



Cambridge fire fighters responded to an explosion in Building 2 Wednesday in which two students were injured.

Students Injured in Explosion

Graduate, Postdoc Hospitalized Following Chemical Incident

By Mike Hall
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A graduate student and a post-doctoral student suffered minor injuries after a chemical accident on the third floor of Building 2 at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday afternoon.

Jane R. Brock G suffered localized acid burns and lacerations, and Mikhail V. Barybin received small lacerations. Both were treated at Massachusetts General Hospital and released late Wednesday afternoon.

Both Brock and Barybin are members of the Cummins Group, an inorganic chemistry research group led by Christopher C. Cummins Ph.D '93. The explosion was "com-

pletely unexpected," said Cummins.

Bottle explosion causes acid spill

According to Cummins, Brock was making up a preparation of hydrochloric acid and nitric acid right before the accident, an action described by Cummins as "a routine thing that would not lead to an explosion." While Brock made the preparation, a glass bottle exploded in her vicinity, startling her and causing her

to drop her container of acid. Brock then fell to the ground, landing with her leg in the spilled acid.

After her fall, nearby students quickly pulled her under a chemical shower, then called the Campus Police.

Barybin was hit by fragments from the exploding bottle, but was not exposed to the acid.

Accident, Page 10

Grad Student Wins Lemelson Prize For Devices to Benefit Third World

By Efrén Gutierrez
STAFF REPORTER

The Lemelson-MIT program announced Wednesday morning that Amy B. Smith G was the winner of its sixth annual \$30,000 Student Prize for inventiveness and innovation. The Lemelson-MIT Program Student Team Award, a new \$30,000 award co-sponsored by Unisphere Solutions Inc. acknowledging innovation in telecommunication and networking technology, was awarded to Michael H. Lim G, M. Jalal Khan G, and Thomas E. Murphy G.

grated optical device technology.

The Lim-Khan-Murphy team developed and fabricated an optical add/drop filter that allows more information to pass through a fiber-optic cable.

"Up to now, fiber-optic cables have been able to be used in cable systems and some internet connections, but know with this filter, the capacity of what can go through the cable is enormous. Consider a television that not only carries cable, but the Internet, a phone, and a real-life link. The possibilities are endless,"

said Murphy.

Two members of the team, Lim and Murphy, already have a patent for a reconfigurable wavelength-selective optical add/drop switch.

Origin of the program

The Lemelson-MIT program was established in 1994 by independent inventor Jerome H. Lemelson and his wife, Dorothy. Its mission is to celebrate innovation and invention, and recognize role models in the fields of science, engineering, medicine, and entrepreneurship.

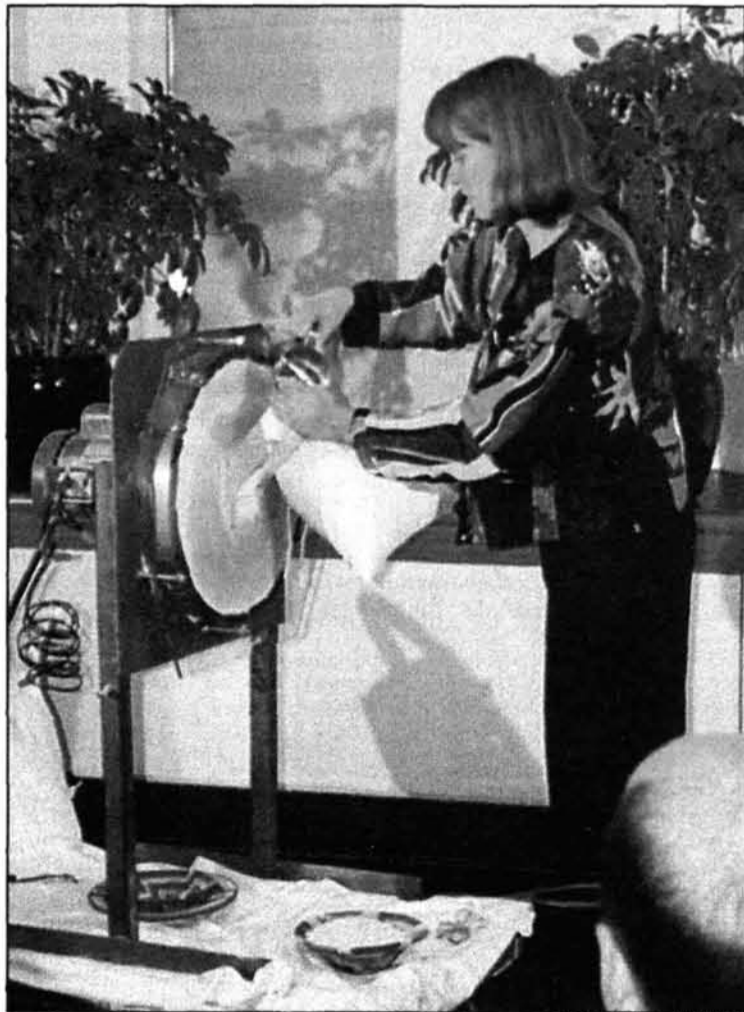
Smith invents for the third world

Smith, a former member of the U.S. Peace Corps, says that she invents in order to help the way of life in third world countries. She presented two inventions at the ceremony. One was a laboratory incubator that does not require electricity.

"In some developing countries, there is no electricity to run current laboratory incubators that are used to run tests for disease, so this will make it easier for such tests to be done in rural areas," Smith said.

The other invention that she presented was a hammer mill to grind grain into flour. "In today's hammer mills, a screen must be used in order to separate different sized grains; however, when it breaks, a new part must be ordered from a developed country, taking many weeks. With this invention, however, instead of using a screen, the pressure forces larger grains away from the center, and are collected in a bag. No screen is necessary," Smith said.

Smith says that one disadvantage with this mill is that it requires electricity, not usually found in rural areas of third world countries. She said, though, that she might use money from her prize to develop a new engine for the mill that uses the oil of a certain plant.

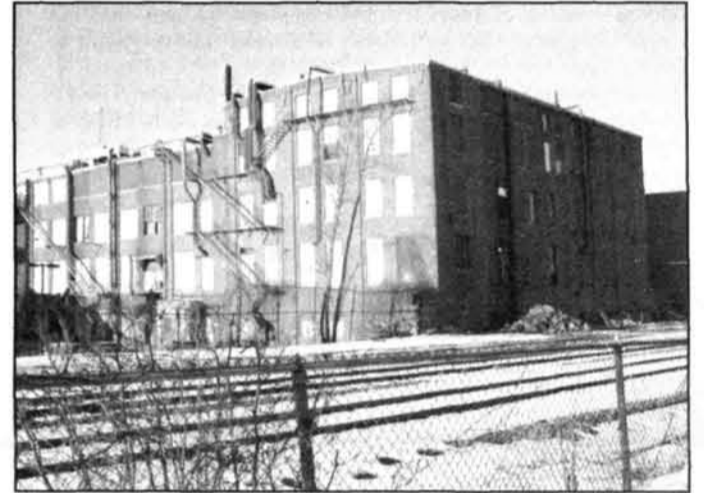


Amy Smith G demonstrates her invention, a grain grinder designed for use in developing countries. Smith's invention won this year's Lemelson-MIT student prize for inventiveness.

Innovations in fiber optics

Winners of the student team prize were recognized for their innovations in fiber optics and inte-

Grad Students To Live In Former Warehouse



MIT plans to renovate NW30, a warehouse on Albany Street, over the course of the next year to help ease the shortage of graduate student housing.

By Dana Levine
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

After neglecting graduate student housing throughout the residence system design process, MIT's Planning Office has recommended converting building NW30 into housing for approximately 125 graduate students. The building, located at 224 Albany Street, is currently used for storage.

Although no timetable has been set for the renovations, the estimated completion date is summer 2001. The project's cost could run as high as \$20 million, or \$160,000 per bed, according to Graduate Student Council President Luis A. Ortiz G.

Ortiz criticized the plan as "a stop gap measure" and "barely a start" towards housing MIT's stated goal of fifty percent of its 5,600 graduate students.

"I hope that it is a genuine attempt to increase graduate housing," Ortiz said.

Moreover, NW30 needs significant repairs and upgrades. "Right now, the outside is in pretty bad shape," said Associate Director of Planning Robert K. Kaynor, who stated that work will soon begin to repair the roof and exterior of the building.

Ortiz described the building as "an old brick factory that needs to be rehabilitated ... This is in a questionable area of Cambridgeport, but hopefully it will eventually be a nice part of the MIT and Cambridge community," Ortiz said.

Future graduate housing projects could bring MIT closer to goal

Ortiz and Kaynor both described another building, the long delayed Sidney and Pacific dormitory, which could potentially provide housing for 500 to 700 graduate students.

"I know of no time frame for the completion of that project. I had hopes, but they are up and down," Ortiz said.

He noted that MIT currently only houses 1,500, or 27 percent, of graduate students, and would need to add another 1,300 beds to fulfill its goal. Ortiz believes that the NW30 project will account for "all of the money that MIT can afford to spend on graduate housing."

Ortiz said that MIT hopes to make the NW30 conversion project

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NEWS BRIEFS

John M. Deutch '61 requests removal of last clearances; government not liable in MIT radiation therapy cases.

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Boston area activists protest Fidelity Investments' involvement with Occidental Petroleum.

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WORLD & NATION

Hacker Attacks on Major Internet Sites Slow Down

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The computer vandals who blocked access to nearly a dozen high-profile Internet sites this week took a breather Thursday as the Pentagon, government agencies and universities scoured their systems to ensure they had not become unwitting accomplices in the attacks.

Justice Department officials said Thursday they were continuing their hunt for the culprits but had identified no suspects. Several computer security experts warned that the data trail was probably already cold.

"It's going to be very hard to track this down by technical mechanisms," said researcher Steve Bellovin of AT&T Labs.

Authorities believe the attacks that temporarily shut down sites including Yahoo, Amazon and CNN were a version of what is called a "distributed denial of service." In such hits, hackers drop malicious software into unsuspecting computer systems and then activate the software remotely to bombard the target sites with overwhelming streams of data.

A spokesman for the Defense Department said while there is no evidence that Pentagon computers were used as intermediaries, officials would check the hard drives of the more than 1 million computers it has hooked up to the Internet.

Struggle Inside Reform Party Could Soon Lead to Split

THE WASHINGTON POST

Just as the Reform Party appears poised to establish a national identity independent of Ross Perot, two major factions are locked in a struggle for power that will come to a head this weekend in Nashville, Tenn.

The dispute shows signs of fracturing the party. The party's highest elected official, Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, is likely Friday to take pre-emptive action and bolt, anticipating that party leaders loyal to him will be voted out of office on Saturday.

The conflict has virtually nothing to do with substance or policy and everything to do with who will be in charge when the Reform Party and its 2000 nominee receive \$12.6 million in federal money for the general election campaign.

This time, the conflict pits the party's Perot wing against activists aligned with the rising Reform star, Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura; a formal break between the two would be very damaging because Ventura could take many party members with him.

Group Says Russian Soldiers Executed Chechen Civilians

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MOSCOW

Allegations of atrocities by Russian soldiers in Chechnya continued to mount Thursday as a prominent human rights group charged that occupying forces have executed at least 38 civilians — including two children — in Grozny, the separatist republic's capital.

New York-based Human Rights Watch, which has documented the alleged killings from the reports of refugees who fled Grozny, painted a grim picture of a war-ravaged city where marauding soldiers loot property, burn houses and summarily execute civilians for revenge or for their meager possessions.

