

Class of 2004 Takes Over MIT

Effervescent Opening Ceremony Energizes Orientation 2000

By Mike Hall
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Over one thousand freshmen arrived at MIT yesterday, marking the official start of Orientation 2000.

The Class of 2004, one of the most diverse classes on record, will participate in Orientation events designed to introduce its members to MIT and the Boston area.

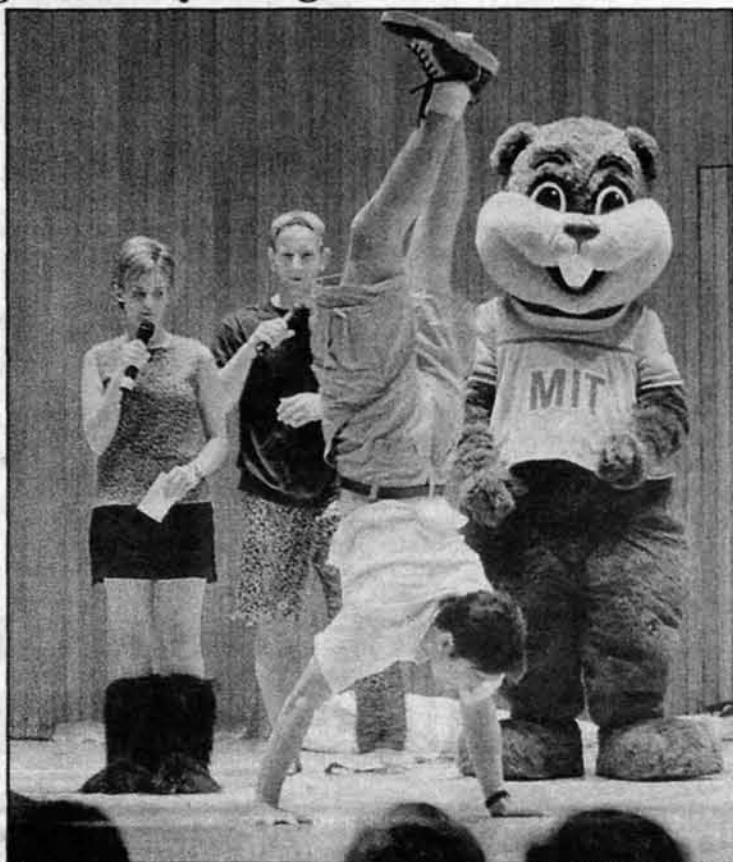
Primal urges dominate opening

Orientation officially began yesterday afternoon as the new class enthusiastically filled Kresge Auditorium yesterday at the opening ceremony. With a creationist-tinted "Caveman" opening theme, the four Orientation coordinators took to the stage.

The opening continued with a series of games involving members of the freshman class. In the first game, contestants went on a scavenger hunt, searching for a neon-clad Orientation leader, an authentic brass rat, and a copy of "Our Bodies, Ourselves," a booklet which MIT provided free to incoming females.

In the second clash, three teams worked for ten minutes to build a shelter using poles, netting, and arts

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SATWIKSAJ SESHASAI—THE TECH

Orientation coordinators Brian A. Pasquinelli '02 and Ellen M. Roach '01 look on as freshman Ian Martin demonstrates his ability to walk on his hands. The talent competition was part of Orientation 2000's opening ceremonies.

I/S Offers Redhat, New E-Mail Servers

New Release of Athena, Faster Linux Boxes in Clusters Top Summer Updates

By Dana Levine
NEWS EDITOR

Students returning to MIT this fall will notice that Information Systems has made several changes to the Athena computing environment, including a powerful new e-mail system, the official introduction of Redhat Athena boxes in the clusters, and a new release of Athena.

IMAP e-mail planned for October

Although it has not officially announced an upgrade to its existing e-mail system, I/S has begun to implement a system which gives e-mail users several new choices.

I/S staffer Heather A. Harrison, who works on training and publications, said that for now all that users will notice is that "the mail servers are faster and more reliable than they were previously." On October 2, however, I/S will begin official support for the Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP).

Differing from the current system, in which a user downloads e-mail from the mail server to either his Athena account or a single computer running Eudora, the new system will allow a user to view his e-mail on any computer running Netscape Communicator.

IMAP servers allow any compliant client to view and reply to messages without downloading them from the server.

Matthew S. Brody, Senior Project Manager for Information Services and IMAP project coordinator said that I/S will begin offering quickstart classes on migration to IMAP and provide tools for migration to IMAP.

"I think that the primary focus of this is increasingly targeting those who use the mobile platform," he said. "This is not a replacement for POP. This is about how people are starting to use e-mail in a different way and being responsive to them."

Linux now supported platform

I/S has also removed the 106 SPARC 4 workstations remaining in the clusters, replacing them with 45 Redhat Linux machines and 65 Sun Ultra 5 machines. Ten Linux boxes were introduced in the W20 Athena cluster this spring as part of a trial program, and were supplemented by 35 additional boxes over the summer.

"The new Linux boxes are substantially faster than anything we have out," said I/S systems programmer Camilla R. Fox '00. The new machines contain Pentium III processors running at 800 MHz with 256 MB of RAM (the machines purchased last spring contain 550 MHz Pentium III's).

Fox noted that "people are going to notice that Framemaker does not run on the [new] machines."

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LCS May Review FBI's Carnivore

By Frank Dabek
STAFF REPORTER

MIT researchers at the Laboratory for Computer Science are among those being considered by the Justice Department to conduct an independent review of the FBI's Carnivore Internet surveillance system.

Attorney General Janet Reno announced earlier this month that a still unnamed university would conduct a review of Carnivore and set guidelines for its future use, allaying widespread public concern over its privacy implications. When deployed by the FBI on a computer network, Carnivore examines e-mail messages and searches for messages addressed to a suspect. Civil liberties groups worry, however, that the FBI may use the software to spy on the general public.

Hal Abelson '73, a professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, said that government representatives had contacted Professor Ronald Rivest, also of the EECS department, in regards to participating in the review.

MIT is "one of the universities on the list" of potential reviewers, Abelson said. However, "nothing has been decided yet," he said.

A Department of Justice spokeswoman, Chris Watney, would not

confirm that MIT was being considered for the project, but said that numerous universities have been in touch with the DOJ. Rivest could not be reached for comment.

Rivest's contact with the government touched off an informal, internal discussion of the merits of participation in the review, Abelson said. "If the conditions are right I think it would be a good thing to do."

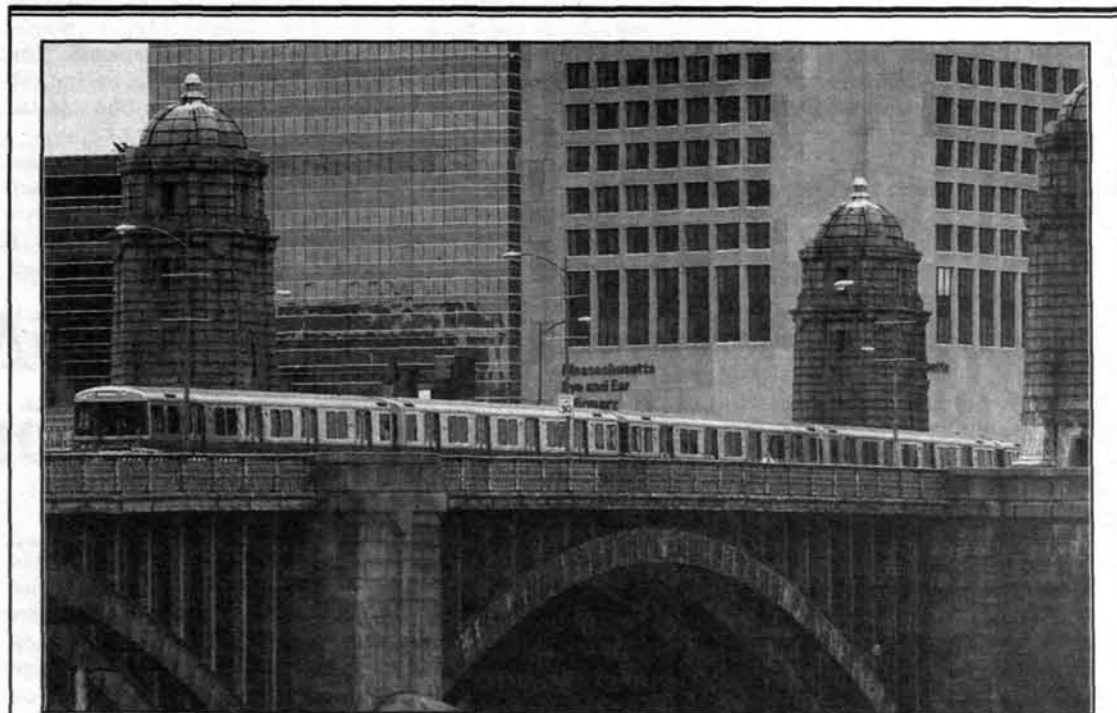
Those conditions require that MIT researchers would have access to the source code for Carnivore and influence over how the findings will be made public and the scope of the review. Any review "has to be in the context of policy. ... You have to look at the whole thing," Abelson said.

At an August 10 press conference, Reno said that the university review team would have "total access to any information they need to conduct their review" and that the findings of the team would be available for public comment.

At a press conference yesterday, Reno said that a university would not be named until September 15th. A statement of work and expectations for the review will be posted on the DOJ's website tomorrow at 5 p.m. The posting will "ensure that all the universities that want to be

considered will be able to apply based on the same standards, and

Carnivore, Page 9



ROSHAN BALIGA—THE TECH

With the MBTA Board of Director's decision to increase T fares, MIT's commuters, staff, and students will be paying one dollar for basic subway service in the fall. See story, page 9.



ARTS

Dan Katz urges freshmen to hit the concert scene.

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OPINION

Phil Larochelle offers freshmen a point-by-point guide to MIT.

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WORLD & NATION

Richard Hatch Defeats Alliance Members to Win "Survivor" Crown

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Ending a saga that was as gripping as it was pointless, the CBS reality/game-show "Survivor" revealed that 39-year-old Richard Hatch was its first winner.

The broadcast Wednesday night, for which the network said it was commanding as much as \$600,000 for a 30-second commercial, culminated 13 weeks of ratings success and left Hatch with \$1 million and a Pontiac Aztec.

In the end, Hatch, a corporate trainer from Newport, R.I., beat out solo castaway Kelly Wiglesworth, 23, a river guide from Las Vegas, who was the first runner-up. Rudy Boesch, a 72-year-old retired Navy SEAL came in third, while truck driver Susan Hawk, 38, of Palmyra, Wis., finished fourth.

A "jury" of seven ousted castaways determined the winner between Hatch and Wiglesworth. For finishing second, Wiglesworth gets \$100,000.

