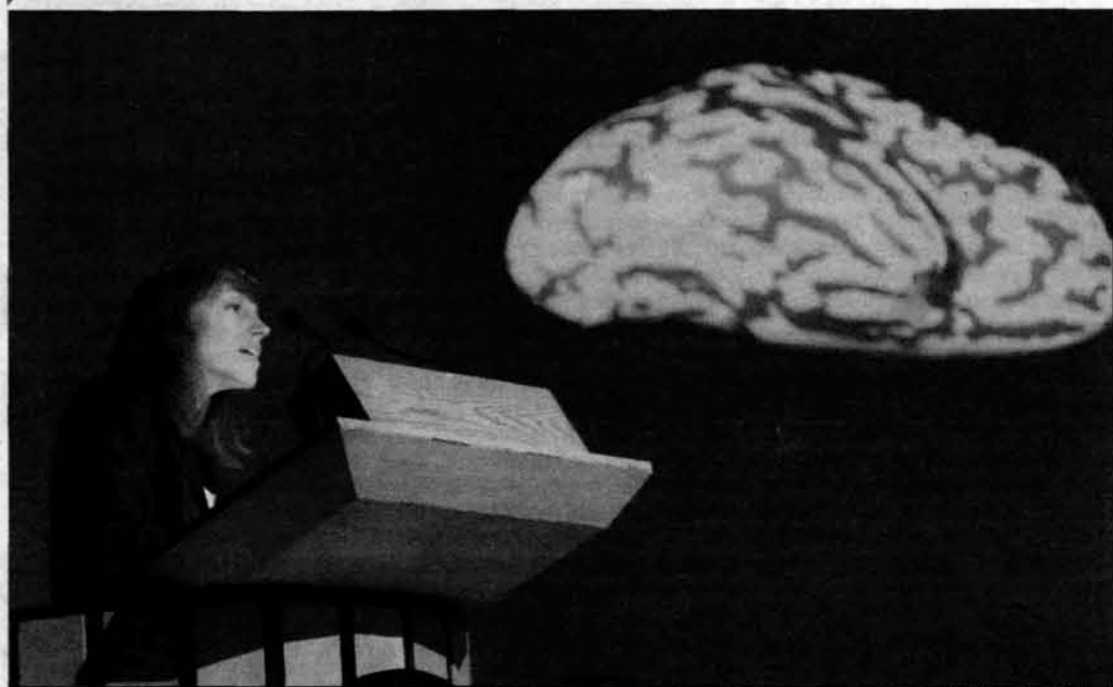




The Weather

Today: Sunny, mostly clear, 82°F (28°C)
Tonight: Clear, cool, 63°F (17°C)
Tomorrow: Sunny, nice, 82°F (28°C)
Details, Page 2



JAMES CAMP—THE TECH

THE PROFESSOR AND HER BRAIN — Nancy Kanwisher, associate professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, explains a functional MRI image of her own brain to the class of 2004 at yesterday morning's President's Welcome Convocation. The image shows brain activity specific to face recognition.

Vest Welcomes Incoming Class

President Encourages Freshmen To Take Leadership Roles

By Dana Levine
NEWS EDITOR

Charging the incoming class to become more actively involved in their education and to assume leadership roles, President Charles M. Vest formally welcomed the Class of 2004 to the Institute.

In introducing Vest at the yesterday's convocation, Orientation Coordinator Joseph A. Cirello '00

hosted a skit likening life at MIT to an appearance on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire." While not directly contradicting this, Vest did say that some students find MIT to be "more like 'Survivor.'"

"It is said that a leader is one who takes us elsewhere ... and each of you has that spark, that spirit, and that extraordinary ability to lead us elsewhere," Vest said.

To become leaders, students should become involved as quickly

as possible in the different research opportunities available at the Institute. "This means that your freshman year at MIT is not a rehearsal, or a dry run. This is a real as it gets," Vest said.

His speech went on to detail exciting research projects currently underway, including genetic research at MIT-Whitehead Center, Project Oxygen at the Laboratory for Computer Science, and the

Convocation, Page 11

CLC Permits Tours At Kappa Sig, ATO

By Mike Hall and Jennifer Young

In a partial reprieve, the Cambridge License Commission allowed Kappa Sigma and Alpha Tau Omega to conduct house tours during rush. The CLC had originally suspended both houses throughout rush for alcohol and party violations.

After submitting a plan of compliance to the CLC, Kappa Sig received a substantial reward. CLC Executive Officer Richard V. Scali said that Kappa Sig can conduct house tours on Saturday from 12-7 p.m. and on Monday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In a letter to Kappa Sig resident adviser Jeffrey Z. Snyder G, Scali added that the brothers could enter the house on Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 1-3 p.m. for non-social activities like house maintenance.

ATO received a lesser reprieve. The house will be open for tours on Saturday from 1-4 p.m. and on Sunday from 1-7 p.m., with parent tours allowed on Sept. 2 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Sept. 3 from 1-7 p.m. according to Scali.

The remainder of rush for both houses will be conducted at area hotels. ATO will use suites at the Royal Sonesta while Kappa Sig will operate out of the University Park Hotel. The Interfraternity Council will allow the houses to "overnight" freshmen at the hotels.

Houses plan proposal for CLC

ATO was originally suspended from today through Sept. 3 for holding a raucous millennium

party, in which four non-MIT students were arrested. Kappa Sig's suspension, from last Sunday through Sept. 18, came after a party-goer was hospitalized for intoxication at a party last fall.

Sarah E. Gallop, co-director of the Office of Government and Community Relations, praised the CLC for working with both houses to find a solution for rush.

"There were some real hardships" for the houses during rush planning, Gallop said, including the ban on showing the houses to parents of new members. At the behest of Associate Dean of Students Kirk D. Kolenbrander, the houses met with administrators to plan a proposal to the CLC.

"Kirk got us all together two months ago, and we walked through all of the obstacles to carrying out the normal business during rush," Gallop said. "In every case, we asked how we could get around [an obstacle]." After working on the proposal, the houses went to the CLC.

The IFC helped the houses along the way with a letter of support, according to IFC President Damien A. Brosnan '01. In the letter, the IFC said that "the intentions behind the punishment could still be understood by the houses with these exemptions in place," Brosnan said, adding that the IFC was in full support of the houses' plans for rush.

Adviser helps Kappa Sig's case

Scali said that Kappa Sig's

Reprieve, Page 12

Coffeehouse, Networks To Reopen after Renovations

By Naveen Sunkavally
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After extensive renovations this summer, two popular student hangouts and dining options will once again open their doors in the next few weeks.

The Student Center Coffeehouse is expected to open this coming Monday, and the soon-to-be-renamed Networks Café will open on Sept. 8. In both cases, delays in receiving equipment and furniture are the biggest constraints holding up their openings.

Coffeehouse expands

Returning students will notice that the Coffeehouse has received a substantial facelift this summer. "We've tried to make the Coffeehouse a place students can use for studying, lounging, and programming," said Campus Activities Complex Associate Director Ted E. Johnson.

To further this end, the new Coffeehouse has been made more upscale and contemporary than its predecessor. The back room used for small meetings and quiet study will make way for

extra seating, and a new section in the back that was formerly the office of former Associate Dean Andrew M. Eisenmann '70 will house a pool table.

New renovations also allow for the presence of a portable stage in the center of the room. The stage will be used for activities programming, Johnson said. He said that students can expect to see live performances by local acts every Thursday night from 8-10 p.m., and that other evenings might be reserved for open-mike nights.

CAC Director Phillip J. Walsh said that the programming will be "low-impact" and "directed at the MIT community." It will not be meant to attract outsiders.

The new renovations will not sacrifice the intimacy present in the old Coffeehouse, Johnson said.

Another change to the Coffeehouse is a partition between the communal area and the food counter. Walsh said that this addition will allow

Renovations, Page 7



JAMES CAMP—THE TECH

Renovations to the Coffeehouse feature a more spacious, modern decor and a split-level seating area. The final floor plan also includes a small portable stage for live performances.

Concourse, ESG, ISP provide alternate academic options.



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Michael J. Ring chastises Cantabridgians for their confrontational attitude towards universities

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WORLD & NATION

U.S. Transportation Secretary Rips Ford for Inaction in Firestone Saga

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Ford Motor Co. should have notified the federal government when it began to replace Firestone tires on sport utility vehicles in foreign countries last year, U.S. Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater said.

In his sharpest remarks on the tire safety controversy that has tarnished the reputations of two major companies and his own department's consumer watchdogs, Slater also said he is considering asking Congress to mandate that manufacturers report problems earlier.

Slater's comments came as two congressional committees are proceeding with plans for hearings into how the companies and the government handled the tire safety problem.

The Senate Commerce Committee, led by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., announced it will hold hearings on Sept. 6. And the House Commerce Committee said it is sending investigators to Ford's headquarters in preparation for its own hearings. House and Senate staffers have said the panels want to determine whether the system for handling auto safety problems needs to be fixed.

Firestone voluntarily recalled 6.5 million 15-inch ATX, ATX II and Wilderness AT tires on Aug. 9, in response to complaints that the tire treads were coming off, often while consumers were driving at highway speeds. Most of the tires were installed as factory equipment on the popular Ford Explorer SUV.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has said it is also scrutinizing other Firestone models to see if there is a problem, leaving open the possibility of further recalls.

Clinton Moves to Leave Marks on Environment and Food Safety

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Mindful that Republicans could occupy the White House in less than six months, the Clinton administration is working feverishly to issue a host of new regulations supported by environmentalists and other liberal-leaning groups but opposed by many business and industry organizations.

