Monday Classes Today

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Tuesday, February 16, 1999

Grade Modifiers Will Likely Remain for Internal Use Only

By Kristen Landino
Staff Reporter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Statistics showed that neither grade distributions nor GPAs changed with any statistical significance because of modifiers, and the benefit of increased feedback remained the same, regardless of whether the grade modifiers were internal or external. Making the modifiers external would only serve to increase pressure at MIT," McGann said.

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

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

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

Grades, Page 18

Dormcon Announces Event Grant Following Influx of HFS Funding

By Priya Prahalad
Staff Reporter

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

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

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

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

"The decision by Dormcon to make this money available for event organizers on campus is a good one, and hopefully the money will be put to good use. Events like Burton-Comer's DTVD could potentially benefit from this money, so there may eventually be a proposal for that. Right now, though, it's up to the event organizers themselves," said Gabriel M. Rockefeller '00, president of Burton-Comer.

Due to the influx of students participating in the student group GAMIT, members of the group organized a symbolic marriage to honor National Freedom To Marry Day Friday in Lobby 7.

"We wanted to express our enthusiasm regarding the closure of such an ugly process, which Acquittal, Page 17

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

By Kevin R. Lang
Staff Reporter

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

The trial ended when both articles of impeachment failed to garner the necessary two-thirds majority in the Senate. The first article, levying perjury charges against the President, was debated 45 to 55, while the second, alleging obstruction of justice, ended in a 50 to 50 tie. Immediately following the announcement, members of the MIT College Democrats (MIT-CDS) held a rally in Lobby 7 and a march through the Infinite Corridor.

MIT-CDS member Anna K. Benefiel '00 said that she organized the acquittal demonstration to celebrate the trial's conclusion. "We generated many smiles along the Infinite Corridor Friday afternoon, and even over the second floor balcony of Lobby 10 to applaud us," Benefiel said. Signs carried by MIT-CDS members included "The circus has left the building", "Q.E.D.", and "The fat lady has sung."

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

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

The Weather

Today: Sunny, 44°F (30°C)
Tonight: Clear, cool, 31°F (-1°C)
Tuesday: Rain, 39°F (4°C)

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Comics

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

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Scientists Will Begin Testing Novel Malaria Vaccine in Monkeys

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

The new vaccine has shown strong promise in the laboratory and will be tried in monkeys in March, said molecular biologist Alfred Lal, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. It works, human trials will begin soon.

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

Vaccines typically work by alerting the body's main line of defense against infection, the immune system, to make a picture of a parasite. Once alerted, the immune system remains armed and ready for battle at every turn.

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

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

Hillary "Would Be Terrible In The Senate" According to President

The Washington Post

TAMPA, MEXICO

If first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is seriously thinking about running for the U.S. Senate from New York, she's saying so softly. But at least one well-placed source suggested Monday that she is taking the leap.

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

"She'd be great if she did it," he said at a photo opportunity with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, and that he would support her "enthusiastically" if she chooses to run. While many supporters have been lobbying her to run, he added, she needs a chance to reflect before making a decision.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is said to be one of the most prominent members of the "inner circle" of political advisers to her husband, President Clinton.

Aide Ehrlichman Dies at 73

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Hoping to drive a wedge between the United States and a key ally, Iraq, a senior Turkish official close to Monday's talks, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the new leftist prime minister Turkul Aziz, was told to scrap the mandate under which U.S. and British warplanes stationed at a NATO base in southern Turkey attacked Iraqi facilities in a "deliberate strategy to upgrade and overhaul Iraq's air defenses to combat readiness" at a time when Iraq is engaged in frequent hostilities with U.S. and British aircraft enforcing "no-fly" zones in Iraqi airspace.

The zones were established by the Gulf War allies to prevent the government of President Saddam Hussein from using air power to suppress restless populations in northern and southern Iraq.

The newspaper said the deal would allow Russia to "upgrade and overhaul" Iraq's air defenses and restore its air force's "combat readiness" at a time when Iraq is engaged in frequent hostilities with U.S. and British aircraft enforcing "no-fly" zones in Iraqi airspace. The zones were established by the Gulf War allies to prevent the government of President Saddam Hussein from using air power to suppress restless populations in northern and southern Iraq.