The organization has collected evidence of 55 such killings of civilians by Russian forces in Chechnya and is investigating an additional 12 reported killings. In one case, federal troops allegedly exterminated the entire 10-member Zubayev family, including sisters aged 8 and 12 and their 68-year-old grandfather.

Freed Afghan Jet Hostages Seeking Asylum in Britain

By Bill Glauber

THE BALTIMORE SUN

LONDON

There may be less dangerous ways to get from Afghanistan to Britain than to ride on a hijacked Afghan jet and sit on an airport tarmac for four days.

But now that they're here, 74 hostages from the Afghan airliner hijacked to England this week don't want to go home.

The hijack standoff at Stansted airport outside London ended peacefully with the release of all passengers early Thursday. Of the people who left the plane, 21 are under arrest and 74 want to stay here, turning the hijack drama into a refugee crisis.

While police and politicians were searching for answers to what the British government should do with the asylum-seekers, the European representative of Afghanistan's Taliban government had an opinion on what the British should do now: Send them all home.

"If you open the doors to this kind of asylum, you will see airplanes coming every day and then you have a big headache," General Rahmatullah Safi told British Broadcasting Corp.

British Home Secretary Jack Straw told the House of Commons that 60 adults and 14 dependents had applied for asylum and that he would handle the applications. While promising to consider every application fairly, Straw made it clear that he wanted all of the passengers to go home.

"I would wish to see removed from this country all those on the plane as soon as reasonably practicable," he said. "While I must and will act in accordance with the law, I am utterly determined that nobody should consider that there can be any benefit to be obtained by hijacking."

By taking a tough stand, the British government was moving into line with popular opinion — people here are concerned that the country is an easy target for asylum-seekers.

Campaigners for refugee and human rights groups urged the government to consider the asylum claims carefully in light of the horrors of life in Afghanistan these days.

"The truth is this is a desperate act by desperate men, desperate to get their families to safety," said Nick Hardwick of the Refugee Council. "It doesn't excuse it at all,

but it doesn't mean we can return people to a very dangerous situation without very careful thought."

Those who hijacked the plane might face dire consequences — even the death penalty — if returned to Afghanistan, according to Safi, the Taliban representative.

The hijack drama began early Sunday, when the Ariana Airlines Boeing 727 was bound on a flight scheduled for less than an hour from Kabul to the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Instead, the plane was commandeered by hijackers and hopped-scotched through central Asia, letting off passengers, refueling in Moscow, and finally landing early Monday morning at Stansted airport.

The former military base, now a regional facility 25 miles north of London, usually handles charter flights and budget airlines, but is designated as Britain's airport to handle hijack situations.

Police, fire and ambulances services assembled, and military teams dug in, as the long siege began. By taking a gentle approach, negotiators tried to win the trust of the hijackers, and succeeded in extracting 10 passengers amid the siege.

McCain Comes Under Scrutiny For His Fundraising Practices

By Karen Hosler

THE BALTIMORE SUN

WASHINGTON

Sen. John McCain's reformist presidential campaign for the White House met head-on Thursday night with what appears to be a glaring contradiction.

The Republican insurgent, who pledges to "break the Washington iron triangle of big money, lobbyists and legislation," collected big money here at a fund-raiser organized by lobbyists with business interests that McCain (R-Arizona), as chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, is in a position to influence.

Because that committee handles legislation that affects roughly 80 percent of the business community, it might be observed that McCain is

positioned at the center of that iron triangle.

Gov. George W. Bush of Texas, who is locked in a bruising battle with McCain for the Republican nomination, has pointed to McCain's close ties with some lobbyists as evidence that the senator's promises of reform are just "Washington double-talk."

In his defense, McCain argues that, for one thing, it is easier for someone like him who understands the system to change it. He adds that anyone who donates to his campaign knows his goal is to break the grip of big money over decision-making in Washington.

"I welcome the support of anyone in the form of thousand-dollar contributions," McCain said in a TV interview, referring to the maximum

legal donation by an individual and also the top ticket price to Thursday's event. "But they know clearly where I stand. A lot of these people that are going to be contributing, they're tired of this system, too."

Still, McCain seemed to display some sensitivity to the charge of hypocrisy by canceling plans to attend the Washington event in person after the Bush attacks had started. And his campaign stressed that the fund-raiser was just one of 18 campaign events throughout the nation that McCain addressed Thursday night via satellite before moving to the Web to chat with supporters online.

Even so, McCain's Washington fund-raiser — organized by a 46-member "Victory Committee" — is as a classic product of the very system he vows to smash.

WEATHER

The Classic Definite Maybe

By Greg Lawson

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Forecasts like today's remind one why forecasters often like to talk in terms of percent chances of precipitation rather than just saying whether it will or will not actually rain or snow. Appealing to that convention, I give it better than a 70 percent chance of rain and mixed precipitation today, but it is certainly not clear cut.

A low pressure system is approaching us from the Ohio Valley. It will track primarily in accordance with the upper-level steering currents. Errors on the order of tens of miles could mean the difference between being wet and dry. We could even experience intermittent rain depending on the fine-scale storm organization. Regardless, it is clear that whatever rain we do get will be light, and that it and its associated clouds should clear out by late evening.

Following the low, we'll be under the clear and cool shield of a high through the weekend with temperatures just above freezing during the day. The high will clear out by Monday morning and the low which replaces it may bring more precipitation if tracks far enough north.

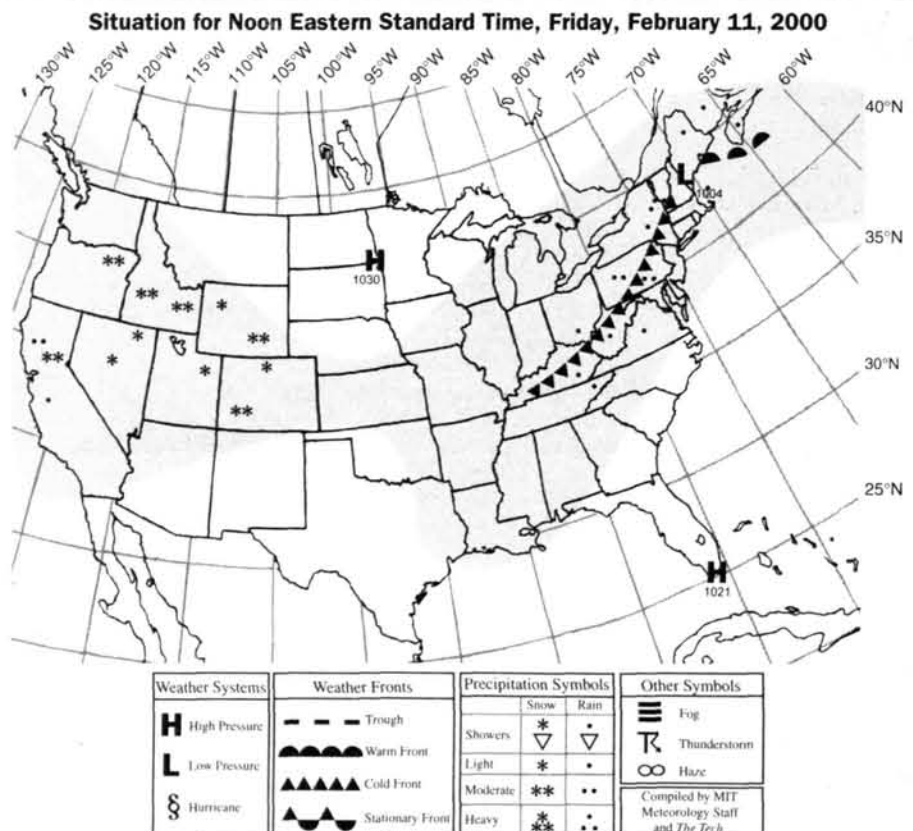
Today: Gray and mild. 70 percent chance of rain possibly mixed with snow. Light variable winds. Clouds and precipitation will clear by evening. High of 45°F (7°C).

Tonight: Clearing up. Wind speeds increase and become northwesterly. Low of 23°F (-5°C).

Saturday: Scattered clouds. Persistent northwesterly winds. A chilly high of only 33°F (1°C). Low of 20°F (-7°C).

Sunday: Partly cloudy. Similar to Saturday. High of 34°F (1°C). Low in mid to low 20s (-6° to -4°C).

Monday and beyond: Temperatures rising slightly with possible rain.



House Approves \$182 Billion Tax Cut for Married Couples

By Janet Hook
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The House voted Thursday to cut the taxes of married couples by \$182 billion over the next 10 years, defying a veto threat from President Clinton, who views the potential election year windfall for families as excessive.

The bill, approved 268-158, would reduce the so-called marriage penalty for millions of couples by increasing their standard deduction and allowing more of them to qualify for the lowest tax rate.

"We are going to end one of the most illogical and unfair aspects of the tax code," said Rep. David Dreier, R-Calif. "Married people should not pay more in taxes simply because they are married."

Clinton and the House Democratic leadership support the idea of reducing the marriage penalty but they argue that the Republican-drafted bill is too expensive and too skewed to affluent taxpayers. Compared to Clinton's proposal to pro-

vide \$45 billion over 10 years in relief for married couples, the GOP bill is a "two-fisted assault on the U.S. Treasury," said House Minority Whip David E. Bonior, D-Mich.

Renewing the line of attack Democrats used on various Republican tax-cut proposals last year, Bonior charged that the new GOP bill "would rob America of the dollars it would take to pay down the debt, to strengthen Social Security and to protect Medicare."

But in a sign of the strong political appeal of slashing the marriage penalty, 48 Democrats defected and voted with 219 Republicans and one independent to pass the GOP bill. Still, enough Democrats opposed it that they deprived Republicans of the two-thirds majority they would need to override a presidential veto.

The bill now goes to the Senate, where Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said that it will be debated by mid-March. Democrats plan to offer amendments to scale back the tax cut and add unrelated initiatives, including Clinton's proposal to pro-

vide a prescription drug benefit through Medicare.

These maneuvers — as well as the core disagreement over the size of the tax cut — cloud the measure's future. But lawmakers in both parties insisted that tax reduction for married couples presents one of the most promising opportunities for Clinton and Congress to compromise and enact some tax relief into law this year.

"We can reach some accommodation," Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said Thursday.

At the core of the debate is a quirk in the tax code that forces about 25 million married couples to pay more in taxes filing jointly than if they remained single and filed separately.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, about 42 percent of all joint filers incur a penalty averaging \$1,400 a year. However, many other joint filers enjoy a marriage "bonus," and pay less in taxes than they would if they were single.

Hezbollah, Israel Differ in Views Of Fighting In Southern Lebanon

By John Daniszewski
and Tracy Wilkinson
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEIRUT, LEBANON

A Hezbollah spokesman proclaimed victory Thursday in a deadly round of clashes in southern Lebanon, arguing that attacks that killed six Israeli soldiers in two weeks have proved that Israel can no longer stand up to the Shiite Muslim guerrillas.

But a still-angry Israel drew a different conclusion from the engagements. The government said it has effectively changed the rules of its war against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and that from now on it reserves the right to strike nonmilitary targets across Lebanon when an Israeli soldier is killed.

"We had grown accustomed to a situation in which the army is allowed only to respond to Katyushas (rockets) against civilians," Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh said Thursday. Referring to the main power broker in Lebanon, he added, "We reject this pattern where we supposedly hold peace talks while our soldiers are being killed — with Syrian permission."

Although Israel shelled suspect-

ed guerrilla targets beyond the 9-mile-deep strip of land it occupies in southern Lebanon, wounding at least two Hezbollah fighters, and Hezbollah also staged at least one fresh attack, fears of a wider war clearly eased Thursday.