The proposed rules would set tougher standards on a variety of topics from food labeling and diesel exhaust to the regulation of federal contractors. Taken as a group, they could account for a major chapter in Bill Clinton's presidency.

In some cases, the White House is battling Congress to overcome Republican opposition to initiatives that require legislative approval. In other cases, however, the administration is moving aggressively to take executive actions that could regulate a wide range of activities long after Clinton has left office.

At the Environmental Protection Agency alone, officials have listed 67 regulatory decisions looming before Clinton's second term expires in January. Environmentalists, who generally have supported the Clinton-Gore administration, are pressing the officials to take utmost advantage of their remaining months.

"If they were to accomplish all their goals, it would cement Clinton's legacy as one of the nation's great environmental presidents," said Daniel Weiss, a political director with the Sierra Club.

Supporters recognize that Clinton must use executive powers to institute measures too unpopular to pass the House and Senate. "Because he's got a Republican majority in Congress, he clearly, in my opinion, is looking for avenues to go around them," said Bruce Josten, executive vice president for government affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Mexican President-Elect Fox Barnstorms Into Washington

By Mary Jordan
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Vicente Fox, on a splashy first visit to the United States since his landmark election as president of Mexico, barnstormed through Washington Thursday promoting his vision of a more united North America.

Whether meeting with President Clinton in the Oval Office, Vice President Al Gore at his residence or human rights activists at a downtown hotel, Fox spread the same message: In this new global era, it is time to begin slowly knocking down barriers along the 2,000-mile border between the United States and Mexico.

"We can begin with an agreement about the border ... by creating a program of convergence, and in period of five to 10 years we may be able to open the borders not just to capital or goods, but also to people," Fox said in a meeting with non-government organizations.

Clinton did not discuss specifics

of Fox's proposals, but spoke of the inevitability of ever-closer ties between the two countries. "I think over time, you will see a growing interdependence in our hemisphere," Clinton said as he stood in the Rose Garden shoulder to shoulder with Fox, who was wearing trademark black cowboy boots. "It will be the way of the world. I regret I won't be around for a lot of it. But it is a good thing."

Fox, who was elected July 2 in an unexpected victory that ended 71 years of unbroken rule by the Institutional Revolutionary Party, takes office in Mexico City on Dec. 1.

Gore praised Fox's "fresh ideas and new energy," but also expressed concern that "certain aspects of this (open border) proposal could prove problematic in the United States," according to one of his aides.

Outspoken and charismatic, Fox has established himself as the face of a new Mexico, a leader aggressively promising the United States a new era of more fruitful relations with Mexico, America's second

largest trading partner after Canada.

The three nations have been grouped in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) since 1994. Fox's big picture ideas for radically expanding NAFTA into greater economic integration, although expressed before, generated a buzz as he voiced them in Washington on his first trip here as president-elect.

There has been grumbling in Washington that Fox's vision of an open border between the United States and Mexico is more fantasy than policy.

"If we start making the border more porous, and it is already like a sieve blasted by buckshot, you will have one-quarter of Mexico's population in the U.S. sunbelt within a couple months," said George W. Grayson, a Mexico expert at College of William and Mary in Virginia. Even in 20 years, Grayson said, "You are not going to see the stark wage differential narrow sufficiently so you could have an open border."

Judge Orders Release of Los Alamos Nuclear Scientist Lee

By Richard A. Serrano
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

A federal judge in New Mexico on Thursday ordered the release of indicted nuclear scientist Wen Ho Lee on \$1 million bail next week, a sign that the government's case may not be as strong as once believed against the man it claims posed a grave threat to national security.

The 60-year-old Lee, who was fired from his position at the top-secret nuclear weapon design division of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, is to be set free after a hearing next Tuesday before U.S. District Judge James A. Parker in Albuquerque, N.M.

After spending the last eight months in jail, Lee is to be allowed to return to his home in White Rock,

N.M., where he will remain under strict house arrest as he prepares for the start of his trial in November.

The federal government alleges that Lee misappropriated decades' worth of highly classified U.S. nuclear secrets with the intent of aiding an unidentified foreign government.

Government investigators initially believed that Lee, a native of Taiwan, was planning to provide the government of China with data detailing the design of America's most sophisticated nuclear weapons. Lee's defenders say he was unfairly singled out because of his ethnicity.

Parker, in granting bail, did not specifically address the merits of the charges against Lee. But he reached his decision even before reviewing all of the material supplied during a

three-day pretrial hearing last week.

"Enough of the transcript of the most recent hearing has been prepared and reviewed by me to permit the announcement of a ruling at this time," Parker said.

"I conclude that there now is a combination of conditions that will reasonably assure the appearance of Dr. Lee as required and the safety of the community and the nation."

It was not immediately clear whether prosecutors would continue to fight Lee's release. "We'll review the court's order and respond in court," said Justice Department spokeswoman Gina Talamona in Washington.

At the hearing next Tuesday, the judge will discuss a series of tight restrictions that he intends to impose on Lee's release.

WEATHER

Pleasant Days Ahead

By Greg Lawson
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

If you spent this summer in New England, you may well have heard people wondering whether summer was ever really here. It does seem true that temperatures have been low and that there has been more precipitation than normal. Let's quickly look at the facts, though. In Boston at least, June was a particularly wet month in which we received more than double the normal amount of rainfall. The temperatures in June, however, were almost exactly equal to their climatological averages. July proved to be both wet and cool by again doubling the normal amount of rainfall and having an average monthly temperature three and half degrees (F) cooler than normal! July was reportedly the third coldest July on record (back to 1872) in New England. So far August has shown itself to be pretty average in terms of precipitation and perhaps a little cool for average temperatures.

So yes, this summer does seem statistically to be anomalously wet and cool. Explaining it, of course, is the hard part. It is easy to look at the weather maps and recognize that there have been some atypical patterns this summer, but to explain what has been maintaining these patterns is not easy. A tempting explanation may be to appeal to the fact that we are currently in a pretty strong La Nina regime. Why are we in a La Nina regime? Well, there are many researchers currently trying to answer just that. Before you lose hope, remember that summer technically lasts until September 22 and that New England is known for its long, warm Indian summers.

The weather today and for the next several days should be very pleasant. A weak high pressure system has settled in and will be slow to move out. Expect mostly clear skies through to at least Tuesday. Temperatures, you'll be happy to hear, will be a little above average.

Enjoy.

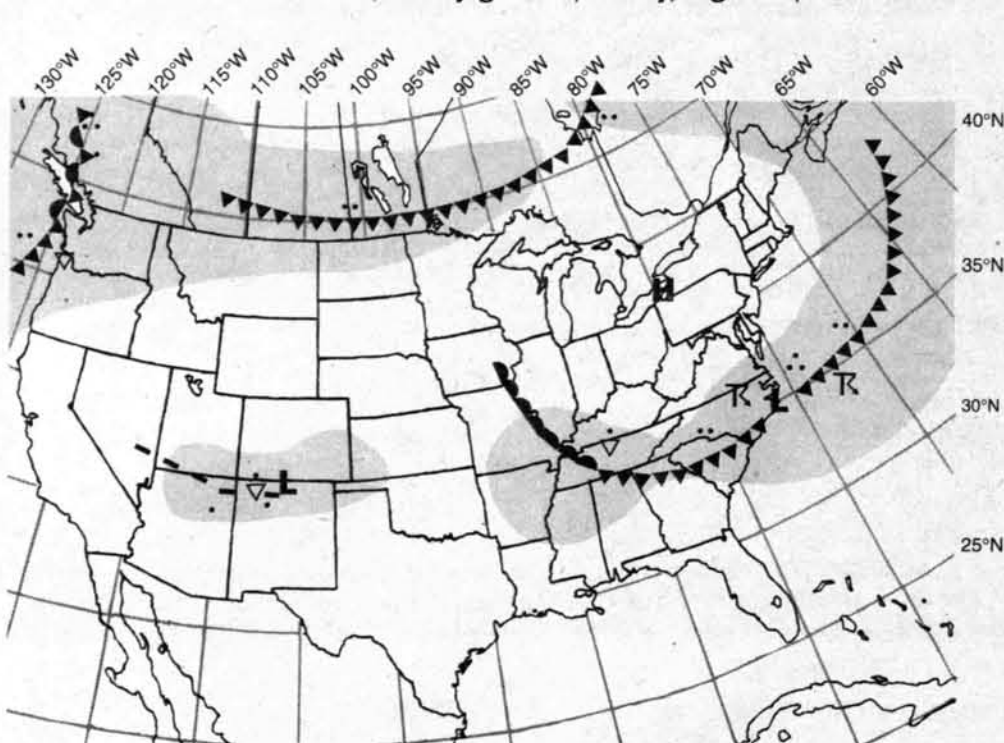
Today: Sunny and mostly clear with a light northeasterly breeze. High 82°F (28°C).

Tonight: Clear and cool. Light winds. Low 63°F (17°C).

Saturday: Again, sunny and nice. High of 82°F (28°C). Low 63°F (17°C).

Sunday: More of the same. High in the low to mid 80°Fs (27-29°C). Low in the low 60°Fs (16-18°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, 25Xday, August 25, 2000



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	☉ Snow	☁ Fog
L Low Pressure	—••• Warm Front	☂ Showers	⚡ Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	—▲▲▲ Cold Front	☂ Light	☁ Haze
	—▲▲▲ Stationary Front	☂ Moderate	
		☂ Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Bush Offers Human Touch for His Middle-Class Tax Cut Plan

By Terry M. Neal
THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW ORLEANS

Two days after acknowledging that he hadn't done enough to sell his tax cut plan to the American people, George W. Bush set out Thursday to do just that, introducing what his campaign described as a typical middle-class family that would benefit from his tax cut.

