

**Wednesday**



**The Weather**  
 Today: Variably cloudy, 75°F (24°C)  
 Tonight: Partly cloudy, 64°F (18°C)  
 Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, 84°F (29°C)  
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Volume 120, Number 38 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 Wednesday, August 30, 2000

## Freshmen Recall Fun Times As Rush Ends

**By Jennifer Young**  
STAFF REPORTER

As rush draws to a close, freshmen prepare to choose a living group or residence with crossed fingers and bated breath. Rush has been a different experience for every student, whether they rushed with intention of pledging or joining a living group, or whether they just sat back and enjoyed the ride. Some freshmen began the weekend fairly sure of where they wanted to live, while others were wholly clueless.

Going into rush, freshmen found themselves nervous about being plunged into totally new territory. "Initially, it was really confusing, and kind of overwhelming too," said Tenley D. McHarg '04. However, he added, "Once you get the hang of it, it's just a lot of fun."

Akila Subramaniam '04 said, "Rush was a lot different than I expected. It was just a fun time. I enjoyed having so much fun before work starts."

Christopher D. Vu '04 enjoyed the opportunity to explore residence

options on his own. "I like the freedom, that MIT wants to let us find a house that we'll be happy living in. [Rush] was everything I expected and even more exciting."

**Free food draws fresh appetites**

Of course, rush gave freshmen the chance to get to know new people and explore different living options, but many took advantage of the chance to be spoiled for the better part of four days. With such offers as waterskiing, para-sailing, laser tag, beach trips, paintball, roofdeck parties, and rock climbing, freshmen reveled in the chance to be the focus of the upperclassmen's attention for a few days. And the class was abuzz with the biggest perk of all: free food.

Initially, Sunjesh Bagaria '04 planned not to rush, but decided to do it for the free food. "I didn't know what [rush] was, and hadn't been thinking of a frat anyway, but a lot of friends told me to do it for the food, he said. "Without it, I wouldn't have thought of joining a frat."

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## Freshmen Slow To Pledge Early

### Potential Members Think Longer About Residential Options

**By Mike Hall**  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Pledging went slowly at fraternities and independent living groups on the first day, but picked up slightly in the late afternoon.

By midnight Wednesday morning, 233 freshmen had pledged fraternities and ILGs, said Interfraternity Council Membership Recruitment Chair Dakus S. Gunn '01. About one-half of an estimated 350 bids were accepted by 4 p.m. yesterday, according to reports from residential living groups.

Rush chairs attribute the early slowdown to freshmen taking a longer time to decide where they want to live. "Most of the kids I've seen are in the decision-making stage," Gunn said.

Paralleling a similar trend two years ago, many freshmen are returning to their temporary dorms to consider their decisions, Gunn said. "Fraternities are saying, 'We can't get to the kids to talk because

Pledging, Page 8

Living Group	Bids Extended	New Pledges	Pledge Target
Alpha Delta Phi	n/a	15	n/a
Alpha Epsilon Pi	22	6	15-16
Alpha Tau Omega	18	14	15
Beta Theta Pi	n/a	6	n/a
Chi Phi	n/a	9	9
Delta Tau Delta	n/a	13	n/a
Delta Kappa Epsilon	12	5	9-10
Delta Upsilon	12	8	9
Epsilon Theta	n/a	1	no quota
Fenway House	no bidding	3	no quota
Kappa Sigma	n/a	11	15
Lambda Chi Alpha	14	2	14
No.6 Club (Delta Psi)	7	5	9-11
Nu Delta	9	4	8
Phi Beta Epsilon	23	8	15
Phi Delta Theta	15	7	11
pika	11	1	10
Phi Kappa Sigma	n/a	12	12
Phi Kappa Theta	15	4	>= 10
Pi Lambda Phi	10	3	10
Phi Sigma Kappa	21	9	13-15
Sigma Chi	10	10	10
Sigma Phi Epsilon	12	2	8
Sigma Nu	19	6	15
Student House	4	2	3
Theta Chi	n/a	11	12
Theta Delta Chi	15	3	n/a
Tau Epsilon Phi	n/a	n/a	n/a
Theta Xi	15	6	15
WILG	12	5	12
Zeta Beta Tau	n/a	n/a	n/a
Zeta Psi	13	7	10

Source: Living groups. All numbers are as of 4 p.m. Tuesday.



Wielding a chainsaw, Mark C. Feldmeier G leads the freshmen in an assault on the "Berlin Wall" in one of East Campus's rush activities.

## ASA Event Showcases Activities

**By Dana Levine**  
NEWS EDITOR

Representatives from over 200 student groups met with prospective members in Johnson Athletics Center at the Association of Student Activities midway last night.

The midway, which took place from 6:30 to 9 p.m., opened with a speech and ribbon cutting by Dean of Student Life Larry Benedict.

"We thought that it would be a cute idea for the new dean of student life, Larry Benedict, to come," said Midway Co-Organizer Jonathan Sheffi '03. ASA leaders felt that this would give Benedict a chance to see all of the activities that MIT offers.

In all, 215 student groups signed up for booths at the midway. These included political groups, religious groups, performing arts groups, publications, and more, ranging from the MIT Hemp Coalition to Club Argentino to GAMIT.

While most organizations were given a single booth, a few who were larger or who had large pre-

Midway, Page 7



The Fall Sports Preview looks ahead to volleyball, cross country, field hockey, and sailing.  
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Philippe Laroche considers the timeless question of science versus religion.  
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# WORLD & NATION

## Lee Could Be Freed Soon, Judge Rules

THE WASHINGTON POST

A federal judge in New Mexico ruled Tuesday that physicist Wen Ho Lee can be released on \$1 million bail Friday under tight restrictions and following a thorough FBI search of his home.

However, Lee's release could be delayed if prosecutors decide to appeal U.S. District Judge James Parker's decision last week to grant bail, and if the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issues a stay of Lee's departure from jail.

After a hearing Tuesday on the terms for Lee's release, Parker directed prosecutors and defense lawyers to finish negotiating the details by Friday, so that Lee can live at home while he awaits trial — scheduled to begin in November — on 59 felony counts of mishandling classified information at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he worked as a weapons scientist.

"We're optimistic that he is going home on Friday," said John Cline, one of Lee's attorneys.

Parker rejected a request by Assistant U.S. Attorney George Stamboulidis for a seven-day stay of Lee's release. Instead, he gave the prosecution until noon Friday to consult with Justice Department officials and to appeal to the 10th Circuit in Denver.

Family and friends have already put up more than \$2 million of property as collateral for Lee's \$1 million bond. The conditions determining his release include surveillance of his telephone calls and mail, electronic monitoring of his movements and a limited list of visitors.