The identity of the winner of "Survivor," which taped last spring, was kept under wraps until yesterday night. CBS managed to avert potential leaks by getting those associated with the program to sign confidentially agreements that carried the threat of stiff fines, among other safeguards.

Panel Recommends Strengthened U.N. Peacekeeping Force

THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK

An international panel called Wednesday for a thorough overhaul of United Nations peacekeeping, contending that U.N. "blue helmets" must be sufficiently armed and trained to defeat any renegades who challenge their authority or commit atrocities against civilians.

While stopping short of calling for a permanent U.N. army, the panel appealed to the United Nations' members to prepare several brigades, each with about 5,000 troops, that could be sent to a trouble spot within 30 to 90 days. It also urged the world body to expand the peacekeeping department's tiny headquarters staff.

Secretary General Kofi Annan set up the panel in March to review peacekeeping operations in light of the failure of U.N. troops to stop the massacres in Rwanda and Bosnia. The review gained urgency this summer with the near-collapse of a peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone, where about 500 U.N. personnel were taken hostage.

Study Suggests Link Between Germ Exposure, Resistance to Asthma

THE WASHINGTON POST

Infants who go to day-care centers or who have older siblings are less likely than those who do not to develop asthma later in childhood, researchers reported Wednesday.

The new findings provide strong support for the provocative but increasingly accepted theory that exposure to microbes early in life may help the immune system mature properly, lowering the risk of asthma and allergies.

In the new study, babies who entered day care before the age of six months had only 40 percent the risk of asthma seen in those who weren't exposed to day care or older siblings.

An estimated 17.3 million Americans suffer from asthma, a chronic and often progressive disorder in which small air passages in the lungs become temporarily blocked, causing difficulty breathing. The figure has more than doubled since 1980, when there were 6.7 million asthmatics. Asthma, which often develops during childhood, is one of the most common chronic illnesses in the United States, causing almost 500,000 hospitalizations and more than 5,000 deaths annually and costing an estimated \$14.5 billion per year.

WEATHER

Good Weather Ahead

Weather here will never be anything like it is in California, but it won't be too bad over the next few days. If you can tolerate the clouds today (what choice do you have?), Friday will treat you well with some nice sun. Don't expect tanning weather though.

Friday's nice weather will lead right into a streak of good days over the rest of the week. Saturday's Killian Kickoff is likely not to be rained in, so expect to be out on Killian Court if you're a freshman or out rushing for your FSILG.

Today: Mostly cloudy with patchy fog until mid morning. Then partly cloudy. High near 80°F (27°C). Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy in the evening. Then becoming clear. Low in the lower 60°Fs (16-18°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny. High in the upper 70°Fs (24-26°C).

Extended Forecast:

Friday Evening: Mostly clear. Low in the lower 60°Fs (16-18°C).

Saturday: Partly cloudy. Low in the lower 60°Fs (16-18°C) and high near 80s (27-29°C).

Sunday: Partly cloudy. Low in the lower 60°Fs (16-18°C) and high near 80s.

Monday: Mostly clear. Low in lower 60°Fs (16-18°C) and high near 80 (27°C).

U.S. To Fund Controversial Experiments On Stem Cells

By Aaron Zitner

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The federal government announced Wednesday that for the first time it will fund medical research using human embryo cells, touching off a bitter debate between anti-abortion groups and patients with diabetes, heart disease and other ailments. President Clinton said the research had "breathtaking" promise and added: "I think we cannot walk away from the potential to save lives and improve lives."

Research opponents, who believe it is immoral to use embryos as laboratory materials, vowed to block the administration in Congress or the courts.

But even if opponents succeed, more ethical battles are on the horizon, people on both sides of the debate say. Advances in genetics and embryology are raising thorny questions as never before about the proper treatment of early human life.

Already, one company has aimed to cure disease by merging human cells with cow cells, creating a hybrid that some people find repugnant.

And soon, parents will be able to

screen embryos for a wide variety of traits — not only disease, but hair color and height — bringing them new options to choose their own children.

"You don't need a crystal ball to see the questions that are going to come up in the next five years," said Glenn McGee, assistant professor of bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania.

The National Institutes of Health on Wednesday invited scientists to apply for the first-ever federal grants for research using embryo stem cells. These cells, which develop when the embryo is only a few days old, have the power to grow into almost any tissue or cell in the body. Scientists hope to grow them into new brain cells for Alzheimer's patients, new pancreas cells for diabetics, nerve cells for spinal cord injury victims and the like.

Embryo stem cells were first isolated two years ago, and some scientists in the private sector already have been working with them. Now, the field could get a major boost as more scientists apply for funding from the NIH, the largest supporter of U.S. medical research. They would have to follow a set of ethics guidelines that the agency released

Wednesday after more than a year of internal review.

However, advances in research are likely to raise new challenges to the NIH rules — and to other current restrictions on embryo research. For example, the NIH said it will only fund work using embryos created by couples during the course of fertility treatments, embryos that were not used.

But eventually, scientists will want to work with embryos they create in their own labs using genetic material from their patients, something now barred by the new NIH rules. The stem cells from those embryos could be transplanted back into a patient's body with a lowered risk of rejection, said Dr. Paul Berg, a Nobel laureate from Stanford University.

While producing these embryos might help patients, it raises alarm bells even beyond the anti-abortion community. "If we deliberately produce embryos for utilitarian purposes, then there's really almost no boundary beyond that," said Stuart Newman, a developmental biologist from Valhalla, N.Y. Newman worries that producing embryos for medical treatments might lead to the commercialization of human life.

Gulf Air Jet Crashes Into Persian Gulf, Killing All 143 Passengers

By Howard Schneider

THE WASHINGTON POST

CAIRO

A Gulf Air jetliner trying to land after a flight from Cairo with 143 people aboard crashed into the Persian Gulf Wednesday night just off Bahrain. Despite a frantic search for survivors in the shallow coastal waters, all aboard were believed to have died.

Bahrain's undersecretary for civil aviation, Ibrahim Abdullah Hammar, said local rescue crews and U.S. Navy personnel working in darkness had recovered 137 bodies in an operation that began immediately after the 7:20 p.m. crash. "The search is still going on for the remaining six bodies," he told the Reuters news agency.

The Airbus A320, a twin-engine aircraft, carried 135 passengers and eight crew members on Gulf Air Flight 72. Reports from Bahrain, a small island nation just off the east

coast of Saudi Arabia, said the plane's pilot had tried to land twice and was preparing for a third attempt when the aircraft crashed into the gulf about four miles north of the airport at Manama, the capital.

Bahrain television reported that an engine caught fire as the airliner approached for a landing, but a Manama air controller told the Associated Press that the crew reported no problems before the crash and that he saw no flames or other signs of trouble as the plane passed overhead.

The Pentagon said that U.S. Navy destroyers Oldendorf and Milius and the support ship Catawba took part in rescue operations well into the night, along with two H-60 Seahawk helicopters from the aircraft carrier George Washington and an H-3 Sea King helicopter based in Manama. The U.S. 5th Fleet, which patrols the Persian Gulf, is based in the Bahraini capital.

The U.S. naval equipment, which also included smaller craft, joined a fleet of boats dispatched by the Bahraini military and National Guard to scour the gulf for survivors as helicopters trained searchlights across the crash area, illuminating bodies as well as debris from the downed aircraft, witnesses said.

An official in the Bahraini Ministry of Information said the airliner carried mostly Egyptian passengers, many of them returning to jobs in the gulf region. "Most were coming from vacation in Cairo," said ministry spokesman Sayed Bably.

Families of passengers believed to have been aboard gathered at the Cairo and Manama airports to await release of the passenger manifest and further results of the search. About 200 people assembled in Manama, and many broke into wails of grief as an airline official haltingly read a roster of those presumed to have been on Flight 72.

Ford Was Aware About Explorer Safety Concerns, Documents Show

By Myron Levin

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Rushing to meet a production deadline a decade ago, Ford Motor Co. rejected major design changes that would have made its Explorer sport-utility vehicle less prone to rolling over, relying instead on smaller changes and reduced tire pressures to lower the risk, according to internal company documents obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

That decision may backfire on Ford, since reduced pressure may have contributed to a rash of tire failures and the recent recall of an estimated 6.5 million Firestone tires, most of them original equipment on Explorers and other SUVs.

The suspect tires have been linked to hundreds of reports of tread separations and at least 54 deaths — mostly involving Ford Explorers that rolled over or crashed

when their tires failed at highway speeds.

Even if the blame lies squarely with defective tires, Ford could still face liability for marketing a vehicle that, like other SUVs, was prone to roll over if the tires, for any reason, happen to fail.

The Ford documents, which have been produced in lawsuits, show that as the launch date for the Explorer fast approached, company engineers were still struggling to verify that the new model would be less tipsy than Ford's Bronco II, the rollover-prone SUV that the Explorer was about to replace.

Months before the launch, a prototype of the Explorer had failed badly in rollover tests, lifting two wheels off the ground in five out of 12 steering maneuvers meant to gauge the rollover risk.

According to the documents, a

rival Chevy S-10 Blazer had passed easily, keeping all of its wheels on the ground in six test runs. Even worse, the prototype was outperformed on the test by a Bronco II.

The Explorer "must at least be equivalent to the (Bronco II) in these maneuvers to be considered acceptable for production," a Ford engineer wrote in a 1989 memo.

Determined not to let a February 1990 production date slip, Ford officials spurned some proposals for stability improvements, such as widening the Explorer's track width, the documents show. The company tweaked the vehicle in other ways, however, to satisfy itself that the Explorer would be at least marginally more stable than the Bronco II.

Among "handling strategies" to improve stability was "tire pressure reduction," one memo said.

Former Firestone Employees Testify on Company Practices

By James V. Grimaldi and Caroline Mayer
THE WASHINGTON POST

DECATUR, ILL.

Four former Firestone employees testified Wednesday that outdated material was used to make tires, supervisors encouraged shoddy practices and inspectors emphasized production over quality at the plant where the company made many of the tires recalled earlier this month.

Wednesday's testimony, planned before the recall of 6.5 million Firestone ATX and Wilderness tires was announced Aug. 9, comes as officials of Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. are attempting to reassure the public about the quality of Firestone tires.

The former employees, who all worked for more than three decades at the Firestone plant here and retired after a bitter strike in the mid-1990s, delivered the testimony for more than a half-dozen wrongful death lawsuits filed against the tire maker.

Just miles from the tire factory, the ex-workers appeared before

plaintiff's lawyers and Firestone defense attorneys in back-to-back depositions in their union lawyer's office. One of the employees, Joe Roundtree, previously had testified in an earlier case against the tire maker. But the other three were providing sworn testimony for the first time, in some cases, quite reluctantly.

