By Rima Arnaout

By Karen E. Robinson

By Rima Arnaout and Jane Yoo

The Office of Residential Life and Student Life Programs assigned new individual MIT accounts to twenty graduate and undergraduate student groups this week as a continuation of the Student Group Financial Pilot, a joint effort on behalf of RLSLP and the Graduate Student Council Funding Board to streamline student group finances.

The individual account system is supposed to provide "more immediate access to accurate information" about student accounts at MIT, said Edmund A. Jones, a member of Student Activities Finances in the RLSLP Office.

With the old accounting system, "the level of service through MIT accounting doesn't meet the needs of the student groups," Jones said.

The twenty new individual accounts were given to groups including class councils, Counterpoint, the Association of Student Activities, Scandivians Student Association, and Sloan Crew.

In a separate program for groups funded by the GSC, the graduate groups with new individual accounts will also be set up with child accounts linked to those MIT accounts in the next few weeks as the SAP R/3 accounting software replaces MIT's legacy system. The new system is designed so the GSC can deposit funds directly into a group's child account but not have access to that group's larger bank account.

The individual account system improves service by giving student groups a turnaround of only 24 to 48 hours for reimbursements as well as increased ability to use direct funding instead of the reimbursement system for large purchases, Jones said.

Furthermore, because each student group has its own account under the pilot program, student group treasurers can see a record of that group's transactions just by looking at the account's activity. Transactions are less likely to get lost.

New Pre-Orientation Programs Await Freshman

By Rima Arnaout and Jane Yoo

No Valentine's Day celebration would be complete without the NECCO brand of back talk, affectionate sayings like "Love Me Tender" and "Yeah Right." NECCO hearts are one of the most popular Valentine products in America. The New England Confectionary Company, a quick jaunt from MIT on the way to Random Hall, makes 100,000 pounds of hearts a day, and it takes them all year to make the 8 billion hearts consumed during Valentine's Day. That's 20 million pounds of candy hearts, which, if laid back to back, would stretch for 32 thousand miles.

There are over 100 different sayings on the NECCO hearts; some of the most popular ones include "be mine," "be true," "kiss me," "marry me," and "sweet talk" have been around since the 1890s.

Walter Marshall, Vice President of Logistics and Planning at NECCO, also has the job of creating sayings for the conversation hearts. His favorite flavor of hearts are the pink cherry ones.

"Eight or nine years ago a reporter from Cincinnati, Ohio, called wanting to do a story about NECCO and the candy hearts, "I sort of became a spokesperson for the hearts and sort of befriended them, sort of took them under my wing." "After the article was written, the reporter gave me a nickname 'King of Hearts.'" Marshall and NECCO have gotten a lot of publicity for the conversation hearts. Media including People Magazine, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, CNN, and the Today Show have all featured Marshall and the NECCO heart-making process in the past. Last year, Rosie O'Donnell invited Marshall to appear on her Feb. 14 show.

"I used to field the questions about conversation hearts and about NECCO, and it seemed that these little candies were very... attention getting."

"Ten to twelve years ago, "we started to add some [heart messages] and delete some that did not have the same meaning" as when they were started." Marshall said. Messages like 'Solid,' 'Dig Me,' 'Groovy,' and 'UR Gay' slipped into history.

"In the days that it came out, [UR Gay] meant you were a happy guy, a happy person. Now it has another connotation so we took it out," Marshall said.

The 1996 gave way to a new set of sayings, Marshall added, to the technology that defined this decade. "Our first high-tech saying we added was 'Fax Me.' That got a good response, so next year we added 'Email Me' and 'Page Me,'" Marshall said.

Ten new sayings were announced for Valentine's Day 1999. "For 1999, we thought we'd get a little bit of nostalgia from gone-by days, but not so far gone," Marshall said. The sayings included 'My Way,' 'Let it Be,' 'I Got U, Babe,' 'Love Me Tender,' and 'Walk on By.'

Marshall's inspiration for heart messages comes from many people. "It's a little piece of candy," Marshall said, "so it's hard to be creative." His two granddaughters, Rachel and Sarah, came up with "You Rock" and 'I Wonder,' respectively.

When he was featured on the Rosie O'Donnell Show, Rosie suggested the saying 'Let's Do Lunch,' and one of the writers for the show came up with "As If." Both can be found on NECCO hearts today.
As Impeachment Vote Nears, Senators Break from Parties

By Guy Gugliotta and Eric Planic

WASHINGTON

Secret deliberations in President Clinton's impeachment trial wound toward a finish Thursday, as a fourth Republican announced plans to reject both articles, pushing conviction supporters within a single vote of falling to win even a simple majority against the president when the Senate casts its votes Friday.

While describing Clinton's conduct as "deplorable and indefensible," Sen. Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine) said she became convinced that "the president's wrongdoing can and should be effectively addressed by the criminal justice system" rather than removal from office. Senators of both parties predicted another moderate Republican from Maine, Susan M. Collins, might also vote against the charge that Clinton obstructed justice, but her office did not confirm her intention.

Meeting in secret from 10 a.m. until about 5 p.m., with a break only for lunch, the Senate heard about 30 members of both parties outline their views on the second presidential impeachment trial in U.S. history.

By the end of the day, senators including two of three or four senators left to speak, including Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), Minority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.) and Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) viewed as the leading exponent of Senate traditions and practices. Lott and Daschle said they hoped the Senate would vote by 11 a.m. or noon EST Friday.

Even as the deliberations proceeded, a steady stream of senators called news conferences, issued statements or submitted speeches explaining their positions. Virtually all the statements, even from Democrats, condemned Clinton's behavior in the scandal with language "distasteful and reprehensible," though the two parties parted company on the proper punishment; Democrats said the president should remain in office, while most Republicans affirmed conviction as a just result for disgraceful conduct.

It has been certain for weeks that the Senate will not muster the two-thirds majority needed to oust Clinton from office, and in the past few days enthusiasm for the first impeachment article alleging perjury in Clinton's Aug. 17 grand jury testimony has waned to the point where it almost certainly now has 50 votes.

Snowe's announcement meant that four Republicans are now on record opposing the second article, alleging obstruction of justice in Clinton's efforts to conceal his sexual involvement with Monica S. Lewinsky. The others — Allen Scott (R-Pa.), James M. Jeffords (R-Vt.), and John H. Chafee (R-R.I.) — announced their opposition Wednesday.

If Democrats, as is widely expected, close ranks to oppose both articles, only a maximum of 51 senators, all Republicans, could be counted on to vote for the obstruction article. Still giving little clue to their intentions were two early GOP waverers, Collins and Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.).

The only question in the Democratic camp was Byrd, who has not said categorically that he will vote against both articles.

Democrats have said that, after the Senate returns to regular legislative session, they will make a parlia
datory move aimed at forcing a vote on their resolution to censure Clinton.

U.S. Plans to Deploy Marines To Kosovo for Peacekeeping

By Dana Priest

WASHINGTON

U.S. military planners, turning to America's elite beach-storming service, have decided to send the Marines into Kosovo during an initial stage of a peacekeeping deployment in that embattled Serbian province, administration officials said Thursday.

About 2,200 Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit based in Camp Lejeune, N.C., who are now afloat in the Mediterranean, would arrive next month near the area where a NATO-led peacekeeping force, equipped to arrive. They would make up a longer-term U.S. presence as part of a European-led and dominated peacekeeping force. Using the Marines would give the United States the ability to deploy troops immediately after a settlement between the Serbian government and secessionist Kosovo rebels, instead of having to wait weeks or months for more heavily equipped Army units to arrive.