## Cheney Provided Golden Parachutes to Terminated Big Business Executives

THE WASHINGTON POST

When Dick Cheney resigned as chief executive of the oil services firm Halliburton Co. to become the Republican vice presidential nominee, he insisted on being treated like every other executive taking early retirement. No special deals, he told the board of directors.

But that apparently was not the philosophy Cheney brought to the boardrooms of three other corporations that recently bid farewell to their CEOs with lucrative golden handshakes.

Back in 1997, Cheney was on the compensation committee of Union Pacific Corp. when it granted a special \$4 million bonus to retiring chairman Drew Lewis. Lewis, a former secretary of transportation, also received a five-year consulting contract valued at \$3.75 million that would be paid even if he died before he could provide any advice.

The next year, Cheney was on the board of Electronic Data Systems Corp. when it negotiated a \$35 million termination agreement with then-chairman Lester M. Alberthal Jr. Then, last week, Procter & Gamble's board disclosed it had granted a special \$9.5 million bonus to retiring chairman Durk I. Jager on top of his \$1.3 million salary and stock options potentially worth millions more. Cheney was a member of the compensation committee that recommended the package.

Cheney's role in the compensation packages of these large corporations could add a complicating factor to the vice presidential candidate's defense of his own \$36 million in stock and options that he received after leaving Halliburton to become Texas Gov. George W. Bush's running mate. It could also thrust the issue of executive pay into a presidential contest that Democrats are painting as a class struggle between the interests of working families and those of the rich and well-connected.

Last Sunday, on all three major talk shows, Cheney was peppered with questions about his own severance package — and the potential conflict of interest that might arise from his ability to benefit financially from Halliburton stock options as a sitting vice president. While vowing to do everything necessary to eliminate any potential conflict, a visibly frustrated Cheney bristled at suggestions that he give up several million dollars worth of stock options, saying such sacrifice shouldn't be required for public service.

## Gore Presses Bush To Accept All Planned Autumn Debates

By Dan Balz

THE WASHINGTON POST

PORTLAND, MAINE

Seeking to put pressure on George W. Bush, Vice President Al Gore's campaign chairman Tuesday formally endorsed a plan from the Commission on Presidential Debates for a series of prime-time televised forums this fall and called on the Texas governor to agree quickly to participate.

Bush denied that he was attempting to duck prime-time encounters with Gore, telling reporters that he would "welcome prime-time debates" during the fall. "Who said we don't want prime-time exposure?" the GOP nominee said on his chartered airplane Tuesday.

But his advisers said he would explore more than four dozen pending invitations from news organizations and other groups before deciding which to accept, and his campaign manager said it was possible Bush would participate in a forum not held in prime time.

Meanwhile, Gore's campaign released a Monday letter from chairman William Daley to Frank Fahrenkopf and Paul Kirk Jr., co-chairmen of the debates commission, supporting the commission

schedule. Daley said the 90-minute forums broadcast on all the major networks would "give the greatest number of voters the chance to hear the candidates directly."

The flaring of the debate over debates was one more sign of the growing intensity of the presidential campaign, with Bush and Gore each attempting to gain the high ground by suggesting that the other was attempting to duck debates.

Gore, known as a fierce debater, has long called for as many encounters as possible, but lately has seized on the commission plan as the framework for general election debates. Gore has said he would consider additional debates if Bush agrees to accept the proposal from the commission, which has sponsored all debates since 1988.

Bush, seeking to lower expectations about his performance in the face-to-face encounters while still appearing eager to debate, has kept the door open to other invitations that might be seen as less intense or competitive. Bush advisers said it was Gore who was backing away from commitments he has made to accept debates from groups other than the commission.

Two weeks ago, Bush said he

and running mate Dick Cheney would participate in three presidential debates, more than have ever been held. And Tuesday the Bush camp sought to rebut assertions that the Texas governor, by refusing to agree to the commission schedule, was trying to diminish the audience for what has traditionally been one of the most important events of every presidential campaign.

"We feel that we have a lot of options and that Governor Bush as the nominee and the person who's participating in the debate ought to have some say as to what kind of debate that is, to make sure that it's a substantive and thoughtful debate," said Bush's communications director Karen Hughes.

Daley said Bush should agree as a starting point to participate in the commission debates. The commission schedule calls for presidential debates on Oct. 3, Oct. 11 and Oct. 17, with the vice presidential debate set for Oct. 5.

In his letter, Daley told Kirk and Fahrenkopf that the Democrats were willing to schedule a second debate between Cheney and Gore's running mate, Joseph Lieberman, as Bush has proposed.

## Supreme Court Bars California Clinic from Marijuana Dispersal

By Rene Sanchez

THE WASHINGTON POST

LOS ANGELES

The U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday barred a California clinic from distributing marijuana to patients for medicinal purposes, throwing into turmoil the state's groundbreaking law that allows the practice.

Acting on an emergency request from the Clinton administration, the court voted seven to one to prohibit the operations of an Oakland, California, cannabis club that is at the center of a four-year legal battle between the federal and state governments.

But the court's decision neither overturns the medicinal marijuana initiative that California voters approved in 1996 nor effectively

ends distribution of the drug to patients around the state.

That main issue of Proposition 215's legality is still before a federal appeals court. And because of the uncertain situation — the federal government insists marijuana distribution to people with cancer, AIDS and other diseases is illegal — local governments around California continue to allow patients either to grow marijuana on their own or use it with the blessing of health departments. A few other cannabis clubs operate with local support; others have gone underground for the time being.

The Justice Department sought the Supreme Court's help after a federal court this summer allowed the Oakland club to keep distribut-

ing marijuana to patients with a doctor's prescription, until the legal case is resolved.

Federal lawyers had argued that the ruling set a dangerous precedent and provided a justification for illegal drug trafficking.

Five other states have approved the use of medicinal marijuana. The issue will be on the ballot in two others, Nevada and Colorado, in November.

Advocates for using marijuana medicinally expressed concern that Tuesday's decision signaled that the Supreme Court may eventually strike down California's law. But for now they said it would not have significant implications for most patients around the state who are using the drug.

## WEATHER

### Happy Days Are Here Again

By Robert Korty  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

While Bostonians have been afforded the opportunity to bask in delightful weather over much of the past week, much of the United States continues to suffer with oppressive drought and heat. Across the Southern Plains states, temperatures again today will soar well above 100°F (38°C). Coupled with the high temperatures is a drought poised to enter its third month. The airport at Dallas-Ft. Worth has not recorded rain since July 1. Fires continue to feed on the dry land across much of the western U.S.

Off of the Southeastern coast, a weak area of low pressure has formed. This system is supplying the train of moisture from the Atlantic to produce showers (some with generous amounts of rain) across much of North Carolina and Virginia. And while this is the season to look across the tropical Atlantic for hurricanes, wind shear (a gradient in wind with height) across the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and western Atlantic is inhibiting the development of any potential tropical systems.