Yet even as he returned to the tax cut theme that had dominated his primary campaign, Bush continued to roll out new spending initiatives. Thursday afternoon here at Dillard University, a small, private, predominantly black school, he announced a proposal to boost federal funding by \$600 million over

five years for historically black colleges and institutions that serve large Hispanic student populations.

In his first event of the day, Bush introduced the Bechac family of Mandeville, La., as proof that his tax cut plan is a more effective vehicle than Vice President Al Gore's plan to help working families. Andrew Bechac, 33, a teacher and high school football coach, supports his family on \$40,000 a year. He and his wife, Margaret, stood beside Bush holding their daughters Meredith, 4, and Camille, 1.

"Somebody asked me today on the plane, 'You know the polls said people, hardworking people, don't want tax relief,'" Bush said, glancing at Andrew Bechac. "And I men-

tioned that, and I think your reaction was to laugh out loud."

The young father responded on message: "We all want tax relief, especially for my family and for middle America around the country. We really need this plan, and we really need the tax benefits that will come from this plan."

The event's strategic purpose was to put a human face on Bush's plan to cut taxes by \$1.6 trillion over 10 years and draw explicit contrasts to Gore's less ambitious, \$500 billion tax cut plan. Bush also sought to beat back the Gore campaign's efforts to portray the Republican's plan as little more than a financial boondoggle to benefit the rich.

Reading and Science Test Scores Level Off; Racial Gap Increases

By Martha Groves
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Despite years of intensive efforts to improve the performance of American students, scores in reading and science stagnated in the 1990s and the achievement gap between blacks and whites widened, according to the latest measure of long-term trends in the nation's classrooms.

Over the 30 years of the federal assessment, the only substantial gains among students overall were in mathematics.

The sobering results, released Thursday by the U.S. Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics, offer further evidence that solutions to educational problems are elusive.

In a presidential election year when both major parties have embraced public schools as a top priority, the results provided fodder for representatives from across the political and social spectrum.

Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley sounded a rare note of optimism. At a Washington news conference, he said he viewed the results as encouraging, given how much more diverse the nation's student population is than 30 years ago, when the long-term assessments began.

"In several categories, blacks and Hispanics are scoring better than ever, and that's good news," he said. "White kids are doing better, too. That, of course, impacts the (achievement) gap."

"We have a persistent gap," he acknowledged, "and we must look to close it, while lifting achievement for all."

Among Latino students, average scores are somewhat higher than those for blacks. The achievement gap between whites and Latinos has narrowed over the 30 years, in some cases dramatically, but in the last decade that gap has fluctuated.

The tests are part of the congressionally mandated National Assessment of Educational Progress. The data come from tests in reading, mathematics and science given to 9-, 13- and 17-year-old students since the early 1970s. Unlike other NAEP results for individual subjects, the long-term trend data are not broken out by state.

Gore Pitches Tuition Tax Breaks

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Vice President Al Gore on Thursday touted a series of proposed tax breaks for Americans paying college tuition, saying higher education "cannot be limited to families of wealth and means."

"We can't solve the problem without new resources, and that's why we have got to make it the top priority," Gore said, repeating proposals he announced earlier in the campaign.

Gore is proposing a tax credit of up to \$2,800 per family for those paying college tuition or other post-secondary education. He also is promoting the creation of 401(j) accounts, in which employers' contributions could be withdrawn tax-free to help pay for education.

Gore's tax plan comes with some restrictions attached. The tuition tax credit would be reduced for families with incomes over \$100,000 and wouldn't be available for those with incomes over \$120,000. Moreover, families already saving for college with a tax-free Educational Savings Account wouldn't be eligible.

Taken together, the education credits amount to about \$55 billion of the \$500 billion Gore said he would give taxpayers over 10 years under his slate of targeted tax cuts aimed at the middle class.

Study Finds Dolphins Communicate By Emitting Signature Whistles

NEWSDAY

In an experiment akin to bugging someone's home, scientists have found that wild dolphins communicate one-on-one by matching distinct whistles.

In fact, each dolphin seems to develop its own "signature" whistle almost from birth, and dolphins emit these sounds as they interact with each other. Dolphins also quickly mimic the "signature" sounds from other dolphins, perhaps as a friend-or-foe recognition system.

The research, reported Friday in the journal *Science*, was done by Scottish biologist Vincent Janik, who set up a system of microphones on the seafloor in the Moray Firth, in Scotland. His goal was to eavesdrop on the dolphins in a natural setting, without scientists pestering the animals. Janik is a faculty member at the University of St. Andrew.

The important point, he said, is that the results seem to offer hints about the development of human speech. The way the dolphins copy each others' sound signals is thought "to have been an important step in the evolution of human language."

Biologist Peter Tyack, at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, in Massachusetts, added in a commentary that Janik has added new evidence to the "fascinating similarities in the ways birds and mammals use vocal imitation to interact."

The dolphin communication system is unusual, he added, because land mammals — other than humans — have not evolved the neurological tools needed for mimicking sounds, tools that would lead toward the ability to speak.

Based on his studies in the wild, Janik concluded that individual dolphins each produce signature whistles, while other dolphins can repeat such whistles accurately to address a specific individual.



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"As I move around, the global positioning technology gives updates to the voters every three minutes!"



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Misconduct on the Bench

New Hampshire Case Reminds Us of Faults in American Judiciary

Mike Hall

In the American courtroom, all stand equal before the sword of justice — except for one man. The judge sits on a raised bench, serving as a god to the humble pleaders.

The deification of the American judge allows the unethical a great opportunity to cheat the system. Like sweatshop owners exploiting poor workers, these corrupt judges know they can exploit the system with impunity.

For one jurisdiction, however, the sword's tip now points at the black-robed gods. In New Hampshire, Chief Justice David A. Brock was impeached by the state's house of representatives for attempting to fix the outcome of trials concerning his friends. As the state's senate convenes to determine Brock's fate, it is high time for him and his cronies to start to sweat.

Brock's downfall began in 1998, when Associate Justice W. Stephen Thayer and his wife Judith filed for divorce. Proceedings were proceeding normally until Thayer delayed reporting a series of debts to his wife until after the deadline for judges to file financial disclosure statements. The series of loans included a \$50,000 loan from a close friend. Facing a reprimand for violating financial disclosure regulations, Thayer dug a deeper hole for himself by attempting to influence court cases for the same friend.

While he was cleared of wrongdoing following a government investigation, Thayer's influence would only lead to greater judicial impropriety. In February, Judith Thayer appealed the divorce to New Hampshire's high court. Since all of the eligible judges knew Thayer, every judge justifiably recused him-

self, leaving no one to hear the trial. At a court meeting, Brock told the judges that he would appoint two replacements. Abandoning all pretense of ethical conduct, Thayer immediately objected to one choice, former Superior Court Judge George Pappagianis, saying, "Oh no, don't do that. Not Pappagianis," according to the Associated Press. Brock attempted to help his friend by telling the court clerk to not call Pappagianis. Stunned by Brock's request, the clerk said that he had already sent out the summons beforehand, then wrote a memorandum

While the judicial selection process can never run fully independent of politics, our leaders must make an effort to nominate the most qualified candidates regardless of political preference.

to the court detailing the infraction. The state launched its investigation days afterward.

After learning of the investigation, Thayer approached Brock and said, "I'm not hanging alone," according to the Associated Press. Thayer's foresight was glitteringly accurate. After resigning from the court in March, Thayer received a reprieve from state Attorney General Philip McLaughlin when he announced that Thayer would not be prosecuted.

This cleared the way for a full assault on Brock, who by this point had assumed an

aggressive position and hired counsel to begin his defense. Regardless of his valiant effort to defend his trial rigging, Brock was impeached by the house in July. The senate is now conducting the sentencing hearing, considering the Thayer infraction as well as his own influence in a case involving a state senator and his practice of allowing recused judges to review and influence court opinions.

The seediness of the New Hampshire court typifies the modern-day disillusionment with local judicial systems. From lazy public defenders in Texas to chronically absent judges in Pennsylvania, our judicial systems today are rife with incompetence and corruption. Our overly litigious society shares the blame as our drive to "prosecute thy neighbor" necessitated the creation of hundreds of new courts and judicial offices.

The ultimate fault, however, rests with the system that allowed Brock and Thayer to sit at the bench. As in New Hampshire, judges across the country are appointed today for their politics rather than their ability, resulting in the current glut of unethical judges with inferior legal training. This disease pervades our system from the municipality to the state and federal levels, up to the point that many voters this election year will not vote for a president, but for the four U.S. Supreme Court justices that the next president will appoint. While the judicial selection process can never run fully independent of politics, our leaders must make an effort to nominate the most qualified candidates regardless of political preference. We can help this effort by encouraging our leaders to end popular election of judges in all states and to create independent panels for nominations to vacant positions. Policies like this would have prevented Granite Staters from lying prone under false gods like Brock and Thayer.

Media Visions of the Future

Kris Schnee

Looking back from the year 2010, it is easy for us to look at the publishing industry revolution of the last decade and say that it was all inevitable and obvious. While some trends were clear at the time, no one in 2000 could have foreseen all of the surprising innovations we have just witnessed.

Just as a flawless factory-made diamond sells for less than a certified "natural" one, we've learned that no recording can capture the excitement of a live music concert. The Napster debacle of the late 1990s seemed like the doom of the recording industry, but it only forced big-name bands to go back to doing what audiences loved best: playing for them in person, unedited and imperfect. It meant your favorite singers showing up at your town and actually *needing* your ticket money, not hiding in a recording studio somewhere. MP3s are here to stay despite the death of the original Napster site, especially abroad — it's estimated that 90 percent of the music sold in the New Chinese Republic is pirated. But bricks-and-mortar disc stores still exist, and still provide some cash to the music industry; it may be irrational to shop there when you can get the same songs for free on the Net, but when has rationality ever stopped anyone?