At the same time, a senior military officer said many concerns originally expressed by the U.S. Joint Chiefs have been addressed in the latest version of a 25-page military annex to the political settlement that the Serbian government and ethnic Albanian guerrillas are discussing at the Rambouillet peace talks.

For instance, Joint Guardian, the plan that could involve 20,000 NATO troops, would not require NATO troops to take on police functions, such as making arrests or escorting refugees. Instead, they would monitor local police.

Unlike Bosnia, where NATO troops positioned themselves between the formerly warring factions in "zones of separation," in Kosovo troops would be "like a blanket of snow" over the entire province, said the official. The official said the troops will be responsible for supervising a withdrawal of forces on both sides, for making sure military equipment is kept in certain storage sites and for monitoring the disarming of some units. They would also monitor the border, which the Serb army would be allowed to patrol.

Moving the Marines into Kosovo and Bosnia, their first venture into the Balkans, also reflects a desire by the Marine Corps to play a larger role in peacekeeping operations, a growing business for the U.S. military in the post Cold War era.

Clinton Considers N.Y. Senate Race

By Gene J. Puskar

WASHINGTON

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will "seriously consider" whether to run for the Senate from New York in 2000 once the Senate impeachment trial of her husband has been concluded, several knowledgeable Democrats said Thursday.

The first lady has been besieged in recent weeks by Democrats in New York and elsewhere who have strongly encouraged her to seek the seat of retiring Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., urging that she would be the strongest possible candidate the party could nominate.

Hillary Clinton's office sought to play down intensifying discussion about a possible Senate race Thursday, and a number of Democrats said they still doubted that the first lady would jump into electoral politics this year, despite the pressure she is under.

Butхthere is a possibility of a Clinton Senate campaign that she has not moved beyond the point of mere speculation, according to a number of sources. As one Democrat familiar with New York politics put it Thursday: "People who were telling me a week ago that they didn't think this was going to happen now believe it's really possible that it could happen."

Greenspan Rejects Bank Compromise

By Tad R. White

WASHINGTON

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan dug in his heels Thursday, saying he would rather kill efforts to revamp financial services law than compromise with regulatory rivals at the Treasury Department and allow banks to sell securities and other nonbanking services through wholly owned subsidiaries.

Speaking to a House Banking Committee, Greenspan said in the strongest words possible that allowing banks to offer new services through subsidiaries would "lead to greater risk for the (bank) depositors and other deposit fund shareholders."

Greenspan repeated the Fed's position that banks should be allowed to affiliate with insurance and securities firms only through a "blanket of snow" over the entire universe of financial services.

The Treasury regulates national banks. The Fed regulates bank holding companies. The two agencies have been locked in a fight over which will be the primary federal bank regulator if financial services legislation passes.

U.S. Weather Outlook

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, February 12, 1999

80°F 90°F 100°F

55°F 60°F 65°F

40°F 45°F 50°F

30°F 35°F 40°F

Sunny and sunny. Winds gusting to 30 mph.

Cold and windy. Winds gusting to 25 mph.

Snowy and windy. Winds gusting to 20 mph.

Snowy and windy. Winds gusting to 15 mph.

Rainy and windy. Winds gusting to 10 mph.
Despite Court Order, American Airline Pilots Lengthen Sickout

By James F. Peltz

Nearly a quarter of American Airlines' 14,000 pilots have lodged a new grievance with the airline and their union leadership and extended their sickout to a 30th day Thursday. And the airline is threatening to again cancel more than half of its 2,200 daily flights.

The pilots' action virtually guar-
danced widespread disruption for the airline. "We are avoiding the possibility of President's Day weekend holiday, when empty seats on other airlines will be a hot commodity," the pilot's union said.

More than 3,500 American flights a day are delayed or canceled - more than 350,000 passengers inconvenienced, since the pilots began their sickout last week in a labor dispute over the airline's recent purchase of the smaller combin-

For the airline and the pilots' union continued their negotiations Thursday. But even if all of American's 9,200 pilots immediately returned to work, the disrupted flight schedules, out-of-place aircraft and other lingering effects of the pilots' job action would likely lead to more canceled flights this weekend.

The airline itself is working with other American Airlines management marched back into court Thursday and asked that the judge restore the union's status in the Air Line Pilots Association, be found in contempt of court by the judge and ordered to call back to work the sickened pilots, as ordered by Wednesday's Sickout, as ordered by Wednesday's.

But American - the primary unit of Fort Worth, Texas-based American Airlines - said its new sickout showed the union's effort wasn't enough. In seeking the con-
temporary labor dispute, the airline said the union still hadn't "clearly commun-

The debate over this type of late-term abortion has "made even abortion opponents" question their own stance, according to one of the justices. "The debate has also made it clear that abortion opponents who have been successful in shutting down access to abortion clinics realize that state legislators, eager to ban partial-birth abortion, may rewrite the laws so that they pass constitutional muster," the judge said.

The debate over whether one of late-term abortion bill would make it more difficult for a state to regulate abortion who have been successful in shutting down access to abortion clinics realize that state legislators, eager to ban partial-birth abortion, may rewrite the laws so that they pass constitutional muster," the judge said.

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OPINION
Making the Grade

Three-and-a-half years ago, the Committee on the Undergraduate Program started an experiment in intermediate +/- modifiers on grades. The modifiers were to be internal only, meaning that they would not affect students grade point averages and would not appear on transcripts available to Institute outsiders. Last December, the CUP voted to recommend making the experiment permanent. The Tech applauds the CUP's decision, and we hope now that the Faculty Policy Committee, set to meet in early March, will feel the same way.

The issue of intermediate grades has been one of the most divisive issues at the Institute. Faculty have favored the resolution that external modifiers provide in differentiating students. Students, on the other hand, have generally adamantly opposed external modifiers with the fear that they would heighten the already high pressure and pace on campus and have no real educational value at the Institute. The Tech believes that keeping intermediate grades internal is an acceptable compromise position between not having them at all and making them external. There is no reason modifiers should be included on public transcripts, and internal modifiers should be enough for faculty in differentiating students. We hope that the CUP and administrators have listened to the voice of students in making their decision.

We hope the faculty will accept the current system. We hope that the Faculty Policy Committee will vote in favor of submitting the CUP's recommendation to a faculty meeting, and we hope that the faculty at the meeting will in turn approve the CUP's recommendation again.

At the same time, however, The Tech is wary that the faculty will approve. The modifiers only as a step in an extended plan to phase in external modifiers as well. Three years have numbed students' minds to the period before in which intermediate grades didn't exist at all. We hope that the faculty won't try to start another long experiment a year later to put in external modifiers. Internal modifiers should be approved, and they should remain a permanent fixture at MIT.

Letters To The Editor

Alcohol vs. Suicide

There is something I find disturbing, and it has bothered me for a while, but I promptly now to write by the recent death of Michael P. Mainley '02.

As I understand it, MIT has had three undergraduate suicides on campus in the four years that I remember myself. Two years before I came to MIT, I know there were many more. Other than the usual counseling and talk about blocking windows, I don't remember other actions taken in response to these unfortunate deaths in an effort to prevent them in the future.

On the other hand, MIT has had one undergraduate drinking death in perhaps its entire history, and that has caused sweeping changes all over campus. The entire residence system was changed, social gatherings had to follow new guidelines (officially or not, I witnessed drastic changes to social activities) and also, more importantly, the issue of "binge drinking" was on everyone's mind and was widely discussed.

