

The Weather

Today: Clearing up, 80°F (27°C)
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 68°F (24°C)
Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 85°F (29°C)
Details, Page 2

Institute Welcomes Graduates

GSC Offers Variety of Trips and Information

By Kevin R. Lang
STAFF REPORTER

As helpful as residential rush can be for incoming freshmen, new graduate students have little need for fraternity parties and dorm barbeques. Instead, the Graduate Student Council offers a full schedule of orientation activities for new grad students.

Since Tuesday, the GSC has sponsored campus tours that focus on locations important to grad students, including the major laboratories on campus. The GSC also operates an orientation booth in Lobby 10 each day from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., featuring GSC newsletters, flyers, maps, and other information. In addition, students can sign up for several GSC-sponsored orientation events.

Unlike undergraduate orientation, the GSC program does not include any housing matters, since incoming grad students arrange housing over the summer. Rather, GSC orientation focuses on "grad student life and what they can do around town," said GSC Orientation

Grad Orientation, Page 13

Most Freshmen Get First Housing Choice



MOMENT OF TRUTH — Helen Zhou '04 (left), Chen Yang '04 (seated), and Catherine H. Chen '04 pause as they await Yang's housing lottery assignment in the crowded 5th floor Stratton Athena cluster.

By Mike Hall
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The housing lottery ran more smoothly this year than last year, with about two-thirds of freshmen receiving their first-choice dormitory and only seven receiving a choice ranked lower than third.

However, for the second consecutive year, some students were left out of the lottery. This year, 36 students will not receive housing assignments until today at 4 p.m.

East Campus led all dorms again this year with 115 new residents, beating Burton-Conner House by one freshmen. Next House was close behind with 104 freshmen, followed by Baker House at 92. As in 1999, Bexley Hall received the fewest number of new residents this year — 15 freshmen.

Baker was the most popularly-

chosen dorm, with 179 freshmen ranking it first. MacGregor House was in second with 133 first rankings, and Burton-Conner placed third with 90. Senior House and Random Hall were the least-requested dorms, with 24 and 17 first-ranks respectively.

Freshmen could not select McCormick Hall in this year's lottery. New residents at McCormick were selected before the lottery to participate in a pilot residential advising program.

New lottery improves results

Phillip M. Bernard, manager of undergraduate residential services, was pleased with the smoothness of this year's lottery.

"It's so calm," Bernard said. "I'm very pleased with the way it went."

The success of this year's lottery stands in stark contrast to the housing difficulties last year. Bernard said that last year's algorithm was inefficient, taking over two hours to run completely. In the end, the Housing Office had to use the 1998 algorithm, resulting in a poor distribution that left some freshmen in dorms they ranked below fifth.

Bernard and his department worked throughout the year to improve the algorithm, with Bernard himself running ten to fifteen simulations to test the program's boundaries. During the actual execution, the improved algorithm took only fifteen minutes

Lottery, Page 15

Dorm	No. of First Choice Ranks	Total Assigned	Rank Received					1999 First Choice Ranks*	1999 Assigned
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th		
Baker	179 (27.3%)	92	84	8	0	0	0	120 (18.8%)	68
MacGregor	133 (20.3%)	78	62	16	0	0	0	125 (19.5%)	77
Burton-Conner	90 (13.7%)	114	70	44	0	0	0	50 (7.8%)	101
Next	74 (11.3%)	104	53	32	19	0	0	98 (15.3%)	95
East Campus	65 (9.9%)	115	60	41	14	0	0	59 (9.2%)	112
Bexley	38 (5.8%)	15	13	2	0	0	0	31 (4.8%)	21
New	36 (5.5%)	51	32	17	0	2	0	28 (4.4%)	61
Senior	24 (3.6%)	25	15	5	3	2	0	21 (3.3%)	36
Random	17 (2.6%)	27	12	6	6	0	3	27 (4.2%)	32

* All 1999 numbers from September 2, 1999, the date following the first 1999 residence lottery. New residents at McCormick Hall this year received their housing assignments through a pilot residential advising program. In 1999, 81 (12.7%) freshmen selected McCormick as their first choice.

SOURCE: OFFICE OF RESIDENCE LIFE AND STUDENT LIFE PROGRAMS

Sorority Rush Goes Slowly This Year

By Dana Levine
NEWS EDITOR

Low attendance at this year's Panhellenic Association events resulted in a sorority rush which was somewhat weaker than that of previous years.

Unlike the system used by MIT's fraternities, in which freshmen may receive multiple bids, only one bid is extended to each female freshman. Each sorority is given an

inflexible quota of bids, which is determined by the number of the girls who attend the rush parties.

This year, only about 200 freshmen attended the women's convocation, significantly fewer than last year. Since most women who participate in sorority rush go directly from convocation to the rush rooms, this severely limited the pool of potential pledges for MIT's sororities.

In the final stage of the system, each sorority creates a list ranking its rushees, the list is matched with preferences submitted by the freshmen, and the Panhellenic Association distributes the bids.

Upon receiving a bid, a freshman may choose to either accept it or to defer her decision. If she chooses to defer, then she has until Friday to

Sororities, Page 15

Media Lab Seeks Permit for Expansion

By Katie Jeffreys
FEATURES EDITOR

MIT officials are scheduled to go before the Cambridge Planning Board on September 12, to present plans for a Media Lab extension.

The Institute hopes to obtain an Interim Planning Overlay Permit for the new building, the Okawa Center for Future Children. However, changes in local zoning regulations may delay the permit approval process until January.

"The city is trying to replace the current interim IPOP legislation with permanent legislation," said

Susan Personette, Senior Project Manager in the Department of Facilities. The current regulations expire in early October, after having received several extensions.

"If we do not go ahead on September 12, we will have to wait until January, because there is a three month moratorium" on IPOPs after the old rules expire, said Personette.

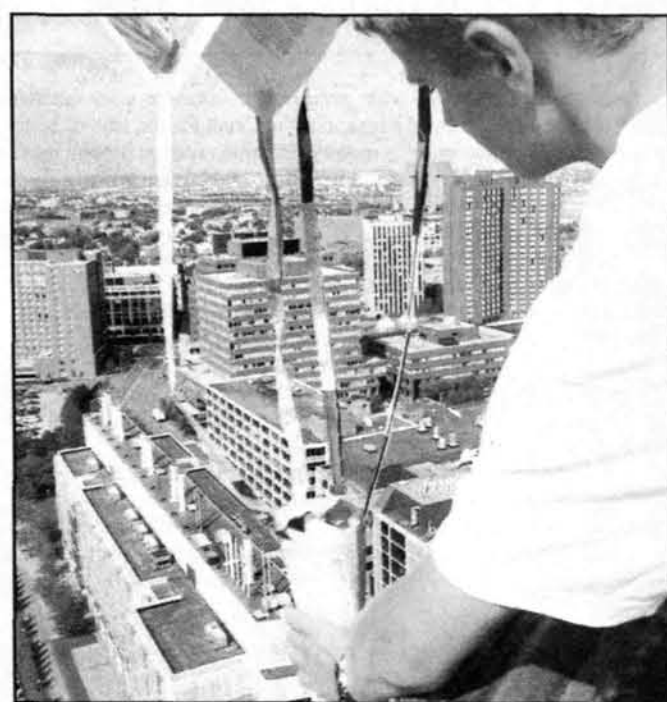
Construction of the building is slated to commence in January 2001 and finish in 2003. Since the building plan meets current zoning regulations, the IPOP review will not

affect the construction schedule.

One of the main issues under review is a traffic study conducted by the MIT contractors. The study examined the effects of the building on pedestrians, parking, and traffic. The study concluded that the new building will not impact traffic. "We are not adding new people," Personette said. "We are just moving them around."

An additional concern is the aesthetic appearance of the building to passing pedestrians. Personette said

Media Lab, Page 15



Matt Malinowski '04 prepares to drop the "New World Order" team entry in the annual Integrated Studies Program Egg Drop. Malinowski and teammates Jim Roewe '04 and Alex Khripin '04 won decisively by 20 points, with a score of 83. Twenty teams participated in the event.

ARTS

Return to the Forbidden Planet may be the worst-written musical of all time.

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Comics

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OPINION

Jyoti Tibrewala critiques the close-mouthed, deceptive procedures of sorority rush.

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WORLD & NATION

Gore Pushes 'Lockbox' For Medicare Funds

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PORTLAND, ORE.

With his running mate at his side, Vice President Al Gore took another political scalpel to the issue of health care Wednesday and chastised his opponent's proposed use of the federal budget surplus for tax cuts rather than for meeting the United States' social needs.

On a day set aside to highlight the problems of Medicare, Gore, the Democratic presidential nominee, and Sen. Joseph Lieberman instead spent more than an hour at a downtown campus meandering through myriad health care issues with local residents, from Medicare's shortfall in treating one woman for a stroke to the need for diabetes research.

Recording it all was a film crew seeking material for Gore campaign commercials.

The theme woven throughout the program: that Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the Republican presidential nominee, would send the excess money in the federal budget back to the wealthiest taxpayers while Gore would devote the surplus to shoring up programs for health and other issues.

"The other side has placed its top priority on taking virtually all of this projected surplus and giving it in the form of a giant tax cut mainly to the wealthy," Gore said. "For every \$10 that the wealthiest 1 percent would receive, middle class families would get one dime, lower income families would get one penny."

FBI Makes Arrests in Major Identity-Theft Ring

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

Underscoring concerns about the nation's fastest growing type of crime, the FBI arrested two people Wednesday and sought a third in what they described as an "identity theft" ring that used other people's names to steal more than \$700,000.

Federal authorities said that the three, using a host of aliases and addresses, masterminded the second-largest identity-theft ring ever uncovered in the United States.

As agents made the arrests, federal and local authorities were across town, testifying at a congressional hearing on the subject of identity theft.

They promised to do much more to combat it, both with legislation and increased law enforcement.

In morning raids, the FBI arrested alleged ringleaders Derrick Lionel Davis, 37, and Demond Lamont Walker, 31, both of Inglewood. A third suspect, Ramiah Latiece Lewis, 25, of Covina was still at large Wednesday night.

Authorities accused the three of stealing the names, addresses and Social Security numbers of more than 120 unwitting employees of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Los Angeles during the past 18 months.

But once they obtained the names, they used them to get credit cards and go on wild spending sprees — buying such things as big-screen TVs, refrigerators, Victoria's Secret lingerie, cellular phones and even a boa constrictor, FBI affidavits allege.

U.S. Agencies To Be Sued over Princess Diana's Car Crash

THE BALTIMORE SUN

WASHINGTON

In the latest chapter of what promises to compete with the Jon-Benet case and the death of Alexander the Great for the title of history's most well-worn coroner's inquiry, Egyptian tycoon Mohamed al-Fayed vowed Wednesday to sue a half a dozen U.S. agencies to try to uncover new information about the 1997 deaths of his son, Dodi, and Diana, Princess of Wales.

Fayed, owner of London's Harrods department store and the Ritz Hotel in Paris, repeated statements accusing the United States of withholding information about an alleged plot by British intelligence to murder his son and the princess.

And the U.S. government reprised its previous response: sympathy for a grieving old man but ridicule for the notion that there was anything new to tell about the automobile crash that killed Fayed and Diana three years ago Thursday in Paris.

"We knew there was obviously an interest in the tragedy of three years ago, but not necessarily this much interest," said an apologetic Mark Zaid, a Fayed lawyer who has also represented victims' relatives in the crash of Pan Am Flight 103 and a Washington car crash involving a Georgian diplomat that killed a 16-year-old girl.

WEATHER

Chain of Rain in Paradise

Today: Patchy fog early. Then partly sunny and humid. High around 80°F (27°C). Southeast wind around 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with patchy fog. Low 65-70°F (23-25°C).

Tomorrow: Partly sunny. Warm and humid. A 40 percent chance of afternoon showers and thunderstorms. High in the mid 80s°F (27-29°C).

Extended Forecast:

Tomorrow night: Mostly cloudy with patchy fog. Low 65-70°F (23-25°C).

Saturday: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers. High 80-85°F (26-28°C).

Sunday: Chance of showers and thunderstorms. Low in the upper 60s°F (23-25°C) and high near 80°F (27°C).