Tensions relaxed after it became apparent that Hezbollah wasn't planning to fire Katyushas into northern Israel, as the Israelis had feared. In the northern settlement of Kiryat Shemona, the Israeli army sounded an all-clear alert and Israelis emerged from bomb shelters.

For its part, Israel avoided mounting any more attacks on civilian infrastructure sites, such as the bombing of three key electric plants earlier in the week that limited power supplies to a few hours a day for Beirut and other parts of Lebanon.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced Thursday that a five-nation monitoring group, established under a 1996 agreement that followed a previous Israeli campaign, will convene Friday to try to defuse the crisis in southern Lebanon. Lebanon had been seeking such a meeting.

At the busy Hezbollah Informa-

tion Office in south Beirut, the mood was buoyant among Hezbollah activists, who asserted that Israel had sustained bitter blows both militarily and politically.

"We have proven on the battlefield that Israeli forces are not capable of facing the resistance," said Hussein Haj Hassan, a Hezbollah member of parliament and a spokesman for the Iranian-backed organization, which has lost 11 fighters in the conflict this year. "This is a glorious victory."

The attacks on Israeli soldiers and their allies in the South Lebanese Army had provoked confusion and a "deep frustration inside Israel and inside the Israeli army itself," Hassan added.

Hassan said the guerrillas would have been justified to retaliate for this week's Israeli bombings of civilian sites by mounting rocket attacks on civilians in northern Israel but that the movement had decided to bide its time.

Several analysts saw the containment of the Lebanese conflict as boding well for a possible early resumption in stalled peace talks between Israel and Syria, because it demonstrated that both sides are still very interested in a deal.

Educators Encourage Supreme Court To Condone Racial School Districting

By Lyle Denniston
THE BALTIMORE SUN

WASHINGTON

Raising the stakes on a Montgomery County, Maryland, schools case now being reviewed by the Supreme Court, a group of educational organizations has urged the justices to allow students across the nation to be assigned to schools based on their race as a way to promote cultural diversity.

"This case," the groups argued, "presents a critical legal issue: can a local school board take intentional steps to create a diverse learning environment?"

The friend-of-the-court brief, by the National School Boards Association and 16 other groups, attempts to convince the court that much more is at stake than a race-based transfer policy in Montgomery County.

The brief seeks to persuade the court to hear the case and, more broadly, to move beyond the era when race was routinely forbidden as a basis for school assignment

because the aim was to maintain segregation. Instead, the brief encourages the court to inaugurate a new standard by which "educating children in a diverse setting" provides a different justification for assignments based on race.

For the past decade, the court has moved increasingly to outlaw the use of race as a basis for government policies. That trend has generated a new controversy in which "racial diversity" goals have come under broad attack from conservative advocacy groups who argue for a "colorblind" society.

The court has not yet moved to outlaw the use of race in education, outside the segregated-schools context.

With the filing of the education groups' brief, that case takes on the aura of a wider-ranging effort to treat elementary and secondary schools as a unique form of government activity.

The brief argued: "While the court has voiced misgivings about allowing the government to weigh

race in other settings, the special context of kindergarten-through-12th-grade public education raises issues that warrant review by this court."

The group contended that "it is an accepted role of the public schools to prepare America's children to participate in our democracy."

Noting that lower courts have issued "a tangled web of contradictory rulings" on whether race-based student assignments in public schools are unconstitutional, the organizations said the confusion deprives millions of school children "of important, firsthand lessons in diversity that would aid each personally and benefit the nation."

In Montgomery County, school officials had grown concerned that race-neutral school assignments were contributing to racial isolation. The school board adopted a policy to forbid student transfers to new schools if they would lead to a greater concentration of one race at either school.

Swiss Scientists Announce Creation of 'New State of Matter'

THE WASHINGTON POST

Scientists at Europe's premier high-energy physics facility announced Thursday that they have created a "new state of matter" that has not existed since a few millionths of a second after the Big Bang that generated the cosmos.

The new state, which the scientists infer from different aspects of seven experiments over the past six years, is presumably one in which tiny sub-nuclear particles called quarks and gluons are squeezed and heated to such a stupendous extent that they can move freely.

This never happens under anything like ordinary conditions. In all but extreme circumstances, quarks are always tightly bound into groups of three in the form of neutrons and protons, or into short-lived pairs in particles called mesons. There is no such thing as a free quark.

Although theory indicates that quarks might become unbound in an ultra-high energy environment, free-moving quarks would last have been seen in the ferocious energy torrent just after the Big Bang, before the quark-and-gluon soup cooled and congealed into conventional protons and neutrons.

His Airness Comes Out for Bradley

THE WASHINGTON POST

LOS ANGELES

Looking for one more spark from the sports world to energize his candidacy, Bill Bradley announced Thursday that basketball superstar Michael Jordan will appear in a new television spot on his behalf.

The campaign announced that it plans to begin running a 30-second television ad featuring Jordan in 25 big cities where Democratic primaries will be held on March 7.

The ad was filmed just before Christmas in a Chicago suburb. It will be the first time Jordan, whose product endorsements have brought him nearly as much airtime as his exploits on the hardwood, has endorsed a candidate for public office.

Jordan, seated as he gazes into the camera, says he wants his children to grow up in America where everyone has health care, guns are under control, children are being lifted out of poverty, and skin color doesn't matter.

"That's why I'm supporting Bill Bradley," he says. "Shouldn't you?"

At the same time, the Bradley camp orchestrated a double hit on rival Al Gore, portraying the vice president as a political chameleon on abortion and gun control, two hot-button issues that could figure prominently in upcoming Democratic primaries.

Senate Fails to Get Veto-Proof OK of Nuclear Waste Site Bill

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Senate passed legislation Thursday that would provide a permanent site for disposal of the nation's nuclear waste, but the 64-34 vote fell short of the two-thirds majority that Republicans would need to override a veto, apparently continuing a six-year impasse.

The government already has proposed that the spent nuclear fuel be deposited in a new facility to be built at Yucca Mountain, Nev., but the White House and Republicans are at odds over how to go about it.

President Clinton opposes a GOP provision that would limit the role of the Environmental Protection Agency in setting standards for how much radiation the waste facility could emit and has threatened to veto the legislation if the House approves similar language.

The provision would require the EPA to consult with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and National Academy of Sciences, which favor less stringent standards, if it wants to issue such regulations before June 1, 2001. After that, however, the EPA could act entirely on its own.

Proponents said that the legislation must be passed soon or the nation will face a crisis. Some 40,000 tons of highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel already have piled up in some 80 separate storage areas in 40 states. Some of the facilities are almost filled to capacity.

The government was supposed to have taken custody of the spent fuel by 1998, but Congress and the White House have been unable to agree on how to do it. Republicans have tried for six years to push their own plan through Congress but have been unsuccessful.

The bill now goes to the House, where its fate is uncertain. The House Commerce Committee approved slightly different legislation last year but the measure never reached the floor.

Senate Confirms Federal Judges

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Senate on Thursday brushed aside objections from conservatives and confirmed two judicial nominations after Majority Leader Trent Lott refused to go along with a move within his own caucus to block action on judgeships for the rest of the year.

With only conservative Sens. James M. Inhofe, R-Okla., and Robert C. Smith, R-N.H., dissenting, the Senate approved the nomination of Wilmington, Del., lawyer Thomas L. Ambro to the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and Joel A. Pisano, a federal magistrate, to serve as a U.S. District Court judge in New Jersey.

Neither nomination was controversial. But 19 conservatives led by Inhofe, accusing President Clinton of breaking his word by bypassing the Senate and making temporary appointments to administration posts during Congress's winter recess, vowed to block action on any further judicial nominations by Clinton.

Normally any senator can block action by imposing a "hold," as Inhofe and his allies did. But Lott, as majority leader, can override the hold and move for a vote, and he did so Thursday.

Lott, R-Miss., said he doesn't get "all weepy-eyed about having more federal judges of any kind anywhere" and praised Inhofe for pressuring Clinton to minimize the number of recess appointments. But Lott also said the White House had tried to work with him on the issue and that he didn't want to set a precedent for filibustering judicial nominations.