No one saw in 2000 how laughably irrelevant most of the "electronic book" concepts then on the market were. At the time, there were several competing standards for electronic publishing, all of them poor. On the hardware side, there were "readers" with most of the functionality of an ordinary book, only heavier and much more expensive. In software, Stephen King had just released his first online-only book, "Riding the Bullet," only to find that it was pirated within hours, while Microsoft experimented with "ClearType," a system meant to make people enjoy staring at their monitors for hours to read books. The

fact was that few people wanted to use a computer to read if they could just as well use paper. Nor was there much economic incentive for the public to switch to e-book readers, since publishers kept all the extra profit they made from not having to give their customers a physical product.

The e-publishing market more or less stagnated until the technology improved, making the MetaBook possible. The MetaBook was ingenious because it was an imitation of the wood-pulp books everyone was already comfortable with — only with a spine full of electronics and slick e-ink pages capable of rearranging their own text and then keeping it without using more electricity. They were expensive, but you only needed one, and the sacrifices made by the pioneers of e-publishing had created a small but respectable distribution system for electronic book files (EBFs) which rapidly grew once MetaBooks appeared. The development of non-transferable book licenses helped protect authors and publishers from Web pirates, but no security may ever be enough; thus the strange present situation in which you can use your high-tech MetaBook to read many old books, but fairly few new ones.

In the last century, there were "vanity presses" which would publish practically any book if the author would pay for the service; their customers were people who had books not good enough to earn a profit for a publishing house. By the 1990s vanity presses had evolved to take advantage of the Web; sites like FatBrain and ExLibris offered to publish any person's no-frills book for free, profiting only from an Amazon listing and copies bought by the author for his friends. (These "pulp," since they are also available as EBFs, make up much of the selection of texts for MetaBooks.)

Recently we've seen a surprising extension of the "vanity press" movement — with the widespread construction of fiber-optic Net connections (already slightly obsolete), the

world is now also deluged with amateur television programs. Formerly limited in number by FCC control of broadcasting frequencies, television programs can now be made available to the world from anyone with a camera or a good computer graphics program. Technology has unleashed the vast, diverse, and frequently pornographic creativity of the American people. Where "public television" used to mean an unkillable government TV bureaucracy, it now means millions of individual citizens in amateur show business, plus one unkillable government TV bureaucracy.

One major advantage of e-publishing combined with increasing computer power is the ease of translation. Early attempts at an online "universal translator" like BabelFish were barely serviceable for text-to-text language translation, but now books (and even audio, to an extent) can be transcribed by an ordinary desktop computer in minutes. The MIT Media Lab recently debuted a real-time voice-to-voice translator; we can only hope that it will soon take fewer than four strong men to carry.

There are a few worries about the power of the new media, though. It's rumored that certain countries with state-run media, having switched completely to electronic formats, now have employees whose job it is to go back and "correct" the records of history. Some also claim that with the deluge of customized, ultra-specialized media, publishing is now even more ruthless than in the past — it may be easy to get your ideas published, but how do you get *attention* except by being extreme or violent? And what happens when each person screens out all media not in line with his or her own ideology, and does the same for the children? This is a world where next-door neighbors can find it impossible to relate to one another. What do we do about it?

Remember to save this issue of *The Tech*, by the way. As of next week, September 1, 2010, we begin publishing exclusively in electronic format.

Housing Hysteria

Michael J. Ring

As freshmen struggle with their residence selection process this evening, MIT and the City of Cambridge are devoting significant attention to increasing graduate housing.

The oft-delayed graduate dormitory in University Park finally reached a Planning Board hearing this week. With favorable reactions from city leaders to MIT's plans, the new dormitory should be open by August 2002.

City councillors and planning board members have generally supported the MIT proposal. Naturally, there are some concerns — parking and traffic are always sticking points in Cambridge — and MIT is still looking for the right mix of retail tenants for the building's ground floor. But Cambridge City Councillor Henrietta Davis, chair of the Transportation, Traffic, and Parking Committee, is satisfied that MIT is working on those points.

Cambridgeport residents also shared a cautious optimism that the new dormitory would improve the neighborhood. Most recognized that MIT was trying to incorporate their concerns into the building's plan.

But some residents did not share this disposition. MIT was kicked around by some at the meeting for its alleged failure to support the city's working poor, alleviate the stifling rental market, and give back to its host city.

And that tongue-lashing was nothing compared to what our friends up the river were recently put through by the city. The Riverside community of Cambridge was furious at Harvard University for not discussing with them plans for a new graduate student tower. There was only one caveat — the tower was to be built in Allston, not Cambridge, and therefore Harvard was concerned with the city of Boston.

If Cambridge residents were allowed to dictate the shape and height of this building, as some Riverside residents apparently wanted to do, what interference in another community's planning and zoning would have been next? Taking 20 stories off the Pru and Hancock towers because they block the view of Blue Hill? Going after Somerville because it allows gritty industrial zones to abut Cambridge?

The anti-development hysteria espoused by some community activists has reached Kafkaesque proportions, as now some extremist neighborhood warriors turn their guns on the very projects that will ease the housing pressures they are supposedly fighting. While many activists are increasingly supportive of expanded graduate housing, a select few refuse to realize that university development can and must occur to reduce rents in Cambridge.

The prevailing attitude in the city of Cambridge toward development has been one of confrontation rather than cooperation and mitigation. Residents and leaders alike continually fail to realize how lucky Cambridge is to attract development. Other industrial cities in Massachusetts and around the nation salivate at the growth and success of this city in transforming itself from a manufacturing-based to service and technology-based economy. Development, while bringing disruption and generating traffic, is an essential part of this evolution. As long as the adverse side effects of development are managed well, new building can unleash wondrous opportunities for the city.

Thankfully, most Cambridgeport residents are becoming aware of how a new graduate dormitory will alleviate rents in the city. The graduate dormitory is an important step toward making housing more affordable to Cambridge residents by taking hundreds of students out of the market. The presence of graduate students is beneficial to Cambridgeport residents, and most local residents realize that. If only the rest of the city and region would recognize the value of this approach in dealing with other college dormitory construction.

**Got a gripe?
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The Tech
Established 1881

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You are here and wherever that is, there is probably a **network drop** or a **cluster** nearby ... even if you are in your dorm room. Take advantage of this connectivity.

- Come to our **Minicourses** for an introduction to **Athena**.
- Contact the **Residential Computing Consultant (RCC)** for your graduate or undergraduate dorm for help with network and other computer-related issues.
- Visit the **MIT Libraries** online.
- Check out the available **Athena software**.

Welcome Back To School

On the Web: A Beginner's Guide to Athena — <http://web.mit.edu/olh/Frosh/>

Athena Orientation 2000 Minicourse Schedule



Room 26-100

No fee, no registration, no reservations — just show up during Orientation Week and learn all you need to start using Athena, the MIT campus-wide computing facility.

Room	Monday Aug. 28	Tuesday Aug. 29	Wednesday Aug. 30	Thursday Aug. 31
26-100				
9am	Athena: First Course	Athena: First Course	Word Processing Options	Word Processing Options
10am	Working on Athena	Working on Athena	Math Software Overview	Math Software Overview
11am	Athena: First Course	Athena: First Course	Word Processing Options	Word Processing Options
noon	Working on Athena	Working on Athena	Math Software Overview	Math Software Overview
1pm	Athena: First Course	Athena: First Course	Word Processing Options	Word Processing Options
2pm	Working on Athena	Working on Athena	Math Software Overview	Math Software Overview
3pm	Athena: First Course	Athena: First Course	Word Processing Options	Word Processing Options
4pm	Working on Athena	Working on Athena	Math Software Overview	Math Software Overview

To get an Athena Account:

- Students, Faculty, and Staff: You should already be in the Accounts database. Just attend any session of the Athena: First Course minicourse. (Staff may need to contact Athena User Accounts, <accounts@mit.edu> or x3-1325.)

How to register for a minicourse:

- You cannot register for an Athena Minicourse.
- You cannot pay for an Athena Minicourse. Minicourses are free.
- You cannot reserve a place in an Athena Minicourse. Just show up — in 26-100 during Orientation week.

Libraries



Turn to the MIT Libraries Web page to find an array of online services and information including:

- Hours, locations and phone numbers of all the MIT libraries.
- **Barton**, MIT's Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), with sophisticated search engines
- Online Reference Tools:
 - *Britannica Online*
 - *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary*
 - *Oxford English Dictionary*
- Internet Resource Collections, such as electronic journals and online newspapers
- ... and much, much more!

See it all at <http://libraries.mit.edu/>



Protect Your Account Anywhere on MITnet

In attacks on MITnet, sniffer programs gathered usernames and passwords by "listening" to telnet and ftp packets as they traveled over the network.

If you use a computer connected to MITnet, you can take some very basic precautions to safeguard your password and your data.

- Use Kerberized applications whenever possible. Email on Athena is Kerberized as is Eudora for Windows and Macintosh. Kerberized telnet is available on Athena and for Windows and Macintoshes (see <http://web.mit.edu/is/help/ktelnet/>).

Choosing a password

Choose a password that you can remember—but others can't easily guess:

- Do use six or more characters, mixing upper- and lowercase letters (passwords are case sensitive) and numbers (but no spaces).
- Do pick something utterly obscure (misspell something or create an acronym, e.g., GykoR-66 for "Get your kicks on Route 66").
- Don't use your real name, your username, any common name, name of a close relative, friend, or pet, or name from popular culture in any form (even backwards, or sideways).
- Don't use any significant numbers (phone, office, social security, license plate, address, birthday, anniversary).
- Don't use any word in a dictionary.