Why is it that these suicide deaths don't cause the same campus upheaval? Are these suicide deaths not related to campus life? But the alcohol-related death was? If these suicide deaths were all completed for the same reasons, events, why does it happen so often here at MIT? And on the other side, if an alcohol-related death is so closely related to campus life and residence policies that they must be so drastically changed, why have the consequences been historically less tragic?

Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoons will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of the author. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of the author. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of the author.
Valentine's Day: Not Just for Couples

Veena Thomas

February 14 brings to mind images of roses, chocolates, teddy bears, stuffed animals; and people dining out and declaring undying love for each other. But it has also become common to see people wearing black bands, as a symbol of mourning.

Several legends describe how this holiday came to be. According to one story, a Christian martyr in the third century who was arrested and imprisoned. In jail, he fell in love with the jailer's blind daughter. Wanting her to have a token of his love, he wrote her a love note, which was accidentally discovered by the jailer and had him killed the next day. But as a result, this day became known as Valentine's Day.

But somewhat random matchmaking is probably not the reason for this holiday. A popular fundraiser for students was Data Match, a voluntary survey for students to fill out. The Valentine's Day interested students would have to pay four dollars for a list of students of the opposite sex with whom they were interested in meeting. It sounds very compatible. This computerized determination was based on such important characteristics as height, colors of clothing worn, other activities, curfew time, and favorite desserts. There was no way to tell if they were compatible in an intelligence, physical attractiveness, or emotional stability, except that it is a test of manual dexterity for the sales staff.

The test administration was done by an assistant to the Romance Department (as it was called in the office). Students were invited to take the test by a letter that was sent to every student. The test was a very simple one. It consisted of cutting out pictures of different people and matching them with pictures of different objects. After the test was completed, the students were given a list of names of potential matches.

It seems that an idea which sounded good to the students who took the test was that it would be a way to find a friend or a partner. So far, it has been successful in that it has helped students to meet people who are interested in them. But it has not been as successful in finding people who are interested in doing something constructive.

We've got to stop this nonsense. It's time to realize that some of us have become hypocrisies in the true sense of the word.

Misguided Values in Education

Kris Schoen

"Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army." — Edward Everett

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) recently released the results of a survey of American fourth-grade students in 1992. The survey revealed that a large percentage of students were not learning basic skills. According to one teacher, "When I was in school, we learned the alphabet and the numbers. Now, we have to teach them how to read and write."

The NAEP report is alarming. It shows that many students are not learning basic skills. The report also shows that theNAEP is not an accurate measure of student achievement. But the NAEP is the only way that we can measure how well students are learning. The NAEP is based on a sample of students, and it is not a comprehensive test of all students. But it is the best way that we have to measure student achievement.

We need to make changes in the education system. We need to make sure that all students are learning basic skills. We need to make sure that all students are learning how to read and write. We need to make sure that all students are learning how to think. We need to make sure that all students are learning how to be good citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are a typical American family. They have two children, a son and a daughter. The son is in the fourth grade, and the daughter is in the third grade. The parents are both educators, and they believe that the education system needs to be changed.

The Smiths are not alone. Many parents are concerned about the education system. They believe that the education system needs to be changed. The Smiths are not alone. Many parents are concerned about the education system. They believe that the education system needs to be changed.

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Rushmore

When plastic breaks
By Bence Ovechvy

The play follows Mike's encounters with the media. Seemingly enjoying his meek role as a "nerd," Mike is eager to please all members of the press corps, selling each of them what they want to hear. With the media's approval in its stances and Mike's belief in their approval on his lies and distortions, Mike starts believing them as he is fundamentally, if predictably, group-think oriented. He has almost taken the role the press has created for him.

Will Patton, from the Hollywood blockbuster Armaggeddon, does a remarkable job in conveying a seemingly normal businessman's harboring path from sanity to Stardom. With his blue-eyed innocence and naïveté, Patton's Mike gains our sympathy (if not his) as he doggedly toks a tortuous journey across the dangerous shallow waters of mid-life towards fame and ultimate failure.

His wife, Livia, part fitness junkie, part neurotic housewife, part Jerry Jurgen's Superhero Girl. Springer material, is riding on a high as the press lets her ehish out on the front as a talentless envoy before matters as dental hygiene, exercised addiction, and the inevitability of making mistakes.

Will Patton, Caroline Hall, and Randy Danson in Delillo's Valparaiso.

While the ending's obvious symbolism (media consumes innocent naive citizen) is both overstated and uncalled for, it is the only part of the play where Delillo is pointing a finger of blame. Valparaiso succeeds so well exactly because Delillo refrains from making judgment calls. Rather, he puts a mirror in front of us and feels the pulse of our contemporary "post-human" society without moralizing. Delillo deliberately fails to give us a diagnosis, much less a remedy for Mike's estrangement and despair, but he seems to suggest that our incessant need for a "survivability" reality is a result of a mechanism that is designed to protect us from ourselves. When this mechanism fails and the bubble of self-deception bursts, it can be fatal.

In Delillo's bleak, but unconfortably convincing, end-of-the-millennium view, there is no much left, and ART's production is carefully designed to augment the doomsday sense of the play.

The stage, with its eerie black and white patterns serving as backdrop for various icons of consumerism, creates a strangely impersonal atmosphere. Video projections, showing a man with a plastic bag on his head, slowly suffocating, doesn't exactly lift our spirits. But that's not the point.

While most great theater productions succeed by showing us the depths and splendor of the human soul, Delillo and the ART has managed something quite frightening. They have given us a remarkable piece of theater,where the superficiality of the stage should be our backdrop. And that I applaud with cold and sweaty hands.

MOVIE REVIEW

Rushmore
Unpredictably good
By Vladimir Televensiy

Directed by Wes Anderson
Written by Wes Anderson and Owen Wilson
With Jason Schwartzman, Olivia Williams, Bill Murray, Mason Gamble.

I'm going to tell you in a secret, an answer to a question that is heard more often than not. Who do you like more, Simon Pegg or Bill Murray? Do you think that the tastes of film critics and the filmgoing public are almost the same? Well, in about a month's time, you will have a chance to find out. And I have to admit that I am a fan of both. And it is not surprising that a few years ago, I thought that a third, much better fan, Wes Anderson, had made a masterpiece of Rushmore.

That's why the answer is predictable. Both Simon Pegg and Bill Murray, if they make it broad — of fresh air. Rushmore is an offbeat comedy, an offbeat buddy film, an offbeat romance, and an offbeat revenge story. Or none of these things. Mix things up with some wildly inventive usage of the widescreen format, and you're left with a nice companion piece to A Face, Park, and from there things start getting complicated.

The plot... Well, you don't need to know that. The Fisher (Jason Schwartzman, fifteen year old, who has been on a scholarship to a prestigious prep academy, Max, while quite a brilliant student, is just about every class because he is interested in way too many things), is a young experimental aeroplane, aviation, beecleking, calligraphy, and so on down the alphabet. Then he meets Ms. Blume (Bill Murray, an older, but still very cool, who is a head of the school) and from there things start getting complicated.

And funny, too. While I must admit that some of the film's offbeat sensibilities left me somewhat cold at first ("Wow, neat"), after a short while I realized that Rushmore is absolutely hilarious. The weight of character details, background gags, and visual style is nearly overwhelming. The filmmakers' sheer imagination (verbal, visual, cinematic, and narrative) is powerful enough to make the film totally unpredictable, and, even more, there's the feeling of being at the edge of some new, exciting, experimental stage, where you on an enjoyable journey no matter what that's going to be like.