"It is nothing I want to talk about," ex-employee Richard Tucker said after his testimony. "It is past now. I've done what I can do. And I don't discuss it."

Federal safety officials are investigating whether 62 deaths and 100 injuries were caused by crashes, most of them rollovers, that occurred after the treads separated from Firestone tires on Ford Explorers.

Firestone strongly disputes the allegation, contained in many of the wrongful death lawsuits, that the company has a quality-control problem in the Decatur plant and that manufacturing flaws contributed to the tread separations. Spokesmen

for the company say the testimony is coming from workers who are disgruntled and embittered from a strike at the plant in 1994-96.

"The comments of these former employees should be evaluated with a critical eye given that they were carefully selected — out of thousands of current and former employees of the Decatur plant — by plaintiffs' personal-injury lawyers," Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. said in a written statement. Officials added that other employees at the plant have positive things to say about quality and management.

The mood at the Decatur plant has been grim since the company singled out the plant for problems and teams from Ford and Firestone have arrived to review manufacturing processes.

In the days since the recall was announced, attention has become focused on the more than 100 lawsuits that have been filed against Bridgestone/Firestone and Ford after Ford Explorers with Firestone tires crashed.

Putin Says He Will Take Complete Responsibility for Kursk Disaster

By Richard Boudreaux
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir V. Putin assumed political responsibility Wednesday night for the deaths of 118 sailors, ruling out "indiscriminate reprisals" against military leaders for the sinking of the nuclear submarine Kursk and a sluggish 10-day rescue effort.

At the same time, Putin vowed to save Russia's military from the post-Soviet "disintegration" that he said was promoted by some of his leading critics and had contributed to the Aug. 12 disaster in the Barents Sea.

The president's remarks in a 25-minute television interview, on a day of national mourning for the dead seamen, sought to project the image of a take-charge leader. Many of Putin's compatriots had found him lacking in the wake of the Russian navy's worst peacetime tragedy.

Kremlin watchers called his message an effective if painfully belated response to his first serious presidential crisis. They said it could shore up an approval rating that fell seven percentage points to 65 percent in one survey Wednesday.

"What we are going through today is very difficult," he said in a hushed, somber voice. "Events like these should not divide but unite the people. Together we will overcome this and rebuild the army, the navy and the state."

Putin disclosed that Defense Minister Igor D. Sergeev, navy chief Adm. Vladimir Kuroyedov and Adm. Vyacheslav Popov, commander of the Northern Fleet, had offered their resignations after calling off the rescue attempt Monday. He rejected them.

"Nothing will be done until a full understanding has been gained about what happened and why, whether anyone was guilty, truly guilty, or whether it was simply a tragic confluence of events," he said. Then "if anybody is to blame, he will have to be punished."

Putin said he ignored advice to fire or arrest some subordinates. "That's how it was often done," he said, alluding to a habit of his predecessor, President Boris N. Yeltsin, in times of crisis.

Putin's behavior during his own first crisis since succeeding Yeltsin on Jan. 1 has revealed several things about the former KGB spy and political newcomer.

Initially popular because of his

youth, seriousness and dynamism, Putin seemed aloof and distant after the Kursk sank. He stayed on vacation for nearly a week at the Black Sea resort of Sochi and didn't request foreign rescuers until Aug. 16. Instead of going to the submarine's Arctic port to energize rescue efforts, he portrayed himself last week as a functionary who didn't want to get in the way.

Wednesday's interview showed his reluctance to challenge a military leadership that offers crucial support.

Instead, he promised to pursue long-delayed restructuring that would make the bloated, underfunded armed forces more "compact, modern and well-paid."

Under popular pressure, Putin finally went north to the Barents Sea navy base at Vidyayev late Tuesday. Facing hundreds of residents and relatives of the dead crewmen in a stormy 90-minute meeting, he shared what he called his "immeasurable grief."

Putin was also forced to call off a memorial service there Wednesday after angry relatives refused to attend such rites until the bodies are retrieved from the submarine. Cutting short a planned two-day visit to the base, he returned to Moscow.

Clinton Defends \$1.3 Billion In New Funds for Colombian Anti-Drug War

By Esther Schrader
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Clinton on Wednesday defended his decision to release \$1.3 billion in anti-drug aid to Colombia as administration officials sought to shift attention away from military assistance and toward efforts to build civil institutions and wean peasants from drug production.

Clinton said Colombia's ambitious program to combat the drug traffickers and guerrilla groups that have destabilized the country needs "to have a chance to succeed," despite concerns about the government's dismal human rights record.

A broad bipartisan majority in Congress approved the landmark aid package in late June. Lawmakers imposed conditions intended to push Colombia to improve its human rights record, but they authorized Clinton to waive the conditions in the interests of national security.

On Friday, the State Department

recommended that Clinton exercise his waiver authority, saying the long-delayed funds are desperately needed to bolster the government of Colombian President Andres Pastrana. Clinton signed the waiver late Tuesday.

Clinton said Pastrana has promised to meet several of the criteria set by Congress in coming weeks. Other conditions, such as a promise to eliminate opium and coca production by 2005, could be impossible to meet, he said.

Pastrana "has submitted legislation to the Colombian parliament, for example, for civil trials for allegations of military abuses of human rights," Clinton told reporters before leaving on a trip to New Jersey. "And we also have a system in place for specific case-by-case investigations of serious allegations."

The aid package contains more than \$1 billion to train and equip Colombian army and police forces engaged in the drug war. But it also

includes \$120.5 million for non-military development programs administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development. That may be a small percentage of the total package, agency officials say, but it represents a tenfold increase in U.S. spending on such programs.

On Wednesday, Clinton will travel to Colombia to demonstrate his support for Pastrana's efforts to combat the country's drug trade, which accounts for 90 percent of the cocaine consumed in the United States.

The administration's efforts to call attention to the non-military elements of U.S. assistance are reflected in Clinton's itinerary. He is making no stops at military installations but will visit a legal aid program supported by the anti-drug package.

Senior USAID officials said they hope the funds are just the beginning. They plan to ask Congress for more than \$400 million to continue the programs over the next four years.

Neuron Discovery Transforms Scientist's Beliefs

NEWSDAY

When Dr. Ira Black realized he'd turned bone marrow cells into neurons, he took a deep breath and smiled. The transformation took place within minutes. But it took months of repeated experiments before he was ready to believe what was before his eyes.

"It was overwhelming," said Black, a professor of neuroscience at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. "It was beyond my wildest imagination."

What was happening under his microscope goes against the dogma that guided him through his neuroscience training: Cells had certain fixed fates. Mesodermal cells found in bone marrow turn into bone, cartilage, fat and muscle. Never a neuron. Ectodermal cells give rise to nerve cells.

But Black's finding, reported in the Journal of Neuroscience Research, has been confirmed by a handful of other laboratories, and pharmaceutical companies are hot in pursuit of what Black says is a "remarkable and totally unexpected finding."

If bone marrow stem cells could be cultured to become neurons, it represents an abundant reservoir of brain cells that could be used to treat a number of degenerating brain conditions — from Alzheimer's to Parkinson's.

"You can watch a flat, undistinguished stem cell round up and become characteristically refractile to light, extend its processes, and assume the physical appearance of a nerve cell," said Black.

Stem cells are immature cells whose fates have yet to be realized. It has long been assumed that the origin of the stem cells in the body determines what a cell will become. For instance, stem cells in the bone marrow will produce blood cells, as well as cells that make up bone, cartilage, fat and muscle. Similarly, stem cells from the central nervous system should, in theory, give rise only to cells that make up the brain and spinal cord.

Studies Split on Heart-Hormone Therapy Value

NEWSDAY

Hormone replacement therapy does not prevent the progression of coronary artery disease in affected women, according to one study reported Thursday, but another finds HRT lowering the overall incidence of heart disease in women.

Few debates in medicine are more complicated than the one centered on whether women should take postmenopausal hormones. And the continuing saga of whether HRT helps the heart will not conclude with the medical investigations reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Taken together, the studies underscore the complexities of coronary artery disease and reveal how much more doctors need to know about HRT.

Researchers at Wake Forest University in North Carolina, for example, report that women with diseased coronary arteries — atherosclerosis — experienced no benefit from hormone replacement. This study follows another reported earlier this year, showing no cardiac benefit in staving off heart disease, which kills about a half million American women annually.

"It is clear now that estrogen is not as beneficial as we once hoped. And the entire story of estrogen and heart disease is far more complicated than we once thought," said Dr. David Herrington of Wake Forest and lead investigator of the study.

In short, his study found that postmenopausal hormone replacement is not a magic bullet. Hormones do not prevent the progression of coronary artery disease, something doctors thought to be true based on patient observations and anecdotal evidence.

He and his colleagues examined the role of hormones tested against placebos in more than 300 women whose atherosclerosis was verified through angiograms. Some received 0.625 milligrams of estrogen per day, or 0.625 milligrams of estrogen plus medroxyprogesterone (a synthetic progesterone), or an inert pill.

California Poised to Approve Expanded Financial Aid Program

LOS ANGELES TIMES

California is poised to adopt the largest state financial aid program in the United States, one that would offer hefty sums to all qualified low- and moderate-income high school graduates, even those with just a C-average.

Under terms of an agreement announced by Gov. Gray Davis and legislative leaders and expected to go to a vote in the state Legislature in coming days, California would vastly expand its existing Cal Grants program to provide tens of thousands more students the money to go to college.

The measure would also guarantee grants to cover college fees for many middle-class high school graduates who make better-than-average grades, and give extra help to community college transfer students. As many as a third of all California's high school graduates could eventually benefit, state officials said.

In essence, the state would be promising high school students that if they get a B-average, the state will help them afford college fees, and even if they can only manage C's, they will at least get a shot at a higher education. The plan is expected to at least double the number of people who receive state aid and end the state's practice of rationing grants in lean budget years.

It would be a program sharply at odds with recent national trends in college financial aid, which have tended to favor wealthier students. In committing to help poor students afford college, California would be revisiting education policies of the post-Civil Rights era.

In California, "income is not going to be impediment to college — not just in theory, but as a matter of statutory right," said John Mockler, Davis' interim secretary of education.

By guaranteeing aid, said state Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, the state will be attempting to create a new college-going culture in high schools. "No longer will kids think, 'What difference does it make? I can't afford to go to college,'" he said.

The measure will take effect next year and could cost an estimated \$1.2 billion yearly by 2006.

OPINION

Letters To The Editor



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Fed a Line by FSILGs? — But Not Their Best

The other night, I went to the international student "ice cream mixer" conjured to allow us, international freshmen and transfers, to learn about fraternities and ILGs — well, only if we asked unambiguously and specifically about them.