Labor day: Chance of showers. Low in the upper 60s°F (23-25°C) and high near 80°F (27°C).

Clinton Vows to Fight Drug War, Rules Out Escalation

By Esther Schrader

LOS ANGELES TIMES

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

President Clinton swooped into this troubled country Wednesday to showcase American determination to face down leftist rebels and drug traffickers. But he pledged that aiding Colombia will not embroil the United States in a military escalation echoing the Vietnam War.

"I reject the idea that we must choose between supporting peace and fighting drugs. We can do both; indeed, to succeed, we must do both," Clinton said at a ceremony to tout \$1.3 billion in U.S. military and social assistance to bolster President Andres Pastrana's government against powerful guerrilla forces intertwined with drug traffickers.

The aid, approved by Congress in June, is the centerpiece of a broader, \$7.5 billion Colombian plan to fight the drug scourge, help refugees and strengthen government institutions.

"A condition of this aid is that we are not going to get into a shooting war, that it is not Vietnam, neither is it Yankee imperialism," Clinton said.

Colombia produces an estimated 90 percent of the cocaine that enters the United States. The guerrilla forces are linked to much of the trade.

Thousands of people lined the streets of this suddenly spiffed up colonial city to catch a glimpse of Clinton during his nine-hour visit, the first by a U.S. president to Colombia in a decade.

On the outskirts of the city were thousands more who missed the fanfare. Refugees from the bitter war that has escalated since rebels began to piggyback on the drug trade during the 1990s, they live in squalor in tent camps — a testament to the chaos that has all but ripped this

country apart.

Clinton was accompanied by House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and 10 other senior members of Congress from both major parties, all eager to demonstrate their commitment to the fight against drugs.

Attorney General Janet Reno, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and federal drug czar Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey were also on the trip, which included a private meeting between Clinton and Pastrana.

The Colombian leader, looking delighted at finally having the long-promised aid in hand, thanked Clinton and congressional leaders for its passage.

The visit is meant to emphasize a close new relationship between the United States and Pastrana's government, which has pledged to attack drug trafficking at its roots. Until Pastrana took office just over a year ago, relations between the two countries had cooled as evidence emerged that Colombian government figures had ties to the country's then-leading drug cartels.

But in recent months, the United States has thrown its weight behind Pastrana's efforts. Congress approved the aid package by a bipartisan majority. Last week, Clinton waived several human rights conditions put on the aid by Congress, declaring Colombia a national security priority.

The aid — much of which is for military assistance, including 60 attack helicopters and 500 U.S. Army and intelligence instructors — has been controversial. It is more money than the United States has invested in a Latin American military effort since the Central American conflicts of the 1980s, when Washington and the Soviet Union vied for influence in the region.

The Clinton administration argues that the aid is essential to stem the rise in drug exports that fund leftist guerrillas and right-wing paramilitary groups. Critics fear the aid will only increase the level of violence.

Human rights groups charge that the effort is ill-advised and short on social assistance. They brandish ample evidence that Colombia's military and police forces have committed abuses. Conservatives say the aid package, delayed by the administration for more than six months while top Republicans in Congress sounded the alarm about drug trafficking, comes too late.

The United States has steadily increased its anti-narcotics assistance to Colombia during Clinton's second term, to \$300 million this year from \$65 million in 1996. Still, coca production in the country has surged during that time.

Hoping for greater success from the coming infusion of money, Clinton pressed Pastrana on Wednesday to complement the new military anti-narcotics offensive with civilian aid programs to avoid a refugee crisis that could spill into neighboring countries and add fighters to guerrilla ranks.

In his meeting with Clinton, aides said Pastrana made a case for broad new trade privileges from the United States that he hopes would boost the country's economy. He also asked the United States to play a more active role in spurring peace talks between the guerrilla forces and the government.

The Colombian economy was dealt a blow this year when the United States signed a trade agreement with Caribbean nations. Clinton said he and Hastert support legislation that would allot some of the same trade preferences to Colombia.

Labor Board Rules Temporary Workers Get Right to Unionize

By Frank Swoboda

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Recognizing the changing nature of the American work force, the National Labor Relations Board has voted to make it easier for millions of temporary workers to join unions and win benefits on the job.

The ruling released Wednesday comes as the nation's employers increasingly rely on temporary staff to trim costs and gain flexibility. Temps, contractors and consultants who are not attached to a company's core work force make up as much as 25 percent of the nation's employment base by some estimates, or nearly 35 million workers.

The number of temporary jobs in the United States rose 577 percent from 1982 to 1998, according to the General Accounting Office, while overall employment grew 47 percent. Manpower Inc., a temp agency, is now the nation's largest employer.

Analysts said the 3-1 ruling by the labor board will have its most immediate impact on employees of temporary agencies, including Manpower, which send an estimated 3 million people into the workplace on any given day. Although these employees are hired by the temporary agency, the board ruled that for the purposes of labor law they are considered employees of the client company if they work side-by-side with fulltime employees, doing the same work under the same supervision.

The ruling is unlikely to apply to

temps who pop in and out of a clerical pool, but rather to workers on longer-term assignments at companies that are seeking to save money on benefits and training.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney praised the labor board for recognizing the "seismic shifts in employment relationships in the changing economy." Sweeney called the ruling "an important step" in addressing the rights of contingent workers whom he said have often been "relegated to second-class status and rights" because of their inability to join unions.

But Stephan Bokat of the National Chamber Litigation Center — which filed a brief in support of employers — said the ruling would "complicate the way employers deal with employees" as well as eliminate some of the cost advantages of using temporary workers. He said that under the ruling employers would "have to treat [temps] pretty much like regular employees."

Patrick Cleary of the National Association of Manufacturers said the ruling would give union voting rights "to people with a much more casual attachment to the employer." He said the decision likely would be tested in court in future cases.

Some unions already were planning to act on the new rule. Judy Scott, general counsel of the Service Employees International Union, said her group would be able to boost its organizing in hospitals that often hire temporary nurses on a long-term basis.

The board's move is "a great victory for workers," Scott said, because it would no longer allow employees to artificially separate the two groups of workers. "It doesn't open the floodgates," she said, "but it certainly will open a window."

Challenges to the widespread use of temporary workers have also landed in court in recent years. In one of the more celebrated cases, thousands of current and former independent contractors and temporary workers sued Microsoft Corp., essentially claiming that they deserved the same rights as permanent employees. They won in a U.S. appeals court and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case.

Under a 1990 ruling by the labor board, however, the only way temporary employees could bargain with the leasing employer until now was if both the temp agency and its client company agreed to let them do it. That seldom happened, according to labor experts.

The ruling Wednesday involved challenges to three different employers — a marine services company, a textile processor and a recycling firm — that the board has been considering since 1996. In its decision, the board wrote that it had reconsidered its 1990 ruling because of the "ongoing changes in the American work force... including the increased use of companies that specialize in supplying 'temporary' and 'contract' workers to augment the work forces of traditional employers."

Court Rules Bush's Medicaid Program in Texas Inadequate

By Maria L. La Ganga
LOS ANGELES TIMES

CINCINNATI

Texas Gov. George W. Bush, who has campaigned on his record of caring for needy Texans, was caught flat-footed Wednesday by a federal court ruling that said his state has not provided adequate medical care for poor children.

U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice ruled earlier this month that Texas had not lived up to a 1996 legal agreement to improve children's access to Medicaid.

Although the ruling was filed Aug. 14, and the state attorney general's office was aware of it, neither Bush nor his campaign staff had

heard of the decision until Wednesday when they were peppered with questions about it.

Bush landed here at the end of a campaign day — which began in New Hampshire, touched down in Pennsylvania, started out on education and warmed up with jibes at the Clinton administration — only to be asked repeatedly about the decision.

He hadn't seen it, he said, and did not know about it until Wednesday. "I look forward to seeing exactly what [Justice] was referring to," Bush said.

The state attorney general will appeal the ruling, said Karen Hughes, Bush's communications director. "The state emphatically disagrees with the findings of this very

activist, liberal judge," she said.

The Gore campaign — which has focused this week on proposals for covering uninsured children — pounced on the issue. Gore spokeswoman Kym Spell said the ruling "is just the latest evidence that Gov. Bush's policies have left countless families in Texas without health insurance — most tragically children."

The original suit to improve Medicaid for young Texans dates back to 1993, during the tenure of Bush's predecessor, Gov. Ann Richards. The consent decree — nearly 150 measures that the state agreed to take — was finalized in 1996, during Bush's first term as governor.

Scientists Make Machine System That Mimics Darwinian Evolution

By Curt Supplee
THE WASHINGTON POST

Scientists in the burgeoning field of artificial life have reached a major milestone, creating a computerized system that automatically evolves, improves and builds a variety of simple mobile creatures without any significant human intervention.

The "robotic life forms" midwifed into being by two Brandeis University researchers are a few inches long, comprise one- or two-dozen plastic parts and have rudimentary nervous systems made of wire. They only do one trick — crudely shoving themselves, inchworm-like, along a horizontal surface using miniature motors.

By the standards of even the

cheapest automated toys, that may not seem like much. But the creatures described in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature* were not imagined, designed or even constructed by people. Their advent, Jordan B. Pollack and Hod Lipson say, marks "the first time robots have been robotically designed and robotically fabricated."

In effect, their existence tests the ability of man-made systems to mimic one of the most fundamental processes in nature: evolution through classic Darwinian, survival-of-the-fittest selection. Their body plans evolved entirely from scratch inside a computer program just as real animal groups did, that is through the random accumulation of mutations.

After hundreds of "generations," the software then determined which among scores of wildly dissimilar body designs was best adapted to the real world and sent instructions to an automatic plastic fabricator to build examples of the "fittest."

Within a few minutes of taking shape — and after small motors were installed where the evolutionary software called for them and the nervous system plan was downloaded to a microcontroller — the creatures began to creep across a tabletop.

The achievement, according to Rodney Brooks, head of MIT's Artificial Intelligence Lab, is "a long awaited and necessary step toward the ultimate dream of self-evolving machines."

Bush Continues To Stress Education

LOS ANGELES TIMES

ERIE, PA.

George W. Bush Wednesday ratcheted up his efforts to convince voters that he is the leader who will bring change to the nation's failing education system, accusing his Democratic opponent of overseeing "seven years of stagnancy" in schools and doing nothing to reduce the "achievement gap" between minority and white students.

After days of being criticized for failing to be specific on policy proposals, the Bush campaign tried out a new line of attack Wednesday, saying it is Gore who is not being specific. Bush communications director Karen Hughes said that Gore had not given an accounting of how he would spend the \$115 billion, 10-year increase he has proposed for education. She then walked reporters through the two dozen education proposals — including three Bush made Wednesday — that she said would cost \$47 billion over 10 years.

The centerpiece of Bush's proposals was a provision to boost the federal Pell Grant program by \$5 billion over five years. Currently, the Pell Grant program provides scholarships of up to \$3,300 a year to 4 million low-income students at a cost of \$7.9 billion a year. Under Bush's plan, students in their first year of college would be eligible for up to \$5,100 at a cost of \$5.1 billion over five years. Bush said the plan would encourage more young people to enter and finish their college educations.

Iranian, American Legislators Take Steps Toward Formal Relations

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

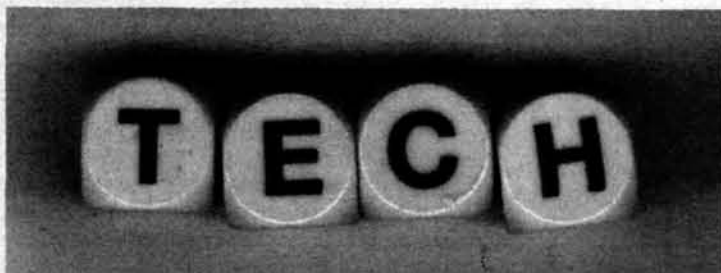
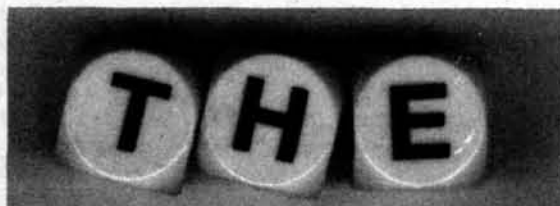
In the highest-ranking exchange between Tehran and Washington since the 1979 American Embassy takeover, Iranian and U.S. legislators met in New York on Wednesday to begin discussing issues of mutual concern and ways to reduce hostilities.