OPINION

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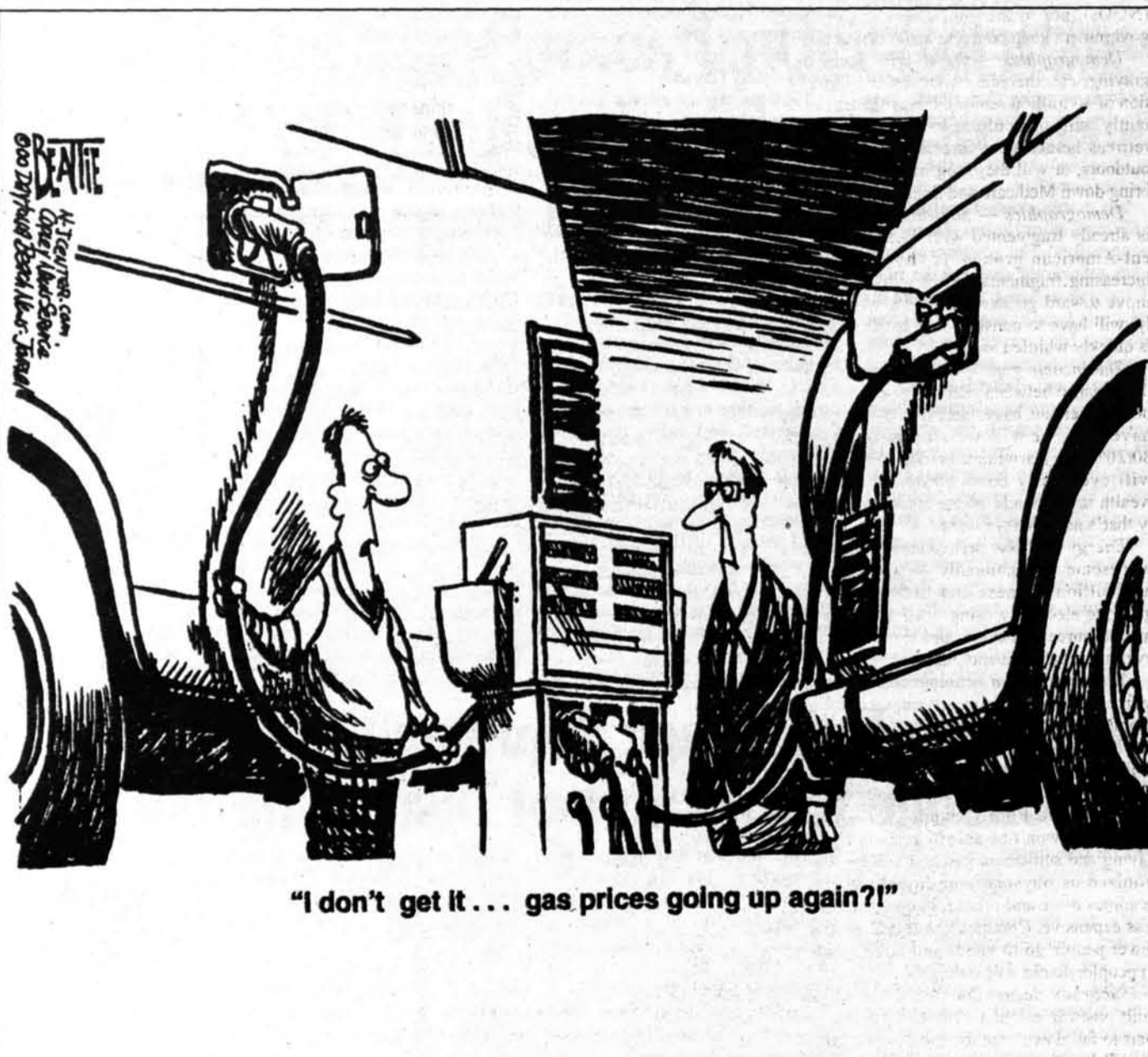
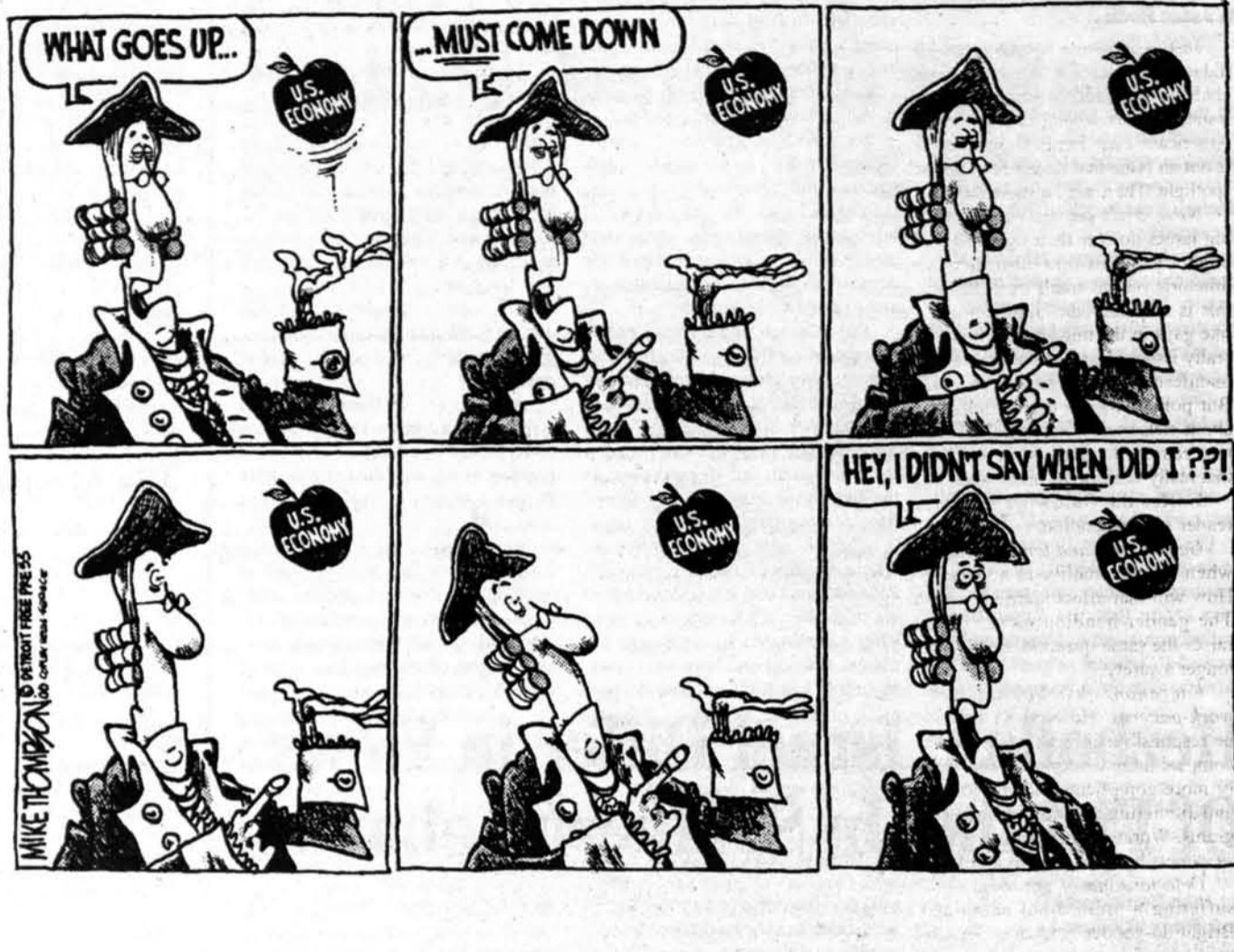
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Ignore the Chaff

Eric J. Plosky

Just as in recent memory, presidential candidates this election season are fixated on the chaff. What about the wheat? Abortion, as an issue, typifies what I mean. Yes, millions of Americans care deeply about abortion. But this is not an issue that deserves to hog the national spotlight. There are far more pressing concerns.

Now, don't get me wrong. Sometimes the big issues do rear their ugly heads. But all too often, candidates waste their fiery, impassioned rhetoric on the small stuff. School prayer — this is of paramount importance? Even issues like gays in the military and gun control aren't really issues in and of themselves; they're only manifestations of a society in need of fixing. But politicians are more comfortable talking about sick society's symptoms than about the root causes, the underlying problems, the stuff that really needs to be addressed.

I offer the following big issues for the reader's consideration.

Gender, sex, and family. What will happen when homosexuality is no longer a Thing? How will that affect marriage and the family? The gender-bending power of the Internet raises the same question. Sexual identity is no longer a surety.

Education, global competition, changing work patterns. How do we teach children to be responsible citizens while we train them to compete in the workplace? The answer is surely more complicated than wiring classrooms and funneling tax dollars into voucher programs. Worker training must also be redefined as careers become shorter and flightier.

Deterioration of government. The Man is suffering a brain drain unnoticed by most. Bright do-gooder graduates now flock to nonprofits and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), not to the public sector. How will government keep competent and competitive?

Demographics — the elderly. America is graying; can the economy withstand the addition of 40 million senior citizens? More importantly, will our culture have to adapt? Will retirees launch new careers and explore the outdoors, or will they clog nursing homes and bring down Medicare and Social Security?

Demographics — nonwhites. Our society is already fragmented with dozens of Different-American groups. Is the trend toward increasing fragmentation, or will we begin to move toward greater unity? Whites, especially, will have to consider this as their majority is quickly whittled away.

The income gap. Wider and wider yawns the expanse between rich and poor. Are we to be five percent haves and ninety-five percent have-nots, or will we stop at ninety/ten? 80/20? The Darwinian market, left to itself, will eventually concentrate all American wealth in the hands of one individual — surely that's not what we want.

Energy and the environment. Even more worrisome internationally — will two and a half billion Chinese and Indians expect to generate electricity using coal? Global warming, resource depletion, and extinctions grow ever more palpable and ominous.

Transportation, communications, and infrastructure. People are unprecedentedly mobile, able to move as fast and as flexibly as the Internet-paced global economy demands. Will transport continue to evolve fast enough, or will it be outstripped — or replaced — by telecommunications technology? Surely the automobile won't be able to keep up for long. Living and settlement patterns will be revolutionized as physical and digital movement becomes more and more frequent and less and less expensive. Commerce will change, too, as fewer people go to goods and more goods go to people, thanks to e-tailing.

Suburban decay. Soon all those cheaply-built postwar colonial ticky-tacky houses will start to fall down. Are the suburbs here to stay, or will Levittown and its ilk become modern-day ghost towns? The superior sustainability of traditional cities may promote their resurgence.

Worldwide issues. Global health is of growing concern as diseases like AIDS ravage unprepared nations. Governments distracted by war and repression might find themselves sidelined, unable to summon the resources or credibility to step onto the world stage. International trade issues will pressure laggards to keep up and will redefine global corporatization and taxation. Those committed to belligerence over economics may further the development of multipolar nuclear alliances. Forward-thinking nations might instead unite on space exploration. This is all a lot to think about, which is why most politicians don't. But we're MIT people. We should certainly be able to see the small issues as part of a big picture.

Untangling the Oil Web

Development of Alternative Energy Sources the Only Way to Avert Price Crises

Michael J. Ring

The recent dramatic increase in the cost of home heating oil illustrates perfectly a potential national nightmare that is rarely discussed in public discourse — the stranglehold of foreign nations on our energy supply.

In recent weeks the price of home heating oil in the frigid Northeastern states has skyrocketed from 80 cents a gallon to 2 dollars a gallon. The price increase has been so sudden and debilitating that the nonprofit Citizens Energy Corporation has had to suspend applications for its elderly and low-income fuel assistance program. Consumers — and the local oil dealers — have been left out in the cold.

Allegations of profiteering by the large, multinational oil producers have surfaced, and given the extreme jump in prices, an investigation into their practices is justified. Earlier this week, Rhode Island Attorney General Sheldon Whitehouse, in an attempt to determine if price gouging is occurring, demanded that the nine largest oil wholesale suppliers in his state provide his office with financial information.

While any of these companies deserve harsh punishment if the allegations of profiteering are proved, sanctions against oil wholesalers will not provide a structural solution to America's foreign energy dependence. The only solution to this potentially devastating problem is domestic development of renewable energy sources.

The attempts of the Carter administration to reduce American dependence on foreign oil in the wake of the 1973 embargo instituted by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have not been sustained. The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commis-

sion calculates that imported oil comprises 56 percent of American petroleum consumption, and estimates that that figure could rise to 68 percent by 2010.

Drilling for more domestic supplies of oil, however, is not the best long-term answer to our nation's energy needs. Petroleum is a limited natural resource, and while developing new domestic supplies might buy us several more decades of cheap, available oil, given the nation's increasing rate of energy consumption we will drain the supply eventually and then be in the same bind. Additionally, petroleum is a fossil fuel, and the burning of even the cleanest petroleum still releases the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

The United States is a vast country with several different topological and climatological regions. Fortunately, a clean, renewable form of energy production can be found for most, if not all, regions of the nation.

The United States is a vast country with several different topological and climatological regions. Fortunately, a clean, renewable form of energy production can be found for most, if not all, regions of the nation. Perhaps most obviously, solar energy should be the future method of production for our nation's desert southwest. Wind-driven turbines should play a role in energy production for the Rockies and Great Plains states. Maine may wish to take advantage of large tides there by constructing a tidal power station similar to one operating in La Rance, France.

The development of alternative energy resources fulfills two important goals. First, and most obviously, it reduces the air pollution and the contribution of energy production to global warming. Many of America's cities are choking on smog, and much of this air pollution comes not from highly regulated passenger vehicles but from the dirty stacks of coal power plants. Reducing emissions stemming from electricity generation is necessary to solving the United States' air pollution problem, and renewable, nonpolluting elec-

tricity production is the means to accomplish that goal.

A second advantage of developing domestic renewable energy resources is the reduction of OPEC influence on our economy. OPEC is the root of this current crisis — unhappy with inflation-adjusted oil prices nearing Depression-era levels, OPEC members last year agreed to reduce production. Actions of wholesalers or dealers are essentially peripheral to the current crisis, for if OPEC had maintained its previous production level, the winter bump in the price of heating oil would have been far more gentle.

Simply put, the United States should not allow a handful of dictatorships and fiefdoms to strangle the American economy at will. With over 50 percent of our oil coming from foreign sources, however, this is exactly the situation that exists.

Development of domestic energy sources also extracts us from the prickly politics of the Middle East, a region in which the United States should have few concerns. Of course, as it now stands, America must be hyperconcerned with our relations with nations like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. We are so tied to these nations that we are willing to fight wars for their oil. But this concern for our oil-rich friends has only resulted in inane policies regarding our oil-rich enemies.