The sacred rules of conduct for rush dictate that a fraternity, sorority or ILG member may not bring up the name of his or her living group, that of other living groups, or the general concept of alternative on-campus housing without direct prompting from a new student.

So a frat brother who wants to recruit potential pledges has to play a mind game with them — start up a conversation, talk in vague terms about life at MIT, and hope that they pop the question, "So where are you living?"

The whole evening felt like a pickup scene where the sleazy old guys were somehow prevented from using their best lines. So I felt uncomfortable. I didn't know whether people who approached me wanted to genuinely meet me or just to have me do their laundry as a future lowly pledge.

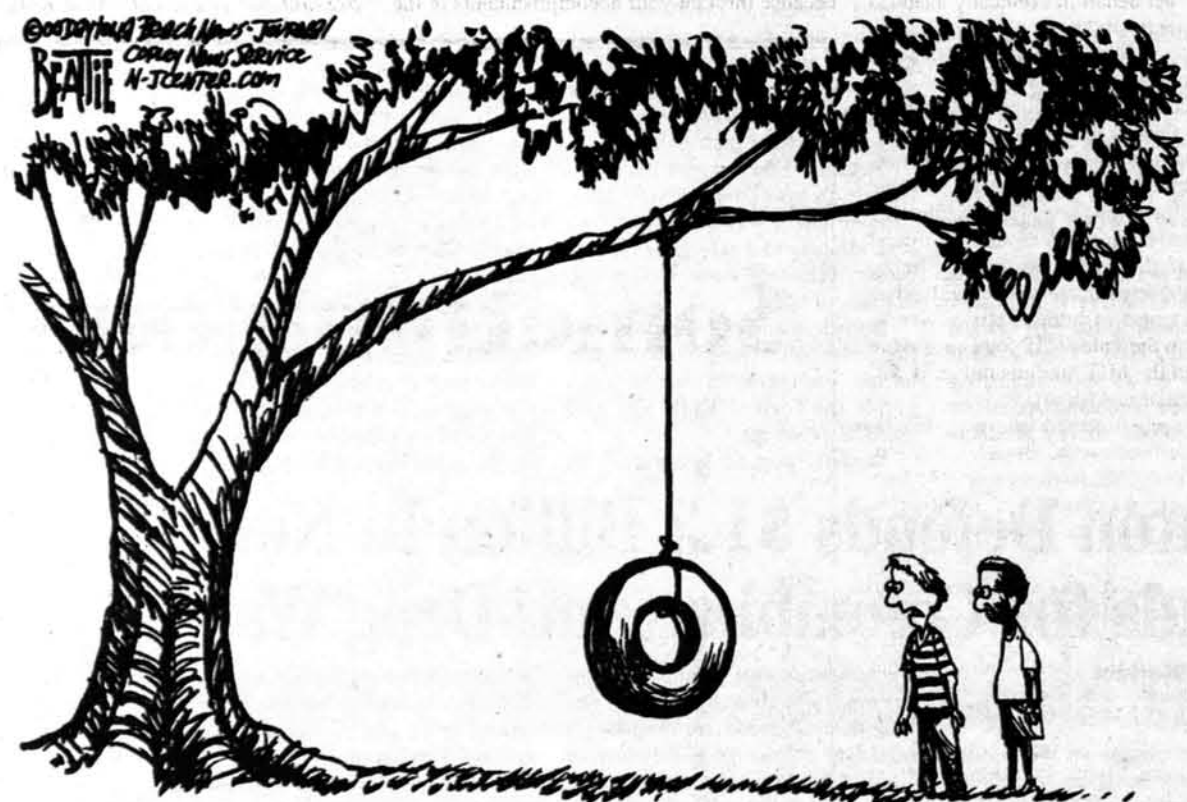
I'll admit that after a few minutes of confusion (due to the fact that I didn't know

about these rush rules at first) and then bewilderment (that MIT would actually sanction such a ridiculous environment), I eventually managed to find a few interesting people to talk with and candidly learn about fraternity and ILG living. So it wasn't an entire loss.

Still, I constantly felt a cloud of obsequiousness hanging over the room, and I was always skeptical that I was just being fed a line. But if I was, I guess I can't complain, because I specifically and unambiguously asked for it.

Mikael C. Rechtsman

(Editors' note: The writer is a transfer student from McGill University.)



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

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Reflections on Survivor

Matt McGann

It's all over.

Richard Hatch, the corporate trainer from Newport, Rhode Island, is *The Survivor*, simply by choosing a number between 1 and 10 that was closer to 9.

Last night's final episode was two hours of pure entertainment. I watched it with a large group of people, cheering and jeering at every plot twist. The reactions were over the top to Rich's waving of his flab at the camera and to Susan's insult-laced sendaway to Rich and second-place Kelly. Everyone was sad to see Rudy, the former Navy SEAL and resident grouch, leave, but there were very few tears shed as Susan, the truck driver, was the 13th person voted off the island. And as the final vote was revealed, the roar in the room was deafening.

The Pulau Tiga buzz on this campus was slow to start. It quickly built up, though, once techie elements became part of the equation. On July 14, an unknown websurfer discovered that the "images" directory in CBS's *Survivor* locker was world-readable. Furthermore, available in that directory were images of fifteen of the sixteen contestants with "X"s over them, leading to the conclusion that Gervase, the only contestant without an X, would be the winner. Word came over one of the Media Lab's lists that afternoon, and by evening students across campus were poking around CBS's directories and HTML source. By the time Gervase was actually voted off the island, many students were hooked.

The week before the application deadline for *Survivor II: The Australian Outback*, several students tossed around the idea of submitting; several did, I'm sure. One group of students, though, decided to cajole Residence Life Dean and *Survivor* fan Katie O'Dair into applying.

Dean O'Dair is one of the most popular administrators on campus, if not the most popular. When she left her previous position at Tufts, the student newspaper begged her to stay, and they named a Student Activities van after her. On the weekends, she is a triathlete. Who from our community would be better?

Grudgingly, O'Dair agreed to apply for the show. Several students teamed up to fill out the application on her behalf. It eventually included references to her involvement in Charm School, her favorite movie (*Chicken Run*), and fictional contests to "vote [people] off the Institute."

More students helped out with the three-minute video (yes, it was done with iMovie). The video featured cameos from student leaders, student life administrators, and even the venerable President of MIT, Charles Marsteller Vest. Despite his reputation around some parts of the administration as being somewhat dry, President Vest actually has quite a good sense of humor. His advice to Dean O'Dair in the video? "If you can survive all this time in the MIT administration, it will be a piece of cake in Australia."

If O'Dair were selected, she wouldn't be the first MIT affiliate to be chosen for reality television. In 1997, the sixth season of MTV's *The Real World* was filmed in a converted firehouse in the Back Bay. New House resident Jennifer K. Johnson '98 was one of the finalists to appear on the show, but declined to sign the contract. Among the reasons cited was hosage related to Project Lab and a fear that appearing on the show would hurt her Medical School chances.

Now, with *Survivor* over, everyone will have to tune into *Big Brother* for their reality-TV fix. As for me, I think I'll start my tooling early and wait for *Survivor II*'s IAP premiere.

If there are any lessons to be learned here, I suppose they are as follows. First, if a television show can bring together communities -- whether it be MIT or all of America -- it can't really be all that bad. Not since perhaps *The Ed Sullivan Show* has a show created so much bonding, even between total strangers.

Second, with the scheming Rich's squeaking 4-3 victory, we see how determination, seeing your goal and going for it, can be greatly rewarded. In the end, the fact that Rich was up front about his goals and how he planned to achieve them reinforced the old adage that honesty is the best policy.

Finally, while *Survivor* has many lessons and metaphors for our lives, I hope that it is not taken to an extreme. In two days, residence selection will begin. I urge all of our living groups not to see rush as a cutthroat competition where anything goes in pursuit of "winning." This is a time to build a community. Enjoy the time on this beautiful island that is MIT.

15 Things Freshmen Can Learn at MIT

Philippe Larochelle

Looking at yesterday's *Tech* it would seem that the theme of current articles is to give freshmen a warm welcome and some minor advice for them to progress through their time here at MIT. I've decided to follow suit, offering a number of pieces of advice and little snippets of information that should help all newcomers to MIT through orientation and past registration day. I've also decided to number them in a typical MIT fashion for rapid digestion.

1. *MIT will repeatedly kick you in the face, you have to learn to kick back:* This is perhaps the guiding principle here at MIT. The workload here, the difficulty of courses, and the level of competition can rival nearly any institution in the world. Perhaps that's why some of you came here, perhaps that's why some of you hesitated, but that's the way it is. You'll feel the institution kicking quite often: every time you get a problem set that appears to take more time than writing a symphony, every time you get out of the test whose percent average is in the mid twenties and every time you see the sun rise while you're still tooling away at an Athena station.

The times you realize that you are successfully kicking back are few and far between, when you finally receive a satisfactory grade, when you get the occasional smiley face on a problem set you spent half the week on or the crappy pin you get for finishing 6.001. The first year here is on pass/fail not so much to help you get used to college life in general but rather, to help you learn to roll with the punches.

2. *You deserve to be here:* I'm sure one of the dozens of faculty, administration or staff who will be addressing you during orientation will reiterate this point, but now hear it from a student: the admissions people do not pick names out of a hat. You are here based on your merits because through your accomplishments in the

past, academic and otherwise, you have proven that you can survive any hurdle that MIT will throw at you. I'm going to make a bold statement that I know to be true. Any person at MIT can pass any MIT class. Yes, even you. The prerequisites are a good work ethic (which even Geniuses need to acquire), realizing how much work each class will take, not overburdening yourself in your scheduling and finally, perhaps most importantly, asking for help when you need it.

3. *Everything at MIT is numbered:* No doubt at several intervals during the orientation you will come to a standstill in a conversation with someone you just met when the small-talk is running thin and you, or they, will enquire about what major or what classes the other is taking. If the conversation is with a fellow freshman you will most likely receive a calm iteration of the titles of majors and classes. If you ask an upperclassman they will most likely start spitting many numbers at you. At MIT the buildings are numbered, the lecture halls are numbered, the majors are numbered, the

classes are numbered and even you are numbered (just check your ID card). Save for the last one, you too will soon enough start speaking in numbers. This trend of numeric efficiency is so prevalent that I sometimes wonder if we would start referring to each other as numbers if the ID numbers weren't so long. "Hey 3657 'sup? Have you seen 2746 around?" "Ya, he was with 8457, 1632 and that chick minoring in 7, I think they were going to 10.001 in 10-250."

4. *During orientation you may sleep like a peasant but you'll eat like a King:* I know

some of the accommodations during orientation are pretty dismal. Last year, I was in a single turned double (beds two inches apart and two inches from the walls) located between the bathroom and the stairs. Once rush starts, however, the unbelievable amounts of free food and other knick-knacks will make up for it. Boys and Girls take advantage of the temporary benevolence of ILG's even if you're not considering living there. Last year I figured out it was possible to have Lobster and Steak for every single meal (save breakfast) for the entire period of rush, if one

did the proper rounds of fraternities.