Meanwhile Tropical Storm Prapiroon is expected to make landfall about 100 miles (160 km) north of Taipei, Taiwan today. While Prapiroon is far weaker than Super Typhoon Bilis (which struck the island just days ago), the storm will nonetheless be responsible for copious amounts of additional rain.

Fortunately for us, the forecast for New England offers a pleasant end to the month of August.

**Today:** Variably cloudy with easterly winds. High near 75°F (24°C).

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy with a low near 64°F (18°C).

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny and warmer. High near 84°F (29°C), low of 66°F (19°C)

**Friday:** Continued clear and mild. High near 82°F (28°C), low of 64°F (18°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Wednesday, August 30, 2000



# Clinton, Mubarak Promise To Push Middle East Negotiations

By Howard Schneider

THE WASHINGTON POST

CAIRO, EGYPT

President Clinton and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday Israel and the Palestinians can reach agreement by the end of September and pledged to push negotiations beyond what Clinton called the "next big hump" to resolve such sensitive issues as the fate of Jerusalem.

"We are doing our best to find a solution. We hope to finish it by September. We want that," Mubarak said in a series of brief remarks before the two leaders held their first meeting since the collapse of Palestinian-Israeli peace talks at Camp David on July 25. "I think this will be reached."

"Time is short," Clinton warned before the meeting, which took place while his plane refueled at Cairo airport enroute back to Washington after a three-day trip to Nigeria and Tanzania. But he added: "We're going to work together and see if we can find a way to help the

parties get over this next big hump."

Mubarak's optimistic assessment comes at a potential make-or-break moment for Clinton's efforts to help broker a final Arab-Israeli agreement before he leaves office in January.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will be in New York for a Sept. 6 millennium year summit of world leaders at the United Nations. Clinton has separate meetings scheduled with each of them, sessions that could be joined in a resumption of direct negotiations.

More specifically, the two sides had set Sept. 13 as a deadline for reaching a "framework agreement" outlining the elements of a treaty ending the half-century of hostility sparked by creation of the Jewish state in what had been Palestine. That is also the date by which the Palestinian leadership has said it will declare statehood unilaterally, on land Israel has already ceded, if a peace agreement has not been reached.

The deadline, on both counts, is a loose one and Arafat has suggested the declaration of a state could be postponed again. But there is a widespread sense among all parties that time is running short to capitalize on progress made at Camp David in July. During extended talks at the presidential retreat in Maryland, Israel made substantial concessions on land and other issues and the two sides for the first time broached such core emotional issues as control of East Jerusalem and its religious sites important to Muslims, Christians and Jews.

Israel, which captured the eastern part of Jerusalem from Jordanian control in 1967, has vowed to retain sovereignty over the entire city, which is the national capital. The Palestinians, however, have pledged to establish their own capital in the eastern, Arab-populated neighborhoods, which they and their Arab allies say must be returned under international law and the U.N. Security Council resolutions that underlie peace negotiations.

# SAT Math Score Reaches Historic High, While Verbal Remains Same

By Kenneth J. Cooper

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The average SAT math score reached a 30-year high in 2000, continuing a decade of improvement with a three-point increase this year. The College Board announced Tuesday. But the average score on the verbal section of the college placement exam remained unchanged for the fifth straight year.

The national average on the mathematics test has risen by a total of 13 points since 1990 and now stands at 514, the highest level since 1969, when it was 517. The average verbal score, 505, has been the same since 1996 and remains far below levels of 30 years ago.

Girls continued to narrow the math score gap between themselves and boys.

The record math scores signify the full reversal of a decline that began about 30 years ago, when the pool of prospective college students grew dramatically because of an influx of minority students and women prompted by desegregation and the women's movement. But urban school systems failed to prepare many minority students to do well on the SAT.

Gaston Caperton, The College

Board's president, called the three-point gain in math a "cause for cautious optimism" and attributed the increase to high school students taking additional, more difficult courses in math and science.

"Over the last decade, male and female students from all ethnic backgrounds have been taking more pre-calculus, calculus and physics," said Caperton, a former West Virginia governor. "These are some of the most rigorous courses available and help students develop excellent math skills."

Gains associated with that trend in coursework have been spread across all racial and ethnic groups, according to The College Board, which sponsors the Scholastic Achievement Test, the most widely used placement exam.

Of the record 1.26 million students who took the SAT this year, 44 percent had taken a pre-calculus course, compared with 31 percent in 1990. During the same period, the percentage of SAT takers who had studied calculus rose from 19 percent to 24 percent and the proportion who had taken physics courses grew from 44 percent to 49 percent.

More girls than boys were adding the tough courses, with beneficial results: girls shaved six

points off the traditional male advantage in the SAT math test, the data showed.

"The gender gaps in SAT scores are closing," Caperton said.

The largest increases in college prep work occurred among three minority groups whose average SAT scores have historically lagged behind those of white and Asian students: African Americans, Native Americans and Mexican Americans. African Americans and Mexican Americans gained 4 points in math.

To sustain the upward trend in math scores, Caperton said, the nation needs to make Advanced Placement courses more widely available, especially in inner city and rural schools. The board has a goal of doubling the number of AP students — currently about 1.2 million high school juniors and seniors — in 10 years.

Even though the average verbal score again didn't rise, Caperton found reason to be pleased that it didn't decline either.

"Verbal scores are holding steady, even though more of today's college-bound high school students than ever before have English as their second language or have parents who aren't native English speakers," he said.

# U.S. Analysts Suspect That Submarine Sank as the Result of an Explosion

By Roberto Suro

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

An analysis of intelligence information gathered by U.S. Navy ships indicates that the Russian submarine Kursk was sunk by a single catastrophic event that probably involved the accidental explosion of a torpedo warhead, senior Pentagon officials said Tuesday.

While no final conclusions have been drawn about the cause of the explosion, analysts have largely discounted the possibility that the Kursk went to the bottom of the Barents Sea because of maintenance problems or sloppy seamanship, the officials said.

"More and more evidence is piling up that a torpedo or an anti-submarine rocket malfunctioned, but there is no evidence that the crew performed badly," said a senior U.S. naval official.

The Kursk, with 118 men aboard, sank Aug. 12 during a major exercise by Russia's Northern Fleet.

Nine days later, Norwegian rescue divers found that the entire submarine was flooded and that there was massive damage to the forward area of the vessel, where the torpedo room is located.

Some Russian officials claim that a collision, possibly with an American submarine, sank the 500-foot-long Kursk. The Pentagon insists that no U.S. ships were involved in the catastrophe.

Analysts at the National Maritime Intelligence Center in Suitland, Md., are now examining a variety of data gathered by two U.S. submarines and a surface vessel that monitored the Russian exercises, U.S. officials said. In addition, there is information from a Norwegian surveillance ship and seismic sensors that recorded the Kursk's sinking.