The quality of our relations with Iraq, for example, is inversely proportional to the amount of meddling we undertake in the Middle East. Just last week the United States seized a Russian tanker full of Iraqi oil. At a time when the world is desperate for a short-term energy supply, lifting the embargo on Iraqi oil makes sense, especially considering that the embargo hurts ordinary Iraqi citizens, not Saddam Hussein. But the chances of the United States, entangled deep in the web of oil politics, lifting this embargo are slim-to-none.

After the weather warms and the oil crisis has passed, America's politicians and public would be well-advised to remember the benefits of a clean, domestic supply of energy. A system of internal renewable energy production is the only guarantee that situations such as this will not arise in winters to come.

The WTO vs. History

Protectionism the Traditional Defense of Emerging Economies

Guest Column

John Reed

Two months ago, the convergence of 40,000 street protesters sparked the collapse of the World Trade Organization talks in Seattle. The mainstream media reaction to this setback for free trade has taken on the tone of a frustrated parent dealing with unruly children.

Two common refrains have recurred in this drumbeat of criticism. The WTO opponents are either deluded idealists who will actually harm the people and environment they desire to help — or spoiled and selfish people who would deny the developing world the wealth and opportunities enjoyed in rich countries. After all, the only proven route from poverty and tyranny to prosperity, freedom, and blue skies is the free flow of capital and trade unhindered by barriers and government meddling. Or is it?

History suggests otherwise. Furthermore, with little evidence to bolster their claims, and plenty to counter them, it's more likely the WTO advocates are either deluded, selfish or both. The whole atmosphere of debate surrounding the issue is very reminiscent of the "emperor has no clothes" story. There's scant evidence to support the claim that free trade is the best way for developing countries to prosper, and yet, if you don't believe it, you're an idiot.

You're supposed to ignore the fact that not one major economic power in the world developed its economy by practicing free trade. It's well known that the major Asian economies — Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and China — did not practice free trade during their rapid economic developments. Less well known is that those two stalwarts of laissez-faire capitalism, the United Kingdom and the United States, had trade practices that were even less free, especially in the full sense of the word, during their ascents to economic prosperity.

Protectionism was the rule for the U.S. in its first century of existence. American military spending to this day stimulates economic growth and the development of new technologies (like the Internet, as pointed out in

Phillipe Larochelle's column last week ["Deconstructing Laissez-faire," Feb. 1]). In addition, the first major U.S. industry, textiles, used cheap agricultural inputs provided by slave labor and the cultivation of land conquered from Native Americans. It is revealing that free trade has traditionally been championed by countries that have already achieved economic primacy (the U.K. in the 19th century, the U.S. in the 20th) — could it be because it's a good way to increase economic dominance if poorer countries can be convinced or coerced to go along with it? 'Do as we say, not as we did' is the message from wealthy, pro-WTO countries to poor ones.

While it's immoral to suggest that poor nations should emulate the development path taken by the U.K. and U.S., since that path involved slavery and military conquest, does history recommend any ethical plan? Not the snake oil called multilateral free trade being peddled by the US and the WTO. To compete in an open world market created by the WTO, the developing countries are supposed to take advantage of their peoples' desperation. This desperation will allow corporations to pay low wages there and to disregard safety. Most wealthy nations also abused labor and the environment early in their economic development, so this model would seem consistent with what has worked in the past.

However, there's an important difference — these nations retained their wealth through restrictions on trade and capital, whereas the WTO forbids such measures. The model being promoted by the WTO more closely resembles another system that has already been tried; it's called colonialism. Just in case you haven't heard, it featured the following: people were harshly exploited, the environment was trashed, and almost all the wealth flowed away to foreign investors. Some argue that since a crummy job at a plantation or sweatshop is better than starving, free trade is good. Well, if that's the case, then is it "good" when westerners go on "sex tours" to poor nations, giving hungry children money in exchange for sex, since otherwise they might starve?

If you agree that that's not good, rather than it's deplorable exploitation, then consider that there are other ways for an individual to get

screwed than just in the literal sense. If the WTO advocates are really sincere about helping poor nations, it seems they should be promoting a policy of unilateral free trade by the wealthy nations — i.e., the wealthy countries open markets while poor countries are allowed to maintain protective barriers — instead of multilateral free trade for all nations. Historically, when unilateral free trade is tolerated by the economic powers that be, it frequently is the springboard to economic development for poorer trading partners. This was seen in the 19th century with the U.K. practicing free trade while the weaker U.S. and German economies grew behind trade barriers, and during the cold war, when the U.S. provided Japan, West Germany, South Korea, and Taiwan with similar opportunities.

Quite simply, where the WTO and current U.S. trade policy punishes poor nations that attempt to improve their lot in the time honored fashion (nurturing industries with protectionism), and rewards nations that subject their people to abuse, a humane trade policy would do the opposite. The moral of this story: beware of rich nations and corporate interests bearing free trade agreements.

John Reed is a graduate student in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

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THE ARTS

MUSIC REVIEW

State of the Airwaves

Beck, Beth, and Bad Touch

By Dan Katz

STAFF WRITER

It's always annoying to make the Airwaves Show of the Week a sold out concert, so I'm going to avoid giving that title to Beck and Beth Orton, a great pairing who will play a full house tonight and tomorrow night at the Orpheum. Instead, this week's honors go to Atom and His Package, the Casio-backed wonder from the Philadelphia area who hits Bill's Bar on Sunday night. In addition, Wednesday sees the Sno-Core tour at the Avalon. Last year's tour had a terrifically eclectic lineup (Everclear, Soul Coughing, Black-Eyed Peas, DJ Spooky). While this year's bill of Incubus, System of a Down, Puya, and Mr. Bungle is impressive, it's a neo-metal one-trick pony. Good bands, but I prefer the variety. Looking ahead a bit, Angry Salad play the Middle East and Lords of Acid hit the Roxy next Friday, and Morrissey plays the Avalon Saturday and Sunday.

The best single so far this year by far must be "The Bad Touch" by The Bloodhound Gang. Sure, it's two decades too late, but the Gang's usual sophomoric sexual rapping is utilized here in what may be the best new wave song ever, complete with synth horns and drums and a fabulous keyboard part. Plus as always, the band's lyrics range from clever to tasteless, as indicated by the chorus: "You and me, baby, ain't nothin' but mammals, so let's do it like they do on the Discovery Channel." It gets worse, but as usual, I have good taste boundaries to stay within. When the Beastie Boys run out of ideas, BHG will be their replacements.

The Smashing Pumpkins' new video for "The Everlasting Gaze," a song that wasn't scheduled to be their first single but just got too much advance radio play to ignore, is currently airing on MTV and is available in its entirety on the web site. The main things to notice here are that first of all, the song's excellent (it's got a heavily melted distorted feel similar to "Zero," one of the Pumpkins' best songs ever) and secondly, ousted Hole bassist Melissa Auf Der Maur looks like she fits in with the boys just fine. I was expecting more of a Marilyn Addams effect, but Melissa can apparently do faux goth as well as faux glam.

Apologies for a typo in last week's installment. A few of my more attentive and communicative readers pointed out the obvious fact that there's no band called Push It, and if there is they probably don't have a song called "Static X." Those should be switched, but you probably knew that anyway.

There's a gentleman named Angie Aparo who's starting to break onto some radio stations. I don't know much about him, but I picked up a copy of the band's single (although the song on the band's web site is not the one getting airplay). "Alone" features a great blend of organic guitar sounds, sampling, regular and tribal-sounding vocals, and an awesome sense of contrast. It's very similar to VAST's "Touched" (which has recently been enjoying a return to popularity thanks to its appearance in commercials and trailers for *The Beach*).

Live. "Run To The Water." It's a Live song. Been there, done that. What's their obsession with water recently?

I must say, I think I enjoyed last week's edition of *The Essential Vegetarian* more than in any other issue. Keep up the good work.

Finally, I got an e-mail last week asking why I don't cover local hip-hop artists in my column. Music ranges broadly, from classical to folk to rap to rock to polka. There's no room to cover it all in one weekly column, so I've chosen to focus on a chunk of it: modern rock and "electronica" (if those in the know will excuse the poor terminology), the style of songs that get played on WBCN, WAAF, and WFNX. The reason for this is that it's the kind of music I like most, and it's what I'm most familiar with, which makes it easiest for me to write about and critique. I'm fully in favor of making people aware of hip hop (see my standard signoff) but I'm simply not qualified. If you want to spread the good word, *The Tech* can always use arts writers...

Time to go. I've actually been getting mail of late, and I like it! Keep it up; it gives me stuff to talk about. Send your commentary on the world of music (primarily the realm noted above) to <airwaves@the-tech.mit.edu>, unless it's a complaint, in which case send it to *The Essential Vegetarian*. Hasta luego and keep expanding your horizons.

FOOD REVIEW

The Essential Vegetarian

By Katie Jeffreys

FEATURES EDITOR

When a vegetarian hears about a diner or other greasy-sounding restaurant, she is often wary. They tend to offer very few, frequently bland options for the vegetarian patron. One of these locations which may be easy to overlook is Deli Haus on Commonwealth Avenue in Kenmore Square. The walls are as brightly decorated as the patrons, and the music is loud and certainly not what you would hear on pop radio stations. The sassy but friendly (and overwhelmingly pierced and tattooed) waitresses only add to the ambiance.

This is not the place which sets out to impress, but the food is good, and the menu is surprisingly vegetarian friendly. On the night I visited, there were several vegetarian specials including chili, a vegetarian shepherd's pie made with the chili, and a western variety of their veggie burger. I chose the last of these (primarily because I was there late in the day and they had run out of the chili).

The burger was good, topped with fried onion rings and cheese, and served with barbecue sauce. I was also surprised to see on the menu sweet potato french fries. I only discovered sweet potatoes this fall, and this huge portion of fries proved to be a treat. They are heartier than the regular fries, though not nearly the gourmet treat I had experienced at more expensive restaurants.

The menu also contains such favorites as the Velvet Elvis, a peanut butter and banana sandwich which meat-eaters and vegetarians alike enjoy.

I will say again that Deli Haus is not a gourmet restaurant, but it has no pretense of being so. It very successfully does what it sets out to do: offer inexpensive tasty food until late at night.

Some of you may have noticed that this column did not run last week. There were two reasons for this, both because I was busy with the start of term and because I had nothing to say. To keep this column going, I need help from my readers: pose questions, offer topics for discussion, etc. I feel like I don't have much more to say without beginning to repeat myself, so let me know which topics to explore more in depth.

Also, if you are interested in finding vegetarian recipes previously run in this column, you can find them all online by searching <<http://the-tech.mit.edu>> for "Essential Vegetarian."

Finally, to The Dan, my esteemed nemesis: Thanks for the award. I'm sure you too would earn something along the lines of "Most Annoying Omnivore" if I held a contest.

This week's recipe is for Asparagus Quiche. I am a big fan of "spear grass," as my family calls it. Use a premade pastry (not graham cracker) crust to save some time.

Asparagus Quiche

Pie crust (your favorite recipe)
18-20 spears fresh asparagus
1 1/2 cups freshly grated swiss cheese
1 cup half and half
4 eggs (or substitute)
Salt and pepper to taste
1/4 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese

Line bottom of quiche pan (or pie plate) with pie crust. Chill. Wash asparagus, and trim to lengths to fit into quiche pan as spokes on a wheel, tips pointed toward outside edge. Bring pot of water to boil, put asparagus in boiling water and cook until water returns to boil. Plunge asparagus immediately into ice water to stop cooking process. Dry on towels. In a small bowl, whisk the half & half with eggs, salt, and pepper.

To assemble quiche: spread swiss cheese evenly over pie crust. Lay asparagus spears, as spokes on a wheel evenly in quiche pan. Pour egg mixture over all. Sprinkle parmesan cheese over top. Bake at 375° for 45 minutes or until center is set. Let rest about 15 minutes before serving.