5. *Guns don't kill people, early classes kill people:* Coming out of an 8-9 AM start in high school, many of you probably think that a 9, 10 or 11 AM start is a blessing. Think again. You'll see what I mean soon enough. Consider this when forming a schedule.

6. *At MIT Teaching Assistants control your fate, God just watches:* The best advice I got as a freshman was to seek out good teaching assistants. If you don't think you're learning anything of use in your recitation, change it. A note however; just because a TA may have trouble speaking English, it shouldn't amount to an automatic change. An accent often proves entertaining, a help when trying to stay awake, and it's preferable to someone with perfect English who needlessly rants about Shakespeare in a chemistry class. Not only do TAs do reviews for lectures, but they also ultimately decide your grade.

7. *Meet your new best friend: PIVoT.* Taking physics this year? There is a wonderful on line service called the Physics Interactive Video Tutor that among other things, allows recordings of all 8.01 classes online throughout the term. Very useful considering the scheduling of this class. (See #5).

8. *You don't need to be able to count, to be a Tech columnist:* It is very easy to join most activities at MIT, *The Tech* included. Minimal skills are required. So go out and do it.

This trend of numeric efficiency is so prevalent that I sometimes wonder if we would start referring to each other as numbers if the ID numbers weren't so long.

You are here based on your merits because through accomplishments in the past, academic and otherwise, you have proven that you can survive any hurdle that MIT will throw at you.

Something on your mind?



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The Tech
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THE ARTS

FILM REVIEW ★ 1/2

The Cell

Trapped in The Cell

By Jennifer Young

Directed by Tarsem Singh
Written by Mark Protosevich
Starring Jennifer Lopez, Vince Vaughn, Vincent D'Onofrio, Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Jake Weber, and Dylan Baker
Rated R

The advertisements declaring that *The Cell* is a hybrid between *The Silence of the Lambs* and *The Matrix* could easily mislead the average movie-goer into believing that it could be a thought-provoking look into both the deadly entanglements of a criminal mind and the consequences of mind-probing technology.

Movie-goers, take heed: the only thoughts it provokes are those of revulsion. I left this film feeling both genuine physical pain and a desire to expunge the images that I was forced to endure. The film is a protracted excuse to display strange outfits and bad acting in as disgusting a way as possible, while never actually engaging the viewer's interest.

Jennifer Lopez, who showed promise in *Out of Sight*, brings little to her poorly written role as Catherine. The heroine works for a medical institute where she uses a new technique to enter the mind of a comatose boy to wake him. Nightmares plague her, and her failures are making the boy's parents skeptical. As a cookie-cutter heroine, she wants to take personal risks to help the child, only to be stopped by her superiors, who tell her it's too dangerous.

These seemingly poignant scenes, which are supposed to show us how sympathetic and noble she is, are cut repeatedly with revolting images of Vincent D'Onofrio and his escapades as serial killer Starger. Finally, the inevitable occurs: when Starger collapses in a schizophrenic coma, he is brought into the medical institute, and Catherine offers her services to probe his mind and find out where his latest victim is hidden. The victim is trapped in "the cell," a chamber that fills with water over a forty-hour period.

Catherine not only enters Starger's mind, but becomes trapped there, and is rescued by Vince Vaughn, who is truly forgettable in his role as FBI agent Peter Novak. Within the mind of the killer, thoroughly perverse images of mutilated dolls and strange, dank looking locales seem engineered to provoke vomiting. I can only hope that the discontinuous, disturbing scenes were contrived by someone using drugs, and a lot of them. The visuals are admittedly well-done, but they are squandered on images that contribute nothing toward a coherent whole.

After Vaughn unlocks the secret to where the girl is kept and goes to save her, the ever-sympathetic Catherine stays behind, presumably to help Starger, but more probably as an excuse for the movie to hurl more bizarre images at the audience.

After I left the theater and managed to stop thinking about the many strange body-piercings and mutilations that occurred on screen, the truth sank in: the film had very little plot, or good dialogue, or uplifting moments, or pathos, or anything redeeming at all.

MUSIC REVIEW

State of the Airwaves

Danger, Doors, and Dar

By Dan Katz
STAFF WRITER

Welcome, welcome. For those of you who are just joining us on campus (freshmen) this is *State of the Airwaves*, my take on upcoming concerts, current radio singles, music trends, and virtually anything else associated with being a modern rock fan in the Cambridge area. Ninety-eight percent of the upperclassmen on campus read this column religiously, and if you don't read it, they won't think you are "cool" and you won't get into the fraternity/sorority/dorm of your choice. So pay attention. (And for those of you who know I'm lying, just play along.)

What better way to celebrate your arrival on campus than with free shows? WBCN and WFNX are both fighting for your attention tonight, as WFNX brings 3 Doors Down to Axis (doors at 8 p.m.) and WBCN presents Fenix TX and Harvey Danger at the Hatch Shell (starts at 6:30). The FNX show requires you or your companion to have an FNX Card, while the BCN show merely requires you to show up. I know the best part of my orientation last year was ditching the President's Dinner to go see Moby at the Hatch Shell. Ah, the memories. Also of note this week is a Union Underground gig at Axis on Tuesday night. Weezer and Pearl Jam are in the area as well, but they're sold out, so it's a bit late to get excited if you just found out.

Releases for the week: Elastica's *The Menace*, which has been available for way too long and for way too much money as an import, will finally be released in the U.S. on Tuesday. Joining it are a rarities collection from Incubus, new folkie discs from Jess Klein and Dar Williams, and self-titled albums from Vibrolush and American Pearl. Nothing fantastic this week; the good stuff's coming in September and October.

About five years ago Sponge released one of my favorite songs, "Wax Ecstatic," making a huge leap from the simplistic pop of "Molly" and "Plowed" to a heavier sound incorporating slide guitar licks and dissonant solos. Harvey Danger must have been taking notes, because they make a near-identical transition with "Sad Sweetheart Of The Rodeo," the first cut off their new album. It doesn't sound as instantly radio-friendly as "Flagpole Sitta," but it comes off as more musically mature and still retains the band's lyrical sense of humor ("The Marlboro Man died of cancer, and he wasn't a rocket scientist when he was healthy"). I don't know if this track



ANDREW MACNAUGHTAN

3 Doors Down (Todd Harrell, Brad Arnold, Chris Henderson, and Matt Roberts) will perform a free show tonight (with a WFNX card) at Axis at 8pm.

will take off, especially with the odd name, but I'd like to see it get some airplay.

Also in the realm of major departures is Zebrahead's latest cut, "Playmate of the Year." The band's last single, "Get Back," landed smack in the middle of 311, Korn, and the Offspring, but didn't have enough of a hook to be as popular as any of them. This time around the band has replaced the high-speed rapping that dominated "Get Back" (on "Playmate" it only shows up for half a verse) with a punk-style melody, placing the band's sound closer to Blink-182 or SR-71. It's not a huge change, and the rest of their new album is probably more of their traditional work, but it's bound to get them noticed.

A warning to Radiohead fans: The good news is that, according to buzz on the Internet, the band's new album will be as revolutionary as their last effort, *OK Computer*. The bad news is that it's tricky to figure out what to believe. In the last two weeks a false press release popped up on many web sites, and fake mockups of every track on the album appeared on Napster. The band is

ensuring that the album will not leak out early via specially designed pen-sized digital players. Many of the songs, however, have been played in concert and bootlegged. The best strategy to avoid the counterfeits is to only download songs that claim to be live (the most reliable tracks were recorded in Arles, France). In particular, listen to "Optimistic," and then try to tell me you're not excited about this album.

And finally, for a couple of people who have asked, I think Kurt Angle's going to pull off an upset this weekend. It's true, it's true. Unfortunately, it also looks like the time has come for my heroes in life, Edge and Christian. The Hardy's are long overdue to get the belts. It reeks heinously as far as I'm concerned.

I think I'll sing us out today. "Now it's time to say goodbye to all our company ... A-I-R ... (Aren't you just dying to send feedback to Airwaves?) ... W-A ... (A good address to use would be <airwaves@the-tech.mit.edu>) ... V-E-S! Until next week, have a good one and keep expanding your horizons.

BOOK REVIEW

Chicken Poop for the Soul II

More Droppings

By Chris Jones

Written by David Fisher
A Pocket Books Original Trade Paperback
ISBN: 0-671-03708-0

I never thought I'd discover a more irritating bunch than the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* saps. That all changed when I picked up a copy of David Fisher's *Chicken Poop for the Soul II: More Droppings*. Boy, was I in for a treat. I have now found a second, yet bigger bunch of bozos.

The first group, the "Chicken Soupers," are a bunch of yuppies who can't face the fact that life sucks sometimes; they find enlightenment in Hallmark cards. They need to give their inner children a beating. Blame them for Oprah. These are the fools watching *Big Brother* because their lives are so pathetic.

The second group is a whole new crop of assholes. And by that I don't mean ill-tempered or unnecessarily mean. These are the "Chicken Poopers." They are the yuppies that

somehow think they're above the "Chicken Soupers" yet stay glued to *Survivor* in an attempt to bring some excitement into their lives. This group is the worse of the two because they not only think they're more than just yuppies, but that they are amusing. Hence, this book.

The cover boasts, "Hilarious tales guaranteed to bring joy to the cynic in all of us." Whoever wrote that either has no problem telling a blatant lie or needs to go out and buy a sense of humor. This book was not hilarious, joyful, or cynical. The last time I laughed as hard as I did reading this sorry excuse for entertainment was about two years ago at a funeral.

Before I bias your opinion of the book, I'd like to try to be fair and objective. The author deserves that, as do all schmucks, I suppose. This book, first of all, is essentially a collection of tales, a parody of the popular *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books. Unless the "II" in the title is another attempt at humor, I'd have to assume that there was a predecessor that people thought was funny enough for a follow-up.

Topics span from an interpretation of the story of Moses in "The Modern Bible" to children's fads in "The Power of Pokémon." The tie that binds all of the stories together is an

over-the-top attempt at cynicism. And that is exactly what ruins the book. David Fisher obviously tries way too hard to be funny. Any joke that gets dragged out to the point where you can't find the punchline isn't funny anymore.

For instance, "Young Dr. Kevorkian" is the story of Dr. Jack Kevorkian's life before he came into the public eye. Fisher decided to be clever and call Dr. Kevorkian "Black Jack," saying he's from Gravelly, Illinois, had a high-school yearbook called *Taps*, and loves The Grateful Dead. It's not that I don't get the joke — Dr. Kevorkian is associated with death. It's just not funny. Fisher took this idea and beat it to un-life.

