on within the Institute. It is a valuable resource for getting in touch with many people in order to collect their opinions and positions on issues that the GSC is involved in. The GSN also includes sections on student and group funding, fellowships and scholarships, GSC events, department news, local events, and how to best make use of the Institute’s resources.

Activities

The Activities Committee has the important responsibility of providing graduate students with the opportunity to have fun. We organize events and activities such as –

• Visting and Skiing trips
• Nights at the Ballet, ISO and Broadway
• Trips to the Beach and Whale-Watching
• Parties and Socials
• The MIT Graduate and Alumni Ball

All these events are provided for graduate students and their guests at a discounted price. We know it is tough sometimes to find fun, affordable things to do, so we are always planning something to get people out of the lab and keep them sane. All graduate students are welcome at our meetings, and we’re always looking for new ideas. Come by and help us prevent MIT from getting in the way of enjoying yourself in this great city.

Housing and Community Affairs

The Housing and Community Affairs Committee is concerned with issues such as housing, safety, health services, parking, athletics, and related matters. In recent years, HCA was the driving force behind the installation of the RenNet computer network in all graduate residences; supported the establishment of SafeRide (and this year, extensions to the routes); initiated the Grocery Shuttle; worked to keep average graduate student residence and to make sure graduate students have input on new residential and negotiated discounts on MBTA subway and bus passes and on graduate student class rings.

This year HCA worked to ensure that the administration heard the students’ position on the issues such as the residential parking fee, privacy concerns about the MIT card, and licensing fees on class rings. We continue to investigate the charges raised against the student—how do you feel about the situation?

The Housing Committee convenes twice per year to plan events designed to welcome new graduate students to MIT at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters.

The Fall Orientation committee is the larger of the two, with an extensive program consisting of approximately 20 events. These include perennial favorites, such as the Harbour cruise, Red Sox game, and picnic; as well as new events such as Camera Safari, the Trolley Tour, and Whale Watch. Work for the Fall orientation begins in late in the spring semester and continues until mid-September.

Starting in late Fall planning begins for the Spring Orientation, geared for students entering during the Spring term. Although smaller, this segment of orientation is important for those who otherwise "skip between the cracks".

P E O P L E  I N  T H E  G S C

If you need information about a particular committee or board or about the GSC in general, please contact one of the committee chairs or officers listed below.

Luis Ortiz gsc-president@mit.edu
Sanith Wijeyesinghe gsc-vp-president@mit.edu
Ying Li gsc-secretary@mit.edu
Sumit Gautam gsc-treasurer@mit.edu
Academics, Research and Careers

Academics, Research, and Careers Committee deals with all academic issues pertinent to graduate students at MIT. These include graduate research and teaching, as well as postgraduate employment.

The Committee fosters excellence in teaching by encouraging workshops for new teaching assistants and new faculty members. Each year the Committee presents awards for outstanding teaching of graduate courses; nomination of award winners is based on extensive student participation.

The Academics, Research, and Careers Committee also handles subjects related to the broader graduate curriculum. It discusses research group matters and graduate student advising, and organizes an annual advisor-advisee relationship forum. Other activities include leadership workshops open to all MIT students, and exit surveys for graduating students.

The Committee not only itself with improving graduate classes and research, but also aims at facilitating the transition from academic life to industry. Its annual career fair draws students and companies together to discuss future career options and job opportunities.

Muddy Charles Pub

The Muddy Charles Pub is located in the east corner of the ground floor of the Walker Memorial Building, directly below the Graduate Student Council offices. Run independently from the GSC and staffed by students, the Muddy is a popular watering hole for stressed out graduate students and MIT staff.

So if your advisor is on your case, the legs have fallen off your robot, or your laser has become misaligned and burned a hole in your lab notebook, why not grab a few friends and take half an hour or so to wind down and chill out over a few cold ones at the Muddy...

http://www.mit.edu/activities/gsc

Infor M ation for 1999-2000

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The Committee fosters excellence in teaching by encouraging workshops for new teaching assistants and new faculty members. Each year the Committee presents awards for outstanding teaching of graduate courses; nomination of award winners is based on extensive student participation.

The Academics, Research, and Careers Committee also handles subjects related to the broader graduate curriculum. It discusses research group matters and graduate student advising, and organizes an annual advisor-advisee relationship forum. Other activities include leadership workshops open to all MIT students, and exit surveys for graduating students.

The Committee not only itself with improving graduate classes and research, but also aims at facilitating the transition from academic life to industry. Its annual career fair draws students and companies together to discuss future career options and job opportunities.

Muddy Charles Pub

The Muddy Charles Pub is located in the east corner of the ground floor of the Walker Memorial Building, directly below the Graduate Student Council offices. Run independently from the GSC and staffed by students, the Muddy is a popular watering hole for stressed out graduate students and MIT staff.