And the destination is very much worth it. Ultimately, the story of Max Fisher is that of a child trying to be "all that he can be," mold-wisely, if unwittingly, takes on the tastes of film critics and the filmgoing public is made up for by a fast-paced, offbeat romance, and an offbeat revenge story. — or even less frequently — might face a standard specimen of any of Hollywood's contemporay classics as White Noise and, most recently,

ARTS THEATRE REVIEW

Valparaiso

The answer is the dreaded predictability of most films in day and age. Average viewer, who goes to the movies once a month and from there things start getting complicated. And funny, too. While I must admit that some of the film's offbeat sensibilities left me somewhat cold at first ("Wow, neat"), after a short while I realized that Rushmore is absolutely hilarious. The weight of character details, background gags, and visual style is nearly overwhelming. The filmmakers' sheer imagination (verbal, visual, cinematic, and narrative) is powerful enough to make the film totally unpredictable, and, even more, there's the feeling of being at the edge of some new, exciting, experimental stage, where you on an enjoyable journey no matter what that's going to be like.

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MUSIC REVIEW

Eve 6 and The Marvelous 3

Guitar pop isn't dead yet
By Daniel J. Katz

Although now everyone in the music industry and his brother has declared guitar rock dead, the guitar pop genre, led by multi-platinum giants like Third Eye Blind and Matchbox 20, is thriving. On Wednesday, February 24, two of the better bands of the genre converge at the Paradise for an evening of power-chord guitar.

Headliner Eve 6 has already found mainstream success, and a quick listen to their debut album (Hey! Album, Hi Fi/Electra) combines some catchy riffs with British sounding vocals (although the band is from Atlanta), and some new wave-ish guitar and keyboard work. The single, "Until You See" is another power pop trio beginning to get heavy airplay for their innocently infectious hooks (especially "Hey! Album," which is currently climbing the radio charts.

A

Another album of songs on the orchestra could easily follow the success of Fearless. Write is On Your Hand is an obvious successor, as it is the opening track, "So Scared," which is a perfect example of what sets the Marvelous 3 apart. While the band's music doesn't have the imaginative lyrics to an ex-girlfriend ("So keep reading your books on how to give dirty looks"), they still keep the same feel of the music upbeat. While the vocals for Eve 6 willow in mellodramatic despair on some songs, the Marvelous 3 keep their songs happy, catchy, and enjoyable, while still being a pop music used to be all about.

Hey! Album goes in other directions that Eve 6 doesn't. Until You See and Me Lo Go are slow, soaring ballads, a pop standard virtually ignored by Eve 6. The cascading guitar part in Every Monday, one of the album's best tracks, melo over you, leading up to an aggressive moment on the guitar, before it starts all over again. And at the end of the song, lead singer Max Fisher says, "While the ending's obvious symbolism (media consumes innocent naive citizen) is both overstated and uncalled for, it is the only part of the play where Delillo is pointing a finger of blame. Valparaiso succeeds so well exactly because Delillo refrains from making judgment calls. Rather, he puts a mirror in front of us and feels the pulse of our contemporary "post-human" society without moralizing. Delillo deliberately fails to give us a diagnosis, much less a remedy for Mike's estrangement and despair, but he seems to suggest that our incessant need for a "survivability" reality is a result of a mechanism that is designed to protect us from ourselves. When this mechanism fails and the bubble of self-deception bursts, it can be fatal.

In Delillo's bleak, but unconfortably convincing, end-of-the-millennium view, there is no much hope left, and ART's production is carefully designed to augment the doomsday sense of the play.

The stage, with its eerie black and white patterns serving as backdrop for various icons of consumerism, creates a strangely impersonal atmosphere. Video projections, showing a man with a plastic bag on his head, slowly suffocating, doesn't exactly lift our spirits. But that's not the point.

While most great theater productions succeed by showing us the depths and splendor of the human soul, Delillo and the ART has managed something quite frightening. They have given us a remarkable piece of theater, where the superficiality of the stage should be our backdrop. And that I applaud with cold and sweaty hands.

Eve 6 has mastered the technique of manufacturing the hit song. The Marvelous 3 are still playing around with the format, and while they're not quite as streamlined, they show a lot more depth. Together, their concert may not require you to think very hard, but you'll be playing for hours after you leave.
Oscars Preview

Academy Awards: Nominees, Predictions, Vain Hopes

By Vladimir Zelensky

What follows are the Oscar Nominations. After each category, I have presump-tuously dared to specify who I think should win.

given these nominees, along with the ones I'll mention, my prediction for the best films of the year, but because it's a sprawl of the year, it's a challenge- ing, slowly-paced film that does not rely on a narrative, and as such it's a rarity in modern Hollywood. On the other hand, the omission of The Truman Show is shocking, while my pre- ference for Lolita and A Simple Plan are obviously a cry in the wilderness. This comes as a surprise, having consistently found my tastes in sync with the choices of the Academy to be in sync. It is now virtually certain that this year the award will go to a highly ambitious, visually stun- ning, viscerally affecting film with a sim- plistic storyline, artificial characters, and frequent moments of emotional manipulation.

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

February 12, 1999

"nobody knows anything."

Who will win:

Saving Private Ryan.

My favorite:

Lolita.

Who should win:

Saving Private Ryan.

My favorite: The Spanish Prisoner, David Mamet.

Best screenplay based on material previ- ously produced or published

Who should win/my favorite: Saving Private Ryan.

My favorite: Shakespeare in Love.

Who will win:

Lolita.

My favorite: Terence Malick in The Thin Red Line.

Best Achievement in Directing

Who should win:

Terrence Malick, The Thin Red Line.

My favorite: John Madden, Shakespeare In Love.

Best Art Direction

Who will win:

Pleasantville.

My favorite: Shakespeare in Love.

Best Costume Design

Who will win:

Beloved.

My favorite: Shakespeare in Love.

Best Cinematography

Who should win/my favorite: Saving Private Ryan.


Best Cinematography

Who should win:

Beloved.

My favorite: Shakespeare in Love.

Best Director

Who should win:

Terrence Malick, The Thin Red Line.

My favorite: John Madden, Shakespeare In Love.

Best Film Editing

Who should win:

Beloved.

My favorite: Out of Sight.

Best Foreign Language Film

Who should win/my favorite:

Shakespeare in Love.

Best Makeup

Who should win:

Elizabeth.

My favorite: Shakespeare in Love.

Best Original Song

Who should win:

"A Simple Plan" from Out Of Sight.

My favorite: "What Dreams May Come.

Best Original Score

Who should win:

David Zippel, A Simple Plan.

My favorite: Hans Zimmer, for The Mask OfZorro.

Best Original Song

"I Don't Want To Miss A Thing" from Armageddon: music and lyrics by Diane Warren

Who should win:

Shakespeare in Love.

My favorite: "What Dreams May Come.

Best Supporting Actor

Who should win:

Jude Law in Shakespeare in Love.

My favorite: Martin Landau in Pleasantville.

Best Supporting Actress

Who should win:

Kathy Bates in Primary Colors.

My favorite: Lynn Redgrave, Gods And Monsters.

Best Sound

Who should win:

Armageddon.

My favorite: The Mask Of Zorro.

Best Sound Editing

Who should win:

Armageddon.

My favorite: The Mask Of Zorro.

Best Sound Mixing

Who should win:

Armageddon.

My favorite: The Mask Of Zorro.

Best Special Effects

Who should win:

Armageddon.

My favorite: The Mask Of Zorro.

Best Visual Effects

Who should win:

Armageddon.

My favorite: The Mask Of Zorro.

Best Animated Feature

Who should win:

Mulan.