Sometimes, however, the problem was just the opposite. Rather than exhausting a joke, Fisher dove right in and told a dumb one, like in "The Secret of Speed Reading." The chapter simply states: "Read fast." At least it was short.

Now, Fisher did manage to pull a genuine chuckle out of me on occasion. He obviously knows what a joke is. But considering the book in its entirety, a few scattered laughs isn't enough to make it worth the valuable time you could be spending getting that whistling booger out of your nose.

Solution to Crossword

on page 8

B	E	G		S	L	U	I	C	E		S	W	A	M	
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Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase



INSTITUTE MADNESS!

ALISON WONG



Fun with Clip Art

Aaron Isaksen



"Jenny, if you think that your nightmare was scary, you should see the size of your father's hemorrhoids!"

TechCalendar

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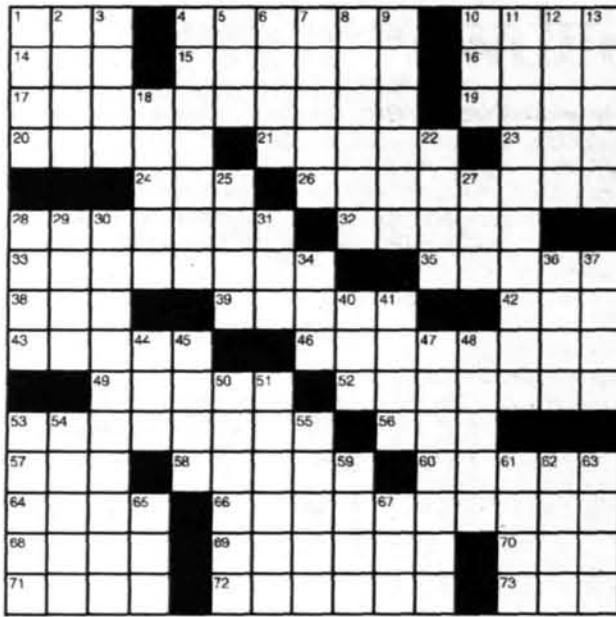
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Thursday, August 24

- 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - **seaT**. Kinetic sound sculpture by Diane Willow, currently an Artist in Residence at MIT. Her work explores our relationship with nature and technology in the urban environment. Room: E15 Lower Level. Sponsor: Office of the Arts, Media Lab, PAKSMIT.
- 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Amy Cain: Up From Eden**. Paintings on wood and canvas. Opening Reception on Thursday, June 22, 5-7pm. Room: E52-466, The Dean's Gallery. Sponsor: Sloan School of Management.
- 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton**. An interactive

- exhibition celebrating the life and work of MIT legend Harold. \$5; \$2 students/seniors; \$1 children 5-18; free with MIT ID. Room: MIT Museum, N52 2nd floor. Sponsor: MIT Museum.
- 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Physical Education Lottery Opens!** Lottery Closes on 9/6 @ 1pm!! Room: WebSis for Students, W32-125 for non-students. Sponsor: Physical Education.
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Web Pub User Group (formerly CWIS User Group)**. The purpose of the Web Pub User Group is to provide a forum for information and support about web publishing at MIT. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

Crossword Puzzle



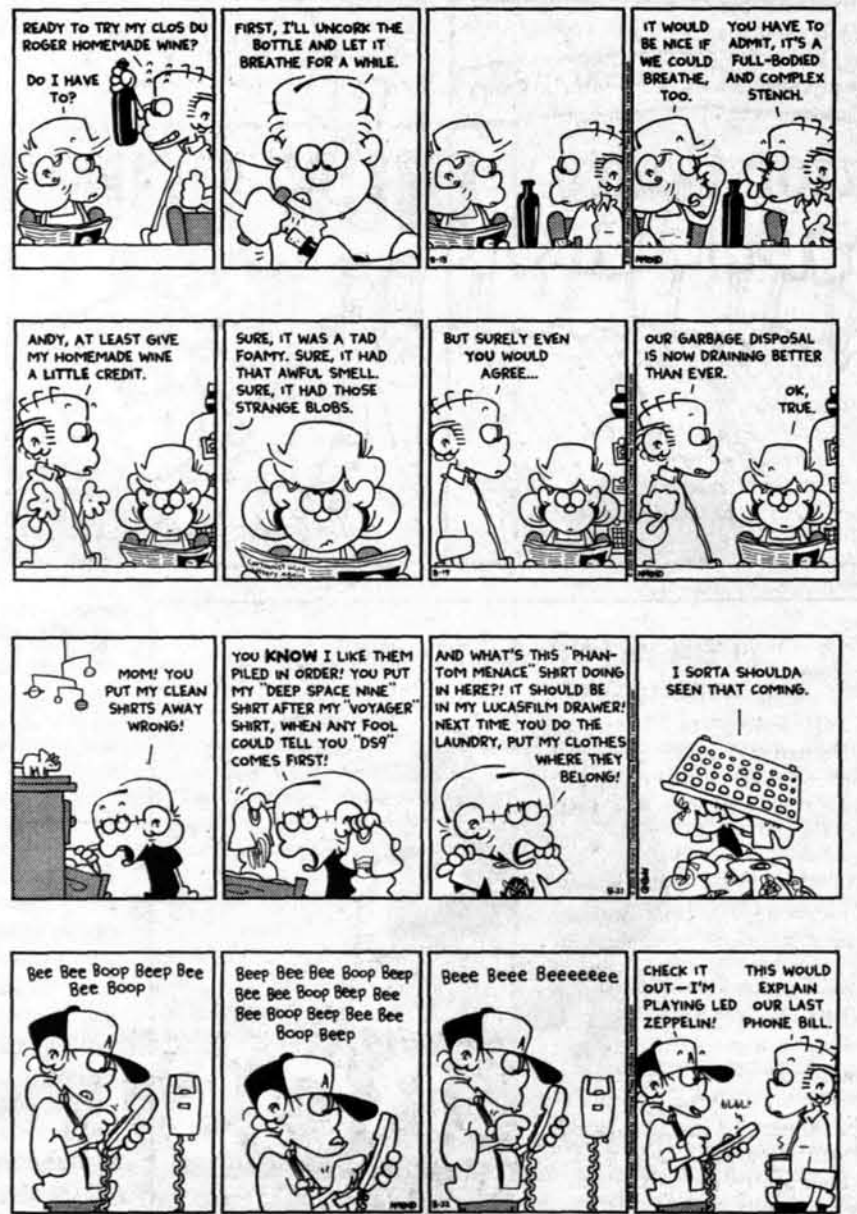
- ACROSS**
- 1 Beseech
 - 4 Millstream channel
 - 10 Did the crawl
 - 14 Drivers' org.
 - 15 Class exercise
 - 16 de foie gras
 - 17 Wedding-party member
 - 19 Particle
 - 20 Boredom
 - 21 Watercraft
 - 23 "Do Ya" grp.
 - 24 Woods' org.
 - 26 Tom Robbins novel, "Even Get the Blues"
 - 28 Fruit of a brambly flower
 - 32 Biblical poem
 - 33 Disciples
 - 35 Acts
 - 38 Jewel
 - 39 Locations
 - 42 Prevaricate
 - 43 PC operators
 - 46 Solo
 - 49 Wake up
 - 52 Cats
 - 53 Unfounded
- DOWN**
- 1 Bunyan's blue ox
 - 2 Work for
 - 3 No pain, no
 - 4 of hand
 - 5 "Miserables"
 - 6 Leatherneck's org.
 - 7 Asimov or Newton
 - 8 Like a self-service laundry
 - 9 Provides funds for
 - 10 Healthy spot
 - 11 Cantaloupe cousin
 - 12 Coral island
 - 13 Notes from the boss
- ACROSS**
- 56 Wheaton of "Stand by Me"
 - 57 Period
 - 58 Say out loud
 - 60 Hammerin' Hank
 - 64 Chills and fever
 - 66 Sixty
 - 68 Act peeved
 - 69 Conductor James
 - 70 NATO member
 - 71 Pierre's head
 - 72 Wears away
 - 73 Youngster
- DOWN**
- 18 Gullible saps
 - 22 Mild oath
 - 25 Doesn't feel well
 - 27 de-France
 - 28 Prego rival
 - 29 Uncloses, poetically
 - 30 Acrobatic feat
 - 31 Architect I.M.
 - 34 RR stop
 - 36 Have supper
 - 37 Dates
 - 40 North Pole worker?
 - 41 Large number
 - 44 Fish eggs
 - 45 "Star Trek" crew member
 - 47 Wanted poster info
 - 48 Lavender shrub
 - 50 Take up residence
 - 51 Old Testament heroine
 - 53 Beauty's love
 - 54 Debate
 - 55 Mechanism lead-in?
 - 59 Tim of "WKRP"
 - 61 Rummage
 - 62 Approximately
 - 63 Clean and tidy
 - 65 Squeeze (out)
 - 67 Opposite of WSW
- Solution on page 6*

Dilbert® by Scott Adams



FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



Frosh Praise Friendly Students

Orientation, from Page 1

and crafts supplies. The winning team used duct tape to attach their square-lidded model to the auditorium wall.

Sexual innuendo peppered the remainder of the ceremony. Coordinators Joseph A. Cirello '01 and Dakus S. Gunn '01 turned up the heat during the dinosaur riding relay race, with Cirello commenting that "even the dinosaur is excited." Following the relay, Gunn introduced the ball-tossing competition, observing that he had "a lot of balls."

Power of the people

The optimism expressed in the opening ceremonies reflected the upbeat mood of the freshman class. Much of that optimism comes directly from MIT's effort to accommodate new freshmen with a friendly and resourceful admissions staff.

"Every time I had a question or needed anything, everyone was helpful," said Monique A. Johnson '04, a Florida native considering Courses II and IV.

Julie F. Kane '04 concurred, stating that MIT had the most helpful admissions office of her top choices, helping her to choose MIT over Yale and Georgetown.

The friendliness of the student body also helped convince many freshmen to choose MIT.

"The people made me want to come here," said Nitzan Gadish '04, an Israeli considering Course VI.

David R. Schannon '04 of San Diego decided to attend MIT over the Wharton Business school at the University of Pennsylvania.

"The philosophy here is 'us against them.' We're all dealing with the classes. At Wharton, it's cutthroat. Everyone's against each other," Schannon said.

MIT's location was also a deciding factor for many freshmen. Coming from Los Angeles, Karen M. Keller '04 had one goal in mind when selecting MIT.

"I wanted to get away," Keller said. "MIT was as far away as I could possibly get, considering there are no good schools in Maine." Keller's mother and father, both MIT alums, encouraged her to leave home and come to MIT. "They just gave me my airplane ticket and said 'bye.'"