So if your advisor is on your case, the legs have fallen off your robot, or your laser has become misaligned and burned a hole in your lab notebook, why not grab a few friends and take half an hour or so to wind down and chill out over a few cold ones at the Muddy...

http://www.mit.edu/activities/gsc
AUDITIONS

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, Dante Anzolini, Director

FESTIVAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE, Fred Harris, Director

CONCERT BAND, Fred Harris, Director

WIND ENSEMBLE, Fred Harris, Director

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY, Marcus Thompson, Director

CHAMBER CHORUS, W. Illiam Cutter, Director
Auditions: Thurs., Sept. 9, 10-11:30 am, Killian Hall (14W-111). Audition Requirements: One solo piece of your choice and sight-reading.

CONCERT CHOIR, W. Illiam Cutter, Director
Auditions: Thurs., Sept. 9, 6-8:30 pm, Rm. 2-190. Audition Format: Octet auditions of music just rehearsed.

GAMELAN GALAK TIKA, Evan Ziporyn, Director

MITCAN, African Music and Dance Ensemble, James Makubuya, Director
First Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 16.

QUESTIONS ???
E-mail Matthew: MTA-request@mit.edu, call (617) 253-2826, or stop by the Music Office at 14N-207

Interested in studying in England?
Consider either the Rhodes Scholarships or the British Marshall Scholarships!

MIT Deadline for applications: Friday, October 1

Rhodes Scholarships
A very prestigious award for two or three years of study at Oxford University.
IMPORTANT:
- Download application at: www.rhodesscholar.org
- Make appointment to speak with Prof. Larry Vale, rm. 10-485, ext. 3-0561

British Marshall Scholarships
An intensely competitive award for two or three years of study in any discipline at a British university.
IMPORTANT:
- Download application at: www.acu.ac.uk/marshall/index.html
- Make appointment to speak with Prof. Linn Hobbs, rm. 13-4065, ext. 3-6835

Contact the Graduate Students Office (ext. 3-1940) for information on other foreign scholarships.
Opinions
On Rush
Varied

Rush, from Page 1

pledged after the lottery.

Houses positive on rush

Despite the low overall numbers, houses surveyed yesterday seemed pleased with rush.

Phi Kappa Sigma member Trushar J. Patel `01 said that rush "went really well for us." The fraternity expects a "larger pledge class than we've seen in a while." The house had received 11 bids and was still open as of yesterday afternoon.

Theta Xi Assistant Rush Chair Andrew D. Berkheimer `01 said that the house had seen a "higher than usual turnout." Theta Xi collected seven pledges and expected more to "come in slowly" over the coming days.

Some houses were less positive this year's rush. Matthew B. Karau `01, rush chair for Theta Chi, said that rush was "kind of slow." TC expects a "smaller than normal pledge class," he said. The house is expecting to receive six bids. "Everyone is waiting for the dorms," Karau said.

Daniel R. Feller `00, Sigma Nu rush chair, said that his house is also expecting a number of pledges in the coming days. The house currently has three pledges and is expecting a total of 10 to 15, he said.

If many students are, in fact, waiting for the dorms, as Karau proposes, rush may be in better straits than early figures suggest.

Lambda Chi Alpha, on the other hand, had already received 13 pledges out of 14 bids by yesterday afternoon. Rush Chair Mitchell Y. Huang `01 said.

Independent living groups also appeared pleased with rush. Members of Student House said that the house had reached their goal. Fenway house has received four pledges so far.

Seororities received 107 pledges so far this year, said Dorow. Panhel Rush Chair Jenny C. Huang `00 said that in total sororities had extended 140 bids to freshmen. Michael Hall contributed to the reporting of this article.

The Tech would like to thank everyone who helped make the 1999 daily Orientation issues a success.

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ROSH
HASHANAH

REFORM
SERVICES
MIT Chapel
Friday, Sept. 10, 6:30 pm
Saturday, Sept. 11, 8:45 am & 5:45 pm

CONSERVATIVE
SERVICES
Kresge Little Theatre
Friday, Sept. 10, 6:30 pm
Saturday, Sept. 11, 8:45 am & 5:45 pm
Sunday, Sept. 12, 8:45 a.m.

ROSH HASHANAH MEALS will be served at Hillel.
Prepayment by Sept. 8 with meal card or cash.

YOM KIPPUR is Sept. 19-20. Tickets are required for all Sept. 19 KOL NIDRE SERVICES and are available for students and members of the MIT community. Ticket pickup at MIT Hillel through Sept. 17 and in Lobby 10 on Sept. 8, 9, 15, 16.

MIT HILLEL, Building W11 lower level, 253-2982
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YOU'Re STUCK WITH IT.

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Getting a college education isn't cheap. So you really can't afford to make a mistake when buying a computer. The CNET Buying Guide can help you decide what to buy, where to buy it and what to pay for it. And to kick off the new school year, we're giving away new computers and other prizes during our Computer-A-Day Giveaway Sweepstakes. The Sweepstakes is running from August 11, 1999, through September 12, 1999. Enter to win each day. That gives you 33 chances to avoid plunging further into debt.

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