My favorite: Shadows.

Best Animated Short Film

Who should win:

Buffalo '66.

My favorite: The Drummer.

Best Cinematography

Who should win:

Shakespeare In Love.

My favorite: The Thin Red Line.

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My favorite: The Thin Red Line.
Mike Nelson, who is both difficult and lazy to call, aficionado of the antics of the Oregon Duck Drag-Walkers, told me that the corruption of the ever-vanishing through the prospect of wealth seems like a combination of three existing movies: Shallow Grave, Macbeth, and Fargo. Note that the similarity between these three is obvious. Wealth and power will take otherwise amiable couples and transform them into monsters, capable of any sort of crime. It is the rejection of the psyche that is so popularly held view that allows the wrinkle-laden Waking Ned Devine to shine through as one of the top films of last year.

Unlike its predecessors, Ned Devine focuses on the creativity-building aspects of foolishness, and portrays how a large sum of money can turn a good idea into a great one, and sometimes a fair idea into a great one. It is set in a small town in contemporary Ireland (no more than 1,000 inhabitants, a real Navy town) where everyone knows everyone else, and one of them has won nearly 7 million Ireland pounds in the national lottery. The first half-hour concerns around Jackie O'Shea (Ian Bannen), a man whom a demonector seems to defy his obvious senior citizen status, his wife, Ann (Fionnula Flanagan), and his best friend of countless years, Michael O'Halloran (David Kelly). They embark on a private search for the "lucky son of a bitch" who has just become fantastically rich. This quest, and its digressions, leave not only the characters clueless but the audience also (who have been unwittingly drawn in with a sense of insatiable curiosity), and serves as a device to introduce you to the other characters, who subject you to a string of sometimes disconcerting, but always just as strange, and sadly, most overlooked) films of 1998.

If Waking Ned Devine is the spectacular film, one of the top films of last year, it is sad to see that we have not responded to it. If Waking Ned Devine is the spectacular film, one of the top films of last year, it is sad to see that we have not responded to it. It is sad to see that we have not responded to it.

Overall, Waking Ned Devine is charming, engaging, and absolutely hilarious. It moves along at a quick, driving pace, spicing up its dialog and narrative humor, and ends by engulfing the spectator—the instruments like breaking surf, so that sprays of color jump from that are also deep buckets of paint, the plan and its execution as a closer look at characters raised in the first half-hour. In fact, the plan itself reaches an ultimately anticlimactic resolution with the introduction of the prize character interaction, and how the promise of reward affects the town's sense of community, delivering deeper insight into some of the plots and characters raised in the first half-hour. In fact, the plan itself reaches an ultimately anticlimactic resolution with the introduction of the prize.
MIT too easy? Try consulting.

CSMG Case Competition ’99
Co-sponsored by SUMA

Crush the competition.
Win $1,000.

Learn what it’s like to be a consultant. During the case competition you will have the opportunity to experience consulting first hand. Your job will be to identify, research and resolve a real-world strategy issue in the high-tech sector.

Undergraduates from all levels and all majors are encouraged to participate in teams of 2 to 4. Register your team now at suma.mit.edu.

Grand prize: $1,000
Two runner-up prizes of $250 each

Schedule:

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

February 18
Case Workshop
Room E51-325
7 to 9pm

February 25
Semifinals
Room E51-345
7 to 9pm

March 11
Finals
Room 10-250
6 to 8pm

CSMG
Cambridge Strategic Management Group
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SUMA
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DOWN WITH SCIENCE

by Jennifer DiMase

TO VIEW YOUR ANIMATED GREETING CARD, CLICK HERE...

O KALYPSO, VILE, LUSTFUL NYMPH! YOU CANNOT SUBJUGATE ME. YOUR QUEST TO EMPLOY ME IN SINFUL DESIRE IS A FUTILE ONE. BE GONE, AND BE DAMNED!

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

LOOK, HANNA, A ROSE!

WELL, ABOUT TIME YOU THOUGHT TO SEND A ROSE TO YOUR DEARESTdy! I DON'T KNOW IF SHE'S HAPPY TO SEE HER...

AND HE'S JUST MADE MY DAY!

TRANSLATION: PARODIES WHILE I TAKE THIS SHARP WEAPON AND DISMEMBER YOU WITH ALL DUE CEREMONY!
**February 12, 1999**

**The Tech**

**by Scott Adams**

*MY MOBR SENSE HAS DETECTED A MEETING.*

*HI GUYS! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IS THIS A MEETING? I CAN'T RESIST JOINING IN.*

*RUN FOR IT! I'LL HOLD HIM OFF WITH THIS CEDAR-FLAVORED DONUT!!!*

**DOGBERT'S TECH SUPPORT**

*FIRST, I NEED TO ASK YOU MANY QUESTIONS.*

*THEN I WILL TRANSFER YOU TO SOMEONE WHO WILL ASK THE SAME QUESTIONS AGAIN.*

*WE DO THIS TO REMOVE ANY HOPE YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD THAT WE UNDERSTAND TECHNOLOGY.*

*THE STICKER SAYS MY WARRANTY WILL BE VOID IF I OPEN THE CASE.*

*WELL, CALL ME IF ANYTHING CHANGES.*

---

**by Bill Amend**

*PETER, YOU JUST RAN A RED LIGHT.*

*I DID NOT, IT WAS YELLOW.*

*PAGE, I'M TELLING YOU IT WAS YELLOW!*

*OK, NOW THAT LIGHT WAS RED.*

*GREAT, MY STEREO IS DYING.*

*HOW DO YOU KNOW?*

*HOW? I'VE GOTTEN IT GRAINED ALL THE WAY UP AND YOU CAN ONLY HEAR THE FAINTEST LITTLE BIT OF MUSIC COMING OUT OF THE SPEAKERS! FOOO, YOU'VE GOT THE MUTE BUTTON ON HERE!*

*WHILE I'M GLAD THAT SEE? IT'S NOT DYING.*

*OH, THUNDER ROAD!*

*Hi, Sweetie, what's for dinner? I'M GLAD YOU ASKED.*

*braised radish and beet stew served over a bed of brown rice and sesame yogurt.*

*AND IT TOOK ME ALL DAY, SO YOU'D BETTER LIKE IT.*

*WHY AM I NEVER GLAD TO TELL IF IT NEEDS MORE LIMA BEAN EXTRACT.*
**TechCalendar**

TechCalendar appears in each issue of The Tech and features events for members of the MIT community. The Tech makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and The Tech shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event.

Contact information for all events is available from the TechCalendar web page.

Visit and add events to TechCalendar online at [http://tech-calendar.mit.edu](http://tech-calendar.mit.edu)

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**Friday’s Events**

3:00 p.m. – *Explaining the Flow of Elastic Liquids.* Professor E.J. Hinch, University of Cambridge, UK. Refreshments will be served immediately after the seminar in the Miller Room (1-114). Room 3-270. Sponsor: Mechanical Engineering.

3:30 p.m. – *The Earthquake Cycle: Paleogeodesy and Paleosismology of the Sumatran Subduction Zone from Coral Microwells.* Professor Kerry Sieh, Caltech. EAPS Department Lecture Series. Refreshments, 3:30 p.m., Ida Green Lounge. Room 54-915. Sponsor: EAPS.

8:00 p.m. – *The Good Person of Sezuan.* Dramashop production of play by Bertolt Brecht, directed by Theater Arts Lecturer Kim Mancuso. Admission $9; $8 MIT faculty/staff/sr citizens/non-MIT students; $6 MIT students. Sala de Puerto Rico.