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AISES-NSBE-SHPE
10th Annual Minority Career Fair

Friday, February 19, 1999
11:30 AM to 3:30 PM
DuPont Gymnasium

Great Student Job at MIT

If you are...
- comfortable using Macs and PCs
- reliable, friendly and service-oriented
- eager to learn and work on an energetic team

$10 / hour! starting salary

MIT Computing Help Desk
Interested? Contact: helpsuper@mit.edu
Info session:
Tues, Feb. 16, 5:15 pm
N42 Demo Center
Letters To The Editor

Schnee's Misguided View on Education

Kris Schnee ("Misguided Values in Education," Feb. 12) asserts that grade-school education has been increasingly promoting "ideological" curricula to advance radical political ends contrary to America's interests. Schnee writes, "Modern students spend a lot of time learning about the sins of America. Do you think that kids who have been told all their lives that theirs is an evil, racist, sexist, oppressive nation will be willing to risk their lives for it? It would be better to have no political messages at all in the school curriculum than to spread doctrines which teach Americans to be hostile to America." The elements of ideology are constantly being generated by every conceivable source: family, school, popular culture, advertisements, television, the workplace, and so on. Even given the arguably major influence that education has on developing minds, assuming that "politicized" education will leave children brainwashed ignores every other societal influence. When faced with competing value systems, people are more likely to question all of the systems than to accept blindly or the other.

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

Aram W. Harrow '01
Addressing the Suicide Problem

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

Eric J. Pleskoy

On the heels of the death of Senator Scott Krueger '01 and Massachusetts Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran, the MIT community has been faced with the difficult task of deciding how to respond. While some may argue that the suicide is not their concern, the administration and the student body must come together to form a cohesive response. The administration and the student body must come together to form a cohesive response.

The answer is not that the administration doesn't do what it says. It is not that nothing is done; it is merely that the lack of media scrutiny is not a concern. The administration won't respond to suicide, won't respond to them in the same way as Krueger, mostly because any measures taken will have no immediate external benefit. It is not in the administration's best interests to stir up controversy by drawing attention to a suicide pre-vention campaign or to a new task force on student depression. This is in contrast to the Krueger incident, in which the administration's quick responses were portrayed positively by the media.

But as any student of Massachusetts politics knows, it's not all about the administration. The new speaker united to attempt to loosen Finneran's iron fist in the first few weeks of the legislative session. At first glance, this new legislative session there are signs of a new era: the oddest coalition of liberals and conservatives has been elected. The Speaker may need a large dosage of that wiser. After all, they will have to go through the footsteps. Providing undergraduate housing is a priority, but it is also necessary to improve the campus housing, grad~ate students who have never been away under the most cases is fully supported by parents. The most important thing that undergraduate students need is to be able to access affordable, off-campus housing. This is why there are so many opportunities to find their own sources of funding to support living and educational expenses, since they are older and wiser. After all, they will have to go through the same process of finding living arrangements when they graduate. Therefore, it is important for them to have access to affordable, off-campus housing.

The MIT administration guarantees undergraduate housing because undergraduate students pay a high tuition which in most cases is fully supported by parents. The students who graduate from MIT are expected to find their own sources of funding to support living and educational expenses, since they are older and wiser. Therefore, it is important for them to have access to affordable, off-campus housing. Providing undergraduate housing is a priority, but it is also necessary to improve the campus housing, grad~ate students who have never been away under the most cases is fully supported by parents. The most important thing that undergraduate students need is to be able to access affordable, off-campus housing. This is why there are so many opportunities to find their own sources of funding to support living and educational expenses, since they are older and wiser. After all, they will have to go through the same process of finding living arrangements when they graduate. Therefore, it is important for them to have access to affordable, off-campus housing.

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Hacking at MIT

Innocuous practical jokes enhance the school’s culture.

By May K. Tse

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

Newspaper has yet been unkind in reporting this aspect of MIT, most recently the silhouette of an Academy Award Oscar in the officially recognized lighted rooms of the Green Building and previously the Campus Police vehicle mounted atop the Great Dome in the MIT Museum’s hacks archives.

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

A hack is the familiar, practical joke designed to "be disturbing," said Professor of Linguistics Emeritus Samuel 1. Keyser, former MIT Museum's hacks archives.

"Hacks are non-damaging, funny to most people, sometimes they are engineering feats, and sometimes just humorous," said Theresa C. Keating, who works with the maintenance of the long-running MIT Hall of Hacks.