Changing your password

It's a good idea to change your password regularly (e.g., at least once a semester):

```
athena% passwd
```

Keeping your files safe

No computer is completely private and secure, but you can make access to your files very difficult:

- Never "lend" your account to anyone—and keep your password secret!
- Don't leave your workstation unattended while you're logged in.
- Keep backup copies of critical files (like your thesis) on other media such as zip disks or diskettes.
- Always use secure telnet to make remote connections to Athena. See <http://web.mit.edu/is/help/ktelnet/>.
- Make sure your FTP sessions are encrypted and protected. See <http://web.mit.edu/is/help/ftp/>.

(See also *Working on Athena* — <http://web.mit.edu/olh/Working/Working.html#protecting>)

Connect Securely From Your Student Residence

"Network Connections" coming to your dorm September 2-4, 2000

The Residential Computing Consultants (RCCs) will hold several sessions to help new students connect to MITnet. The purpose of these sessions is to

- distribute cables
- help you register for IP addresses
- discuss how to avoid problems on MITnet
- feed you

Sessions will last about an hour. Graduate students are welcome to attend any session, but the sessions are geared toward freshmen. In each dorm, after the Network Connections presentation, RCCs will begin to assign IP addresses for freshmen.

- Saturday, Sept. 2: 1pm, Bexley (main lounge)
3pm, Random Hall (main lounge)
5pm, East Campus and Senior Haus (EC Tablot Lounge)
- Sunday, Sept 3: 1pm, Next House (Tastefully Furnished Lounge)
3pm, New House (New House 3 dining room)
5pm, MacGregor (dining area by MacGregor Convenience)
- Monday, Sept 4: 1pm, Burton-Conner (dining room)
3pm, Baker House (Baker Dining)
5pm, McCormick (dining area)

See the Residential Computing Home Page

<http://web.mit.edu/rescomp/>

Residential Computing Consultants (RCCs) are available to help connect your personal computer to MITnet.

BEWARE OF PASSWORD SNIFFERS ON THE 'NET!



CHANGE YOUR PASSWORD

Alternative Programs Provide Academic Options

By Laura McGrath Moulton
NEWS EDITOR

Calculus, physics, chemistry, and humanities: by now, all members of the Class of 2004 know this standard freshman lineup by heart. Yesterday afternoon, however, they got a chance to explore alternate ways of fulfilling their freshman requirements at the open houses for Concourse, Experimental Studies Group (ESG), and Integrated Studies Program (ISP).

Concourse uses small groups

Students in Concourse attend all their core courses in small groups taught by Concourse faculty. Classes are typically scheduled in three-hour blocks each morning, leaving members of Concourse free for the afternoon.

In addition to the freshman science and mathematics core, Concourse offers Introduction to Psychology (9.00) and Humanistic Perspectives on Medicine (21W.746) in the fall, and two special hands-on courses, Materials in Human Experience (3.981) and Essentials of Engineering (ESDO2), in the spring. Students can also fulfill Phase One of the writing requirement through an intensive eight day seminar during Independent Activities Period.

Concourse calls itself "neither elite nor remedial," offering extensive tutoring and support for students but also teaching Physics I (8.01) at a deeper level. Students have the

Networks To Serve Breakfast

Renovations, from Page 1

the Coffeehouse to remain open even when no one is present to staff the counter. Also, the Coffeehouse will house vending machines in the communal area so that students can still purchase drinks or snacks when the counter is closed.

Networks changes to marketplace

The restaurant formerly known as Networks has also received significant renovations this summer.

The alterations are the first such change in campus dining since the renovation of Baker House's dining hall in 1995, said Richard D. Berlin, director of campus dining.

Berlin said that the new Networks will strive to be more of a marketplace and interactive restaurant. Rather than coming in, looking at a menu, getting their ticket, getting their food, and eating, students will have an opportunity to be more involved in the type of food they order and how it is prepared, Berlin said.

"This is the complete opposite [of the old Networks]. The food is selling itself," Berlin said.

Except for a few popularly requested items, the menu will be changed regularly. Students will be able to talk to the cook directly to say, for example, "I'd like the chicken breast with these things on it and this is the way I wanted it cooked," Berlin said.

The new Networks will also replace Lobdell Food Court as the only restaurant open for breakfast in the Student Center, Berlin said.

The final name for the restaurant has yet to be determined, Berlin said.

option of taking either the 8.01 or the more advanced Physics I (8.012) final at the end of fall semester.

Concourse hosted a three-hour open house yesterday at its headquarters in Building 16 where students mingled with Concourse faculty and alumni.

Danny Y. Kwon '04 said he was attracted to Concourse by the smaller class sizes. "If you're struggling you can get help," Kwon said. "You get to bond more with the other students, and you get to know professors better than in a class with two hundred people."

Freshmen wishing to apply to the program must attend the Orientation meeting on Aug. 30 in order to apply. Sixty students will be chosen by lottery.

ESG allows self-pacing

ESG is geared toward students interested in an individualized, independent approach to learning. Students take courses (at least two per semester) with ESG faculty in small group or even independent tutorials. All freshman subjects are offered as

well as a wide variety of humanities subjects and some higher level mathematics and science courses, depending on faculty availability and student interest.

"It's not for anybody," Associate Director Holly Sweet told a lounge full of freshmen at the ESG open house. "You need to be self-motivated and creative."

However, Sweet also assured students that ESG could work for students at any level. Students can work at a faster pace than the usual curriculum in their courses, but they can also slow down to get extra help when they have difficulties. She noted that ESG is offering a special tutorial for students who placed out of Calculus I (18.01) and want to go on to Calculus II (18.02) but may need brushing up on certain topics.

Zachary U. Malchano '04 said that ESG appealed to him because of the "self-pacing and small learning groups."

He said he is also considering Concourse, but may not enroll in any alternative programs if he passes all his advanced standing exams.

ESG is hosting Orientation groups (required for applicants) throughout Orientation. In addition, seminars on topics including Fibonacci sequences and change ringing will be offered for freshmen looking for a taste of the ESG experience. Admission is by lottery.

ISP has experimental focus

ISP is structured around two HASS-D courses unique to the program: Technologies and Cultures (SP.353) in the fall and Technologies in Historical Perspectives (SP.354) in the spring. Students take these courses in addition to the freshman core. They attend special ISP recitations for their large science and math lec-

tures and are encouraged to take a version of Physics I with take-home experiments (8.01X).

ISP focuses on "learning by doing." The program enjoys its own classroom, Athena cluster, lounge, and kitchen. Weekly luncheons feature guest speakers.

Jennifer B. Krishnan '04 said she was attracted by "the sense of community it's supposed to provide. You get to meet people and be with them all the time."

However, she expressed concern about the flip side. "The only bad thing is it might encourage me not to meet other people," Krishnan said. Krishnan said she was also considering ESG.

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*Graduate students must be enrolled currently to join the Credit Union; membership may then be retained, regardless of enrollment status. Members who graduate or otherwise leave MIT may continue their membership.

Solution from page 10

P	I	N	H	E	R	S	S	E	C	E	D	E
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ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

The following movies are playing this weekend at local theaters. The Tech suggests using <<http://www.boston.com>> for a complete listing of times and locations.

- ★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★ Good
- ★★ Fair
- ★ Poor

But I'm a Cheerleader (★★★)

The concept of heterosexual reprogramming camp could make for a reasonably serious drama. Here, director Jamie Babbit makes the circumstances ridiculous enough to keep the mood comedic, from the setting of a hot pink house to the irrational eagerness of the kids to "get better." The sugary indie pop music in the background completes the diorama. Clea Duvall reprises her lesbian rebel role from *The Faculty* to great effect, while Cathy Moriarty and RuPaul anchor the film as the camp's hypocritical directors. — Dan Katz

who avoids placing wagers himself. His ability to avoid gambling is questioned as he is forced to risk certain aspects of his daily life. — Jordan Rubin

Hollow Man (★★★)

Three things stand out about this movie. First, the direction proves that director Paul Verhoeven (*Robocop*, *Total Recall*) is at the top of his game. Second, Kevin Bacon sizzles on screen, even when he appears only as a



Charlie (Jim Carrey) has some pleasant dreams — with the help of, among other things, Irene's (Renée Zellweger) mugshot in Twentieth Century Fox's *Me, Myself, and Irene*.

digital effect. And finally, the visual effects are, not surprisingly, spectacular. It's enough to almost make you forget this movie has no real story. — VZ

The In Crowd (½)

This cheap teen-sploitation thriller is horrible in every way a movie can be — with one exception. Though the cast is utterly forgettable, the plot is pathetic, and some serious editing gaffes somehow slipped past the editors, *The In Crowd* unintentionally provides a few laughs. See it only if you enjoy so-bad-it's-good movies like *Plan 9 From Outer Space* or *Showgirls*. — KF

Me, Myself, and Irene (★)

With material highly inferior to previous Farrelly brothers works, this film falls flat in the humor department with long stretches of

unfunny. In particular, the black triplets are so ridiculous and stereotypically "street" you can almost hear DMX blasting in the background ("Y'all gonna make me lose my mind ..."). A real disappointment from the makers of such hilarity as *Kingpin*. — KF

Nutty Professor II: The Klumps (★★)

The feel-good movie of the year ... if relentless jokes about flatulence and geriatric sex happen to make you feel good. The sequel has a lot in common with the original. Once again, the highlights revolve around Eddie Murphy's impossibly slick Buddy Love character and Larry Miller's evilish Dean Richmond, and once again the movie suffers from an inexplicably vapid love interest (played here by Janet Jackson). Way too much time spent on the Klump family and not enough time spent on, well, anything funny. — DK