The sonar recordings and seismic data indicate that there were two explosions aboard the Kursk, one of moderate size followed some two minutes later by a much larger one that could have involved as

much as two tons of high explosives. Detailed analysis of the data eventually could provide information on the precise chain of events that led to the sinking, but for the moment Pentagon officials insist that they can only hypothesize.

"I could suppose 100 different ways it happened, and all of them could be wrong," said a senior Navy officer. "We absolutely do not know how this happened."

The most commonly cited scenario among U.S. analysts is that the first blast involved fuel from a torpedo and that the second involved one or more warheads. Russian torpedoes used against surface ships are fueled by hydrogen peroxide, which can be highly volatile if it leaks, especially when it is in a torpedo tube being pressurized prior to firing, said A.D. Baker III.

"The Russians have been trying to sell hydrogen peroxide torpedos on the world market recently, and maybe they were testing a new model," Baker said.

# Groups Ask Lieberman To Temper His Talk of Religion

THE BALTIMORE SUN

WASHINGTON

After several weeks of watching from the sidelines, liberal advocacy groups and civil libertarians laid into Democratic vice-presidential nominee Joseph I. Lieberman on Tuesday for what they saw as overt and inappropriate use of religion on the campaign trail.

Conservatives have charged that the groups harbor a double standard, quickly criticizing Christian conservatives when they make religious references while holding their tongues as Lieberman, the first Jewish candidate on a major national ticket, has evoked God at many campaign stops.

After the Anti-Defamation League publicly asked Lieberman on Monday to temper his religiosity, the American Civil Liberties Union, People for the American Way, and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State all lodged their disaffection.

Ralph Neas, president of People for the American Way, said Lieberman, a Connecticut senator, "crossed the line" this weekend when he declared in a Detroit church that "there must be a place for faith in America's public life."

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, condemned Lieberman's "dramatic escalation" in religious rhetoric.

"This has gone way over the edge in both parties," Lynn said. "It's time to stop telling us what you think about Deuteronomy and the parting of the Red Sea, and tell us about your positions on economic policy and prescription drugs."

# Clinton Challenges Disbarment

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Clinton challenged a move to strip him of his license to practice law in Arkansas, declaring in legal papers filed Tuesday that such a penalty would be "excessively harsh" and without precedent.

The president's statement, submitted to an Arkansas state court by Washington attorney David E. Kendall, came in response to a lawsuit filed last month by an ethics panel of the Arkansas Supreme Court. The panel condemned Clinton for "serious misconduct" in allegedly using "dishonesty, deceit, fraud and misrepresentation" to hide his affair with former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky.

The lawsuit stemmed from a lengthy investigation by the ethics committee that was given impetus last year when a federal judge in Little Rock found Clinton in contempt of court for his testimony in the Paula Corbin Jones sexual harassment case.

U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright, who fined Clinton more than \$90,000 for contempt, said the president had obstructed justice by giving "false and misleading" answers when asked in a sworn deposition about his relationship with Lewinsky. Wright found that Clinton had been untruthful when he denied ever being alone with Lewinsky or having sexual relations with her.

The ethics panel's inquiry was launched in late 1998 after the conservative Southeastern Legal Foundation of Atlanta filed a complaint on the same grounds. The issue ultimately will be decided by Pulaski County Circuit Judge Leon Johnson after he considers all the evidence.

# Colombia Considers Waging Biological War on Illicit Crops

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

The next weapon in the arsenal of the war against drugs may well be biological.

Scientists have discovered three microscopic fungi that will cause marijuana plants, heroin poppies and coca bushes to turn yellow, drop their leaves and wither.

While opponents believe that use of such fungi could cause an environmental disaster, supporters see it as a benevolent alternative to fumigation, which defoliates all plants — including food crops — underneath the fine mist sprayed by planes.

As President Clinton visits Colombia on Wednesday to initiate formally a controversial \$1.3 billion anti-narcotics aid package, the potential use of fungi is becoming an important part of the debate about the most effective way to halt drug production and trafficking. Colombia is the world's leading producer of cocaine.

"It was a godsend," said a U.S. official who saw the effects of an anti-coca fungus in Peru's Upper Huallaga Valley at the beginning of the 1990s. The fungus wiped out 30 percent of the coca crop, and the leaves that survived had lower levels of alkaloid, the active ingredient in cocaine, the official said.

# Researchers Discover The Cause of Narcolepsy

LOS ANGELES TIMES

California researchers report they have found the long-sought cause of narcolepsy, a mysterious sleep disorder that affects at least 125,000 Americans.

The condition is caused by the death of a handful of cells deep within the brain, researchers from the University of California, Los Angeles, and Stanford report Wednesday.

The results suggest that it may be possible to treat victims of the disorder, which is characterized by overwhelming sleepiness, and could lead to new ways of attacking other sleep disorders as well, experts said.

Teams at UCLA and Stanford studied preserved brains from narcoleptics and independently found that all were missing cells from the hypothalamus that secrete a hormone called hypocretin. Also known as orexin, the hormone has previously been shown to be involved in the regulation of sleep.

The brains showed clear evidence that the cells had been destroyed, perhaps by a toxin or more likely by an autoimmune attack, said Dr. Jerome M. Siegel of UCLA and the Sepulveda Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

"The findings end a 120-year search for the cause of narcolepsy and open new paths for treating this incurable disease," he said.

# OPINION



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# A Unified Theory of Everything

## Religion, Science, and Predictability — Freshmen, Pay Attention!

Philippe Larochelle

This is another in the “freshmen please stop and think” columns. So don’t say you weren’t warned. My hope is that this column will give you pause for a couple moments of quiet contemplation. The hope of the editors is that it will fill some empty space on the opinion page.

With any luck, at least one of these goals will be accomplished.

Walking through the MIT campus, one inevitably comes upon the sight of our wonderful nondenominational all-purpose MIT Chapel, the brick cylinder with the spike on top. One thought that may arise in the minds of those passing by the chapel is how incongruous it seems to be to the rest of the surroundings. In the middle of one of the foremost scientific institutions in the world, there sits a temple of mysticism.

One of the greatest tales in the history of humanity is the ongoing struggle between science and religion. Here in science’s home turf there sits a testament to the other side of the battle. This is a mystical place where students and faculty are supposed to go to drop reason and analysis and for a short time devote themselves to an exercise in faith. No proofs, no equations, just a show of faith. It is similar to someone placing a cyclotron in a cathedral. Passing by this every day on the way from the Student Center or back to a dorm, one cannot help but question if there is a true incompatibility between religion and science.