By May K. Tse

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

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

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Tuesday's Events

12:00 p.m. — The Cureuniform Text TU 3:1 — A Link between Older and Newer Prediction Schemes in Ancient Mesopotamia. Liz Brack-Bernsen, Diller Institute Lunchtime Colloquia. Room E56-100.


4:00 p.m. — Low-lighters to Los Alamos: Visualizing Science and Technology. Meridol Rubenstein, Burting Institute, Radiofrite, Program in Science, Technology, and Society 1999 Spring Colloquia. Room E51-095.

4:30 p.m. — Gas Turbine Engine Internal Air Systems. Mr. Jayant Sabnis, Pratt & Whitney. Gas Turbine Seminar Series at 4:35 p.m. Room 33-161.

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. — A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum Auditions. Musical Theatre Guild’s spring production. Book by Burt Shevelove & Larry Gelbart; music/lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Bring prepared song, in English w/sheet music; wear clothes suitable for movement. Student Center, 4th floor.

Wednesday's Events

12:10 p.m. — The propagation of Rossby waves through barriers. Joe Pedlosky, WHOL Physical Oceanography Sack Lunch Seminars at MIT. Room 54-915.


6:30 - 9:30 p.m. — She Stoops to Conquer Auditions. For May production of Oliver Goldsmith’s comedy. Room 1-135.


7:30 p.m. — Living in Two Languages Series—Yoko Tawada: "Metamorphoses: A Trilingual Reading." Presentation by the author of Hikon, Orpheus oder Izangi and The Bridgroom was a Dog. Followed by book signing. Killian Hall.

Thursday's Events

12:00 p.m. — MIT Chapel Concert. Andrew Cook, saxophone. MIT Chapel Concert. Andrew Cook, saxophone. MIT Chapel Concert. Room E51-060.


5:00 p.m. — The Voice Transcribed, The Text Performed. Roger Chartier, Director of Studies, Ecoles des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris. This lecture is part of the Sahin Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the HTC Spring Forum Series; Department of Architecture - History, Theory, Criticism Section. Room 56-114. Sunday's Events

3:00 p.m. — Protein Adsorption Dynamics at the Oil/Water Interface. Clayton J. Radke, University of Calif., Berkeley, Department of Chemical Engineering. Reception, 2-4:50 p.m. Room 66-110. Sponsor: Chemical Engineering.

4:00 p.m. — On River and Tidal Networks: Optimality, Randomness, Self-Organization and Allometry in Natural Networks. Professor Andrea Rinaldo, MIT. EAPS Department Lecture Series. Refreshments, 3:30 pm. Ida Green Lounge. Room 54-915.

7:00 p.m. — American History X (1998), 117 min, rated R, with DTS digital sound. Admission $2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:30 p.m. — Treasure Island (1990), 96 min, not rated, Admission $2.50. Room 10-250. Sponsor: LSC.

9:00 p.m. — Potluck Performance Art Party. AKA show+tell. Bring video, poetry, slides, anything to read, show, perform and/or consume. Admission $4. Room 10-250.

10:00 p.m. — American History X (1998), 117 min, rated R, with DTS digital sound. Admission $2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Saturday's Events

7:00 p.m. — What Dreams May Come (1998), 113 min, rated PG-13, with DTS digital sound. Admission $2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. — MIT Concert Band Concert. Founded in 1948 and continuously conducted by John Corley, the group of 80-90 students and alumni play original compositions for wind ensemble and annually commission and premiere new works. Kresge Auditorium.

10:00 p.m. — What Dreams May Come (1998), 113 min, rated PG-13, with DTS digital sound. Admission $2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Sunday's Events

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. — Will Social Security be There for You? An interactive discussion on Social Security. Featuring Congressmen Michael Capuano (MA-8), Q&A period to follow all speakers. Fill out a survey to be sent to Congress. Room 6-120; Sponsor: MIT College Democrats.

7:00 p.m. — American History X (1998), 117 min, rated R, with DTS digital sound. Admission $2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

10:00 p.m. — What Dreams May Come (1998), 113 min, rated PG-13, with DTS digital sound. Admission $2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Monday's Events

12:10 p.m. — Use of ERS-1 SAR wave mode spectral retrievals for global ocean surface wave modeling. Patrick Heinbach, MIT, Physical Oceanography Sack Lunch Seminars at MIT. Room 54-141.