Serve with a nice tossed salad and herbed focaccia bread for a great supper.

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

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

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

American Beauty (★½)

An extremely annoying movie: this deadpan black tragicomedy is a laughable failure as a work of art, being pretentious, simplistic, and self-important. Excepting a truly remarkable performance by Kevin Spacey (whose part is disappointingly small), there's nothing to this movie beyond tortured metaphors, caricatures instead of characters, and a messy pile-up of red herrings instead of a plot. — Vlad Zelevinsky

Anna and the King (★★½)

Chow Yun Fat is an Oscar-worthy scene-stealer with riveting screen presence as the Thai King Mongkut; the only other three-dimensional character is played by Bai Ling in a passionately sincere performance. Jodie Foster disappoints for the first time as the British governess Anna Leonowens. See the movie for the stunning visuals: gorgeous, sprawling epic sets, beautiful details, and the regal Chow Yun Fat's performance which keeps lighting up the screen. — Zarminae Ansari

Being John Malkovich (★★½)

A film so different, so whacked-out, so original, and totally unlike anything else out there — like Monty Python at their most dead-

pan hilarious. An unconventional mixture of comedy, satire, and frighteningly deep ruminations on the nature of personality. — VZ

The Cider House Rules (★★★)

Despite the fact that the protagonists' name is Homer, this film ends up feeling less like a Homeric epic and more like a Norman Rockwell painting: hardly great art or even art at all, but something with instantly recognizable humanity and an overall impact that can hardly be ignored. Credit this mostly to luminous acting and the screenplay's understated emotional complexity. — VZ

Cradle Will Rock (★★★½)

A rich, visually inventive, amazingly-acted, and consistently hilarious tapestry of art set in the 1930's, weaving together characters from John Cusack's Nelson Rockefeller to Emily Watson's homeless street performer. A perfect opening sequence, a perfect closing shot. — VZ

Galaxy Quest (★★½)

Not quite the *Star Trek* parody that it starts out like; more of a *Star Trek* rip-off, with the same stupid computer graphics, fake sets, plot holes (all of the above rather irritating), and general air of amiable nonsense (very enjoyable). It's also neat to see a bunch of good actors having fun. Rather stupid, really; at the same time, rather cute. — VZ

Girl, Interrupted (★★½)

Exploring the struggles of a teenage girl in a mental hospital, Winona Ryder manages the

lows but not highs of her character effectively, creating a somewhat skewed view of the movie. However, Angelina Jolie and Brittany Murphy are excellent supporting actresses and serve to balance the movie, while the rest of the acting is lukewarm. Additionally, the dramatic details, such as the lighting, create moods and scenes that are compelling, but that do not make up for the lack of plot. — Amy Meadows

Magnolia (★★½)

A sprawling incoherent mess of a movie, with a story and characters that manage to be both jaw-droppingly obvious and make no sense whatsoever. On the other hand, the annoying narrative bombast is compensated by great visual verve, and the climactic sequence is simply the most wildly creative bit of filmmaking of 1999, even though it has nothing to do with the rest of the movie. — VZ

The Talented Mr. Ripley (★★★)

A lot to recommend: a complex plot, accomplished acting (Matt Damon and Cate Blanchett especially), and gorgeous visuals; especially impressive is the degree to which the audience gets to understand and identify



MELISSA MOSELEY—GRAMERCY PICTURES
Co-workers Maxine (Catherine Keener, left) and Craig (John Cusack) are forced to stoop in the seven-and-a-half floor office space they inhabit in *Being John Malkovich*.

with the film's immoral protagonist. A bit too slowly-paced, though. — VZ

Topsy-Turvy (★★★)

Following the trials and triumphs of Gilbert and Sullivan as they create their masterpiece *The Mikado*, *Topsy-Turvy* holds and keeps the audience's attention. But it's the breathtaking final five minutes that make the film worth seeing. — VZ

Toy Story 2 (★★½)

An instant classic, one of the most creative and fun movies of the year, this completely computer-generated sequel about the adventures of a bunch of toys is clever, funny, complex, and, most surprisingly, deeply emotional. — VZ

Popular Music

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Feb. 26: John Edward \$39-\$69.
Mar. 4: Diana Krall \$38-\$30.
Mar. 5: Tony Kenny, \$25.
Mar. 18: Bruce Cockburn \$26.50-\$24.50.
Mar. 26: Ryuichi Sakamoto, TBA.

Centrum Centre

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Mar. 25: Britney Spears. Sold Out.
Mar. 30: Korn. Sold Out.
Mar. 31: Korn. \$29.50.

Fleet Center

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Mar. 26-27: Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young. \$201, \$76, \$51, \$40.50.

The Middle East

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Ticket prices vary. Call 354-8238 for more info.

Feb. 11: Barbero (with Crack Torch, R.C. Crimewave, Getto Thunder and Tracy Husky).

Feb. 11: Deep Banana Blackout.
Feb. 12: Lee "Scratch" Perry.
Feb. 12: Schleigho.
Feb. 13: Ui.

Feb. 14: 128 Columbia Projects (with Karma Days, The Kind, and Soulwork).

Feb. 14: Hyptonic.
Feb. 15: The Fly Seville.

Feb. 16: Willard Grant Conspiracy.

Feb. 17: Black Sheep (with Das EFX).

Feb. 17: Tugboat Annie.

Feb. 18: Angry Salad (presented by WFNX with X-Guru, Lake Boone, and Chasing Gray).

Feb. 18: Photon Torpedos (CD release party, with Kings of Nuthin' and TR6).

Feb. 19: Babaloo.

Orpheum Theatre

Ticketmaster: 931-2000

Feb. 11-12: Beck, Sold Out.
Feb. 25: Fiona Apple, \$36, \$29.50, \$24.50.

Feb. 29: Smash Mouth (with Luscious Jackson), \$18, \$11 (limited students tickets).

Apr. 15: Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, TBA.

Sanders Theatre

617-496-2222
45 Quincy St., 02138

Feb. 11: Leo Kottke, \$25.50, \$23.50.

Feb. 19: Celtic Fiddle Festival, featuring Ireland's Kevin Burke, Scotland's Johnny Cunningham (of Silly Wizard), and France's Christian LaMatre, \$25, \$20.

Jazz Music

Regattabar

Concertix: 876-7777

Feb. 11-13: Tommy Flanagan Trio.

Feb. 15-16: Mark Turner Quartet, Kurt Rosenwinkel Quartet.

Feb. 17-19: Dave Frishberg and Bob Dorough.

Feb. 20: Aaron Goldberg Trio.

Scullers Jazz Club

(All performers have two shows per day unless otherwise noted.)

Feb. 11-13: Abbey Lincoln.

Feb. 16: Lisa Thorson Band.

Classical Music

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Tickets: 266-1492.

Performances at Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston unless otherwise noted. For MIT Students: Tickets are offered for Thursday evening concerts (8pm) and Friday afternoon concerts (1:30 p.m.) and are available on the day of the concert only at the BSO Box Office at Symphony Hall (301 Massachusetts Ave. Open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.). Two tickets may be obtained with two current valid MIT student IDs, subject to availability. For updated MIT student ticket availability, call 638-9478 after 10 a.m. on the day of concert.

Feb. 17-19: Mahler: Symphony No. 7. Bernard Haitink, conductor. Pre-concert talk given by Marc Mandel.

BankBoston Celebrity Series

Tickets: 482-6661.

Performances at Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston unless otherwise noted.

Mar. 3 at 8 p.m.: Russell Sherman, piano, a 70th Birthday Celebration Performance. Beethoven: Sonata No. 30 in E Major, Op. 109; Sonata No. 21 in C Major, Op. 53 ("Waldstein"); Sonata No. 32 in C minor, Op. 111. \$38, \$35, \$30.

Mar. 5 at 3 p.m.: Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. J.S. Bach:



STEVE J. SHERMAN

Bernard Haitink is the Principle Guest Conductor for the Boston Symphony Orchestra through February 19th.

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, BWV 1048; Concerto for Three Violins in D Major, BWV 1064; Schoenberg: Verklarte Nacht, Op. 4; Shostakovich: Two Pieces for String Octet, Op. 11. \$48, \$45, \$42.

Mar. 18 at 8 p.m.: Beaux Arts Trio. Beethoven: Variations on "Ich bin ein der Schneider Kakadu" in G Major, Op. 121A; Trio in B-flat Major, Op. 97 ("Archduke"); Shostakovich: Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67. At NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston, MA. \$45, \$42, \$38.

Theater

A Copland Celebration

Feb. 11-13 at The Boston Conservatory Theater. Students of the Boston Conservatory Dance Division give the professional premiere of "Appalachian Spring," choreographed by Martha Graham and music by Aaron Copland. Tickets \$32. Student Rush \$7. Call (617) 912-9142 for tickets.

Miss Julie

Through Feb. 19, Th.-Sat. at 8:00 p.m., Sun. 2:00 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre in the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St. The Coyote Theatre, a professional, non-profit theatre founded in 1991, presents August Strindberg's *Miss Julie*. In the play an aristocratic young woman engages in a heated sexual tryst with her father's servant. Tickets for previews \$15, for performances Th. and Sun. \$20, Fri. and Sat. \$22.50. For more information or to reserve tickets, call the box office at (617) 426-ARTS.

Anne of Green Gables

Through Feb. 27, Fri. at 7:30 p.m., Sat. and Sun. at 3:00 p.m.: The Wheelock Family Theatre (180 The Riverway, Boston) presents the family musical based on the L.M. Montgomery classic. Tickets are \$17, \$15, and \$10. ASL and Audio description Feb. 25 and 27. The theater is wheelchair accessible. To reserve tickets or for more information, call 617-734-4760, TTY 731-4426.

Blue Man Group

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warren Street, Boston, indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, at 7 and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 3 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$35 to \$45. Call 426-6912 for tickets and information on how to see the show for free by ushering.

Shear Madness

Charles Playhouse Stage II, 74 Warren Street, Boston (426-5225), indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, and at 3 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$30-34.

Exhibits

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston. (566-1401). Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$10 (\$11 on weekends), \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID (\$3 on

On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston

February 11 - 18

Compiled by Fred Choi

Send submissions to ott@the-tech.mit.edu or by interdepartmental mail to "On The Town," The Tech, W20-483.

Wed.), free for children under 18.

The museum, built in the style of a 15th-century Venetian palace, houses more than 2500 art objects, with emphasis on Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Dutch works. Among the highlights are works by Rembrandt, Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, and Whistler. Guided tours given Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. (267-9300). Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. West Wing open Thurs.-Fri. until 9:45 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$10, \$8 for students and seniors, children under 17 free; \$2 after 5 p.m. Thurs.-Fri., free Wed. after 4 p.m. Mon.-Fri.: introductory walks through all collections begin at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; "Asian, Egyptian, and Classical Walks" begin at 11:30 a.m.; "American Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 12:30 p.m.; "European Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 2:30 p.m.; introductory tours are also offered Sat. at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Permanent Gallery Installations: "Late Gothic Gallery," featuring a restored 15th-century stained glass window from Hampton Court, 14th- and 15th-century stone, alabaster, and polychrome wood sculptures from France and the Netherlands; "Mummy Mask Gallery," a newly renovated Egyptian gallery, features primitive masks dating from as far back as 2500 B.C.; "European Decorative Arts from 1950 to the Present"; "John Singer Sargent: Studies for MFA and Boston Public Library Murals." Gallery lectures are free with museum admission.