With that background note I begin my thought process. During your time here many of you will be so overwhelmed with classes, test tubes, circuit boards, problem sets and Java code that you will not even give a second thought to the nature of institutions such as MIT and their greater purpose in the grand scheme of things. You see, the goal of a place like this isn’t only to puke up the occasional start-up or craft engineers for Boeing. Its greater purpose is not even, as the brass loves to say, to form the leaders of tomorrow. The over-arching purpose of a place like MIT is simple: to understand everything.

Not just a superficial understanding of macroscopic properties and how they can be

of use to economic ventures, but a true comprehension of every atom and its structure, every chromosome and its function, every thing, every property and every interaction. It is this quest for ultimate knowledge, in which all of us must partially participate in thanks to the core requirements, in which our tango with science and religion commences.

At the beginning of your time here at MIT it is quite possible that you feel an initial revulsion towards the staple teachings of many religions. The workings of Newtonian mechanics dispel the long-held belief of a geocentric universe. The findings of neurochemistry show the inability of a rat or butterfly brain holding anything close to human thought patterns that

*How incongruous the chapel seems to be to its surroundings. In the middle of one of the foremost scientific institutions in the world, there sits a temple of mysticism.*

discern our characters, throwing reincarnation down the toilet, and evolutionary biology seems to make an Adam and Eve scenario unlikely. If one proceeds no further in scientific endeavors than this, one may be left with a permanent distaste for religion altogether. If one proceeds further, however, it is possible that they may find themselves inclined to embrace religion more than ever.

My last statement stems from the quest for ultimate knowledge that I mentioned before. Imagine what would happen if we ever arrived at the ideal the Institute bases itself on. Imagine if the people in Course VIII gain a complete understanding of the subatomic and its movements and properties. From that, the people in Course V will understand the nature and characteristics of every bond and reaction. Building further, people in Course IX will work out the intricacies of the human brain and neural system, reducing all of our emo-

tions, thoughts and memories to chemical patterns and electric polarizations. The clever people in Course XII will refine their models to where every condition can be accounted for in weather systems — a hurricane can be forecast a decade in advance — and planetary behavior will be similarly understood.

When it comes to the point when science provides us the means to understand every interaction in the universe, as well as the tools to perfectly analyze the initial state to the point when chaos theory no longer poses a problem, something even more amazing will happen than the technology derived from the knowledge. There will emerge predictability. Every action you take, from the last meal you had to the words you are reading off this page, are actions that could have been determined when life on Earth was nothing but primordial ooze, the formation of that ooze being pre-determined eons before that. Then you will begin to question whether any action you take is truly of a free-will nature, or whether they simply are the results of predictable reactions that the constituents of your body have with the outside world, a process that you helped to catalogue.

At this point I believe your turn back to the religious may be twofold. I use “may” because you might simply come to the realization that you are incredibly similar to the Athena station you are working in front of and leave it at that. The first way you may turn back to religion is the more wholesome of the two. Your wondrous amazement at the workings of the universe may convince you that something must have crafted the elementary particles and properties of the universe in such a way that they would eventually crank out the wonderful universe we have now. The second would come more from despair: unable to accept the fact that you are just a cog with no more real determination of your actions than a current of wind, you begin to believe that there is something more to you than just the cells and electrical impulses that science can so readily understand. You’ll believe in some abstract concept of a soul, something that science can’t understand, control or, even more importantly, predict.

But, you don’t need to worry about such things. You’re only freshmen.

## Sympathy for Britney

*Teen Star Deluded in Attributing Success to Musical Talent*

Veena Thomas

Call me “crazy,” but I pity Britney Spears.

It wasn’t always like this. I was a typical Britney-hater, waiting impatiently for the inevitable Britney backlash to start. It happened to the New Kids on the Block, and it must happen to all teen pop sensations. I was tired of seeing Britney’s face (and stomach) everywhere, and of being bombarded by “Oops ... I Did it Again” every time I turned on the radio. She managed to do what again? Annoy half the country?

Then I happened to see a special on VH-1 about how the music industry currently consists of young stars “showing off a lot more than their voices.” They showed a clip of teen singer Debbie Gibson’s music video in the 1980s. Gibson sang in a T-shirt and jeans, looking pretty, but very far from sexy. Cut to pictures of Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears, barely clad in a little crop top. The times, they are a-changin’.

The show went on to talk about the amount of pressure that singers are under, from their record labels, the media, and their fans, to maintain a certain image. Britney obviously has to compete with the likes of all the other young blond singers. Christina Aguilera, Mandy Moore, and Jessica Simpson are waiting greedily in the wings to take over if Britney ever slips from her reigning position of the Queen of Bubble Gum Pop.

This blatant exposure of sexuality is something almost deemed necessary in the music industry. From Britney Spears to Mariah Carey to country music crossover star Shania Twain, many singers have been baring a lot more than their souls to fans everywhere. It’s all a girl can do to keep up with everyone else in order to

maintain her spot at the top of the charts.

Recently, leafing through a magazine from March 1999, I was shocked to come across a very small advertisement for Britney’s first CD. The ad features a photo of Britney fully dressed — hardly any skin showing at all — and with only a moderate amount of makeup. She looks innocent, even sweet. It’s surprising now to realize that Britney Spears was such an unknown only a year and a half ago that she had to resort to magazine advertisements to sell her CDs.

Enter Britney’s first smash single, “...Baby One More Time.” While the song may be energetic, few can actually say with a straight face that it has much musical value, or that Britney is a wonderful singer. Then again, who actually remembers the song? It’s the video that has staying power, showcasing Britney as the Catholic schoolgirl of male adolescent fantasy, with a kilt and a white blouse tied up to expose both

her stomach and her black bra. Is it any wonder that she soon rocketed to stardom?

Britney has always wanted to be a singer, entering Star Search at age five. It’s going to be a rude awakening one day when she wakes up and realizes that she’s famous hardly for her singing talent, but for her body. It can’t be a sign of healthy self-esteem that Britney (allegedly) had breast implants at the tender young age of 17. While she may seem old and world-weary, in reality, she’s just barely an adult.

Would you really be happy, at 18, knowing that both teenage boys and sleazy old men were fantasizing about you and staring at pictures of your near-naked body? “I don’t want to be part of someone’s Lolita fantasy,” Britney told Rolling Stone. Undoubtedly her Rolling Stone cover photo, with her clad only in a push-up bra and hot pants, didn’t help

matters any. Even Newsweek has taken to mocking her for her widespread appeal.

Britney posed for a photo which will be used to advertise for MTV’s Video Music Awards. The picture features an undeniably trashy-looking Britney next to a New York hot dog stand, wearing a plastic visor, barely-there shorts, an “I Love NY” t-shirt so cut away as to barely resemble a T-shirt, and knee-length soccer socks. While an MTV executive bragged, “It’s going to be hanging up in bedrooms all over the country,” Newsweek commented, “Sure, like their wives will let them get away with that.”