The meeting, sponsored by the U.S.-Iran Council but approved by Iran, is being touted as the opening round in an initiative designed to formally end tensions and move more decisively to renew diplomatic relations, according to Iranian and Congressional sources.

"This is a signal that Iran is ready to meet publicly with American legislators," said a well-placed Iranian who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the topic.

During the two-hour session, the American legislators extended an invitation for the Iranians to send a formal delegation to visit their counterparts in Washington. The Iranian source said the five-person delegation from Iran was interested in exploring a two-way exchange that would also take American legislators to Tehran.

In an interview, Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said he hopes the ground-breaking event will accelerate rapprochement. "It's time to start a dialogue with Iran, and since there isn't an official government-to-government dialogue, this parliamentary contact will be the way to break the ice," he said.



The Tech Open House
Sunday Sep. 10, 2-5pm

If you're interested in:

- Sports
- Arts
- Features
- Opinion
- Production
- News
- Web Design
- Boggle™

Talk to people we love you all
No experience necessary

We have ice cream

If you like stay for our news
meeting @ 5 and pizza @ 6

Other departmental meetings @ 6
every Sunday

OPINION

Institutional Wisdom Watch

By The Tech editorial board



- ↓ **Rush:** Vest's speech was more interesting. Yawn.

↔ **Baker:** If everyone loves its "social" reputation, how come no one visited?
- ↑ **ATO/Kappa Sig:** Rush goes surprisingly well. All fraternities should get their licenses suspended next year.

? **Grad dorm:** Possibility of housing freshmen there might finally get it built.
- ↓ **Next House:** Dorm bagged for petty offense, proving CLC is an equal-opportunity inquisitor.

↓ **Pet Policy:** All bark. No bite.
- ↑ **Lori Berenson:** Guilty or not, five years in an Andean prison is probably enough.

↑ **Survivor:** Just goes to show Sloanes can make it somewhere.
- ↓ **EC Renovations:** Bolshevik subcontractors hatch redistribution of wealth scheme and pilfer students' property.

↔ **Admins plugging The Tech:** Vest and Benedict break ASA rush rules. IW can't wait for the smackdown.



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The Clanton-Enger
Copley News Service



GORE'S OTHER KISS

Opinion Policy

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Dissents are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and may be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions may be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

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

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure who to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. *The Tech* can be found on the World-Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

Before Rushing into Anything

Guest Column
Jyoti Tibrewala

As an incoming freshman, I have become familiar with the rush procedure employed by the Panhellenic Association. I can't say I have abided strictly by the rules; I attended the tours held on Saturday, but did not really attend Open House I — technically, I did, since I accompanied one of my roommates to one sorority's open house and signed in and out merely for the sorority's records. The next morning, I managed to completely avoid setting foot near the exhibit area in Stratton during Open House II.

Later that day, freshmen were advised to check back to see if they had received any invites. Now, since I hadn't attended Open House, I didn't expect an invite. The only one I could fathom being invited to was the one whose door I sat outside of, Sigma Kappa. So, I decided to make a cameo at Kresge Auditorium, the site of the invitation distribution.

You can imagine my surprise when I was handed an invitation to Informal and Theme. But alas, it was not from Sigma Kappa but from Kappa Alpha Theta, the first sorority during my tour. That Sunday alone, I had seen some interesting things (having visited the East Campus dorms), but the invite from Theta brought me into a stupor.

Before I go on, perhaps I should provide you with an insight into the opinion I held about sororities going into Panhellenic Rush. Let me start by telling you that I care very strongly about my parents' approval of my decisions. It would take a great deal to make me do something that they were adamantly opposed to. However, that isn't to say that I don't have a mind of my own. If my beliefs are strong enough, I will argue my case with anyone, even my parents, to get them to agree or, at least, consider my story.

I watch the news. So do my parents. We've seen the countless stories of hazing and other outrageous rituals performed and/or required for initiation by fraternities and sororities. And as such, I have also heard the countless warnings about sororities: Don't ever join a sorority: if you do, your life is over. I don't want to get a phone call one night and learn that you're in the hospital and I'm miles away and helpless. They may sound

annoying, but I take my parents' admonishing to heart, because I know they have my best interests at heart. Besides, I don't exactly want to end up in a car wreck or worse just because of so-called sisterhood.

However, I had visited MIT in April for its Campus Preview Weekend, and the then-freshmen had told me that Orientation and rush week provide tons of free food. And if there's anyone who isn't attracted to that, he or she cannot possibly be a college student. So, I decided that I would attend Informal and Theme — if, for nothing else, for the possibility of free food; the first Informal featured chocolate fondue served with fruits.

During the night, I was, of course, bombarded with small-talk-type questions from various sisters. The most intelligent question I was asked the entire night was: do you have any questions for us? — mind you that I only found this question intelligent the first time I heard it.

Now, I have to say that my mind was slowly becoming more open. Perhaps I took into consideration the fact that, although they were a sorority, they were also MIT students; therefore, their agenda was similar, if not the same, as mine — to succeed. Things had to be different at MIT because it is simply a different type of school. Maybe I would consider pledging a sorority. Then I became plagued by the question of how I would break the news to my parents to get their endorsement. Therefore, the most appropriate question, I felt, was what does your sorority do for Initiation, one of my parents' and my primary concerns.

But the Theta member I was talking to would not answer my question. She said it was a secret that she could not disclose. She simply responded that it entailed a ceremony. To me, though, "ceremony" could mean anything. It could mean a candle-lighting ceremony, an oath recitation, but it could also mean a drinking fest. She would not specify the type of ceremony, and she even looked around the room cautiously, so as to make sure nobody had heard her mention the word "ceremony." I began to revert to my original mindset. I figured, if they would not elaborate on a topic that was actually more important than the nonsensical chit-chat they apparently use to evaluate potential pledges, then I would not consider pledging. Staying with the free food idea, though, I attended the daytime Informal

and the evening Theme party on Monday.

I also recall receiving a housing book from MIT in May or June that included descriptions and costs of the fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. Theta was listed as a non-residential sorority, and thus, it did not have a house bill (as I understand). The box for dues was also empty. However, during rush, it came to my attention that a freshman pledge of Kappa Alpha Theta would be billed north of five hundred dollars. More withheld information. I obtained further information on what the dues are put towards, and I took some time to analyze the distributions. I can understand that the sorority has to pay a membership fee to the Panhellenic Association and the IFC. I can understand that the chapter itself must collect dues — I'm assuming these are to cover parties, decorations, and such. I can even understand and agree with the portion of the collection that must be sent to the national association of Kappa Alpha Theta.

However, I do not agree with the idea that Kappa Alpha Theta, a non-residential sorority, makes freshmen and sophomores pay a house fee. Now, maybe I'm missing something here, but to me, "non-residential" means that the association does not have a house specifically designated for its members. Understanding of basic concepts like this is part of what got me into MIT.

You have every right to tell me that, if I do not agree with its practices, that I shouldn't join Theta (although that is not the point I am making here). And I would respond by telling you that I'm not joining.

But the practices are not my only reason. Yes, the sorority did withhold information from potential pledges. Yes, members of the sorority kept information from me personally. However, part of the reason I will not be pledging any sorority has to do with the realization of what I would be paying for. I would be paying for membership in a group, in a club. There are hundreds of other clubs at MIT that do not charge five hundred dollars for membership; there are even sports clubs that have a lower price tag. Pledging means that you're paying to hang out with people. I certainly have a higher opinion of myself than to pay other people to hang out with me or to be my friends.

Jyoti Tibrewala is a member of the Class of 2004.

Experiments In Residence

Matthew L. McGann

The most interesting word in the design of MIT's new residence system isn't "rush," "squatting" or "lottery." It's "experiment."

How much of an experiment remains to be seen. What happens if, come October 2002, FSILG rush goes very poorly? What if freshman preselection of residences dramatically changes our culture? It is unclear who evaluates questions like these, and where the power lies to further experiment, if these can even be called experiments at all.

At least one program is being looked at through an experimental eye, with the leadership, as is often the case, coming from students. This summer, freshmen were asked to preferentially rank their temporary residence hall assignments. This is the first step towards 2002, when freshmen will still pick temporary dorm rooms, but will have the option of squatting that room, not having to move later in Orientation.

The crucial piece of this, though, is that the data will actually be used to look for trends, and thereby influence future policy. The summer ranking of freshmen and their temporary assignments will be compared to their ultimate living groups, and, if applicable, their dorm lottery rank orderings. In addition to this raw data, freshmen were also given a handful of survey questions to answer pertaining to residence selection. These answers, and the answers to a corresponding post-survey, will also be compiled into an aggregate.

In this way, the students who compose the ad hoc Student Residence Implementation Team hope to produce hard facts rather than just opinions on this one aspect of the new residence system design. From these hard facts in this trial run, decisions can be made as to how best implement this program when it comes time for the new system in two years. Having numbers will be crucial to overall success in the new residence system.

Today, students across campus are beginning to move into their new living groups on both sides of the river — except for five or six dozen freshmen in McCormick, who've known for weeks where their permanent rooms would be. These first-year students are taking part in what is being called a "pilot program" for residence-based advising, an old idea (ca. 1980s) being tried again.

It is not yet certain whether applying that interesting label of "experiment" to this program would be accurate. "Pilot programs" have a funny way of being made permanent without much of an announcement.

This program, as with many programs that concern residence selection, is fairly controversial. Some powerful and popular faculty and administrators support it and believe that this could be the cure to an advising system that is widely seen as suboptimal, as well as bridging the gap between academics and community. On the other side, there are some student leaders who fear that this may begin to infringe on overall choice and self-governance. Both sides make good points.

Who's right? Will it work? No one knows. I encourage a survey to be done, as soon as possible, of the students in the McCormick program. What do they expect to get out of it? Do they wish they could have gone through residence selection? How did they enjoy Orientation, without the added stress/options of rush? Did the program influence their decision whether or not to join a sorority?

The question that I'm most curious to hear the answer to is, why did they decide to participate in the Pilot Program? The answers will likely range widely. Students may have chosen to participate because they saw McCormick during Pre-fresh Weekend and decided they wanted to live there. Or maybe they wanted single-sex living, and saw this as their only sure bet. Possibly their parents pressured them into the program. Or perhaps they just wanted to have a permanent room when they arrived on campus. Or, just maybe, they really wanted to be part of the residential advising program.

No matter what the reasons, knowing their motivations will tell us all a great deal about what kinds of experiments to attempt for the future, and how we can improve McCormick's or any similar programs. Combined with the freshmen's first year grades, an effective post survey, and some qualitative data as well, we can really evaluate this experiment.

At the end of the year, faculty, administrators, and students should sit down with the numbers, their experiences, and the overall frameworks and values for the residence system and determine how best to proceed for the future. Then, we can truly say we're trying to design the best residence system possible for MIT.

The Debates: Bush Punts on Fourth Down

Mike Hall

In this election year, the American people have a critical choice to make in determining the future of this country. Who should voters choose: the Democrats' Al Gore and Joe Lieberman; the Republicans' George W. Bush and Dick Cheney; or *Monday Night Football's* Al Michaels and Dennis Miller?

The Bush campaign, at least, hopes that Americans will be able to make that choice when deciding whether or not to watch this year's presidential debates. By proposing debates during off-peak viewing hours or other major events, Dubya's handlers hope to hide his incompetence from the national eye — and, in the process, prevent America from seeing Gore at his best, excelling in a substantive discussion of policy.

Until recently, the Gore campaign's attempts to get Bush to debate at all had been futile. Early this week, Bush remained reticent to commit to any prime-time debates at all, preferring to debate on a seldom-watched Sunday morning political show.

After a *New York Times* article Tuesday raised national criticism of Bush's cowardice, his handlers finally agreed yesterday to prime-time debates. The campaign said, however, that their man was still unwilling to accept the three debates planned by the Commission on Presidential Debates, the politically-neutral sponsors of the debates since 1988.