Museum of Our National Heritage

33 Marrett Rd., Lexington, 02421. (781-861-6559). Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. 12 p.m.-5 p.m. Admission and parking free. <<http://www.mnh.org>>
George Washington, American Symbol Through Feb. 27, 2000. In observance of the 200th anniversary of his death, the Museum is

hosting a unique exhibition which presents the most comprehensive exploration of the enduring nature of Washington's image. The exhibit will present more than 150 paintings, prints, sculptures, decorative objects, and memorabilia, including works by Peale, Gilbert Stuart, Norman Rockwell, and N.C. Wyeth.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. (723-2500). Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$9, \$7 for children 3-14 and seniors.

The Museum features the theater of electricity (with indoor thunder-and-lightning shows daily) and more than 600 hands-on exhibits. Ongoing: "Discovery Center"; "Investigate! A See-For-Yourself Exhibit"; "Science in the Park: Playing with Forces and Motion"; "Seeing Is Deceiving." Ongoing: "Everest: Roof of the World"; "Living on the Edge." Admission to Omni, laser, and planetarium shows is \$7.50, \$5.50 for children and seniors. Now showing: "Laser Depeche Mode," Sun., 8 p.m.; "Laser Offspring," Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.; "Laser Rush," Sun., 9:15; "Laser Beastie Boys," Thurs.-Sat., 9:15 p.m.; "Laser Floyd's Wall," Fri.-Sat., 10:30 p.m.; "Friday Night Stargazing," Fri., 8:30 p.m.; "Welcome to the Universe," daily; "Quest for Contact: Are We Alone?" daily.

Commonwealth Museum

220 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, 02125. Located across from the JFK Library. Hours: M-F 9-5, S 9-3. Admission is Free. For more info. or to arrange a tour, call 617-727-9268.

Other Events

The Living Room

Feb. 19-Apr. 30: Born in Taiwan, Lee Mingwei's practice as an artist is to create installations that involve personal exchanges between the viewers and the artist. Lee will create a modern-day version of the salon life of Isabella Gardner used to enliven her collection. Lee and museum staff will act as hosts to the

museum, spending the day interacting with visitors who enter the special exhibition gallery.

b&w men: James Spada

Through Feb. 18, Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call for weekend hours. At the New England School of Photography (537 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, 02115): A photographic exhibition by the author of biographies of Barbra Streisand and Bette Davis and editor of pictorial biographies of Jackie Onassis, Marilyn Monroe, Katharine Hepburn, and Jane Fonda. Call 437-1868 for more information.

John F. Kennedy Library Public Forums

At the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston, Free. For more info., call 617-929-4571.

The Journey of Howard Thurman: A Centennial Celebration

Feb. 27, 2 to 4 p.m.: A celebration of the life of Howard Thurman (1900-1981), one of the great spiritual leaders and social thinkers of the 20th century. Speakers will include former colleagues, friends, and students, and the event will also include singing, led by local choral groups. Young people are especially welcome to participate.

Film Festivals

At the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 02115. For tickets and more information, call 369-3770. Tickets for each showing are \$7, \$6 MFA members, seniors, students, unless otherwise noted.

Boston Film Artists Present

Feb. 12, 19, 26: A *Hero for Daisy* By Mary Mazzio (1999, 42 min.). A moving portrait of Yale rowing legend Chris Ernst. In 1976 Ernst galvanized her rowing team to storm the Yale athletic director's office to protest the lack of locker-room facilities for women. The story was carried by all of the major international news outlets and Ernst won her fight for new locker rooms two weeks later. She went on to represent the U.S. in two Olympic games, becoming a world champion in 1986.

African Cinema 2000

Tickets 8-film series \$40, \$32

MFA members, students, seniors.

Feb. 12: *Pieces D'identites* By Mweze Ngangura (Congo/Belgium, 1998, 94 min.). From the director of the hugely entertaining and popular comedy *La vie est belle* comes an equally appealing new film that sports a zany cast of characters. Set in contemporary Europe, *Pieces d'identites* tells the timeless story of an old king and his beautiful, wayward, daughter. The film addresses some of the most troubling issues of identity facing people of African descent in the ever-widening Diaspora of the late 20th century. In French with subtitles.

Boston Ballet Company: Without Words

Through Feb. 20 at the Schubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston. World premieres choreographed by one of Spain's great modern-dance choreographers and leader of Spain's acclaimed Compania Nacional de Danza, Nacho Duato, and by American Mark Godden, currently in residence at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and Paul Taylor's "Company B." For reservations call Telecharge 800-447-7400 or the Ballet's box office 617-695-6950. Tickets: \$73-\$12.50, \$12.50 student rush.

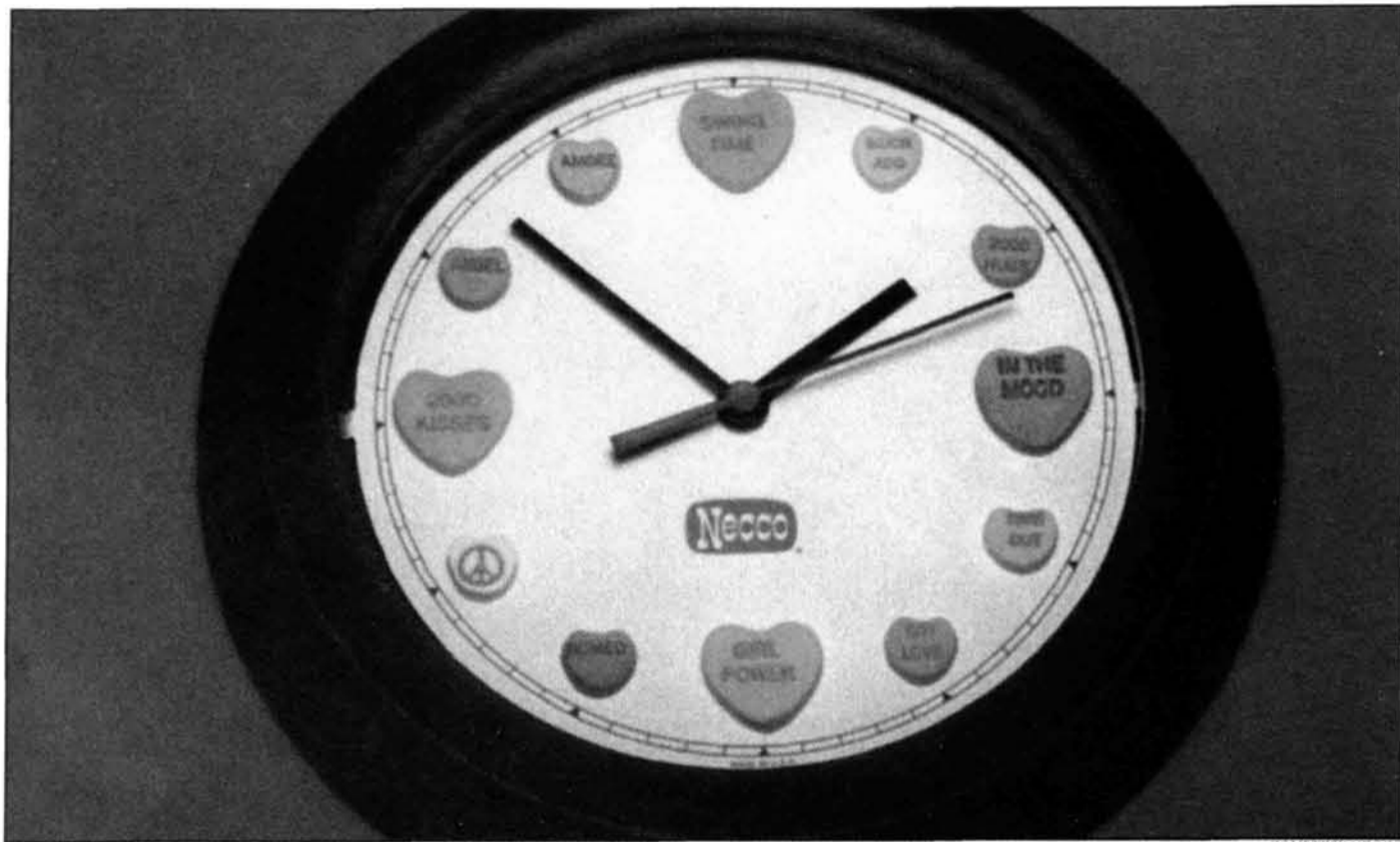
Lesbigay Film Series

Club Pride at Roxbury Community College presents a monthly Lesbigay Film Series. Friday nights, February 11, March 3, April 14 at 6 p.m. at the Roxbury Community College, Academic Building, Room 121 (1234 Columbus Avenue, at the intersection of Columbus and Tremont, located directly across street from the Roxbury Crossing T station (Orange Line). Free parking. Free and open to the public refreshments served. Feb. 11: *Greetings from Africa* (US, 1994, Director: Cheryl Dunye, 8 minutes): A highly entertaining rumination on lesbian dating 90's style. *Dakan* (Destiny) (Guinea, 1997, Director: Mohamed Camara, 87 minutes) in French and Mandikan with English Subtitles. The first feature film on homosexuality in sub-Saharan Africa, this is a modern adaptation of the age-old Romeo and Juliet conflict between love and social convention.

FEATURES

NECCO Adds New Heart Phrases

'Love is Timeless and So Are Sweethearts'



COURTESY NECCO

The new 2000 Sweethearts Conversation Hearts produced by the New England Confectionery Company (NECCO) express the timelessness of love by paying tribute to sweethearts through the ages.

By Katie Jeffreys

FEATURES EDITOR

The New England Confectionery Company has brought their signature Sweetheart candies to school children and adults alike for nearly a century. In the decade since NECCO acquired the Sweetheart candy line, its "King of Hearts" Walter Marshall has brought many new sayings to the printed confections. "For a long time they hadn't changed, then about ten years ago we thought we'd add some new sayings," said Marshall.

This year's dozen arrivals follow the theme: "Love is timeless and so are Sweethearts." The hearts commemorate the new millennium with two phrases: "2000 hugs" and "2000 kisses." In addition, Marshall said, "because Shakespeare movies were popular this past year, we added 'Much ado' and 'Romeo.'"

He adds that "Swing music is popular with some people so we created 'Swing time' and 'In the mood.'" Other new phrases are "Amore," "Angel" and "Time out."

In 1998 *American Girl Magazine* approached NECCO asking to allow their young readers to suggest new phrases. The most popular suggestions were incorporated into this year's production, which began March 1st, 1999. According to Marshall, "three of the sayings were the result of these suggestions," namely "Girl Power," "Got Love" and a peace symbol. This is the first time that a symbol rather than a phrase will be displayed on the candies. *Seventeen* magazine will have a similar promotion as well.

The hearts come printed with 100 sayings, in 6 colors. Each color has a flavor: banana (yellow), orange (orange), lemon (green), grape (purple), cherry (pink), and wintergreen (white). "They are packed on a random basis,"

said Marshall. The two sizes of hearts allow only brief messages to be printed: two words of four letters on the small hearts and 2 words of 6 letters on the large. Sales of Sweethearts have improved between three and five percent each year, and eight billion of the hearts are produced each year and sold in the month and a half between the new year and Valentine's day.

NECCO offers more than Sweethearts

NECCO is also known for making Haviland Thin Mints, Mary Janes, and NECCO Wafers. In fact, NECCO wafers and Sweethearts are the same candy cut into different shapes. NECCO recently introduced Clark Bars to its line of products as well.

This year brings many other new changes to the NECCO family. The messages will be printed on chocolate flavored hearts this year, in an effort to join Valentine's favorite

Viewpoint

What saying would you like to see on the Necco conversation hearts?