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**Saturday’s Events**

8:00 p.m. – *The Good Person of Sezuan.* Dramashop production of play by Bertolt Brecht, directed by Theater Arts Lecturer Kim Mancuso. Admission $6 students, $7 non-students. Room 31-161. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.

8:00 p.m. – *She Loves Me.* Musical Theatre Guild production of show by Joe Masteroff (book), Jerry Bock (music) and Sheldon Harnick (lyrics). Admission $9; $8 MIT faculty/staff/sr citizens/non-MIT students; $6 MIT students. Sala de Puerto Rico.

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**Tuesday’s Events**

12:00 p.m. – *The Cuneiform Text TU 11: A Link Between Older and Newer Prediction Schemes in Ancient Mesopotamia.* Lis Brack-Bernsen. Dibner Institute Lunchtime Colloquia. Room E56-100. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.


4:00 p.m. – *Lowrider to Los Alamos: Visualizing Science and Technology.* Meridel Rubenstein, Bunting Institute, Radcliffe. Program in Science, Technology, and Society 1999 Spring Colloquia. Room E51-095. Sponsor: STS.

4:30 p.m. – *Gas Turbine Engine Internal Air Systems.* Mr. Jayant Sabnis, Pratt and Whitney. Gas Turbine Seminar Series. Refreshments 4:15 p.m. Room 31-161.
Always wanted to be a magician?

Then join The Tech Production Staff!

Stop by our office in Room 483 of the Student Center at 6pm on Sundays for pizza, or any Monday, Wednesday or Thursday evening. Call 253-1541 and ask for Ryan or Erica.
GSC Tries Out New Student Group Funding Policies

Funding, from Page I

lost because each group puts its assets in its own, separate account, Jones said.

The twenty student groups were picked to join the pilot program based on their activity. "It was really kind of informal," said GSC Treasurer Carsten D. Hobek G. "Basically, there was a limited amount of slots for groups that could involved... we wanted to use groups that would have a lot of activity so that they could take advantage of the new benefits that are associated with that system."

Trial accounts prove successful

A core of six groups were given individual MIT accounts back in the fall, including the Pakistani Students' Association, the International Students' Association, Dance Troupe, European Club, the National Society of Black Engineers, and the Class of '99. In general, the six have responded well to the new program.

"Student groups can instantaneously observe postings to their accounts," said Shuja U. Khan, '99, PaksMIT and Class of '99 treasurer. "We no longer need outside bank accounts. MIT provides almost home banking convenience whereby student groups can download their activity to their home computer."

Child accounts offer direct access

For the graduate student groups included in the pilot program, the financial process will change further this spring as the child accounts get with a child account. "We will transfer GSC funding directly to..." board's child-account system," said Jones, and the student groups "will bill directly to." "GSC officers as well as student group officers will have direct access to seeing the activity in the child account," Jones said. That the finalization of the child account idea had happened so quickly that there hadn't been time to bring other funding groups such as the Student Government Association's Finance Board in on the deal. As to whether the UA Finboard would follow in the GSC's footsteps if the child-account aspect of the pilot program goes well, Hobek said, there is "nothing set up yet."

A group including Jones, Hobek, Khan, and the ASA treasurer Matthew L. McGinn '01 meets bi-monthly to discuss funding policies. "We'll keep an eye on [the program] and see how it's going once we reach the end of the semester. We'll read updates from the groups that have used the accounts, then we'll have a better idea."

"My vision is that in the future all groups will have this," Hobek said. The Student Group Financial Policies of the Funding Board's first joint financial project with RLSLP. Students who will have the convenience whereby student groups can download their activity to their home computer." "My vision is that in the future all groups will have this," Hobek said. The Student Group Financial Policies of the Funding Board's first joint financial project with RLSLP. Students who will have the convenience whereby student groups can download their activity to their home computer." "My vision is that in the future all groups will have this," Hobek said. The Student Group Financial Policies of the Funding Board's first joint financial project with RLSLP. Students who will have the convenience whereby student groups can download their activity to their home computer."

The GSC Funding Board announced other changes to its funding policies at its Feb. 2 meeting. The change was a joint financial project with RLSLP. Students who will have the convenience whereby student groups can download their activity to their home computer."

To Ten Sayings Added To 1999 NECCO Hearts

NECCO, from Page 1

Marshall is already in the process of picking messages for next year. New sayings must be ready by March 1 for next year, Valentine's Day. 1999. NECCO will announce the new ones in January 1999. In addition to this service NECCO hearts are not only a on places around campus on Sunday. NECCO hearts are not only a on places around campus on Sunday. NECCO hearts are not only a on places around campus on Sunday. NECCO hearts are not only a on places around campus on Sunday. NECCO hearts are not only a on places around campus on Sunday.

The data submitted by students... they're a part of Valentine's Day organizing Valentine's Day at MIT, but MIT Medlinks also took part in the event. NECCO hearts are not only a on places around campus on Sunday. NECCO hearts are not only a on places around campus on Sunday. NECCO hearts are not only a on places around campus on Sunday. NECCO hearts are not only a on places around campus on Sunday. NECCO hearts are not only a on places around campus on Sunday.

"KISS is done once a year," said Devangini V. Gandhi '01, a Medlink and member of the Campuswide Activities of the Medlink Steering Committee. "We want people to know that... having sex is not the only way, but if you do you practice safe sex."

The Medlinks handed out several types of condoms, as well as contraceptives for oral sex, in Lobby 10. They also hung up posters and pamphlets about abortion, gay and lesbian intercouse.

The Tech News Hotline 253-1541

Seeking Special\nEgg Donor

Loving infertile academic couple is hoping to find a compassionate woman to help us have a baby. Our ideal donor is intelligent, age 21-30, 5' to 6' tall with small to medium built, fair complexion, and, ideally, though not necessarily, a Jewish heritage. We would sincerely appreciate your consideration.

Compensation $500 plus

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Free Computing for all MIT Students

Athena Minicourses

Stop Wasting Your Time!
Spring Term 1999

Athena Minicourses

Title: Minicourses taught in

Mon Tue Wed Thu

12 noon Saturday 20 Feb 8 Feb Frame Frame Frame Frame
7 p.m. 9 Feb 10 Feb 11 Feb 12 Feb 13 Feb Frame Frame Frame Frame
8 p.m. 10 Feb Lates Frame Frame Frame Frame

12 noon Saturday 15 Feb 12 Feb Lates Lates Lates Lates
7 p.m. No Classes No Classes No Classes No Classes
8 p.m. President's Day President's Day President's Day President's Day

12 noon Saturday 22 Feb 19 Feb Indo Indo Indo Indo
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This file is a 101st amendment to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, depending on what you collect of or in 1/S Athena Training Group

All Classes in Room 3-343

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All Classes in Room 3-343

February 12, 1999

The Tech
Meeting Next Tuesday, Feb. 16th

Great student job!

Are you...

...comfortable using Macs and PCs?
...reliable, friendly and service oriented?
...eager to learn and ready to work on an energetic team?
...itching to use the latest and greatest computing power?

If so, then the MIT Computing Help Desk is looking for you!

$10/hour

Starting salary

Mandatory orientation meeting

Tuesday, February 16th
5:15 PM, N42 Demo Center
(211 Mass. Ave.)

Brig:
1) Resume
2) 2 references

questions? email helpsuper@mit.edu

ATHENA® MINICOURSE INDEX

Introduction to Athena (Intro)
An introduction to Athena and Athena workstations.
Topics include: what you can do on Athena, getting an account, logging in, windows, sending messages, finding help and documentation.