Bush's reluctance to debate is nothing new. The problem goes back to 1994, when Bush faced off against the acerbic Ann Richards for the Texas gubernatorial election. In most elections, the challenger ends up begging for a chance to debate the incumbent. In 1994, however, the incumbent Richards ended up begging Bush, the challenger, to accept even one debate invitation. Fearing that Richards would manhandle their candidate with her sharp tongue, Bush's handlers rejected high-profile invitations from San Antonio reporters and CNN's "Larry King Live," and accepted only one invitation for a debate on a Friday night, when most Texans are attending high school football games.

Bush repeated the scheme in 1998, agreeing to only one Friday night debate with

Democratic challenger Garry Mauro.

Given Bush's performance in his limited debate experience, however, it's no wonder that his handlers would want to keep their man off the stage. Bush the debater got off to an inauspicious start in 1994, when he was called on several factual errors by Texas reporters. One of the most significant errors was during a question on his proposal to eliminate Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits after two years. When asked, for example, about his plan to cut Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits, Bush said that "people without children" should also stop receiving AFDC benefits after two years, forgetting that "people without children" would not qualify for benefits anyway under a welfare plan for families with children.

Bush's lone accomplishment in debates has been handing out *ad hominem* attacks with vigor, as shown by the vicious nature of this year's Republican primary. While U.S. Sen. John McCain offered substantive issues for debate during the primaries, Bush restricted his campaign activities to generalities and personal assaults. One glittering example came during the Jan. 26 Republican primary debate in Manchester, New Hampshire. Following McCain's insightful criticism of Bush's expansive tax-cut plan, the Great Right Hope delivered the McCarthyesque response of, "Al Gore would have written your plan, Mr. Senator." Neener, neener.

Compare to Gore, who is widely expected to win the debates handily. Some pundits believe Gore could win the White House on the basis of the debates alone. Revered widely as a "policy wonk," Gore presents a formidable debating challenge to any politician, let alone a lightweight like Bush. The best example of Gore's shining debate prowess came in November 1993, when prospects for passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement appeared to be waning. With two weeks to go before the vote in the House, President Clinton was short of passage by 30 votes, with NAFTA opponents like H. Ross Perot gloating that defeat was all but assured.

Facing the humiliation of losing on a cornerstone of his 1992 campaign, Clinton called for the Hail Mary, throwing Gore into a debate on NAFTA with the billionaire from Texas.

Most political observers criticized the move, with Perot calling it an act of desperation by Clinton to save his floundering presidency.

Coming into the debate on "Larry King Live," Gore not only faced the pressure of saving NAFTA, but also of saving the reputation of the entire Clinton administration. Little was expected of Gore, whose only prior national debate experience was in the playground taunting fest with then-Vice President Dan Quayle and James "Who am I? Why am I here?" Stockdale in 1992.

As the debate progressed, however, Gore demonstrated the skill that has the Republicans shaking in their boots. With calm and concise delivery, Gore with a logical presentation of the Clinton administration's support for increasing economic ties with America's next-door neighbors. He easily dispatched the blustery Perot, whose mindless drivel and incessant interruptions then eerily parallel Bush's debate style today.

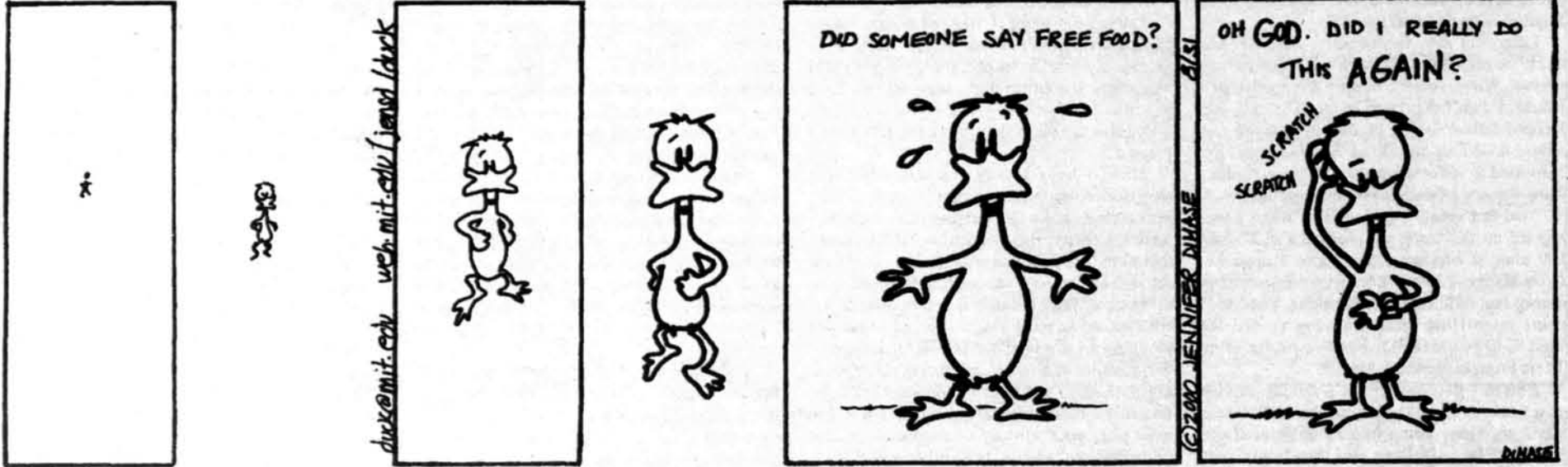
After NAFTA passed by a surprising 40-vote margin, Gore received the lion's share of the credit for changing the nation's perspective on the trade pact. Following the debate, calls favoring the pact were laced in overwhelming numbers to undecided congressmen. A Washington insider, echoing many in the Beltway, said that Gore "undressed" Perot, adding that his performance was responsible for shifting media momentum from NAFTA opponents to the White House.

Gore added to his reputation in 1996 with a solid performance against Jack Kemp in the vice presidential debate. Gore's honest style and in-depth discussion of the issues won over the American public, who gave him the victory by 20-point margins in polls by CBS and ABC. David M. Shribman, a columnist for *The Boston Globe*, noted that Gore's "dogged, disciplined style, which so often seems flat before large audiences, [was] well-suited to the small screen of television."

It's no wonder Bush's handlers want to keep Gore from getting a prime-time audience. They're afraid that the veep with crush their stumbling, bumbling main man in prime-time like a pass rusher sacking a quarterback on Monday night. Unfortunately for Dubya, cowardice doesn't play well on the football gridiron or the political gridiron.

Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase



Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Pen dame
- 4 Book bag
- 11 "Born in the ___"
- 14 Harem room
- 15 With dexterity
- 16 Org. of Senators and Capitals
- 17 Martial arts
- 19 Beaver project
- 20 Scandinavian capital
- 21 Devotee
- 22 Turner and Danson
- 23 Marine fish known by its color
- 28 Fortified residence
- 31 Builds
- 34 Quaff at the Queen's Head
- 35 Aquatic mammal of Florida
- 39 Popeye's Olive
- 40 Final letters?
- 41 Mary of Peter, Paul, and Mary

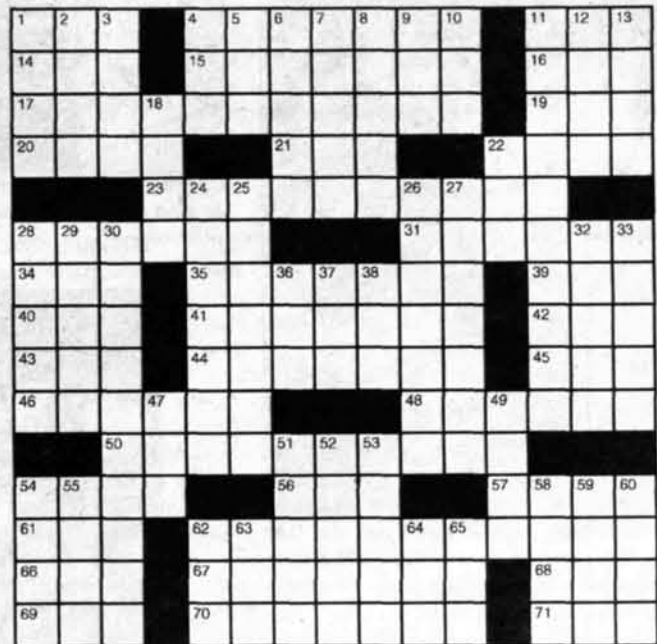
- 42 By way of
- 43 Fetch
- 44 Scotto and Tebaldi
- 45 Stop
- 46 Burdens
- 48 Bush or Burns
- 50 Bad rhymesters
- 54 Hairless
- 56 Bear hand
- 57 Vague amount
- 61 Mr. Baba
- 62 Gibraltar monkeys
- 66 Avoided defeat
- 67 Bedecked
- 68 Horned viper
- 69 Support piece
- 70 Operates
- 71 Set down

DOWN

- 1 No great shakes
- 2 Keats' poems
- 3 Side of a cubicle
- 4 Downcast
- 5 Span of time
- 6 Petty quarrels

- 7 Spotless
- 8 Natural hair-coloring
- 9 Loop loopers
- 10 Caustic stuff
- 11 Hidden
- 12 Herring's kin
- 13 Charity
- 18 Stronghold
- 22 Golf gadget
- 24 Garden shade, perhaps
- 25 "Mommie ___"
- 26 Nobility
- 27 Ironer
- 28 Ship's payload
- 29 Green-card holder
- 30 Multiplying by seven
- 32 Making knots
- 33 Senator Gorton
- 36 Fabray, casually
- 37 Actress Gardner
- 38 Asian New Year
- 47 Turf
- 49 Greek peak

- 51 Cook's coverage
- 52 Kibbutz resident, perhaps
- 53 Nasal tone
- 54 Cry excessively
- 55 Burn soother
- 58 Milky gem
- 59 Tableland
- 60 Spot
- 62 Wham ___
- 63 Nabokov novel
- 64 Female ruff
- 65 Gridiron meas.



TechCalendar

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

Wednesday, August 30

- 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 gspc@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.

Thursday, August 31

- 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.
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **City of Roses: Folkrockpopcountryblues**. Featuring Stephen Gilligan, Analyst Programmer with Development Research and Systems. free. Room: Student Center Pavilion. Sponsor: Working Group on Support Staff Issues. Artists Behind the Desk Committee.
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - **Family Picnic**. Join us for food, fun, music, and activities for kids! The picnic is for the spouses, partners, and children of MIT grad students, postdocs, and researchers. free. Room: President's Courtyard, accessible from the Infinite Corridor in Building 10 or from Lobby 13. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, spouses&partners@mit, MIT Medical.
- 12:10 p.m. - **GABLES Monthly Lunch**. GABLES is the Gay, Bisexual, and Lesbian Employees and Supporters group. Each month, on the last working day, we gather to enjoy lunch and the company of our colleagues and friends. Occasionally there are discussions of topical interest, however the focus of this event is social. The organization also works to advance the interests of GBLT employees at MIT. The lunches are open to anyone in the wider MIT community interested in our work. We have often welcomed guests from other universities and. 0.00. Room: To be announced. Sponsor: GABLES.
- 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - **This Is Spinal Tap**. LSC will be showing the rerelease of the 1984 version of "This is Spinal Tap". Marti DeBergj is a film-maker who decides to make a documentary, a rockumentary actually, about the world's loudest band, the British heavy metal group Spinal Tap. The movie is in fact a biting satire and spoof of the whole rock and roll scene that passes itself off as a real documentary of a real band. Hilarious behind-the-scenes footage is combined with faux-concert clips to breath life into the imaginary group. free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
- 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.

Friday, September 1

- 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton**. An interactive exhibition celebrat-

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.

- ing 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.
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Filemaker User Group**. The MIT FileMaker User Group (fmug) was formed for people at MIT, from beginners to experts, who are using or interested in learning to use FileMaker:Æ Pro database software and related products. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.
- 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - **MITFS weekly 'meetings'**. While these are, technically, meetings, it is nigh-forbiden to conduct Real Business at them, as they're really social events. Imaginary Business, however, is allowed. Usually a dinner trip follows. free. Room: MITFS 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.