Britney Spears can’t possibly be thinking clearly right now, blinded by her meteoric rise to stardom. Surely this isn’t a healthy way to grow up. What will happen in a few years, once the Britney backlash begins and she’s shunned by unforgiving pop culture? Will she only be able to find work in pornographic movies? Perhaps someday Britney will join many other child stars who turn to drugs and alcohol for solace, and find their lives fodder only for “E! True Hollywood Story.”

Is she happy? This, perhaps only Britney knows. It’s easy to say that being one of the most lusted-after, famous stars right now is enough to make anyone happy. But what of this small-town girl, thrust into a very sexual role at such an early age? If her new song, “Lucky,” is any indication, there’s something else going on outside the glare of the media spotlight. In her song about a “fictional” celebrity named Lucky, Britney sings, “She’s so lucky ... she’s a star ... But she cries in her lonely heart, thinking if there’s nothing missing in my life, then why do these tears come at night?” The song continues, “Lost in an image, lost in a dream ... but tell me, what happens when it stops?”

Indeed, what will happen when it stops? Britney will undoubtedly experience the pain of rejection, the biggest shock of her short life. While some worship her, some hate her, and some fantasize about her, I choose to feel sorry for her. While she may sing “hit me one more time,” I don’t think she quite realizes what just did.

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# Freshmen, Graduate Students Learn About Activities

Midway, from Page 1

sentations received two booths.

The MIT Dance Mix Coalition brought along their "rave in a box," a cardboard box which contained flashing lights and had music piped in from a set of CD turntables. Students took turns entering this box and being immersed in a rave-like

experience.

The box was constructed to get around ASA rules preventing playing of loud music, said group founder and ASA Treasurer Philip B. Tan '01.

"This was a work-around that didn't bother anyone and actually provided cool surroundings," Tan said. Benedict actually entered the

rave-in-a-box at one point during the evening.

The ASA reserved one area in the auditorium for demonstrations by MIT performing groups. Members of Roadkill Buffet, Tech Squares, the Ballroom Dance Club, the Songwriting Club, and several other groups took turns giving small performances.

Members of the MIT Outing Club noted that their booth was packed with potential members. Robert C. Jagnow G said that this year's attendees were "a very enthusiastic group of first year [graduate and undergraduate] students."

Jagnow observed that far more graduate students attended this year's midway than the last one. His group

collected over 200 e-mail addresses from prospective members.

The midway was funded by the Undergraduate Association, the Graduate Student Council, and the Dean's Office. Information Systems provided network drops in exchange for a table. Similarly, Aramark contributed free food in exchange for space at the midway.



Left: Dara Sobo, a veteran martial artist and instructor for the MIT American Jujitsu Club, performs a taitoshi throw on Patrick Menard '03 during the Activities Midway last night.

Top right: Haixia Lin G, a member of the Dance Troupe, performs an original dance. The Dance Troupe offers weekly classes and presents a concert every semester.

Bottom right: Noelle M. Drugan '01, Caitlin W. Marlow '03, Steven Niemczyk G, and Brian M. Wong '03, members of the Musical Theatre Guild, sang a piece from "Return to the Forbidden Planet," the group's summer show. The next performances are this Friday and Saturday night in Kresge Little Theatre.

PHOTOGRAPHY: WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

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Student Center, room 483



# House Shopping, Competition Credited for Slow Early Rush

Pledging, from Page 1

they're in the dorms," he said, "but the kids are saying, 'I really need some time to consider this.'"

Jamie C. Rasmussen '01, rush chair for Alpha Delta Phi, also said that freshmen were taking more time this year than in previous years. "It's a lot slower today than it has been," Rasmussen said. "A lot of [freshmen] are really taking their time to make good decisions and find what place is right for them."

"It's not as quick [as last year], but a lot of our bids were given to frosh who are uncontactable or have parent issues," said Delta Kappa Epsilon Rush Chair Michael J. Hendricks '02. Of 12 bids extended, Deke had five pledges by yesterday at 4 p.m. The house expects nine or ten freshmen to pledge overall.

Pledges for Lambda Chi Alpha were coming more slowly than expected, with two freshman pledging by 4 p.m. yesterday out of an expected pledge class of 14. Rush Chair Kip M. Johann-Berkel '02 said that he thought fewer freshmen matched the traits LCA was looking for in new members. "I don't think there were as many incoming freshmen that sort of fit the personality of the house," Johann-Berkel said.

Sigma Phi Epsilon Assistant Rush Chair William D. Fournier '02 said that his house is doing "a little worse" than last year. As of 4 p.m. yesterday, Sig Ep had

two pledges out of twelve extended bids. Sig Ep had initially planned for 14 pledges in their drive to fill the house after a reorganization gutted the brotherhood two years ago.

"At this point for most people, rush is getting to pretty much done," Fournier said. "We're having a lot more competition with dorms [for freshmen]."

Phi Sigma Kappa also experienced increased competition with dorms this year, according to Rush

bid day. That's not how it works. [They] have to spend time at houses to get a bid."

### Some houses experience upturn

While pledges were coming in slowly for most houses, some houses were exceeding rush expectations. Sigma Chi was the first house to close its rush desk with all ten bids accepted before 9:20 a.m. yesterday, said Sigma Chi member Dusty L. Dequine '01.

After a slow rush last year, Theta Chi had a stellar first day this year, with eleven freshmen pledging by 4 p.m. yesterday. Rush Chair Matthew P. Monteleone '02 said that his house will likely exceed its goal of 10-12 pledges, a substantial increase over last year's five-member pledge class.

"All in all, rush has been fantastic," Monteleone said, adding that the number of freshmen and earliness of pledging was much better than in

years past.

Despite being suspended from their house during rush, Kappa Sigma will also likely have a large pledge class. Rush Chair Kevin T. Weston '03 said that his house had eleven pledges yesterday afternoon, adding that he expects to reach the house's goal of fifteen pledges by week's end.

Katherine H. Allen, Daniel C. Stevenson, and Jennifer Young contributed to the reporting of this article.

*"We had seen some guys who didn't really understand [rush] .... They thought they could shop around and expect to get a bid on bid day. That's not how it works."*

—Ian M. McCreery '01  
Pi Lambda Phi Rush Chair

Chair Gregory D. Dennis '02. "Last year was more successful," Dennis said. Phi Sig had nine pledges by 4 p.m. yesterday out of thirteen to fifteen expected, fewer than last year's pledge class of 18 freshmen.

Ian M. McCreery '01, Pi Lambda Phi rush chair, said house shopping was a primary cause of the slowdown in pledging.