The Patriot (★½)

You may as well call it *Braveheart of the Mohicans*. You've seen this movie ... a few times, in fact, and done better. Not the worst movie out there, but the screenplay is weak and poorly fleshed out with equally one-dimensional characters. Predictability runs rampant (the son slated to be killed might as well have a bullseye painted on his chest). If you must, catch a bargain matinee, and bring a friend with whom you can have a running dialogue of sidebar banter. — KF

Scary Movie (★★★)

Director Keenan Ivory Wayans succeeds with his latest spoof *Scary Movie*. This film hysterically parodies a genre that perhaps most deserves it, and its crude humor and advance NC-17 rating is well worth the price of admission. It's base, it's shocking, it's blatantly disrespectful, and it's made more money than the movies it parodied in its opening weekend. — Jumaane Jeffries

Shaft (½)

A disappointing piece of sub-par drivel, especially from such a competent

writer/director as John Singleton (*Boyz N The Hood*). It is hastily thrown together with a stupid story line, ridiculous dialogue, and an all-around clumsy screenplay. Samuel L. Jackson is one bad motherfucker, but that was already well-established in *Pulp Fiction*, and much more skillfully. Even lowered expectations won't prepare you for the sheer unimpressiveness of this film. — KF

What Lies Beneath (★★½)

You may think you already know the story from the trailer: there's a woman who looks like Michelle Pfeiffer haunting a house. But what follows the painfully slow beginning is a somewhat suspenseful thriller with a surprisingly creative ending. Obviously, you can't rely on the trailers — you'd have to go to the theaters to find out what lies beneath the surface of this movie. — KF

X-Men (★★★)

Marvel Comics' hit comic book series about a league of mutants comes to the big screen this summer, and the film is exceptional. The movie centers on Rogue and Wolverine, following their initiation into the league of X-Men, and remains mostly faithful to the comic book series. This action flick lives up to expectations while providing smart commentary on the issues of prejudice and injustice in today's culture. — JJ



Wolverine (Hugh Jackman, left) and the metamorph Mystique (Rebecca Romijn Stamos) square off in a deadly duel in *X-Men*.

It's Different Here

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August 25, 2000

COMICS

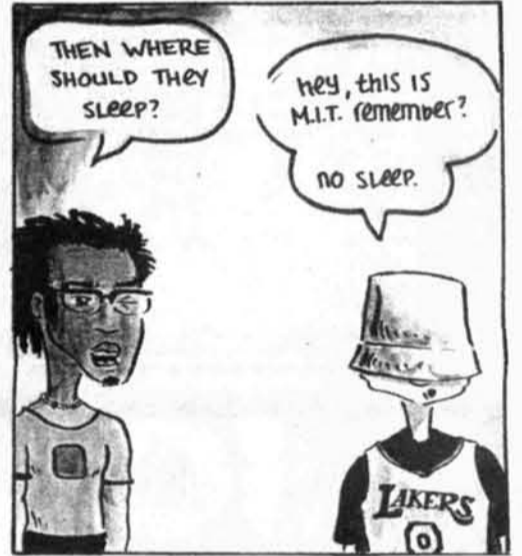
The Tech

FUN PAGES

Page 9

Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase



INSTITUTE MADNESS!

ALISON WONG



By Guan-Jong (John) Chen

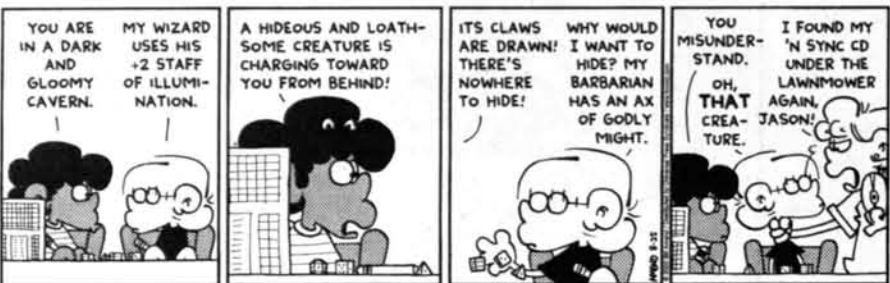
Tech Life

Freshman Orientation

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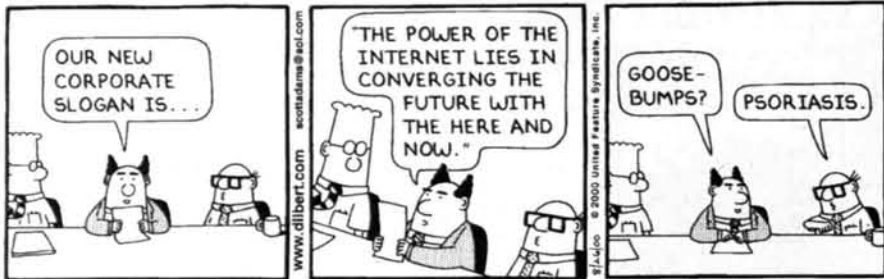


by Bill Amend



FoxTrot

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

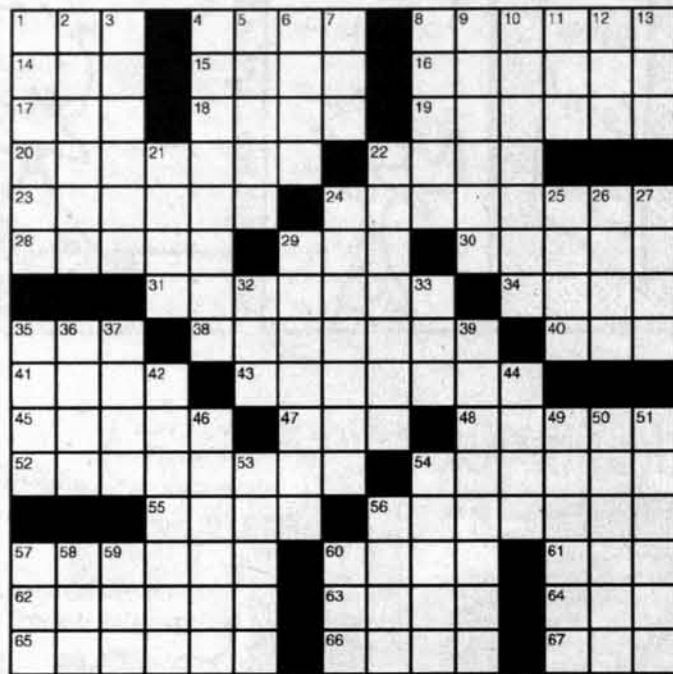


Fun With Clip Art
Aaron Isaksen



"Son...I envy you and your generation... When I was your age it was a real pain in the ass getting a hold of hardcore gang-bang porn."

Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS
- 1 Wrestling success
 - 4 That girl's
 - 8 Leave the Union
 - 14 Pres. Lincoln
 - 15 Nabisco cookie
 - 16 "___ Knowledge"
 - 17 Stitch
 - 18 Some vases
 - 19 In conflict
 - 20 Having a head of hair
 - 22 Birdhouse nester
 - 23 Like theaters and churches
 - 24 County officers
 - 28 Fills to excess
 - 29 Falsehood
 - 30 Asian capital
 - 31 Lasses at luaus
 - 34 Wrestling style
 - 35 Sucker
 - 38 Snarls
 - 40 Grant or Majors
 - 41 Junket
 - 43 Protruding
 - 45 Heavenly one
 - 47 Holy smoke!
 - 48 Merits
 - 52 Use the pews
 - 54 Falseness
 - 55 Woad and anil
 - 56 Holiday harmonizer
 - 57 More tense
 - 60 Spotted infrequently
 - 61 Swelling retardant
 - 62 Frequency selectors
 - 63 Word before friendly
 - 64 Two-finger gesture
 - 65 Curriculum element
 - 66 One Truman
 - 67 Psychic letters
 - 12 June honoree
 - 13 Chicago transp.
 - 21 Offed
 - 22 Bicycle trick
 - 24 Got a one-base hit
 - 25 Putrid
 - 26 Feel vexation
 - 27 Blackthorn
 - 29 Writers' payment rates
 - 32 Holds
 - 33 Get the point
 - 35 Use a stiletto
 - 36 Top-rated
 - 37 Snub-nosed dogs
 - 39 Lip curlers
 - 42 More choked by marsh grass
 - 44 Mexican fare
 - 46 Coats
 - 49 Experience again
 - 50 Sibling's daughters
 - 51 Actress Meryl
 - 53 To the point
 - 54 Defies
 - 56 Patient to a doctor
 - 57 More indicator, briefly
 - 58 Twosome
 - 59 Wildebeest
 - 60 Polish

solutions on page 7

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TechCalendar

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

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

Friday, August 25

- 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. free. 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.. free. 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.
- 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - MITSFS weekly 'meetings'. While these are, technically, meetings, it is nigh-forbidden to conduct Real Business at them, as they're really social events. Imaginary Business, however, is allowed. Usually a dinner trip follows. free. Room: MITSFS Library, W20-473. Sponsor: Science Fiction Society, MIT.
- 8:00 p.m. - Return to the Forbidden Planet. Musical parody of the classic science fiction movie of the same name. Derived from Shakespeare's The Tempest, this work borrows its music from the classics of 50's and 60's rock and roll. \$9, \$8 srs MIT fac/staff/other stdnt, \$6 MIT/Well stdnt, \$3 MIT frosh/xfers. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Musical Theatre Guild, MIT.