Saturday, September 2

- 10:00 a.m. - **Shopping Trip**. Need help outfitting your dorm room? We'll provide the transportation to help you get the items you need. free. Room: The lobby of Ashdown House (W1). Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.
- 12:00 p.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. Sponsor: MIT Museum.
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Sunday, September 3

- 12:00 p.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. Sponsor: MIT Museum.

Tuesday, September 5

- 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.
- 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - **Annual Student Loan Art Exhibition**. An opportunity for MIT students (undergrad & grad) to borrow a fine art print or work on paper to keep in dorm rooms or apartments for the academic year (the exhibition is also open to the public). Discover modern & contemporary works by artists such as Josef Albers, Louise Bourgeois, Bruce Nauman, Cindy Sherman, Andy Warhol & more. Lottery—Sept 19; pick-up—Sept 20-21; free-for-all—Sept 22 (any students not selected in lottery may choose from unclaimed work). free. Room: List Visual Arts Center (E15). Sponsor: List Visual Arts Center.
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Excel User Group**. The purpose of the MIT Excel User Group is to provide a means of support for members of the MIT community. The topic for each month's meeting will be announced in a mailing to all members of the list. The first fifteen minutes is for new issues, future topics suggestions and a Q&A followed by a thirty minute presentation to be followed with 15 minutes of Q&A on the presentation. All levels of users are encouraged to attend. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.
- 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - **Auditions for The Sorcerer**. Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. Auditionees are requested to bring 2 copies of a prepared song in English. free. Room: Student Center Rm 413. Sponsor: Gilbert and Sullivan Players, MIT.
- 7:00 p.m. - **Theater Arts Open House**. Brief introductions of the Theater Arts faculty and staff and short presentations by student groups. Refreshments. free. Room: E33 (Rinaldi). Sponsor: Theater Arts Section.
- 9:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - **FROSH Swim Test**. 9am - 11:45am, Last names A - L ; 1pm - 3:45pm, Last names M - Z; **This is the best time to get this important part of your physical education requirement out of the way.**. free. Room: Alumni Pool. Sponsor: Physical Education.

Come join *The Tech* and report on late-breaking news, write about MIT's **winter** sports, review the latest movies, match fonts **ex**actly with Ian, flame about administration policies, eat **free** pizza at our Sunday meetings, take pictures of important people, program our Web server, or count our **money**. Meetings every Sunday at 6 p.m. in Room 483 of the Student Center. Call Satwik at 253-1541, or come to our **Open House** on Sunday Sept. 10, from 2-5pm.



One of twenty teams, Jaryn Finch '04 and Dan S. Robey '04 prepare their entry in the Integrated Studies Program Egg Drop Competition.



Contestants watch from high atop the Green building as one entry floats toward the target below.



Nick Saenz '04 carries his egg away from a successful drop.



Luis Morales '04 climbs to retrieve his team's entry from one of the many "obstacles." Three entries were eliminated by being trapped in trees.

EGG DROP O P

Photography: Garry R. Maskaly

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Nine Days.

The Tech's Orientation Issues.

We'd like to thank everyone for putting all their time and effort into making these nine issues such a success!



THE ARTS

THEATER REVIEW

Return to the Forbidden Planet

Nine Characters in Search of a Competent Author

By Dan Katz

STAFF WRITER

Directed by Chris Jones '01

Starring Noelle Drugan '01, Katherine Allen '03, Carl Kraenzel '87, Tommy Rhyne '99, Chris Lyon '02, Brian Wong '03, Caitlin Marlow '03, Steve Niemczyk G, and Elicia Anderson '01

August 31, September 1-2, 7-9

Kresge Little Theater, 8 p.m.

Imagine Steven Spielberg directing Sir Lawrence Olivier and John Malkovich in the title roles of *Itchy and Scratchy: The Movie*. Despite the tremendous talents of everybody involved, the material would keep them from producing anything worthwhile or entertaining. While I don't think there's anybody in the Musical Theater Guild who's famous for playing Hamlet, their summer show presents a similar predicament. Even the Guild's best efforts can't save Bob Carlton's *Return To The Forbidden Planet*, quite possibly the worst musical ever written.

The show makes an admirably creative attempt to mix genres, drawing the plot and dialogue from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (with plenty of lines parodying other Shakespearean plays), the setting, costumes, and characters from a cheesy science fiction movie (specifically *Forbidden Planet*, although *Star Trek* influences are blatant), and songs from

1950s doo-wop and rock and roll. Combining any of two of these might yield an innovative show, but with all three, each tries to dominate the atmosphere, resulting in a near-unwatchable mess.

One of the biggest problems is that lines that are significant to the plot are spoken in the middle of songs, where they are buried by the music and are difficult to understand. Certainly, the dialogue and jokes are corny, but the disorganization of the script launches the play from campy to frustrating.

On a technical level, the production has a few good points. Perhaps the technical highlight of the show is the appearance of the monster in the first act, which is truly a sight to behold. The cleverly designed spaceship set is filled with bells and whistles, including large blinking lights on center stage, periodic sounds from electronic equipment, and a projected image of a newscaster. However, while the lights are cool to look at, after a while they become a distraction from a show that's already hard to follow. Furthermore, the news briefs are badly timed and seem completely out of place.

Throughout the show, the songs are executed perfectly; the Shakespeare is not. Often with musicals, the emphasis of rehearsals goes to the songs, and here it shows, with some great musical numbers (accompanied by a great band) at the expense of lines. The dialogue is often delivered without feeling and

enunciation, conveying little to the audience. This is once again a result of overloading the play with ideas; the actors seem unsure of whether they're supposed to be concentrating on Shakespearean acting or corny sci-fi stereotypes. Apparently they're supposed to be focusing on both equally, which simply doesn't work.

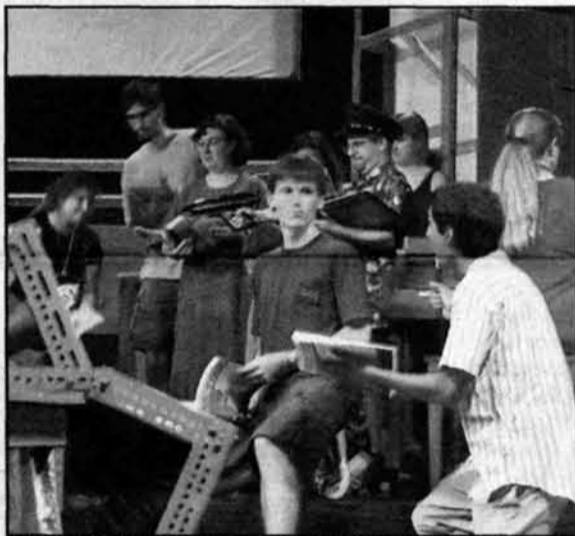
While the lead characters, including Tommy Rhyne, Noelle Drugan, and Kat Allen (whose singing voice may be the strongest in the show) are well-rounded and enjoyable, the real highlights come from the supporting cast. Carl Kraenzel plays Dr. Prospero with such intensity that he almost (but not quite) seems out of place. Steve Niemczyk and Chris Lyon both combine excellent comic timing with consistently strong solo vocals. Caitlin Marlow captures the ditsy navigation officer wonderfully, making every facial expression count, and Brian Wong's mechanized portrayal of the robotic Ariel is hilarious. These performers make the songs work, and Kraenzel leads them all in a final musical number that is undoubtedly the best part of the show, though it seems completely unrelated to the plot.

In many performances, it's easy to zero in on a person on stage that's causing the show to fail. In this case, that person is not an actor or a stagehand; it's the author. There are a number of great performances in *Return To The Forbidden Planet* and an equal effort from behind the scenes; it's a shame they're paddling against such an insurmountable current.

Space Pirates

In their first-ever spontaneous production, the MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players performed *The "Space" Pirates of Penzance* yesterday at 3 p.m. in Kresge's Little Theater. There was no rehearsal; auditions were by e-mail, on a first-come, first-serve basis; and a statement at the bottom of the program asked the audience to "step on stage at the appropriate time" if they wanted to join the chorus. Because of orientation activities, the Players could find no performance space, so they asked the Musical Theater Guild for permission to use the sets for MTG's current production, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. Impromptu? Yes. Unusual? Maybe not. David E. Euresi '01, the Players' president, was inspired by other campuses' spontaneous Gilbert and Sullivan productions. "It was a lot of fun to do, definitely," he said. "It went very well. There was a high enthusiasm level running through the cast."

Anand D. Sarwate '01 agreed. "I'm quite happy it went so well," he said. "There was tremendous support from the cast, and especially the pianist,



(ABOVE) Anand D. Sarwate '01 (front) sings the role of Major General Stanley, while conflicts rage in the background.

(LEFT) The Gilbert and Sullivan Players gather onstage in their enthusiastically spontaneous performance of *The "Space" Pirates of Penzance*.

who was awesome." Melissa M. Bull performed the entire 28-song piano accompaniment unrehearsed, despite having seen the play.

The Players will hold auditions for their next performance, *The Sorcerer*, in room 413 of the Student Center from Tuesday through Thursday at 7 p.m.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY: JENNIFER YOUNG—THE TECH



CONCERT REVIEW

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Beethoven's Ninth Revisited at Tanglewood

By Jonathan Richmond

ADVISORY BOARD

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos

Tanglewood Festival Chorus

Conducted by John Oliver

Beethoven Symphony No. 9

Tanglewood

Having followed the various music movements over the years, I've reached the conclusion that there simply is no one "right" or "wrong" way to perform Beethoven. The trend, undoubtedly, is to go for lighter, tauter, faster performances, whether using original instruments or modern ones. Conductors following this approach have produced some exciting performances, but only after they have allowed their conception of Beethoven to break formal rules.

Given the exhilarating performances and

recordings of the new movement, it can be dangerous to return to the traditional, but it is still worthy of an attempt. The nature of the Ninth is contemplative, and going slower promises the possibility of reaching a level of unique serenity. Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, conducting the final Boston Symphony Orchestra concert of the Tanglewood season, stretched the limits of this traditional approach.

The opening movement began with promise. It seemed to be endlessly questioning, with restrained power. The instrumental voices were well separated and blended to evoke the sweetest tragedy. There was a lightness of touch that propelled the music nicely. However, climactic moments did not reach the required intensity, and the movement evaporated without leaving adequate impact.

The way subtle wind voices interacted with string textures in the second movement was superb. Despite passages of eloquent lyricism, however, crescendi were not

always clear, and the essential manic power which must pervade the Ninth failed to show its face here.

The third movement was taken very slowly to capture the essence of the sublime. The Tanglewood audience was remarkably silent, and there were certainly passages of astonishing beauty. In the end, however, the movement lost both momentum and direction, and it came to a diffused conclusion.

The Tanglewood Festival Chorus, directed by John Oliver, proved to be the star of the finale, singing with zest and power as well as nuance and understanding. The choral contribution was along modern lines, but de Burgos was intent on imposing his traditional vision on the orchestra.

The orchestra failed to assume the necessary power and the piece was lacking in the departments of clarity and organization. The chorus, nonetheless, evoked the spirit of Beethoven, and left us all yearning for more performances and more approaches to this most mystifying and profound of works.

FILM REVIEW ★★ 1/2

Alice et Martin

Refreshing

By Lianne Habinek

Directed by André Téchiné

Written by Olivier Assayas, Gilles Taurand, and André Téchiné

Starring Juliette Binoche, Alexis Loret, Mathieu Amalric, Carmen Maura, Pierre Maguelon, Marthe Villalonga

French with English subtitles

If you're like me (and I know I am), you are perhaps weary of the genre Summer Blockbuster, replete as it is with all-too-often hollow plots which sacrifice content for the sake of splashy digital effects. Mind you, it's not all bad, but a breath of fresh air is welcome every now and then. *Alice et Martin*, a 1998 film directed and co-written by André Téchiné, though not necessarily fresh, is at least a breath of air.