"We had seen some guys who didn't really understand [rush]," he said. "They thought they could shop around and expect to get a bid on

# GSC

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**Campus Walking Tour**  
Aug. 29, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

**Library Orientation**  
Stack Library 20-222  
Aug. 29, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

**2nd Floor Lobby 2.0**  
Aug. 29, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

**Official Welcome and Luncheon**  
Hodge Theater/Gov  
Aug. 29, 12:00 - 2:00 PM

**Family Picnic**  
Pondside Courtyard  
Aug. 29, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

**Security Safety**  
First of Hodge Gov  
Aug. 29, 2:00 - 4:00 PM  
Please follow the yellow signs



**Deck Tour**  
Hodge Theater 20-222  
Sept. 1, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

**Ice Cream Social**  
Yellow Mountain 20-222  
Sept. 1, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

**Night on the Town**  
Miller Memorial  
Sept. 1, 10:00 - 11:00 PM

**Hiking Trip**  
Peak Mt. Washington  
Sept. 2, 7:00 AM

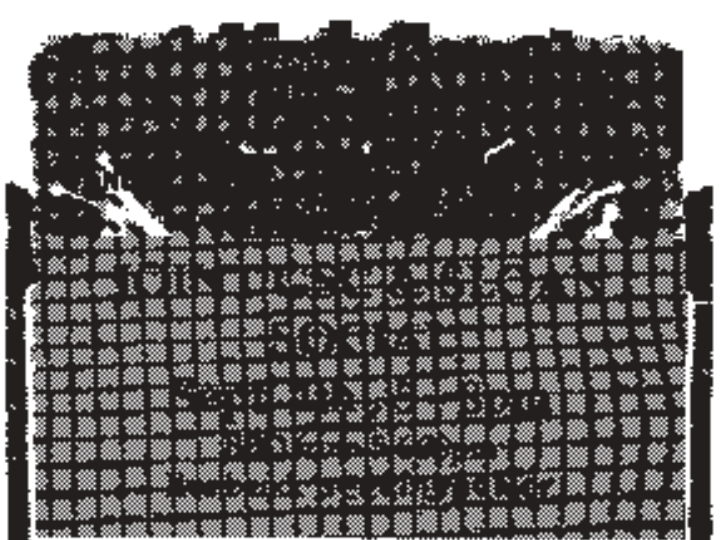
**Harbor Cruise**  
Long Wharf Station  
Sept. 2, 7:00 - 8:00 AM

**Red Sox**  
Fenway Park  
Sept. 2, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

**MMC/Dean BBQ**  
Hodge Gov  
Sept. 2, 12:00 - 2:00 PM

**Whale Watch**  
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**Wednesday, Aug 30, 2000**

# Freshmen Question Midway

Perspective, from Page 1

David G. Moore '04 was at first concerned about the rush process but said that the free food encouraged him to give rush a change. "I was sure there was something they weren't telling us, like afterward they'd beat us with a stick," he said, "but the food was free, so it seemed like a sweet deal. Now I'm dead set on pledging, where before I was sure about a dorm."

## Residence Midway 'superficial'

While praising the rush process in general, many freshmen were critical of the Residence Midway, calling it unsuccessful in exposing freshmen to dorm and living group life. Parul Deora '04 said the midway was superficial and said there was "little to be seen" for women. "It was good to get a sense of a particular group's culture, but you can't get a good idea of who they really are and what they are about," she said.

Other freshmen concurred with Deora, voicing concerns about how the hype of rush might obscure the reality of some living groups. Despite being excited for the "complete chaos" of rush, Maria E. Hidalgo '04 said, "If it were real, we'd all be sitting around studying."

Moore disagreed, calling the midway immensely helpful. "I was originally not planning on rushing at all, but it gave me a better idea of fraternity life than everyone just talking about rush," he said.

While the residence midway was intended to help freshmen learn about their housing options, it sometimes seemed to help living group members more than freshmen. Several houses used the midway to scout potential members and meet summer contacts. Nu Delta Rush Chair Rick G. Watkins '02 praised the midway, saying that it was "good for screening." Living groups also took advantage of the first opportunity to distribute their schedule cards and begin rushing in earnest.

Some freshmen worried that the conditions of the houses would deteriorate with the end of rush. "I don't really think there's any other way to represent it," McHarg said. "They want you to live with them, so they're going to show you their best side."

Todd P. Logan '04 felt he was being given, "for the most part, an honest perspective. They want you to fit in as much as you want to fit in."

Bagaria was concerned at first, but his worries were allayed as rush continued. "There is a veil of fake-ness in some places, but it's obvious that when they want you they're straight up," he said.



LEONID DROZHININ — THE TECH

Freshmen at East Campus construct robots to battle with the aid of upperclassmen.

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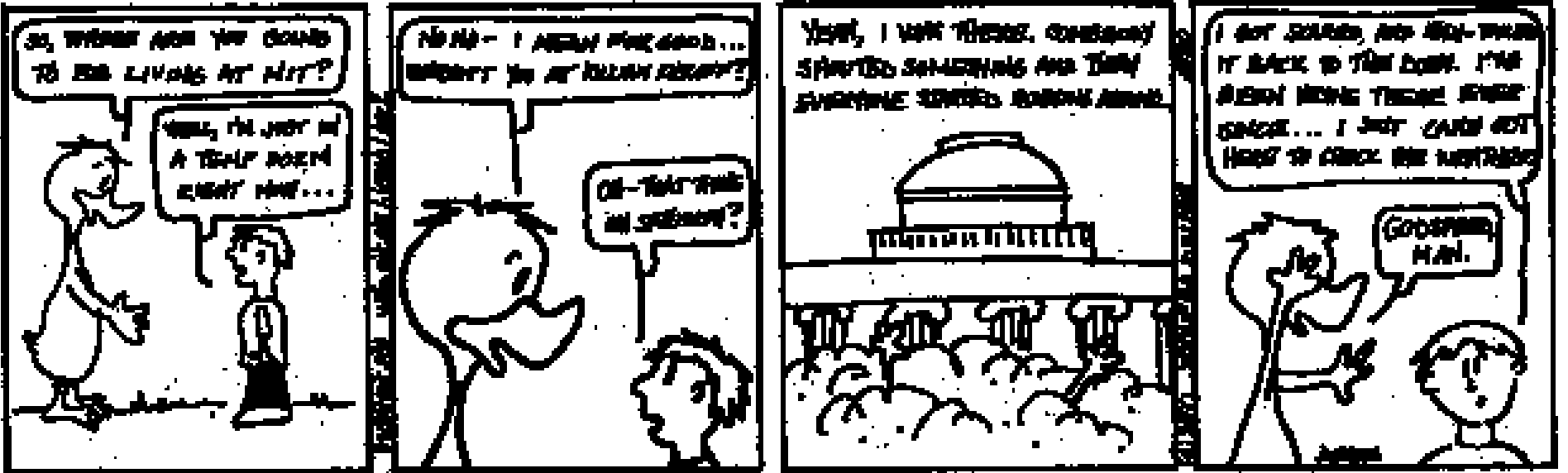
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## Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase



## TechCalendar

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

Wednesday, August 30

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.