7:30 p.m. — An Evening with James Ellroy. MIT Writers Series presents the author of LA Conquest and Crime Wave. Room 26-100.
Grad Student Wins Inventiveness Prize

By Kristen Landino

Daniel J. DiLorenzo is the recipient of this year’s Lemelson-MIT Program $50,000 student prize for inventiveness.

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

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

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

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

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

DiLorenzo holds two patents and has two more pending. One of his patented inventions includes a device to control intraoperative brain swelling. He has also developed an implantable device that electrically stimulates a peripheral nerve to provide sensation from an artificial limb.

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

Early in his childhood, DiLorenzo began to build circuit, robots, and elaborate electronic devices. In fifth grade he built his first circuit, and in ninth grade he created a robot compatible with high magnetic fields to be used for military experiments.

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

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

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

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

"You're already using Athena. Invest in an hour or two and learn to use it efficiently. At our courses you'll get the basics of any Athena topic: word-processing, thesis, data crunching, graphics, displays, communication, etc.

Free Computing for all MIT Students

Spring Term 1999 Minicourses Schedule

Athena Minicourses
Stop Wasting Your Time!
Spring Term 1999

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Stop waving your hand up in drain.

"Stop wasting your time with shorter toilet, try out the new flush."

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"Stop wasting your time with shorter toilet, try out the new flush."

When you flush, you’ll want to do a few things: turn the newspaper and don’t flush, turn the newspaper and don’t flush, turn the newspaper and don’t flush, turn the newspaper and don’t flush. But why? Don’t you want to conserve electricity? This space donated by EarthShare.
Project nears completion

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

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

A year-round booth explaining the contest is currently under construction.

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

After the competition is over, the teams sponsor robot teams.

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

Companies sponsor robot teams

The Tae Kwon Do School

Mr. Kim started in 1974 while he was a student at MIT and has become one of the best known schools in the country. A major part of this success is his teaching style which combines the analytical approach acquired through his studies at MIT and other western expertise developed in the country.

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

BOSTON 266-5050

102 BROOKLINE AVE.

(Located 3 blocks from Kenmore Sq. & 1 Block from Fenway Park)

ATHENA® MINICOURSE INDEX

Math Software Overview

A survey of major mathematics and graphing packages available on Athena.

Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP

Mathlab (Matlab)

An interactive program for scientific and engineering computation.

Applications include matrix manipulation, digital signal processing, and 3-dimensional graphics.

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 supports graphics programming.

Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP

Sequences (Sequence)

The test editor introduced in Basic Word Processing has many useful features common to this course. This course is a must for anyone who uses Emacs more than an hour or two each week.

Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP

Customization on Athena (Docfile)

An introduction to the intermediate-level Athena user. This course will discuss the Athena login sequence and the user-configuration files (elisp) that affect it, as well as changes the user can make to those and other files to customize their working environment.

Pre-requisites: Basic WP, Athena experience

FrameMaker Is a powerful word-processing and typesetting program. It is menu-driven, has extensive graphics capabilities, and the capability to typeset many foreign characters and very complex mathematical text.

Using the Latin text formatter to produce a fully-featured thesis that meets all MIT format requirements.

Pre-requisites: Latin, some Latin experience

Introducing to Athena (Intro)

An introduction to Athena and Athena workstations. Topics include: where you can log on, getting an account, logging in, windows, sending messages, help and documentation.

Pre-requisites: Basic WP

Basic Work Processing (Basic WP)

Elementary text editing with Emacs, sending and receiving electronic mail, and using the Athena printer.

Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP

Advanced Work Processing (EZ WP)

An advanced text editor and formatter, with text-editing commands that are similar to Emacs. An formatter, is menu-driven and easy to learn, to the popular style of the "What You See Is (pretty much) What You Get" packages.

Advanced Work Processing (LATEX) (Latex)

An introduction to a widely used text formatter, used for converting a text file into an attractive professional looking document. It is a powerful and flexible tool that is capable of typesetting in a large variety of languages, and many complex mathematical texts.

Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP

Using the LaTeX text formatter to produce a fully-featured thesis that meets all MIT format requirements.

Pre-requisites: Basic WP, Working

LATEX Thesiss (Thesis)

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Pre-requisites: Latin, some Latin experience

FrameMaker (Frame)

FrameMaker is a powerful word-processing and document-preparation package now available on Athena.