Alice et Martin begins as illegitimate ten-year-old Martin (Alexis Loret) is sent by his mother (Carmen Maura) to live with his father (Pierre Maguelon), who has a family of his own. A sudden cut puts us ten years in the future, as Martin flees his father's house to live a desperate, animalistic week in the mountains until he is picked up by the police for raiding a chicken-coop. Upon his release, he shows up in Paris to live with his gay half-brother Benjamin (Mathieu Amalric) and Benjamin's violinist roommate Alice (Juliette Binoche). Martin, who quickly finds work and wealth as a model, becomes infatuated with Alice. The two travel to Grenada, where Alice reveals to Martin that she is pregnant with his child. This news sends him into mental chaos — when he recovers sufficiently, he and Alice move to a sea shack in Spain. There, Martin reveals the real reason he ran away from home in an extended flashback, then checks himself into an asylum while Alice attempts to wrest the entire truth from the rest of his family.

Loret's performance is remote and undefined, qualities which might have worked against him were it not for their necessity to his character. We are tempted to mistake his youthful ambiguity for numbness, especially during his breakdown scenes in Spain. In Paris, there seems to be little to Loret's character besides his attraction to Binoche's obvious charm. He is, however, photogenic, often managing to be far more visually appealing in the ads he models for than in the film itself. Binoche, clear and determined, is refined in her love. She spends most of the film in a post-modern ennui, warming during her search for Martin's family near the film's end. *Alice et Martin*'s emotional center is Amalric, who is loyal, warm, and strongly bound to both Alice and Martin.

The screenplay, elegiac as it is, is nevertheless unworthy of the cinematography. Téchiné's film begins as something of a photographic essay, with single images extracting themselves from the quietly rustling background — Martin and his mother in his bead-curtained bedroom; Martin outlined in the window of his father's house, watching the snowflakes spiraling into blackness; Martin in the countryside, ferociously gulping down a raw egg. Once Martin reaches Paris, the images blur into fluid, lyrical camerawork. The camera is versatile — it glides as easily through crowded Parisian apartments and nightclubs as it does through provincial France, Byzantine cathedrals, and stony gardens.

Some of the most memorable scenes are also the simplest. In one scene, for example, Alice rides in the subway after Martin has confessed his love for her, and she sees poster after poster flowing past, bearing the ad with Martin's picture. Martin, at the house in Spain, spends night after night swimming in the ocean, which we can only assume is a metaphor for the raging psychological battle in Martin's head. Most intriguing is a short sequence near the end, which begins with Martin's rain-steeped profile overlaid with an Ansel Adams-esque network of tree branches — he seems to be, and is, caught in a web. The next shot arches out to include his father and the younger iteration of Martin himself at a temporal cross-roads.

There's very little to smile about in *Alice et Martin*, and it isn't a deeply emotional film. It is the marriage of a simple, poignant story and loving, dizzying camerawork. The overall effect? A breath of air.



PARAMOUNT CLASSICS

Daniel Auteuil stars as knife-thrower Gabor and Vanessa Paradis is Adele, his assistant, in Patrice Leconte's *Girl on the Bridge*.

FILM REVIEW ★★★ 1/2

Girl on the Bridge

Spellbinding

By Lianne Habinek

Directed by Patrice Leconte
Written by Serge Frydman
Starring Vanessa Paradis and Daniel Auteuil
French with English subtitles

Girl on the Bridge (*La Fille sur le Pont*), directed by Patrice Leconte, is a spellbinding trick of a film. I'll admit to squirming and knuckle-biting, and I'll also admit to being enchanted, though I draw the line at being bored. Not a moment was wasted — how many contemporary films can you say that of? — and you realize exactly what it is to be an audience member. In this sense, *Girl* is not unlike one of Leconte's earlier films, *Monsieur Hire*, which weaves a melancholy tale around a central theme of window-watching. It is similarly easy to feel voyeuristic watching *Girl*, as Leconte emphasizes vision and the audience-actor relationship to great effect.

Adele (Vanessa Paradis) begins by narrating her various amours to an impersonal panel. Her life is, it seems, a game of dominoes, as a night with one man leaves her being comforted by another the next day, and so on in rapid succession. She goes to stand on a bridge over the Seine one night, intending to jump. "You look like a girl who's about to make a big mistake," intones an older man, standing casually next to

her. This is Gabor (Daniel Auteuil) — a knife-thrower who roams the bridges of Paris looking for suicidal women to be

assistants for his act. She jumps, he follows suit to rescue her, and they end up in the hospital together. Gabor eventually convinces Adele to assist. An immediate and remarkable chemistry forms between them. Bit by bit, the logic typically associated with life breaks off: Gabor and Adele bet on "0" in roulette and win a hideous amount of money (not just once but several times), they win a car in a raffle in Italy, and Adele is always only grazed at each evening's knife throwing (it is hinted that Gabor's previous track record was not so wonderful). Through it all, they maintain a mysterious attraction to one another, despite their age difference and Adele's continued affairs.

Stylistically, *Girl* is an impressive jaunt into the black-and-white world. Indeed, it would be difficult to imagine this as a color film, even when Adele and Gabor see a rainbow in Italy. Paradis and Auteuil make a perfect match — she exudes a graceful, catlike innocence, while he is casual and gruff with a tender undertone. Two metaphors extend through *Girl* and heighten the spectacle. First, Adele and Gabor compare themselves to a \$50 bill torn in half — fantastic together, but useless apart. Second, and more intriguing, Leconte uses knife-throwing in lieu of sex. Adele and Gabor nearly never come in physical contact, but their enigmatic connection is apparent in each of these fantastically tense and symbolically erotic scenes. Top all this off with an eerie tune by Angelo Badalamenti, and you have one clever little film.

THEATER REVIEW

Seussical the Musical

Anything's Possible

By Seth Bisen-Hersh

STAFF WRITER

Directed by Frank Galati
Written by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens
Starring David Shiner, Kevin Chamberlin, Sharon Wilkins, Michelle Pawk, and Janine LaManna
August 30–September 17
Tues.–Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. 6 p.m., matinees
Sat. 2 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m.
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston
(617) 426-9366
Tickets \$25-75

Seussical, the newest musical from composer/lyricist team Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens (best known for *Once on this Island*, the Tony Award winning musical *Ragtime*, and the score from the animated film, *Anastasia*) is now playing at Boston's Colonial Theatre. Combining elements from at least fourteen of Dr. Seuss's classics, Flaherty and Ahrens create a cohesive plot filled with incredible rhymes and amazing melodies. Horton the Elephant, the Sour Kangaroo, Mayzie LaBird, Yurtle the Turtle, and many other familiar characters get together to put on a wonderful show.

The story is narrated by the Cat in the Hat. He appears randomly in every scene and makes humorous comments to the audience. Played by David Shiner, the Cat in the Hat delivers tons of jokes throughout the evening. Shiner is an amazing talent. Over the course of the performance he plays a German doctor, a pianist, and an announcer. Shiner has a knack for comical facial expressions. He entertained the audience with silent stand-up after the opening number. And, before Act Two, Shiner climbed all over the first two rows of the theatre. He stole a few purses, pocketed a doll of himself, and played with a balding guy's hair.

The show is thoroughly and unbelievably enjoyable. The music is danceable, hummable, and quite memorable. The best songs are undoubtedly the ballads "All For You" and "Alone in the Universe." Also really cute is the Cat in the Hat's song "How Lucky You Are." Most of the characters reprise a line from this song before beginning their own songs. The opening number, "Oh, The Things You Can Think!" is also very well done. The lyrics throughout the musical seamlessly blend Seuss's original verse with the couplets involving the musi-

cal's own plot. Only someone who has memorized all of Dr. Seuss's works would be able to split the original words from the added ones.

Almost all of the performers are wonderful. The standouts are the leads: David Shiner (the Cat in the Hat); Kevin Chamberlin (Horton the Elephant); Michelle Pawk (Mayzie Bird); and Janine LaManna (Gertrude McFuzz). They are all consistently amazing, funny, and poignant at the same time. However, young Andrew Keenan-Bolger, who plays JoJo, is the worst singer in the show. His squeaky little voice sounds way too trained and is too much in falsetto. It would serve the show better to cast someone a little younger, whose voice is not in the middle of changing.

The staging and direction is extremely well done and balanced. The stage is always symmetrical and used to its utmost potential. The choreography, by Kathleen Marshall, is very well done, and very intricate. The more intricate the choreography, the more pleasant and exciting it is for the audience to watch. There was hardly a dull moment.

Technically, the show is also wonderful. The costumes are extraordinarily colorful and exquisite. The only costuming problem is that some of the girls are somewhat scantily dressed at points. This would normally be fine with me, but as this is a children's show, it seems that maybe they should have been wearing a little more. The lighting is extremely intricate. The sets are big and bright and colorful and also make great use of trap doors. The highlights are the clock at the end intermission, the Thneed factory with spurting steam, and the large, colorful forest. The props are also adorable. These include a funny, huge pair of binoculars, spray bottles to symbolize rain, and the life-sized Thneeds. The final, awesome effect is the abundance of flying that occurs throughout the show.

Thus, *Seussical* is one of the most enjoyable new Broadway musicals out there. It is great for kids of all ages. There are student rush tickets available an hour before the performance at the box office for only \$25. The seats are generally on the side of the balcony, but since the people with non-rush tickets in the next seats must pay \$65, it's well worth it. Getting there about an hour before rush tickets go on sale should give you enough time. I would highly encourage any big kids out there to go and see *Seussical* before it makes its way to New York!

MUSIC REVIEW

State of the Airwaves

Papa, Pearl, and Poe

By Dan Katz

STAFF WRITER

Salutations. Hope everybody had an enjoyable rush, from EC's recreation of a failed political system to the strychnine Senior Haus injected into the lobster at — Oh, wait, I'm not supposed to tell you about that. But it doesn't matter if you got in where you wanted, or if you got enough freshman pledges for the year. What matters is that there's music in the air, and I'm here to cover it for you.

The title of Airwaves Show of the Week goes to Colonel Les Claypool's Fearless Flying Frog Brigade, primarily because they are called Colonel Les Claypool's Fearless Flying Frog Brigade. Claypool, the bassist-vocalist of Primus, has had a lot of success in the past with side projects; this one's a jam-band featuring members of Ratdog that arrives at the Somerville Theater Friday night. The same night, Papa Roach (who singlehandedly brought straight rock back to MTV) headlines a bill at Axis that also includes (hed)pe. Wednesday, see the neo-metal band that Fred Durst said lots of horrible things to No, it's not Creed, it's Taproot at the Middle East. And oh, how the mighty have fallen, as Fastball, who used to play amphitheaters, have lost "the way" and wind up at Lilli's in Somerville Thursday night.

Biggest release of the week (in my mind) is from my favorite band, Self, who unleash *Gizmodgery* onto the world this Tuesday. This disc is similar to Beck's *Mutations* in that it's not really the band's next official album, it's an "in the meantime" effort which happens to be recorded entirely on toy instruments. Man Or Astroman? delivers an album this week called *Spectrum of Infinite Scale*, and Pearl Jam puts out some live material. In the form of 25 double CDs. Yes, recordings from every stop on Pearl Jam's European tour are going to be available separately in stores, confirming that all that fighting with Ticketmaster has done something to Eddie Vedder's brain.

Speaking of Beck, of all the people who I would have

expected to make a track as convoluted and intense as Beck or BT, but with a tinge of Our Lady Peace, Poe would come pretty much last on my list. But the "Angry Johnny" siren has done exactly that with "Walk The Walk," the first single off her upcoming album *Haunted*. The song's rhythm section brilliantly combines an industrial drum line with a pulsing acoustic guitar, while in the foreground, Poe combines stuttering samples with quick rhythmic lyrics, achieving an effect similar to BT's "Never Gonna Come Back Down," but leaning further toward rock than toward house. I haven't liked Poe's previous albums, but if her new one is filled with songs like this, I may be converted.

I felt obligated to check out Tsar when I found out they just got finished touring with Duran Duran, and will soon be opening for the Marvelous 3. Those names set some pretty high expectations, which weren't met by the band's first single, "I Don't Wanna Break Up." The vocals and guitar playing are well executed, but the song doesn't have very good lyrics or a pleasing structure. Tsar seem to be a talented band that need to work on the songwriter's craft. On the bright side, their music sounds like it has a lot of live potential, and touring with the Marvies, one of the best live bands in America, they'll learn a lot in that realm.