While excited to begin her MIT career, Keller is admittedly apprehensive about Orientation and the new academic challenge. "I'm com-



Lis B. Evans '04 (front) and Allison Gallo '04 mark their hometowns with pushpins on the Orientation hometown map.

pletely lost and I hope to orient myself," Keller said. "I have no expectations besides getting free food and meeting new friends."

New experiences and old loves

In addition to the opportunity to meet new people, some freshmen are learning to perform mundane day-to-day tasks.

"I did laundry for the first time last night," said Nathan W. Liu '04, a Minnesota native considering Course VII. He reflected on his first time doing laundry with fondness. "It was easy," Liu said, grinning.

Meanwhile, some freshmen have decided to abstain from certain new experiences. While most freshmen come to college looking to play the

singles scene, potential Course II major Alexander L. Allen '04 has settled on one true love. Last February, Allen proposed to Kathy M. Deitz, a high school classmate and incoming freshman at the Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston.

This past weekend, the couple moved from their Vermont home to Eastgate, an MIT housing complex for couples and families. Deitz and Allen, both age eighteen, will be one of the youngest couples ever to live in MIT family housing.

Allen was pleased with his atypical housing assignment. "Eastgate's pretty nice," Allen said. "There are a lot of foreign people."

The couple's wedding date is June 16, 2001.

I/S Cuts SGI Purchases

I/S, from Page 1

Although I/S has attempted to work with software manufacturers, not all applications have yet been ported to Linux.

I/S purchases no new SGIs

Harrison said that Silicon Graphics, Inc. "has been reducing the amount of development effort they put into their workstations. SGI has shown a lot of interest in moving to a Linux-type platform."

Therefore, I/S has not purchased any new systems made by SGI. Harrison said that "for now all of the

machines that we have are in good shape."

Software changes generally minor

Most of the changes in Athena 8.4, which was released in July 2000, should be transparent to the end users. "We like making changes such that people don't notice them," said Harrison.

Netscape is now part of the standard Athena release, meaning that it will be stored on each machine's hard drive rather than in an Athena locker. This will speed Netscape execution time, and was one of the most frequently requested upgrades.

MBTA Raises Bus, Subway Ride Fares

By Laura McGrath Moulton
NEWS EDITOR

At least you won't have to worry about nickels and dimes anymore: when the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) rate hike goes into effect on September 18, 2000, dollars and quarters will be all you need to ride the T.

In the first rate hike since 1991, a token will cost one dollar, and riding the bus will cost seventy-five cents. Commuter rail prices will be raised by approximately thirty percent, depending on the distance travelled.

The rate hike for passes will go into effect in November, said MBTA spokesman Brian Pedro. At that point, a subway pass will cost \$35, a bus pass will cost \$25, and a combination pass will cost \$57.

Subsidies for MIT students

All MIT students, faculty, and staff who do not have parking permits are eligible for subsidized T passes through the Office of Parking and Transportation.

David Newbury, assistant director of transportation, said, "The reason MIT subsidizes the T pass is to encourage you not to bring your car to campus."

The subsidized rates for September will remain the same as before the hikes: \$7.50 for a bus pass, \$13.50 for a subway pass, and \$23.00 for a combo pass.

However, Newbury warned, "The amounts are going to fluctuate [after September]. We're at the mercy of the MBTA."

Pedro said that the MBTA was waiting until November to raise pass prices in order to allow companies and schools which subsidize passes to set their new rates.

Fares will increase revenue

According to the MBTA website, about 695,000 one-way trips are taken on the subway, bus and commuter rail systems each day. Over the past seven fiscal years, the MBTA has decreased its net cost of service by four percent through increased ridership among other sources of income.

Pedro said that the rate increase was implemented to raise additional revenue after the Massachusetts legislature changed the way the MBTA is funded to a direct grant

in advance of a set amount of money.

"We have, for the first time ever, a budget we have to live up to of \$655 million," Pedro said.

After the MBTA Board of Directors approved the rate hike on August 11, Transportation Secretary Kevin J. Sullivan told *The Boston Globe*, "I think this was a responsible vote and I think it finally gives the taxpayers of this state some relief.... It's a fair adjustment for the users of the system, and it puts all of the money back into the system. It will be money well spent."

Populist groups protest hike

Some groups have decried the rate hike, arguing that it will do more harm than good.

"We estimate that 40,000 additional cars will hit Boston-area roads because of this increase," Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group spokesman Rob Sargent told *The Boston Globe*. "That means the big revenue increase they want from the higher fares will not be nearly as large as they think."

Although the MBTA claims "the lowest fare of any major" mass transit system according to Pedro, many people have complained that the lack of a transfer system nullifies that claim.

At the August meeting, the MBTA Board of Directors had voted to implement a pilot program with free transfers for new crosstown bus routes. However, Pedro said that this pilot will not continue. "There will be no transfers. Most of the people who do linking trips would buy passes anyway."

Another area of particular concern is the MBTA's reliance on 980 diesel buses, reportedly a major source of pollution in Boston.

The Boston Globe reported on August 11th that the MBTA plans "on purchasing 100 natural-gas burning, wheelchair-accessible buses" to improve the situation.

That improvement is still planned, Pedro said. He said that he expects that twenty percent of the MBTA's fleet will be of the cleaner, compressed natural gas model "within the next few years."

"We'll also be getting the worst buses off the street," Pedro said.

Prior Court Ruling May Ban Device

Carnivore, from Page 1

everyone, including privacy and policy experts, will understand exactly what we are expecting from the review process."

Those standards will include cost, technical competence, independence from the department, and ability to evaluate the system fairly, Watney said.

Ten business days after the expectations are posted, a two-day selection period will take place and recommendations will be forwarded to Reno, who will make the final decision.

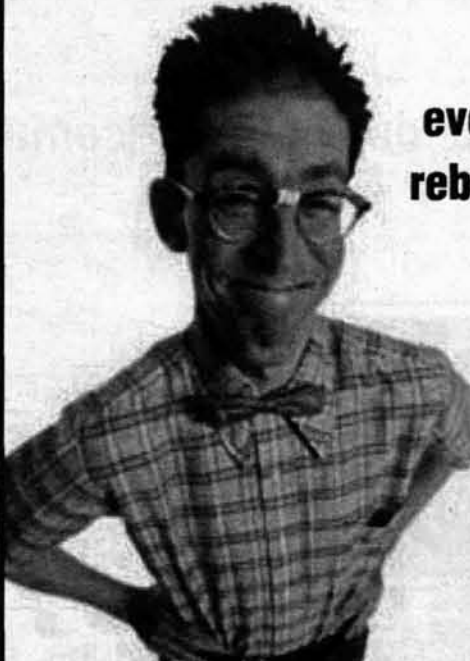
Court decision could impact system

A recent appeals court decision has raised questions about the Carnivore system. The District of Columbia Court of Appeals ruled that the Federal Communications Commission had granted the FBI too much authority to wiretap cellular phones.


The August 16 decision, which dealt with "packet-mode data," may also apply to, and curtail, Internet surveillance devices such as Carnivore.


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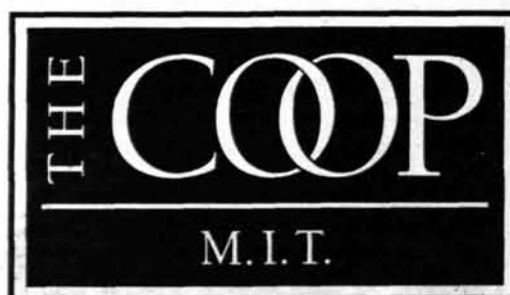
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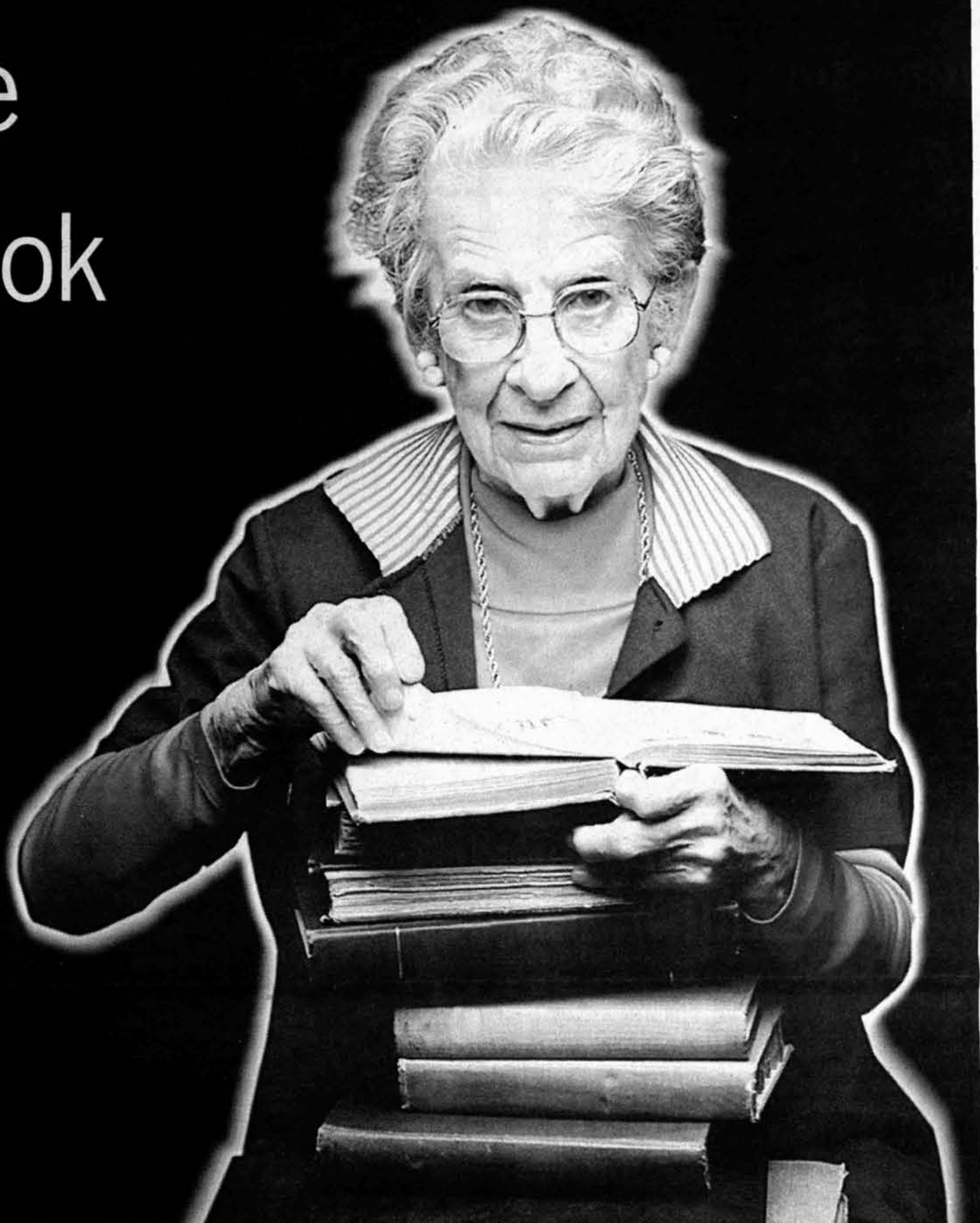
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Fall Sports Preview

This is the first segment in a three-part preview of MIT fall varsity sports.

men's tennis

After advancing to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division III championships, the team finished the season sixth in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Division III ranking.