Basic Word Processing (Basic WP)
Elementary text editing with Emacs, sending and receiving electronic mail, and using the Athena printer.
Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP.

Working on Athena (Working)
Just the basics: files, directories, job control, and more. What every new user should know about Athena’s operating system.
Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP.

Advanced Word Processing: EZ (EZ)
An introduction to EZ, a combination text editor and formatter, with text-editing commands that are similar to Emacs. As a formatter, it is menu-driven and easy to learn, in the popular style of the “What You See Is (pretty much) What You Get” packages.
Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP.

Advanced Word Processing: LATEX (Latex)
An introduction to LaTeX, a widely used text formatter, used for converting a text file into an attractive, professional-looking document. It is a powerful and flexible program, with the capability to typeset many foreign characters and very complex mathematical text.
Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP.

LATEX Thesis (Thesis)
Using the LaTeX text formatter to produce a fully-featured thesis that meets all MIT format requirements.
Pre-requisites: LATEX, some LATEX experience

Introduction to FrameMaker (Frame)
FrameMaker is a powerful word-processing and document-preparation package now available on Athena.
Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP.

FrameMaker for your Theses (Frame Thesis)
FrameMaker, with a special template, can be used to produce an MIT thesis that meets all institute formatting requirements.
Pre-requisites: FrameMaker, some Frame experience

Information Resources on Athena (Info Res)
A survey of the communications, help, and other resources available on Athena.
Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP.

HTML: Making a WWW Home Page (HTML)
Covers the basic features of HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language), the language of the World Wide Web, as well as the steps needed to post your own Web page on Athena.
Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP.

Math Software Overview (Math)
A survey of major mathematics and graphics packages available on Athena.
Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP.

Matlab (Matlab)
An interactive program for scientific and engineering numeric calculation. Applications include matrix manipulation, digital signal processing, and 3-dimensional graphics.
Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP.

XEmacs (XEmacs)
A powerful and easy-to-learn spreadsheet, with a full range of mathematical, statistical, matrix, and string functions. It will be useful for scientific and engineering computations, as well as to general and financial users.
Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP.

Maple (Maple)
A mathematics program that can perform numerical and symbolic calculations, including formal and numerical integration, solving algebraic or transcendental systems and differential equations, and series expansion and matrix manipulation. It also has extensive graphics capabilities.
Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP.

Customization on Athena (Dotfiles)
Intended for the Intermediate-level Athena user. This course will discuss the Athena home directory and the user configuration files that affect it, as well as changes the user can make to those and other files to customize their working environment.
Pre-requisites: Serious Emacs, some Athena experience.
MIT Debate Team Places Well at World Competition

By Sanjay Basu

Continuing its tradition of success at the World Universities Debating Championships, the MIT Debate Team placed among the top teams in both the United States and the world once again this past winter.

Beating debate teams from universities including Princeton, Yale, Brown, and Stanford, the group took 6th place in the American division of the competition, the largest and most competitive tournament of its kind. The championship, held in Manila, Philippines, brought teams from around the globe to discuss issues ranging from international politics to ethics and art. Gary Li '00 and Amit Roy '01 represented the MIT team at the competition. "It doesn't get any better than this," Li said. "The World Championships attract people who would normally be enemies—like India and Pakistan—and lets them stand up and talk about issues peacefully. In no other competition do you have so many views from so many countries."

Many participate in competition. The World Championships attracted top teams from several Asian, European, and Arab nations. The teams engaged in Parliamentary-style debate, a form of competition between a "government" group and an "opposition" body. A different topic was designated for each round of the tournament. "The subjects covered a range of international issues," Li said. "Some were very abstract, like the topic of whether art should be censored. Others were more political and grounded in current events... one of the more interesting discussions was on the issue of whether the ASEAN should rally behind Anwar."

The debaters also delivered extemporaneous speeches about globalization and its effect on the poor, the potential for failure if Europe federalizes, and whether Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu '76 is effectively promoting the peace process. "It's very difficult," Li said. "You really can't prepare ahead of time, because you don't know the topics and you have to give an extemporaneous speech on them. It really requires that you know what's going on in the world and that you have a glue about what might be in the New York Times each day. But it also requires that you think quickly on your feet."

Roy agreed, "MIT teaches students a lot about analysis and performance under pressure... exactly what debate is about," he said.

Continuing a tradition of success

The MIT debate team has competed at the World Debate Championships for the past four years, placing among the top schools each time. This year, the team has won tournaments at Brown, Cornell, and Wellesley. The team was revived in 1991 after suffering nearly a decade of inactivity during the 1980s. It now includes over forty members.

"We are a relatively small team," admitted Christina Chow '01. "But this is one of our strengths. Individual members get more attention and we form much tighter bonds as a team."

Last fall, the team held an open forum for speech and debate and later sponsored an Independent Activities Period workshop on public speaking. "I think the Debate Team has really added to the MIT community," Li said. "With the continued support of the MIT administration and community at large, we hope to continue the MIT Debate Team's record of success well into the future."

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Freshmen Meet in Course XIII, Other Pre-Orientation Programs

Pre-Orientation, from Page 1

"Engineering sponsors "Discover Ocean Engineering" to get the students to get to know each other," while introducing them to Boston and MIT, said Ocean Engineering Department Head Chryssostomos Chryssostomidis. "Students will also be involved in a "fun project" like building the autonomous underwater vehicle students built last year, so "they can get a hands-on experience with engineering and a little bit of science," Chryssostomidis said.

Chryssostomidis did not know whether program participants would major in ocean engineering, but he said, "That's not the intent." He called a "direct response" to President Vest's request that faculty think of ideas to improve the learning experience for incoming students.

Other programs growing

Former MIT student, Pardis C. Jafari '97, first brought pre-orientation programs to MIT, hoping to counteract the self-segregation she saw among MIT students. She started FLP as a pilot program in 1996 under the supervision of Dean for Student Life Margaret Bates; however, it remained organized and directed by students. Jafari's eventual plan was that there be several pre-orientation programs to MIT, hoping to "experience the richness of Boston and Cambridge."

Through the program's planning last year it took on a more urban focus, so this year will be renamed "Urban Discovery" or something similar, Huang said.

Diverse involvement encouraged

All five programs are currently looking for counselors, and FAP and FOP are looking for coordinators as well. FSP coordinators Priya M. Rajendran '99 and Linda J. Ungurian '99 emphasized that counselors will take an active role in development.

"We're very much developing the program," Rajendran said. "Counselors will have the power to shape what we do."

"FAP and FOP are brand new, so there will be a lot of counselor involvement. The counselors will... help mold the activities students do," Cirello said.

Students are interested in helping

Coordinators for all the programs spoke at an informational meeting last Tuesday. Many of the about 50 students who attended were alumni of either FLP or FSP, but heavy involvement from other students is also anticipated. Counselors should be "people from different lifestyles at MIT!" Huang said. "We want a mix of people from different years: people who are juniors now who went way back during the first program... and definitely about half people who never went [to FLP]." Huang said.

"It's easier to work with a smaller group," said Huang, who is also a coordinator of FLP '99. "A lot of the activities are designed for groups of 30-60; trying to do them last year with over a hundred people was a challenge for us." Additionally, fewer freshmen are expected to apply for FLP because of the other options offered, Huang said.

FSP was started by Shawde N. Edghill '99 last year, primarily to encourage MIT student involvement with the surrounding community. "Because MIT is so hard, people only see the immediate campus," Edghill said. She wishes more students would "experience the richness of Boston and Cambridge."