I sincerely apologize if I encouraged anybody to check out the 3 Doors Down show at Axis last week. What a waste



PAUL BROWN—DREAMWORKS RECORDS

Papa Roach (from left, Tobin Esperance, Coby Dick, Jerry Horton, and Dave Buckner) hit Axis tomorrow night.

of my time ... the lead singer had no charisma or energy, and I think one of the guitarists never looked at the audience. Frankly, I could have put on the band's album and gotten a similar experience. Ironically, the openers, Mile have probably done far fewer shows and already understand how to put on a concert and connect with their audience. More power to them and let's hope next time the bill is reversed.

I apologize that one of the pro wrestling catch phrases I stuck into the column last week was edited for grammar, killing the joke. Editors totally reek of heinosity. You'll reek of heinosity too, if you don't send lots and lots of e-mail to *State of the Airwaves*, at <airwaves@the-tech.mit.edu>. Let me know what you like or don't like about the column, what you like or don't like about the local or national music scene, or ask me if my refrigerator is running and ask me to go catch it. With that, I'm out. Have a week and keep expanding your horizons.

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

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

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

Alice et Martin (★★½)

A simple, yet poignant love story. The screenplay, however, is far outdone by the cinematography. Numerous images and scenes stand out, thanks to the careful direction of André Téchiné, making this film a refreshing break from the usual empty summer blockbuster. — Lianne Habinek

Bring it On (★★★)

One of the better movies of the summer merely because of its amusing banter and exaggerated characters. Stupid jokes and predictable conflicts are delivered throughout the film, but *Bring It On* doesn't lose its cheer. Kirsten Dunst plays the captain of the Toros, a cheerleading squad that goes head-to-head with members of a Compton squad, which includes the members from R&B group Blaque. The one-liners and catty attitudes are let loose in director Peyton Reed's silver-screen endeavor. — Solar Olugebefola

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

Chicken Run (★★★½)

Among a sea of summer turkeys, this is one "chick-flick" that doesn't run a-fowl!

Cool claymation effects, brought to the big screen by the makers of the hysterical *Wallace and Grommit* series, and a droll British screenplay to follow-through. Cute, witty, and enjoyable for kids of all ages. — Karen Feigenbaum

Chuck and Buck (★★★)

A heart-felt look at an uneven friendship, severely underscored by Buck's case of arrested development and Chuck's resulting embarrassment of Buck. At times sad, amusing and shocking; this is a cleverly written and fondly watchable indie flick, if you can get past the low-budget grainy film texture. — KF

Croupier (★★★★)

An interesting film about a casino dealer 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

Girl on the Bridge (★★★½)

An enchanting film that is never boring. Director Patrice Laconte emphasizes the visual and the actor-audience relationship to con-



Vanessa Paradis stars as Adele, a desperate assistant to a circus knife thrower, in Patrice Laconte's *Girl On the Bridge*. The film is currently playing at Landmark Kendall Square Cinema.

vey the story of two very different people who nonetheless form the perfect match. — LH

Godzilla 2000 (★★★)

A delightfully low-tech movie. Watch the giant lizard raze Japanese cities in this modern Japanese import that accurately mimics the quality of the old *Godzilla* movies. Forget the muddled, almost nonexistent plot, and go for the fight scenes and the chance to laugh at the cheap special effects. — Erik Blankinship

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 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. — Vladimir Zelevinsky

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

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. — Jumaane Jeffries

What do these articles, photos, comics and layouts have in common?
 They were all done by FRESHMEN last week at The Tech!



It's not too late to join!
 Come by our Open House on Sun. Sept. 10 from 2-5pm, have some free Tosci's ice cream and find out how you can join them!

Feeling Rushed

FILM REVIEW ★ 1/2
The Cell
Trapped in The Cell

Freshmen Recall Fun Times As Rush Ends



What? Where? Who?

A Look at infinite Possibilities
 Freshman Shares Optimism over Opportunities under the Dome

CLC Permits Tours
 At Kappa Sig, Phi

Catch a ride with the COOP!



FREE SHUTTLE "Safe Ride" Route September 6, 7, & 8 10am-6pm

The MIT transportation department is providing the shuttle service and will follow the "safe ride" route to dorms and fraternity houses in Cambridge, Boston and Brookline. The shuttle will run on a half hour schedule (completing the round trip approximately every thirty minutes) starting at 10:00 am and leaving from the MIT COOP at Kendall.

Sponsored by



GSC Offers Trips, Activities for New Grad Students



Graduate Student Council volunteers counseled incoming graduate students about graduate life yesterday afternoon in Lobby 10. New students also signed up for a variety of GSC orientation events, such as a harbor cruise, a day hike in the White Mountains, and a whale watch.

Grad Orientation, from Page 1

Co-Chair Eric Carreno G.

Carreno was pleased with the program's success thus far. "The turnout has been great," he said. "We expect a pretty high attendance at most of our events."

Of the approximately 1800 new graduate students, Carreno expects around 1000 to participate in orientation.

Many of the GSC-sponsored events, including a library social, welcome luncheon, and events at the Muddy Charles and Thirsty Ear Pubs, are free to new graduate students. Today's main event, the Camera Safari, is designed to help new students explore Boston.

Many students take advantage of the free events, especially those who are new to MIT, Boston, or both, Carreno said.

First-year graduate student Joseph Bullard G stopped at the information booth yesterday, picking up literature and taking care of first-term details. "Everybody's been real helpful," he said.

Main orientation events today

Today marks the peak of the GSC orientation activities, with the Family Picnic, a welcome address

by Chairman of the Corporation Alexander V. D'Arbeloff '49, and the Camera Safari. This is the second year for the Safari.

Upcoming events will be subsidized by the GSC to reduce costs to \$10 per student. A Boston Duck Tour on Friday is already sold out, Carreno said, and this weekend will feature a hiking trip, a harbor cruise, and a Red Sox game, each for \$10.

New events this year include the library reception, the Duck Tour, and a joint GSC/Sloan barbeque. The Sloan School of Management has its own orientation, Carreno said, but the GSC hoped to introduce students from outside the School to Sloan students.

Services fair draws crowd

In addition to the Lobby 10 information booth, the GSC invited local merchants and businesses to a fair in Lobby 13 yesterday. Jostens promoted the new graduate student ring, The Coop offered lanyards to new members, and local banks invited students to open accounts, among other booths.

GSC orientation began Tuesday and continues through the weekend. A full schedule is available at <http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/Committees/OC/oc.html>.

Our graduates are leaders shooting for the stars!



General Jimmie Doolittle – Congressional Medal of Honor Winner
Class of '25 PHD

Astronaut Pamela Ann Melroy – Space Shuttle Pilot
Class of '83

Astronaut Cady Coleman – Space Shuttle Mission Specialist 500 hours in Space
Class of '83

Astronaut Mike Fincke – Test Pilot – International Space Station Crew Member
Class of '89

Captain Teri Centner – Structural Engineer – C-17 Military Transport
Class of 89

Captain John Teichert – F-15E Strike Eagle Pilot
Class of '94

Lieutenant Ashley Clayborne – Student Pilot
Class of '99

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we have the **space**

help us create the **place** for...
lounging, eating, connecting,
relaxing, studying, _____!?

Stata Center Student Street

the student street will be an interior "street" - corridor located in the first level of the Stata Center
9 times larger than Lobby 10

all students invited !!!

Thursday, September 7
7:00 PM
Bush Room (10-105)

Join us for this brainstorming session
to help identify how you would use this
corridor in your daily life

dinner will be served!

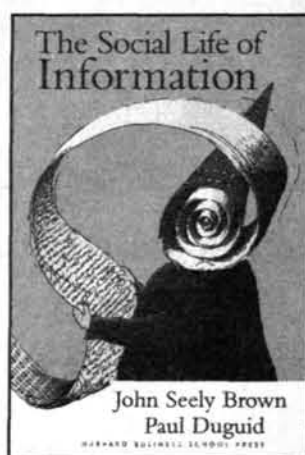
<http://ciis.lcs.mit.edu>

Kick off the semester with the **authors@mit™** premiere double-header!

John Seely Brown

Director of Xerox PARC

speaking about his new book

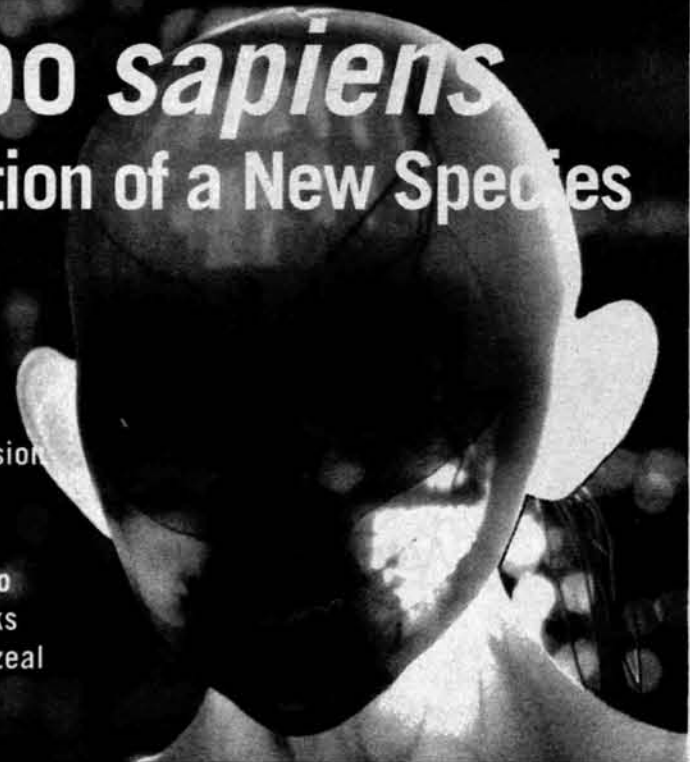


The Social Life of Information

Robo sapiens Evolution of a New Species

an intriguing
multimedia
lecture and
panel discussion
featuring:

Peter Menzel
Faith D'Aluisio
Rodney Brooks
Cynthia Breazeal
and others!



Wednesday, Sept. 6, 6 pm
MIT E51 Wong Auditorium

Please join us for the premiere event of the Fall 2000 **authors@mit** reading series as we welcome John Seely Brown. He will speak on the subject of his new book *The Social Life of Information* (HBS Press, 2000) co-authored with Paul Duguid.

Drawing from recent research and practical examples across a range of organizations, *The Social Life of Information* dispels many of the futurists' sweeping predictions that information technology will obliterate the need for everything from travel to supermarkets to business organizations to social life itself. Arguing eloquently for the important role human sociability plays in the world of bits, the authors give us an optimistic look beyond the simplicities of information and individuals. They show how a better understanding of the contribution that communities, organizations, and institutions make to learning, knowledge, and judgment can lead to the richest possible use of technology in our work and everyday lives.

John Seely Brown is Chief Scientist at Xerox Corporation and Director of the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC).

authors@mit™ is a series cosponsored by MIT Libraries and The MIT Press Bookstore

Thursday, Sept. 7, 6 pm
MIT 26-100, behind 50 Vassar Street

Robots already walk, talk, and dance; they can react to our facial expressions and obey verbal commands. When they take the next step and become fully autonomous, what will they do? Will we be partners or rivals? Could we meld into a single species? In *Robo sapiens* (MIT Press, 2000), Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio present a field guide to our mechanical future with brilliant photographs of the next generation of intelligent robots and extensive interviews with their makers.

Menzel and D'Aluisio will deliver a fascinating multimedia presentation of their work followed by a panel of leading robotics researchers discussing the intriguing future of humanoid robotics. Check our website for more details: <http://mitpress.mit.edu/bookstore/events/robosapiens.html>

Peter Menzel is a photojournalist specializing in international coverage of science and the environment. Faith D'Aluisio is a former television news producer whose documentary and news series have won many regional and national prizes. Rodney Brooks is Director of the MIT AI Lab. Cynthia Breazeal is a postdoctoral fellow in the MIT AI Lab.