However, the team will have to tackle the loss of its two All-Americans, Eric Chen '00 and Benjamin Cooke '00. Chen was the number one singles player, as well as the recipient of the ITA Arthur Ashe Sportsmanship Award.

According to head coach Jeff Hamilton, who was chosen as NCAA Division III coach of the year, the team will look to Michael Ogrydziak '04, along with other freshmen, for new talent.

"[Our] most anticipated rivalries are scheduled with Williams and Amherst," Hamilton said. MIT defeated Amherst last year for the first time since 1991 amid hostile competition, with MIT and Amherst players nearly coming to blows.



Anish Parikh '01 sets up to return the ball in MIT's tennis match against Williams College on May 1, 1999.

The team's goals for the season are to win the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference championship for the fifth consecutive year and to qualify for the NCAA tournament, Hamilton said.

men's cross-country

Led by Daniel Feldman '02, the men's cross-country team raced its way to the NCAA national championships in 1999. It was MIT's first appearance in six years, but according to head coach Halston Taylor, the team won't have to wait that long for another.

"If healthy, we should be in the top ten at nationals. We also should be NEWMAC conference champions and finish the season undefeated," Taylor said.

The team will need to make up the loss of Chris McGuire '00, who was the team's third-place finisher at nationals, and Frank Johnston '00, who was the sixth member of the MIT team to cross the finish at nationals.

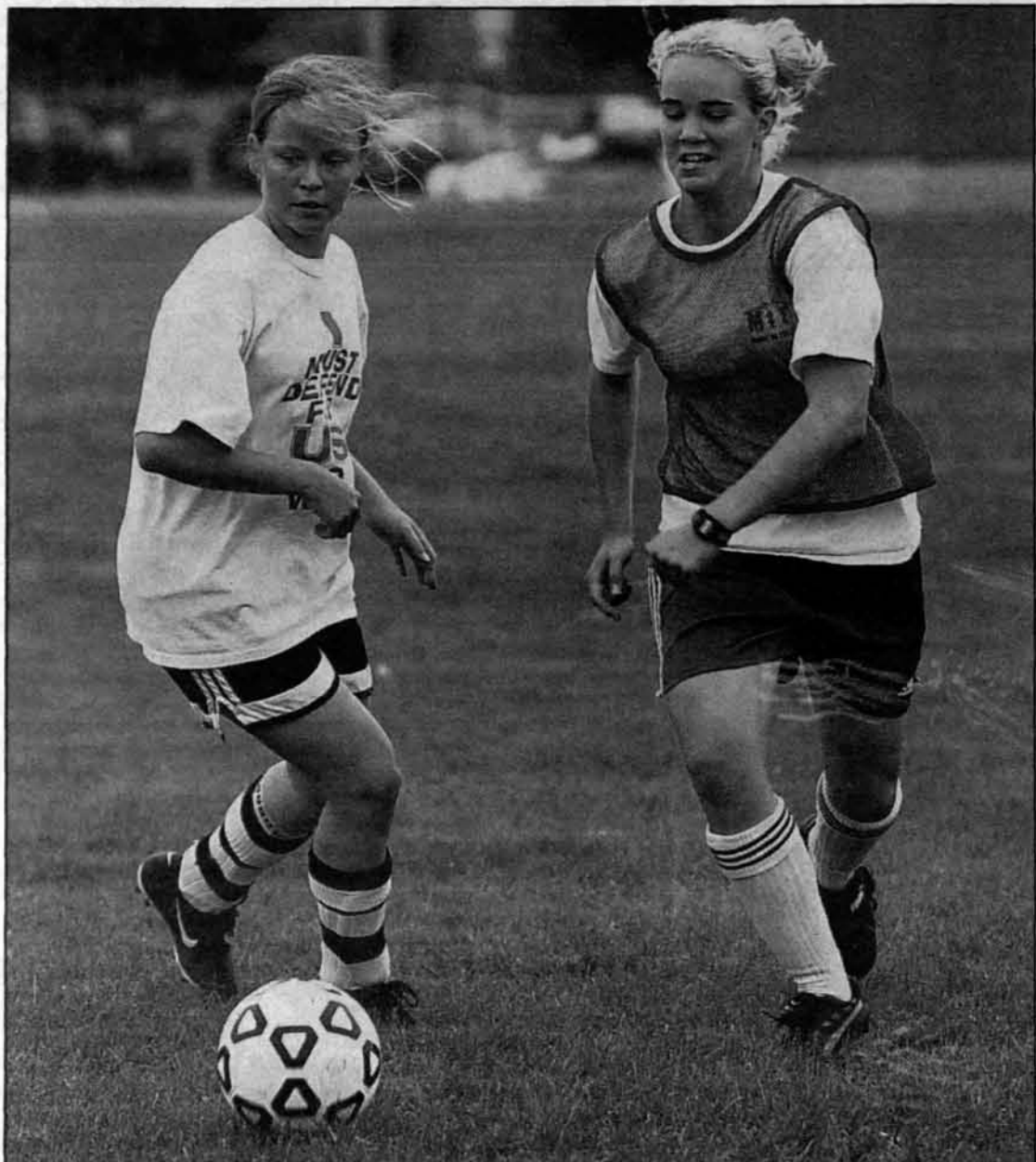
Of the freshmen, "Brian Anderson '04 has the greatest potential," Taylor said.

Last year, MIT earned a surprising win against nationally ranked Tufts University, and the Jumbos are undoubtedly itching to return the favor.



Daniel R. Feldman '02 (right) placed fourteenth in the 1999 Division III Nationals in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

"Anytime we race Tufts or Williams we will be continuing a long standing rivalry that has been very competitive over the years," Taylor said.



Allison Johnson '02 and Kelli Griffin '03 race each other to the ball in a two-on-two game during the women's soccer team practice yesterday.

women's soccer

After going 3-10-3 in 1998, the women's soccer team finished 1999 with a respectable 7-8-1 record, and hopes to continue the upward trend in the 2000 season.

All four graduates will be missed. The loss of Hilary Carter '00, an all-conference

defender, Theresa Burianek G, Annika Sutton '00, and Kristina Kath '00 will leave opportunities for younger players to step up.

Key returns for the team are all-conference Rebecca Clinton '03, 1999 leading scorer Kelli Griffin '03, and second leading scorer Sarah Mendelowitz '03.

In addition, "Paola Nasser '01,

and co-captains Shalini Agarwal '01 and Jennifer Wagner '01 should all be major contributors," said head coach Melissa Hart.

According to Hart, the team "hope[s] to avenge some of the close losses of last year to teams such as Smith and Springfield" and continue its rivalry with WPI.

women's tennis

The women's team's biggest challenges this year will be its youth and the loss of Mealani Nakamura '00, a captain and last year's top player, and a nationals qualifier in singles and doubles.

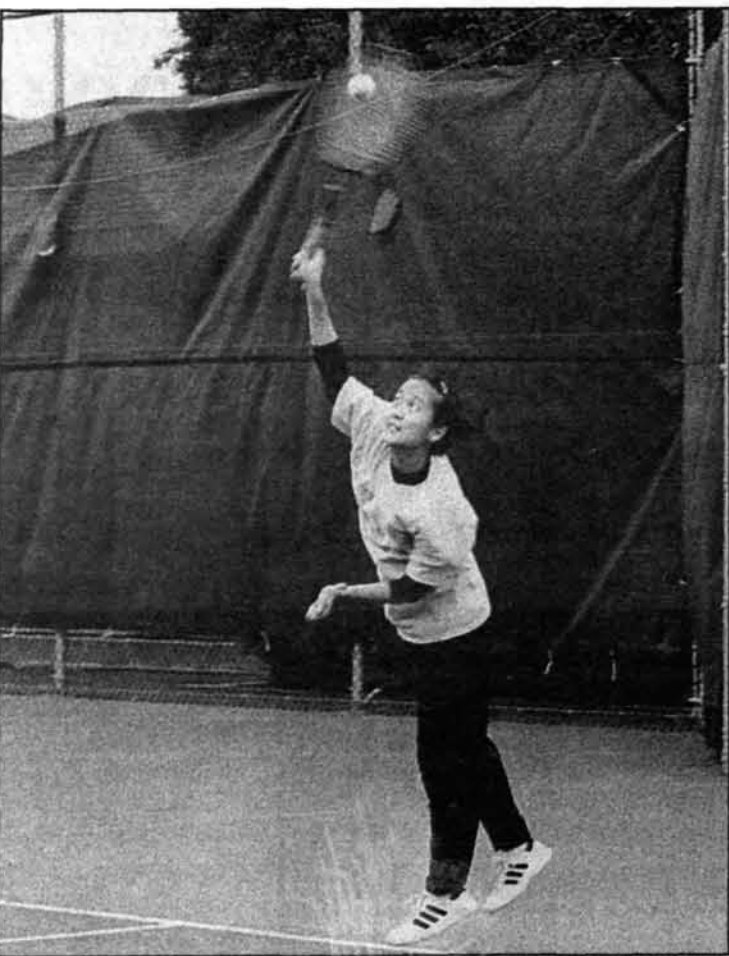
"Everyone will have to step up. We certainly had a tremendous year last year. This year we'll have a fairly young team — no seniors. We'll see who can step up and take the challenge," said head coach Carol Matsuzaki '95.

However, after last year's stunning performance, which included going undefeated in the conference in the fall, taking the conference title, and NCAA appearances by Nakamura and Kelly Koskelin '02, there seems to be little doubt that the team is prepared for continued NEWMAC success.

"The season outlook looks good. If we can keep up the attitude from last year and keep working hard and be even better in the area of competing intelligently, we can do well," Matsuzaki said.

With 5-4 victories over Wellesley, Bates, Colby, Wesleyan, Mt. Holyoke, and Vassar, and a 6-3 victory over Skidmore, many teams will be gunning for revenge against MIT.

"I am sure the competition will be exciting again this year," Matsuzaki said.




Mealani Nakamura '00 serves during her doubles match with Kelly Koskelin '02 against Wellesley College on October 5, 1999.

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