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. - 12:30 p.m. - **New Faculty Orientation**. Orientation for new faculty members. free. Room: MIT Faculty Club. Sponsor: Faculty Chair. Office of the Provost.

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.

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - **UROP Panel Discussion**. Come meet UROP staff and a panel of UROP students. We will discuss the UROP program in detail: how to get involved, current research, deadlines, etc. A question and answer session will follow

the discussion. Anyone interested in learning more about UROP is welcome to attend. free. Room: 1-190. Sponsor: UROP.

3:00 p.m. - **Spontaneous Production of The "Space" Pirates of Penzance**. Show cast on first-come, first served (e-mail [gsp-ec@mit.edu](mailto:gsp-ec@mit.edu) with name and ranked list of role preferences; choristers welcome). Vocal scores provided, as well as piano accompaniment. Performed on the set of the MIT Musical Theater Guild's Return to the Forbidden Planet. free. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Gilbert and Sullivan Players, MIT.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - **Waltz lesson**. free. Room: Building 34, 3rd floor lobby. Sponsor: MIT Ballroom Dance Team.

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - **Ice Cream Social**. Enjoy ice cream, meet the folks in the Graduate Christian Fellowship, and maybe win cool prizes. free. Room: Green Hall, Basement Kitchen. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.

8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. - **International Film Club Film Series**. free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, International Film Club.

# Crossword Puzzle



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Arts  
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Opinion

# Open House at The Tech

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Sunday, Sep. 10th  
2-5 p.m.  
Student Center Room 483

THIS IS THE THIRD SEGMENT IN A THREE-PART PREVIEW OF MIT FALL VARSITY SPORTS.

COMPILED BY SUSAN BUCHMAN AND MING-TAI HUH

VOLLEYBALL

After making it to the semifinals of the NEWMAC championships last year, the women's volleyball team has its eye on winning it all this year.

"The NEWMAC conference tournament will be the most important event of the season as the winner receives an automatic bid to the NCAA Championship Tournament," said head coach Paul Dill.

Last year was the women's volleyball team's best finish in five years. The team finished with an overall record of 27-10 and a conference record of 7-2.

Furthermore, the team finished

the season ranked fourth out of 61 New England teams, and made it to the finals of the East Coast Athletic Conference North Volleyball championships.

This year, however, the team will have to deal with the loss of two All-Conference players. Setter Alarice Huang '00, NEWVA All-Region Team and Academic All-American, and outside hitter Jill Margetts '00, NEWVA All-Region Team and ECAC All-Tournament Team, both graduated in June.

"First year players Jill Kaup '03 and Saujin Yi '01 are looking to add some additional firepower to the team's arsenal. Freshmen

Samantha Brenner, Nydia Clayton, Nayeli Dault, Bo Kim, and Jessie Pawlowski will round out the team," Dill said.

Returning players include middle hitters Kelly Martens '03 and Lauren Frick '03, setter Christina Almodovar '02, hitters Barb Schultze '02 and Amy Mok '02, and defensive specialists Linda Yu '02 and Parisa Habibi '02.

"With only one senior on this year's squad, the next two seasons promise to be exciting ones for the program, as the team looks to gain their third NCAA Championship Tournament bid in four years," Dill said.



ROSHAN BALIGA-THE TECH  
Amy Mok '02 spikes a ball during volleyball practice on Tuesday.

ADDITIONAL SPORTS

Women's cross-country

The women's cross-country team finished fourth in the NEWMAC championships last fall.

Although the team will have to deal with the loss of standout and captain Deborah S. Won '00, the return of Marissa Yates '03, who consistently placed second for Tech last fall when not injured, will help the team continue its success.

Field hockey

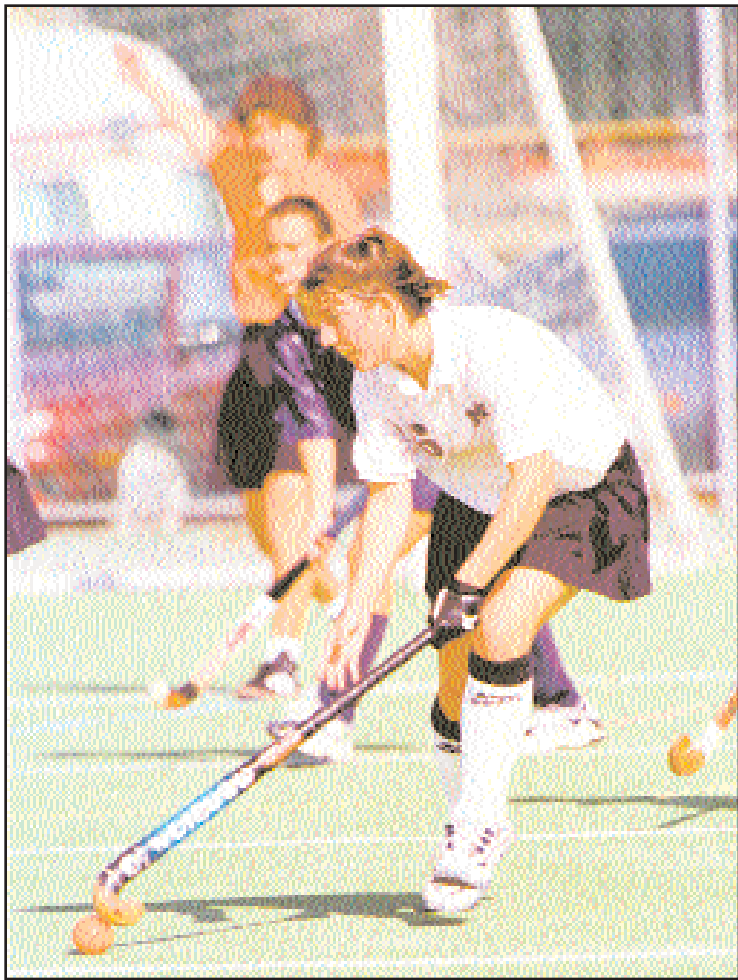
After going 1-8 in NEWMAC last season and losing six of the twenty players from last season to

graduation, the field hockey team will need an infusion of powerful freshmen and strong performances by the returning starters to achieve a winning season.

Sailing

Early this summer, the co-ed sailing team made it to the national championship regatta for the first time since 1984, finishing twelfth out of eighteen.

Last fall, both the co-ed and women's sailing teams qualified for the Atlantic Coast Championship Regatta. However, this fall the team will be without the four All-Americans who graduated in June.



Field Hockey

TECH FILE PHOTO



Sailing

TECH FILE PHOTO

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