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February 12, 1999

Women's Basketball
Ranks Tenth in Poll

By Roger Crosley
DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

For the first time in the history of the program, the MIT women's basketball team has earned a ranking in the New England Women's Basketball Association Weekly Poll. The Engineers, who have earned a 13-5 record, are tied for tenth in the poll released Monday, Feb. 8. On the individual front, Vicky Best '99 has been named the New England Women's & Men's Athletic Conference Player of the Week. Best, who is the NEW-...
Alpine Ski Team Competes at Ascutney Mountain

By Jonathan Shefftz

The men's and women's alpine squads of MIT's varsity ski racing team completed their fourth of five regular season race weekends on Saturday and Sunday, tackling the steeps of Ascutney Mountain in Vermont to earn some strong finishes — although also some agonizing crashes.

Saturday's slalom started off with new snow falling from the sky, but the race hill remained pure ice, and an exceedingly "turny" second-run course only made the race more difficult.

The women's team turned in solid performances, with captain Brooke Baker '99 in 13th place, and Monica Taylor '01 and Marianne Okal '02 providing the other two scoring times. Lisabeth Willey '02 also put together two clean runs, with the women's team thereby finishing all four of their starters, for some enviably well-controlled consistent skiing and a seventh-place team finish far ahead of St. A's, Babson, NEC, and UConn.

The men's team seemed to follow the women's example for the first run, finishing sixth out of eight skiers. Carnage ensued on the second run, however, which left MIT with only two finishers: Todd Dumond '00 and Sanjay Raman '01, and Zelazo. Unfortunately, of the other four MIT starters, two crashed, and the other two encountered difficulties that did not allow them to take their second run. Therefore, once again the men did not have a full five finishers. NEC also did not have a full five finishers, but nipped MIT by 1.2 seconds, which translates into 15 hundredths of a second on a per-person, per-run basis.

Each weekend competition consists of two runs each on a slalom course on Saturday (quick, short-radius turns) and a giant slalom course on Sunday (longer-radius turns at higher speeds), with each day's two runs added together to determine each skier's finish for that day. The times of the fastest five men and the fastest three women determine the team standings for each squad. Each team's standing for each day is then cumulatively added together to determine season standings (e.g., a team that finished first each time after eight races would have eight points, whereas a team that finished second in four races and third in the other four races would have 20 points).

MIT competes in the Eastern Collegiate Ski Conference's Osbourne Division, which contains the second-most competitive collection of NCAA teams in the Eastern U.S.: Boston College, Plymouth State, UMass Amherst, Smith (for women only), Babson, St. Anselm's, Brown, Colby-Sawyer, New England College, and UConn. Since NCAA ski competitions are non-divisional, skiing is one of the few sports in which MIT competes against Division I and II schools, in addition to its more typical Division III rivals.

The women entered this weekend seventh in the cumulative standings. The men entered the weekend last out of ten teams; despite usually finishing between eighth and ninth (and almost never tenth), the men would often beat a different team each race. Nevertheless, they were close to catching up with New England College, with whom they tied the previous season for seventh place. Strong finishes for the weekend required sound technical skiing. As Ascutney's course is one of the steepest in New England although Ascutney is not known for challenging terrain, it runs races on its steepest trail, which inevitably is always a sheet of any enduring glass ice.

Adding to the excitement of the team standings was Baker's bid to win a berth at the championships of the separate Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Conference, which in turn serve as the qualification route for the NCAA National Championships. Based on the individual standings after the first three races, Baker was on track for the EISA Championships. This solid performance at Ascutney should clinch her berth.

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DuPont Gymnasium
Ballroom Dancers Succeed at Harvard Invitational

By Laurent Bradford

Michael Posner G executes a leap in the Harvard Invitational Ballroom Dance Competition last weekend.

The MIT Ballroom dance team made an outstanding showing at the Eighth Annual Harvard Invitational held last weekend. Spanning two days, the competition was attended by over three hundred couples representing 22 colleges and universities from as far away as Utah. MIT State University. The competition was tough, but MIT dancers proved to be more than up to the task.

The Saturday morning session was the Rhythm category. American style dances, and MIT started it off with two ribbons in the first event. The Beginner Cha Cha found Tuan Phan '02 and Ying Lee '00 in fifth place and Yen-Hong Lim G and Margaret Wong '02 in sixth.

In the Swing, Beginner couple Tony Maesto G and Sherry Jong '02 took fifth place. At the Intermediate level, Mark Herschberg '85 and Tammy Yap '99 did very well, placing sixth in the Rumba/Swing Two-Dance, and dancing Advanced, Pabudu Wariyapola G and Vikky Khelton '00 took sixth in the Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing Three-Dance.

Ending that section of the day was the Latin Championship (Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing, Bolero, Mambo Five-Dance), in which both the International and American teams took fifth place in their respective styles. Dancing on the team was Warren Dew '81 and Elizabeth Diamond '92, Tom G and Elizabeth Nugent '90, Pabudu Wariyapola G and Vikky Khelton '00, and Stephanie Shaw G and partner.

After the team matches was the exciting Latin Championships (Cha Cha, Samba, Rhumba, Jive) in which Michael Posner and Reena Friedman blew away the competition with a sweeping first.

Next came the team match in which both the International and American teams took fifth place in their respective styles. Dancing on the team was Warren Dew '81 and Elizabeth Diamond '92, Tom G and Elizabeth Nugent '90, Pabudu Wariyapola G and Vikky Khelton '00, and Stephanie Shaw G and partner. After the team matches was the exciting Latin Championships (Cha Cha, Samba, Rhumba, Jive) in which Michael Posner and Reena Friedman placed sixth.

The afternoon session, International style standard dances, was dominated by MIT couples. The Beginner International Waltz finals had six dancers, three of which were MIT dancers. Boris Berdnikov G and Sofia Raskhodnikova G took fourth, Juan Mahoney placed sixth. Second place went to Maesto and Sherry Jong '02 and Ying Lee in seventh, and Jatin Misra '02 and Xemin Chi '01 won the event.

Even more impressive was the Beginner Quickstep, five of the seven finalists were MIT. Brryg Utter and Camilla Taves '91 placed seventh, Jude Nimish and Maria Minkoff G placed sixth, Lukaar Webster and Tsien came in sixth, Phan and Lee took second, and Mira and Chi came in seventh, making them the overall winners of the Beginner Standard division.

MIT continued to impress on the Intermediate level with the Waltz, Foxtrot, and Quickstep Three-Dance. Jatin Misra G and Chi came in seventh, Feng Li and Kate Mahoney placed sixth, Eugene Bae G and Stephanie Shaw G placed fifth, and Sixth Webster and Tsien took fourth place. The Advanced Waltz/Quickstep Two-Dance of the MIT couples in the finals, Martin Smunger G and Cathy Leamy took seventh, and Webster and Tsien came in sixth; Stephen Geldy '87 and Phyllis Kristal '87 placed fifth in the Foxtrot/Tango Two-Dance of the same level.

The day was rounded off with the beautiful Latin Championship Four-Dance (Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Quickstep), in which Michael Otero and Marta Lipinsky G danced their way to a beautiful fourth place, and the Championship Five-Dance (Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot, Quickstep) which Mark Shelden and Didi von Deck won with exquisite grace.

Sunday’s competition started with the American Smooth dances. MIT started off with another three ribbons in the Beginner American Smooth Championship (Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova won the event. The American Tango was also won by an MIT couple, Mira and Adora Lin '02, with Berdnikov fourth, Tuan Phan '02 and Ying Lee '00 placed second, and Jatin Misra G and Xemin Chi '01 won the event.

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