UA President Parallels Restrooms, Institute Life

Convocation, from Page 1

cognitive research of Professor Mriganka Sur.

Professor discusses experiences

After his speech, Vest introduced Associate Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Nancy G. Kanwisher '80, who spoke of both her undergraduate career and her research as a professor.

Kanwisher likened the techniques for studying the brain in her undergraduate years to trying to figure out how a car works by driving it.

"In the human mind, there is no substitute for looking under the hood," Kanwisher said. "I never thought that there would be a way to

look at living brains. Now I do that all the time using MRI."

Kanwisher briefly described her research, using a computer image of her own brain as an example. Through studying blood flow to the brain as a subject is shown various stimuli, researchers have linked various brain regions to types of thought.

"[O]ur minds are not universal computational machines. They are more like Swiss Army knives, which have many different tools," she said.

Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine also spoke at convocation, providing some final advice to students who "haven't really been short on advice lately."

Redwine urged students to "be open and adventurous," saying that

"education is not simply what you are going to learn in the classroom."

He emphasized keeping the larger picture in mind rather than becoming bogged down by details. "If 10 years from now you aren't able to recite Newton's laws, it's not the end of the world," he said, in spite of his background as a Physics I (8.01) professor.

However, lack of a general understanding of physics would be detrimental in the working world, he said. Redwine concluded by telling freshmen to "make your own way" while also working with others.

Shulman links MIT, restrooms

Undergraduate Association President Peter A. Shulman '01 delivered the final address, which drew a paral-

lel between restrooms and life at MIT.

"There is one thing that goes neglected year after year during orientation. It is information that you can use today, and also something you can take with you for your entire four years here. I am speaking about restrooms," he said, also implying that his advice applied to life in general at MIT.

"First, remember that there are restrooms everywhere; you just have to learn where to look," he said, referring to MIT's variety of residence choices.

He continued further, describing how restrooms differ and that each student should "find the restroom that best matches you. Some restrooms

have single stalls, while others seem to stretch endlessly into the great abyss."

Shulman also advised that students not neglect friends from orientation who choose different living options. "Your temp roommate might even prefer to go across the river. But don't let them slip away from you ... Make a point to visit them whenever you can," he said.

Finally, he encouraged students to make their own choices, regardless of advice from others.

"People will give you advice, and it will always only reflect on their own experiences, interests, and taste ... It's too easy to forget that some of us prefer two-ply to one, and we just have to trust our instincts."



Convocation Transcript

INTRODUCTION

Indeed, I am Chuck Vest, and I am enormously privileged to serve as MIT's president.

But more to the point this morning, you are the MIT Class of 2004! So here you are full of energy, excitement, enthusiasm, intelligence and undoubtedly a little unspoken apprehension heading into new territory joining one of the most important, innovative and intense academic communities in the world. The skit we just watched suggested that entering MIT is like appearing on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*. Just enroll, learn about technology, graduate and become the next Bill Gates. Others undoubtedly will tell you that MIT will be more like *Survivor*. Indeed, this week in *The Tech*, our student newspaper, you will read many conflicting views, opinions and advice about life and learning at MIT.

(I told *The Tech* that I would give them a plug and wear the T-shirt they gave me, but their logo turned out to be on the back of the shirt - not the front - so I am foregoing that.)

Last year, after this convocation, one of the new students wrote in *The Tech* something to the effect that I was ridiculously optimistic in what I had to say. Well, as I survey the Class of 2004, think about the enormous opportunity space before you, ruminate on the changing and generally peaceful world in which we live, and consider the remarkable community and resources that MIT will provide you, I am indeed optimistic - wildly optimistic.

Furthermore, I am confident that you do not view the life and education before you at this world-class university as an analogue to some silly television show.

I know that you have decided to come here be a member of a remarkable academic community that will challenge you, inspire you, widen your horizons, and help you define and realize your goals. It is a community that is rich in discovery, innovation, vision and intellectual power. You have chosen to become part of an institution that is broad in scope, yet holds science at its core. Science is part of the human adventure - a way of knowing, discovering and understanding our world. It also provides the new knowledge that makes technology and health care possible. Furthermore, the resolution of many profound issues that your generation will face in your personal, professional and political lives will require scientific understanding. A healthy environment for our earth, a robust, sustainable economy that uses energy, food and material resources efficiently, and an advancing quality of care of physical and mental health are attainable only through the development and wise application of scientific knowledge.

So preparing for life and leadership in the 21st century by developing quantitative reasoning skills and a deep grasp of physical and biological science is a very sensible - and exciting - thing to do.

LEADERS OF TOMORROW

And I do hope that you aspire to some form of leadership. It is said that a leader is one who takes us elsewhere. There are many ways of leading.

And each of you has that spark, that spirit, and that extraordinary ability to lead - to "take us elsewhere." That is why we picked you, and why you picked us.

So never think for a minute that you are in the wrong place. You are not here as the result of a computer glitch, or the report of an incompetent educational counselor.

You are not here because someone misread your SAT scores. You are a member of the MIT Class of 2004 because we believe - we know - that you have the intellectual capacity, the energy, the imagination and the personal will to succeed here.

We are very proud and excited to have you as students - and I hope you are proud and excited to be here.

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

You are here because you believe in excellence.

I worry sometimes that much of this nation has lost its will to excel. But MIT hasn't lost its will to excel, and neither will you. Whether you have come to study engineering, science, management, humanities, social science, art, or architecture, you intend to be among the best.

During your years here, and in the future, you will be leaders - as thinkers, doers, entrepreneurs, teachers, designers, managers, artists or athletes. You will do so in a world that is rapidly changing, increasingly complex, always challenging and fascinating, and often beautiful.

Now, people can attain excellence and accomplishment both as individuals and collectively. Both modes are important, but I must tell you that collective, or team approaches are increasingly important. During the coming days and weeks you will be considering the balance between teamwork and individual efforts in many different ways. This will be important to your life at MIT and beyond.

The world needs broader and more integrative thinkers and leaders. I therefore hope that you will strive to gain a broad understanding of the physical, intellectual and social universes we inhabit.

INVENTING THE FUTURE

The world also needs people who can commit simultaneously to incremental improvement and fundamental change.

As most of you have already learned, there is no inherent incompatibility between blue-sky vision and systematic, persistent effort. On the contrary, the two are complementary and reinforcing. You have it in you to do an outstanding job at both. One of the oldest clichés about MIT is that this is the place where the future is invented - and, like most clichés, it is true. That affects you in two important ways:

In one sense, MIT and other great research universities invent the future because our students are the future. You are the legacy we pass on to a world that urgently needs your creativity, intelligence and expertise. We care deeply about you for many reasons, but not least because our success is measured by your success.

The other - and most immediate - way that the future is invented here is through the work done every day by our faculty and, to a remarkable extent, by our students - including our freshmen. Including you.

YOUR CAREER STARTS NOW

This means that freshman year at MIT is not a rehearsal, or a dry run. This is as real as it gets. By the work you have already done, in your schools and in your home communities, you have proven that you can make a difference in the world around you.

The next four years aren't preparation or training for your career. Your career has already begun. This fundamental truth about MIT is reflected in the fact that many of our most accomplished faculty members began their life's work as MIT undergraduates.

It is also reflected in the way that undergraduates - including freshmen - not only participate in serious research, but also contribute actively to the process of their own education. Here at MIT, we all learn together, and we all solve problems together. The results are truly astonishing. Here are a few examples:

This summer, the working draft of the sequence of the Human Genome was basically completed and published. MIT professor Eric Lander and the students, faculty and staff at the MIT-Whitehead Center for Genome Research were at the epicenter of this historic effort.

Also this summer, MIT's Laboratory for Computer Science launched an ambitious project to create a new form of computer system that will be as available and easy to use as the oxygen in the air we breathe. I am confident that many of you will be directly involved in this project - the Oxygen Alliance - as it proceeds.

During the spring, Professor Mriganka Sur and his research group demonstrated that when an animal's brain is rewired so that visual input is directed to the auditory cortex, this part of the brain dedicated to hearing is able to respond to visual stimuli. So what you say? Well, just think about the implications of this for the ancient debate about whether the brain is genetically programmed or shaped by its environment.

The day after last year's freshmen convocation, he first images from Chandra - the new X-ray astronomy astrophysical observatory - were published. By the way, Chandra was placed into space by Shuttle Astronaut Catherine Coleman, MIT Class of 1983, and it is operated from a control center across the street in Kendall Square.

And in a very different domain of human activity, last January the Metropolitan Opera celebrated the new millennium by premiering the opera *The Great Gatsby*, which it had commissioned from MIT Music Professor John Harbison.

I hope these examples give you some idea of the adventure on which you are about to embark.

Great science is done here. Great creativity abounds.

And in addition to its inherent excitement and value, science is the foundation of technology - which, time and time again, has reinvented the way we live and work in the world.

There is no better place to learn the fundamentals, be exposed to the cutting edge, study at the important interfaces between disciplines, gain the skills of problem solving, and be involved in transforming new knowledge into new products, processes, services and businesses. You are a part of this now - a valued part. Be ready every day to make the most of it.

CAMARADERIE, COMPETITION AND TEAMWORK

Now look about you. You will observe an amazing assemblage of people with whom you can connect intellectually. This concentration of brainpower is one of the things that make MIT the absolutely unique and amazing place it is. That is wonderful, but it is also troubling in a sense.

You are probably accustomed to excelling in every - or almost every - academic activity you undertake. Out of this entering class of 1,023 students, 40 percent of you were your high school's valedictorians. And 89 percent of you were in the top 5 percent of your high school class. No class in the history of MIT faced tougher competition to get here: we had 10,673 applicants.