Pre-requisites: Intro. Basic WP

For your Thesis (Frame Thesis)

FrameMaker, with a special template, can be used to produce an MIT Thesis that meets all Institute formatting requirements.

Pre-requisites: Basic WP, Working

Information Resources on Athena (Info Resp)

A survey of the communications, help, and other resources available on Athena.

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 E2, a combination of MIT and Athena computing resources.

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

Family & Single Graduate Housing Applications are On-line:
APPLICATIONS:
Single students: http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/sinapp.html
Family students: http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/famapp.html
LOTTERIES:
Married continuing 1 bdrm: http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/cononebdr.html
Married continuing 2 bdrm: http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/contwobdr.html
Married new 1 bdrm: http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/newonebdr.html
Married new 2 bdrm: http://web.mit.edu/hfs/housing/newtwobdr.html

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

Graduate Student News (GSN) Available Feb. 15
GSN will be available in Infinite Corridor and 50-220. Send submissions to Constance Lai at con@mit.edu for March 1 issue.
DO YOU THINK I HAVE TOO MUCH FALSE HUMILITY?

TRY GOING A WEEK WITHOUT USING ANY FALSE HUMILITY, SO I CAN SEE THE DIFFERENCE.

WAKE UP, YOU PIECE OF FEITID CARP, AND EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF KNOWING DOGBERT!!

I'D LIKE TO SPEND THE FIRST HOUR DEFINING WHAT "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY" MEANS.

OHH OOH! CAN I HELP PASS OUT THE MATERIALS?

IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO MIX ENTHUSIASM WITH STUPIDITY, ASOK.

CATBERT: H.R. DIRECTOR

I VALUE THE INPUT OF ALL EMPLOYEES...

...INCLUDING THE MORONS. ALTHOUGH IN THOSE CASES, I COVER MY EARS AND SING LOUDLY.

SO I WAS THINKING MAYBE...

HE'S A PINBALL WIZARD

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, PAIGE, LET ME GRAB MY COAT.

PETER, DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL MY VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATES?

JASON, DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL MY VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATES?

PAIGE, DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL MY VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATES?

I'VE DECIDED OUR BUYING JASON THAT ALMOST GLOW-IN-THE-DARK FORGOTTEN T-SHIRT WAS LIKE WHAT THE THE GREATEST LITTLE SPARKY MOVIE EVER.

OH, YOU MEAN THESE CHOCOLATES.

PRIMO COUCH POSITION...
REMOTE CONTROL IN HAND...
"DAWSON'S CREEK" ON IN TWO MINUTES...

LIFE DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN THIS.

YOU WATCH NO THAT'S "DAWSON'S THE POINT.

AAAAS CHANGE THE CHANNEL MY FAVORITE SHOW IS ON!
February 16, 1999

Gay Wedding' Marks Freedom-to-Marry Day

By Steve Hoberman

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

GaMIT, MIT's gay, lesbian, and bisexual student organization, kicked-off the day by staging a symbolic gay marriage in Lobby 7. The procession included GaMIT president Terrance D. Harmon '99, Ricardo A. Ramirez '02, Jason R. Parris '02, Jessica E. Hinel '02, and L. Kieran Kieckhefer '02. The group walked from E14 through the Infinite Corridor to Lobby 7. Kieckhefer preceded Parris, who posed as a groom, and Ramirez, the bride, as they marched through the corridor. Harmon followed the trio with a boombox until they reached the Lobby 7, where they met Hinel, who posed as a priest. Ramirez and Parris then exchanged vows before ending the demonstration.

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

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

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

Gay marriage legality still in flux

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

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

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

Even EZ-er than 1040EZ.

Introducing TeleFile from the IRS. If you are single and filed Form 1040EZ last year, you can file your tax return in ten minutes by phone. Anytime. Check your tax booklet for information.

JAVA

http://www.sun.com/CollegeZone
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 E51-315
7 to 9pm

March 11
Finals
Room 10-250
6 to 8pm

CSMG
Cambridge Strategic Management Group

www.csmgusa.com

suma.mit.edu
Clinton Budget Will Help NSF Research

By Neena S. Kadaba
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

She also stated that MIT's strength in information technology will enable the Institute to compete effectively in these program areas. There are also no significant funding reductions in other programs. The budget for the year 2000 is still in its planning stages and has not been approved by Congress as of yet.