Info: 617 253.5249 • authors@mit.edu • <http://mitpress.mit.edu/bookstore/events/>

Freshmen Pleased With Room Assignments and Temp Lottery

Lottery, from Page 1

to run, he said. Most freshmen were pleased with their lottery result.

"Lots of people were scared before [the lottery]," said Samia A. Mahjub '04, "[but] most are getting probably their first or second choice." Mahjub, who ranked Baker first, said that she hoped Baker lived up to its reputation as a social dorm.

New Baker resident Atif Z. Qadar '04 ranked Burton-Connor first in the lottery, but said that he "didn't think it was a loss. I like it [just] as much."

Lisa C. Smith '04 said that she ranked Bexley first because she has a friend who lives in the dorm. Additionally, she said Bexley gave her the space she wanted in her living environment. "It [offers] a lot more freedom" than most dorms, she said.

Slow pledging affects lottery

Some freshmen, however, did not receive a housing assignment. To run the lottery most effectively, Bernard said the Housing Office had to remove 36 freshmen from the assignments.

Slow pledging forced the Housing Office to remove the freshmen from the lottery. Only 240 freshmen had pledged by the running of the

lottery at 2:00 p.m. yesterday. Bernard said that the number of pledges at lottery time was the lowest his office had ever seen. The Housing Office had planned for 280 pledges by lottery time this year, he said.

The unassigned freshmen should be placed by 4:00 p.m. today, Bernard said.

Carl Mahler '04, who was deferred to the second lottery, said

rare housing locations had "no correlation to the permanent assignments," Bernard said. For the first year, freshmen were allowed to rank their temporary residences during the summer. Baker and MacGregor received almost half of all summer first-choice ranks, with Baker receiving 316 and MacGregor receiving 187. No other dorm received more than 65 first choices.

Bernard said that the program would be modified if it continues next year.

Aaron D. Adler '01, MacGregor president and member of the group that developed the summer preference program, said that he would like to see the

program run again next year. "We'll just keep trying," Adler said. "It was a good learning period."

Sean Liu '04 said he appreciated the summer preference program. "It's better than other colleges where [students] just get thrown somewhere." Liu was placed temporarily at Baker and permanently at MacGregor.

"Lots of people were scared before [the lottery] ... [but] most are getting probably their first or second choice."

— Samia A. Mahjub '04
New Baker Resident

that he was upset to have been selected for deferral. He added, however, that he thought the Housing Office was correct in holding people instead of crowding immediately.

Temporary housing has no effect

One interesting finding with the lottery results was that tempo-

New Media Lab Building To Offer Passing Pedestrians View of Laboratory Activities

Media Lab, from Page 1

that the city is worried that the building will look like a plain white wall, but she dismissed this concern. "Part of the building's design is to make it transparent," so that passers-by can observe what goes on inside.

The preliminary designs have been shown to the Planning Board. "They essentially gave us the nod," Personette said.

The Planning Board has already approved several aspects of the con-

struction plan. The height of the structure will not exceed 120 feet, but it does not need to be set back from the street. Buildings E10 and E20, which will be torn down to make room for the Okawa Center, were found to have negligible historical and architectural value.

The seven-story, 169,000 square foot building will be home to laboratories, offices, and meeting spaces. This includes the proposed LEGO® Learning Lab which will expand the Media Lab's 15-year relationship with the toy company.

The lab will explore how children learn and develop new child-friendly technologies.

The center was designed by the Tokyo-based architectural firm of Maki and Associates. The lead architect, Fumihiko Maki, is a world renowned designer, having received the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1993.

A \$27-million donation, given by Isao Okawa, chairman of CSK Corp. and Sega Enterprises Ltd., provided the initial funding for the center.

MBTA Pass Deadline Today

The deadline for purchasing subsidized MBTA passes is today. The passes are available to all MIT students who do not purchase MIT parking permits. In previous terms, the passes were only available to individuals living off-campus.

News Briefs

The price of the passes is not increasing, although the MBTA is increasing subway and bus fares in November. The prices are \$7.50 per month for a bus pass, \$13.50 per month for a subway pass, and \$23 for a combination pass. All these prices include a subsidy of at least half off the current prices. The subsidies will represent an even larger proportion of the MBTA's prices after the rate increase.

The subsidies are only available for the entire term. After the first month, the cost of the pass is billed automatically to the student's bursar's account.

The change in subsidies came after the MBTA Board of Directors recently voted to increase subway fares to one dollar and bus fares to 75 cents.

— Brett Altschul

Smaller Pool of Women Inhibits Sorority Rush

Sororities, from Page 1

decide whether or not to accept.

According to Sigma Kappa Rush Chair Marie L. Blanke '01, a student usually defers her decision to pledge when she hasn't talked to her parents about joining a sorority before receiving a bid. "We remind them to talk to their parents, but they don't always do that [before receiving a bid]," she said.

Sigma Kappa offered 25 bids and received 18 pledges, while 5 people deferred their decisions.

Alpha Chi Omega offered 32 bids and received 29 pledges. This was down somewhat from last year's numbers for bids extended and accepted.

Alpha Epsilon Phi declined to comment on how many bids had been offered or accepted, but stated that they were satisfied with this year's rush.

"We were pretty happy with this year's rush," said Blanke, who attributed the low number of pledges to the lower number of people in the system this year.

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Thursday Night Fun
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The Tech's Open House

Sunday September 10

2-5 pm

Student Center, Room 483

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Save this date!

Friday, September 8th, 4pm

Room 407, Student Center

MIT Japan Program

Web: <http://www.mit.edu/japan>; www.jpna.net; E-mail: jpna@mit.edu; Phone: 253-8263

Save this date!

Thursday, September 7th, 4pm

Room 491, Student Center



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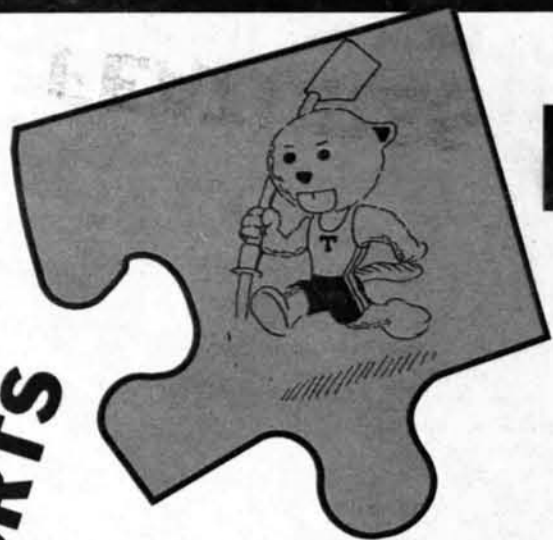
The MIT Coop

Wednesday, Sept. 6 · 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.



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NEWS



The Tech
Established 1881

open house

PRODUCTION



Sunday, September 10

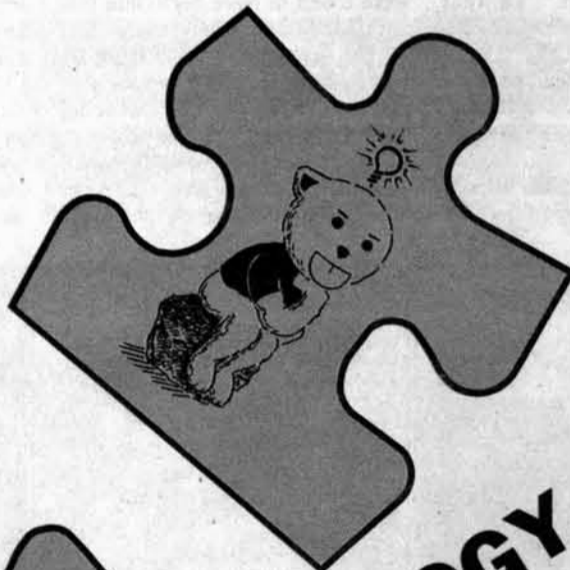
2 - 5 pm

Free Toscis

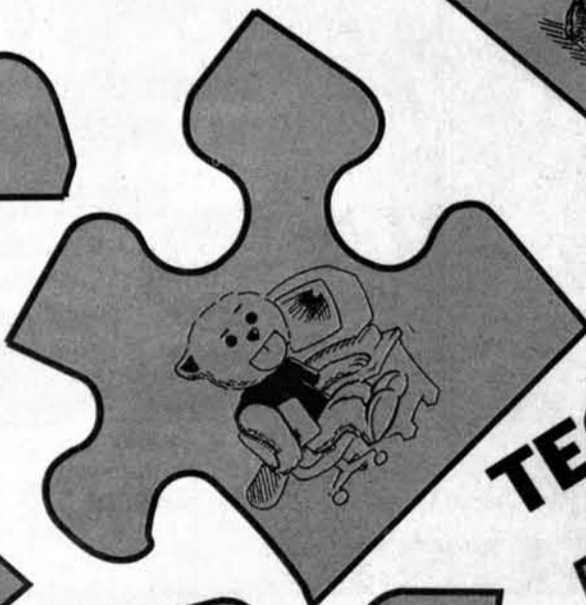
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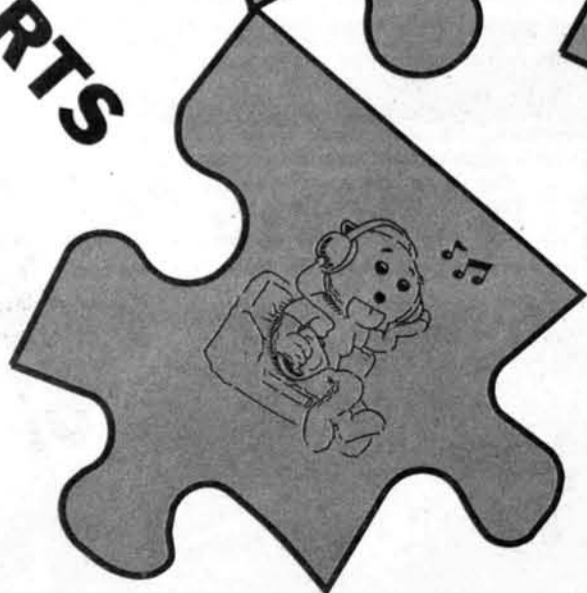
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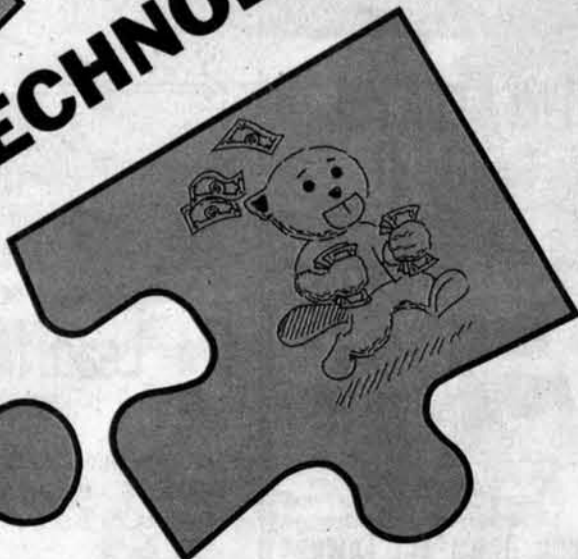
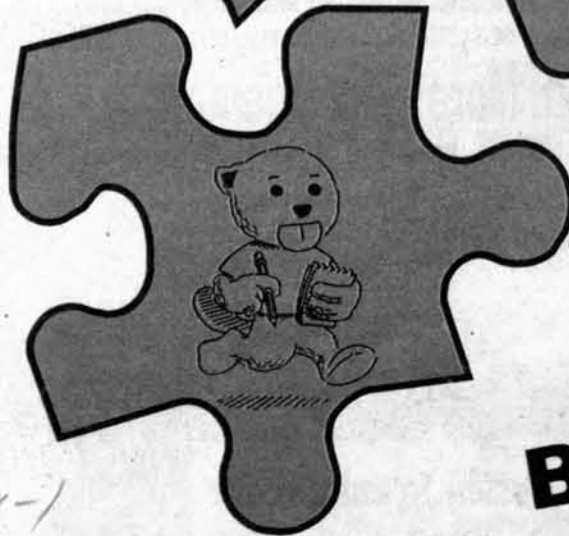
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