You are, to say the least, an extremely competitive group. That is good for us and for you. But it is all too easy to overdo the competition. I hope that each of you will try to strike a healthy balance between competition and camaraderie.

I mention the level of competition here not to intimidate you, but rather so that - when you ask yourself "What happened?" I used to be at the top of everything!" - you will know that the feeling is very, very common among MIT students.

YOU CAN DO IT

But rest assured that you can succeed at MIT. Your high school teachers knew this.

Your parents know this, though they may be a little scared for you and with you right now. The admissions committee knew it, too. So does the faculty.

They are one of the best faculties in the world, and you have, in part, come here because of them. But it's also important for you to know that they have come here, in part, because of you - for the privilege of interacting with and being challenged by you.

And when you see them this week, you should engage them directly. In fact, I want you to start thinking now about the questions you want to ask them. Remember that it is part of their job - and part of their job satisfaction - to be here for you.

DEFINING MIT

I have been at MIT for a decade, yet I am continually discovering new and rewarding aspects of Institute life.

There is so much going on that it can sometimes be difficult to encapsulate the qualities that make MIT the special place that it is - but after ten years, I ought to be able to take a reasonable shot at it.

So here goes:

Undergraduate education is considered to be the heart of the Institute. The faculty are exceptional researchers to be sure ... but they are here because they are teachers.

MIT is dedicated to leadership and service to the nation and world. We continually ask: "What are the most important issues facing humankind?" Global environmental change? Biomedical advances? Industrial productivity? Communications? Energy? And then we ask: How can we contribute - in our teaching, our research, and our work with others?

MIT is unique. There is no other institution like MIT in the world. Hardly a week goes by without some foreign leader approaching us to discuss plans to create an "MIT" in his or her country. We were the first modern research university - and we still set the global standard. The student culture is like no other. The faculty is like no other. The curriculum is like no other. The spirit of invention and discovery is like no other. The heritage of scientific and technological accomplishment is like no other.

DYNAMIC MIT

MIT is a dynamic, constantly evolving institution.

We have just established an unprecedented partnership with Cambridge University, one that we believe will help to define the global, interconnected, university of the 21st century. It will create unique new opportunities for undergraduate study.

And many if not all of you will participate in innovative educational experiments and experiences made possible by the d'Arbelloff Fund for Excellence in Education and the Microsoft I-Campus Alliance.

During your undergraduate years, you will observe the construction of the huge new Stata Center for Computer, Information, and Intelligence Sciences; a state-of-the-art sports and fitness center; a major expansion of the Media Laboratory; well-conceived and designed new spaces for living and learning; and a continual improvement of classrooms, teaching laboratories, and information infrastructure. That's the good news.

The bad news is that we will all put up with a lot of dirt and noise from construction in the meantime. But it will be exciting dirt and noise!

INTEGRITY AND SERVICE

Now the privilege of participation and education within such an institution invest you with certain responsibilities. I would like to close by commenting on two of these responsibilities - integrity and service.

At MIT you will gain important knowledge and skills. But you will also further develop your personal and communal values and attitudes. I believe that we in the university have a responsibility that transcends that of developing and passing on knowledge and skills.

This responsibility is to teach you that intellectual and personal integrity are the only substrate on which research, scholarship and leadership can be built. And I ask you to consciously develop and maintain the highest ethical standards and commitment to personal integrity as you study and live at MIT.

I also hope that you will also develop a sense of service. I challenge you to set as your goal the use of your considerable talents to be of service to each other, and to your fellow men and women. You can find many ways of doing this while you are students and after you have left MIT.

It is critical that you do so. We are counting on you. So let's get started!

Thank you very much.

Chuck Vest

Got Health?

SEPHIR HAMILTON—THE TECH
 "It Does a Body Good" was the theme of this year's Health and Wellness Fair, held on Kresge Oval yesterday afternoon. The fair was sponsored by MIT Medical.

(Massage) Ehsan Farkhondeh '01 gets royal treatment in the massage chair. Rodney Bly of New Age Muscular Therapy gave free massages to stressed out freshmen.

(Austin Powers) Arthur Musah '04 stops in for a quick quiz on the human body. Dr. Mark Goldstein, chief of pediatrics and student health, and Cathy Dwyer, registered nurse in Inpatient Services, of MIT Medical gave away prizes for correct answers.



MIT Helps Frats Win Reprieve

Reprieve, from Page 1

redesigned resident adviser role was a major factor in the CLC's decision to give the brothers access during the suspension. "Jeff Snyder has been very pro-active in terms of how he's been responding," Scali said. "The commission has been very impressed with how he has handled himself."

In addition to his housemaster duties, Snyder also acts as the house's resident manager, serving as the liaison between the house and Cambridge. In most houses, a student serves as resident manager.

"The guys like this arrangement," Snyder said. "It gives me more freedom to help the guys in coordinating with all these government agencies ... [and] takes the heat off of the student officers."

Snyder added that the arrangement allows the house to be better prepared when going before a review board like the CLC. "It happens too often where student agencies get before the city and they're not prepared," Snyder said. "This way, I can find out [what is needed] straight from the city."

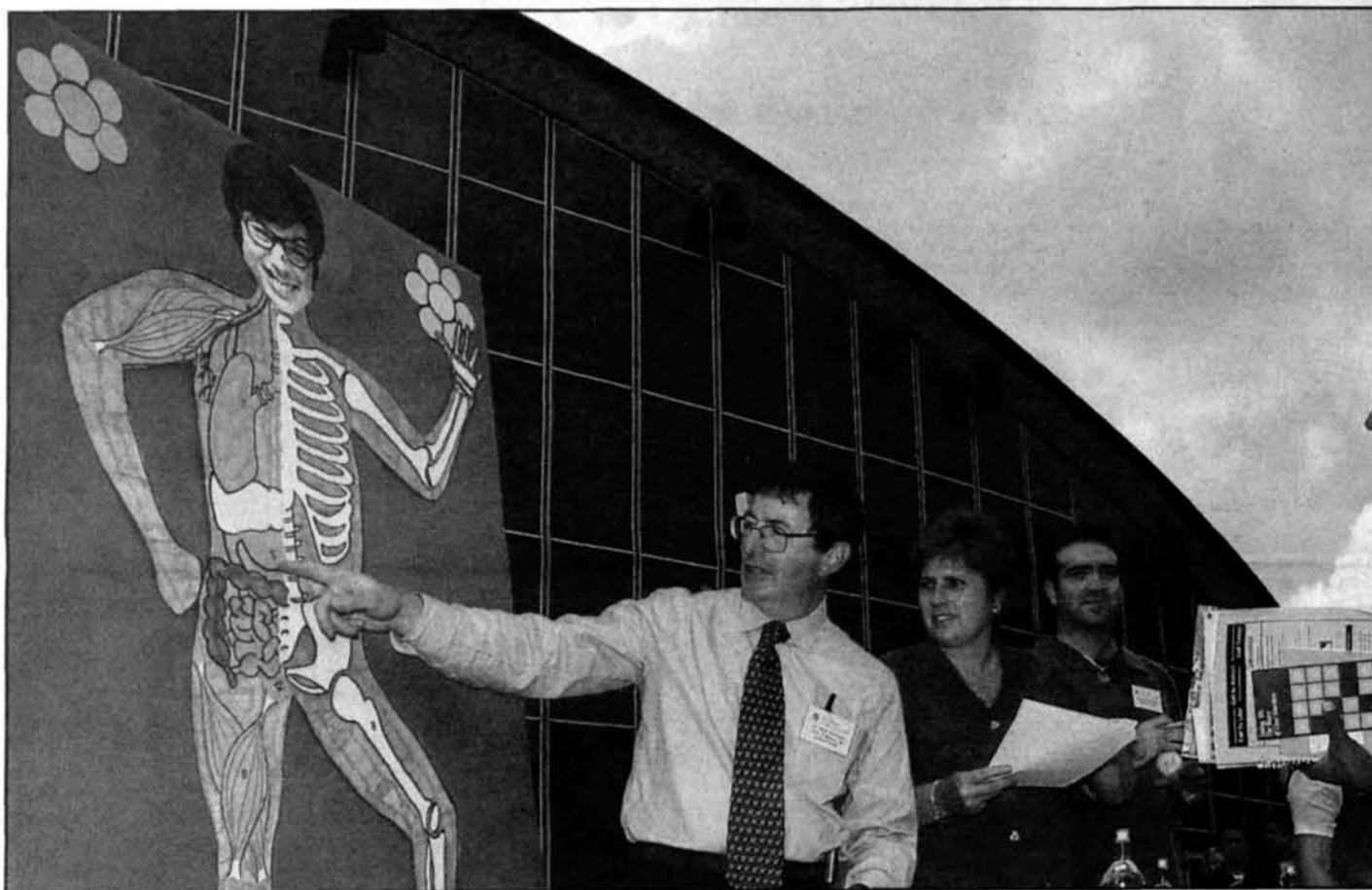
While commending ATO for taking steps in the right direction, Scali said that the house "wasn't as proactive" as Kappa Sig. "I think the commissioners were more impressed with Kappa Sigma," Scali added.

ATO president Ken Jin '01 and vice president Jeff J. Billing '01 said that their house's lack of an expanded RA role did not impact the CLC's decision on their reprieve.

"They asked for more [time] than we did," Billing said. "We got everything we asked for." ATO does plan to meet, however, with its resident adviser over the next few days to explore an expansion of his role.

Jin said that the motive behind his house's appeal to the CLC was getting the best treatment for potential new members. "It didn't seem fair to ask [the freshmen] to join a house that they had no knowledge of," Jin said.

"We wanted no stepping on feet, just to obey all the rules that the CLC set forth," Jin said.



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