This space donated by The Tech
Switchover to Computer-Based GRE Goes Unnoticed by OCPSA

By Dudley Lamming

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

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

Changeover goes unnoticed

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

When asked about how students were being advised to the end of paper-based testing, Elizabeth A. Reed, Associate Director of Career Services, responded, "I didn't know it was happening." Similarly, Christopher G. L. Pratt, Director of Career Services, was unaware of the changeover.

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

Computer tests are individualized

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

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

Since every test is different, the score is now computed based on statistical models of how many people get particular questions correct. Those departments that require the GRE exams plan to accept the computerized exams as equivalent with the paper exams.

Decisions on how to use GRE scores are made on a departmental basis, as are all graduate admission decisions.

Essay to be scored by computer

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

ETS documentation state that "ETS has conducted research studies indicating that these scores are comparable."
Dartmouth Outlaws Single-Sex Housing

By Adam Brown

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

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

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

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

Students stage weekend protests

The press release announcing the elimination of single-sex housing at Dartmouth was interpreted by a number of students body there as demanding the “elimination of single-sex housing “substantially coed” and to offer “greater choice and continuity in living and residential space.”

In a Feb. 10 interview by The Dartmouth, a student-run newspaper, President Wright said that the initiative called for an end to Greek life “as we know it,” and a student-run Dartmouth was interpreted by the trustees have called for on the initiative itself, Wright said that the effects would begin with the rush of the class of 2003.

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

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

The Winter Carnival was also the site of protests. When President Wright addressed the crowd, he reiterated that “I haven’t been invited to any fraternity parties this year but I’m still attending to have a good time this weekend,” electing a chorus of boos. Also, 600 people marched through Dartmouth’s campus in protest.

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

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

Dartmouth builds more housing

Dartmouth has also begun a series of renovations, including the East Wheelock cluster of dormitories, Dartmouth’s “vision of the future,” according to Dartmouth junior Megan Daggett of Phi Tau. President Wright also wants to add approximately 400 new beds to attract the 290 undergraduate students who now live off-campus.

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

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

Dartmouth has 28 fraternities and sororities, of which three — Phi Tau, Alpha Theta, and the Talons — are co-ed. About 1,700 of Dartmouth’s undergraduate population of 4,100 live in Greek housing.
College Republicans Dismayed after Vote

Acquittal, from Page 1

plastered the front pages of newspapers for much too long," said MIT-CDS Co-President Aaron B. Strauss '92. Strauss said that MIT-CDS members also wanted to inform students of the trial's outcome.

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

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

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

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

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

Regarding the acquittal itself, he said, "I was disappointed last Friday, when Clinton was acquitted, because it means that Congress and the President can return to their full-time job — violating the Constitution and increasing regulation of Americans' social and economic lives."
To the family and friends of Michael P. Manley:
Our deepest sympathies.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of sorrow.

-Impact Campus Fellowship

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

Grade modifiers appear in 1995

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

Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics Paul A. Lagace ’78 led the subcommittee of the CUP responsible for researching the current grading system. Three years ago, in an effort to improve the informative value of grades at MIT, the subcommittee decided to institute an experimental program which added internal modifiers to grades. The modifiers could only be viewed by MIT faculty and the students themselves.

At that time, faculty satisfaction with the grading system was at an all-time low. According to one survey in 1995, only 25 percent were satisfied with the current system of grading. Students in 1995 also showed some dissatisfaction with the grading system, as half of the 15 percent of students who responded expressed interest in a change in the grading system.

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ALPHATECH, Inc.
Information Session
Date: Wednesday, February 17th
Time: 6:00
Room: Room 4 - 159

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Stevie Ace Flores.
Killed by a drunk driver on March 23, 1993, on Pacific Coast Highway in Wilmington, Calif.

If you don't stop your friend from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

This space donated by The Tech
Forward Cristina Estrada '01 quickly passes the ball during MIT's game against Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The Engineers triumphed 72-54.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, February 16
- Squash vs. Dartmouth College, 4:00 p.m.
- Women's Basketball vs. Wheaton College, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 17
- Men's and Women's Gymnastics vs. University of Vermont, 7:00 p.m.
- Men's Volleyball vs. Roger Williams University, 7:00 p.m.

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