"Hey Sexy"
Christine Hsu '03



"Bite me"
Patrick D. Kane '03



"Dream"
Joanne Chang '03



"Gimme some sugar, baby"
Greg N. Nelson '02

"God loves you"
Pamela Mukerji '01

"Zephyr me"
Alison Wong '03

"The proof of the Reimann Conjecture"
Andrej Bogdanov '00



flavor with its favorite shape. In addition, Marshall, whose official title is Vice President of Logistics and Planning, will be retiring in June.

The company also prints hearts for large businesses such as Mercedes-Benz, HBO, and Carnival Cruise Lines. The minimum order for such accounts is 3,500 pounds of candy, or about 1.6 million hearts.

In the past such a large minimum order restricted newlyweds from distributing these romantic treats at their weddings. However, The Wedding Company recently began distributing Sweethearts with matrimonial messages. These phrases include "Just Married," "I do," "Mr. and Mrs.," and "Tie the knot."

NECCO also operates a shop out of there factory at 245 Massachusetts Avenue. Many varieties of NECCO candies are available at wholesale prices. The store is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Friday.

TechCalendar

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

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

Friday's Events

6:00 p.m. – **Graduate Christian Fellowship Meeting.** Our first meeting of this semester will feature a talk by MIT Professor Ian Hutchinson entitled "Faith and Science in the Life of Faraday." Pizza and ice cream are available afterwards. Admission 0. West Lounge (W20-201). Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.

7:15 p.m. – **Comedy Collage.** Some of the funniest comedians in the NY-NJ-Boston area. Sponsored by the brothers of Chocolate City, in conjunction with the Black Students' Union, Imobillare & others. Admission 2.00. Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

4:15 p.m. – **A Combinatorial Proof of the Log-concavity of the Number of Permutations with k Runs, Miklos Bona, University of Florida.** Refreshments will be served at 3:30 PM in Room 2-349. Open. More info: Call Professor Sara Billey at 253-6544. Email sara@math.mit.edu. Web: <http://www-math.mit.edu/~combin>. Rm 2-338.

Saturday's Events

8:00 p.m. – **The Tcherepnins Live.** The Aurelius Ensemble performs chamber music of Nikolai, Alexander, Ivan & Stefan Tcherepnin, including the World Premiere of Stefan Tcherepnin's Sextet. Free, but suggested donation: \$5. Admission 0. Killian Hall. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

Sunday's Events

3:00 p.m. – **The Tcherepnins Live.** The Aurelius Ensemble performs chamber music of Nikolai, Alexander, Ivan & Stefan Tcherepnin, including the World Premiere of Stefan Tcherepnin's Sextet. Free, but suggested donation: \$5. Admission 0. Killian Hall. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

Monday's Events

8:00 - 10:00 p.m. – **Kendo Practice.** Come learn the Japanese art of swordfighting under the instruction of sensei Junji Himeno, 7th dan from Harvard. No experience is necessary. T-Club Lounge. Sponsor: MIT Kendo Club.

3:30 p.m. (1 hour 30 minutes) – **Criticality Accident at Tokai-mura, Dr. Walter Y. Kato, Research Scientist, Brookhaven National Laboratory.** Refreshment in Room NW14-1112 at 3:00 p.m. Open. More info: Call E. Parmelee at 253-3801. Email

parmelee@mit.edu. Rm NW14-1112.

4:00 p.m. – **Compiling for Multimedia Instruction Sets with Superword Level Parallelism, Saman Amarasinghe, M.I.T., EECS and LCS.** Refreshments served at 3:30 p.m. Open. More info: Call Prof. Peter Elias at 253-4193. Email elias@theory.lcs.mit.edu. Rm 34-Edgerton Hall, 34-101.

Tuesday's Events

12:10 p.m. – **GABLES Lunch with a Woman's Focus.** This addition to the end of the month GABLES lunch has women as it's focus although it is open to all MIT staff and faculty. The lunch occurs in the middle of the month. Admission 0. TBA. Sponsor: GABLES.

12:00 p.m. – **Exotic Symmetry: The Role of Exceptional Objects in the Development of Mathematics, John Stillwell, Monash University, Australia.** If you plan to attend, call 253-6989 or send an email: dibner@mit.edu. Open. More info: Call Trudy Kontoff at 253-6989. Email kontoff@mit.edu. Rm E56-100.

4:00 p.m. – **Design Challenges in Multi-GHz Microprocessors, Bill Herrick, Compaq Computer Corporation.** Refreshments in Room 34-101 at 3:30 p.m. Open. More info: Call Debroah Hodges-Pabon at 253-5264. Email debb@mtl.mit.edu. Web: <http://www-mtl.mit.edu/>. Rm 34-101.

4:00 p.m. – **Can One Hear the Shape of a Pore? (Determination of pore sizes from time dependent diffusion coeffic, Dr. Pabrita Sen, Schlumberger-Doll Research and Dept. of Nuclear Engineering, MIT.** Open. More info: Call Donna Wilker at 253-2021. Email dwilker@mit.edu. Rm 5-234.

4:30 p.m. – **Liquid Bipropellant Micro-Rockets, Mr. Chris Protz, MIT-Gas Turbine Laboratory.** Refreshments served 4:15pm. Open. More info: Call Lori Martinez at 253-2481. Email dragonl@mit.edu. Rm 31-161.

4:30 p.m. – **Linkages Between Migration and Society, Prof. Nazli Choucri, Dept. of Political Science.** A session of the Inter-University Seminar on International Migration. Open. More info: Call Laurie Scheffler at 253-3121. Email lauries@mit.edu. Rm E38-714.

6:30 p.m. – **"Vertical Roll", Joan Jonas, artist, MIT Dept of Architecture.** Open. More info: Call at 253-7791. Rm 10-250.

GSC Claims Little Involvement In Institute's NW30 Planning

NW30, from Page 1

financially solvent by only housing graduate students for nine months of the year. During the three summer months, the housing would be used for "program support."

"The cynical look would be that this is 120 beds in case the new [undergraduate] dorm is late and graduate students need to be moved around," Ortiz said.

Kaynor stated that this project comes from "a desire to provide more graduate housing. Due to its relatively small size, it should be able to be brought on-line quickly."

GSC involvement limited

Kaynor, who described his role

in the project as "packaging the business plan," has worked with the Planning Office and the Dean of Graduate Students' office to develop a solvent proposal. "This project is moving along. Ike Colbert and people from the dean's office are in on it," Kaynor said.

Although Kaynor stated that Ortiz and the GSC have had a hand in the planning thus far, Ortiz stated that "we've been involved only in the sense that we've been told what the Planning Office is doing." Ortiz described himself as being "very external" to the actual planning process.

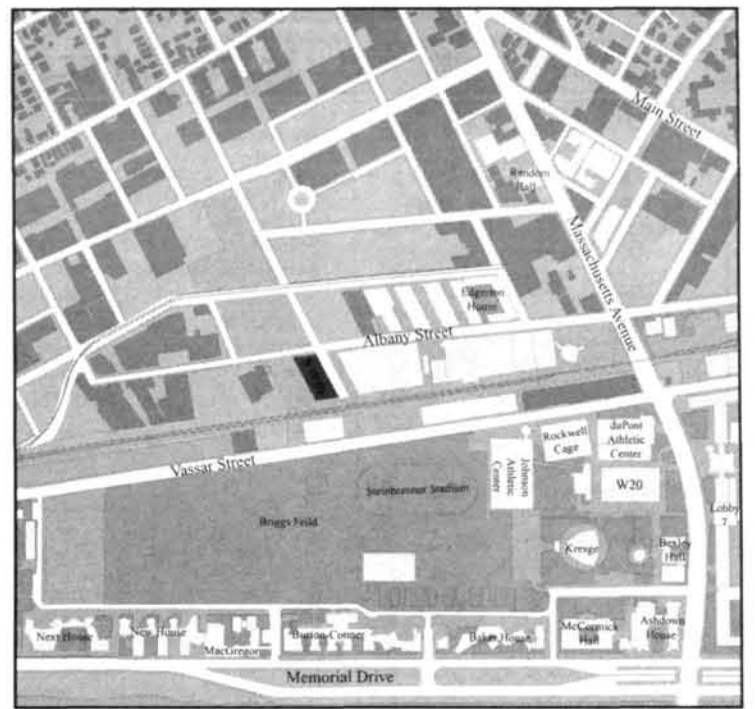
"In its last meeting, the Planning Office decided to continue with the design studies," said

Kaynor. In a January meeting with the provost, Ortiz was told that MIT had decided to proceed with plans to convert NW30 to student housing.

When completed, the dormitory will consist of 120 to 125 singles in an undetermined configuration. "That's not a firm number, but it's a reasonable number," Kaynor said.

The project will be somewhat limited by a Massachusetts state requirement that each room must include at least one window.

NW30 was built in 1904, and MIT acquired it from the United States Air Force in 1954. MIT has long planned to use NW30 for housing, but feasibility studies did not begin until fall 1999.



COURTESY <HTTP://WEB.MIT.EDU>

HEADBANGERS



M E E T



Tech heads

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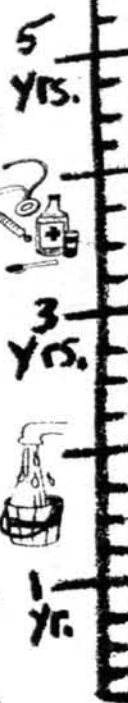
Unfortunately for children living in some of the poorest countries in the world, it takes more than fading marks on a wall.

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Samuel A. Worthington, National Executive Director, Childreach with a sponsored child in Tarija, Bolivia.



PLEASE Thank You For Helping My Family

Twenty-Six Burchard Scholars Selected

By Karen E. Robinson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Twenty-six sophomores and juniors have been chosen as this year's Burchard Scholars in the School of Humanities and Social Science. Students will meet monthly to have dinner and listen to an MIT faculty member discuss his or her current "scholarship, research, or artistic creations," said Philip S. Khoury, dean of the School and co-founder of the Burchard Scholars Program.

At small dinner tables, a half-dozen students and a few faculty members will listen to an invited speaker, discuss the day's topic over dinner, then ask pertinent questions. "The idea is to provide high quality food for thought and for physical nourishment on the same occasion," Khoury said. Nine monthly dinners are scheduled over the course of the next two terms.

The students are a diverse group, from 13 different majors. "They don't have to major or minor in any of the HASS areas but they normally will have taken a good number of subjects in one or more areas within HASS," said Khoury.

Society of fellows in humanities

The Burchard Scholars Program was established 14 years ago by Khoury and Professor of History Bruce Mazlish. They intended to facilitate discussions among students about issues of importance in the various HASS fields, Khoury said.

Khoury and Mazlish hoped to "establish a society of fellows in the humanities, arts, and social sciences that would give undergraduates interested in HASS fields an opportunity to find one another."

Simone Berkowitz '02, one of this year's scholars, said that she

applied to the program because a student at MIT is unable to get enough exposure to the humanities "unless you put yourself out." She hopes that the Burchard Scholar dinners will be a good opportunity to meet people and discuss HASS issues in more depth.

Students are chosen by a panel of HASS faculty members who look for students with "a keen interest and commitment to learning in the humanities, arts, and social sciences," Khoury said.

Last December, students submitted an essay and a letter of recommendation from a member of the

HASS faculty with their application forms. Decisions were made public last week.

Burchard Scholars for 2000 are: Daniel Berger, political science; Blake Brasher, architecture; Samidh Chakrabarti, electrical engineering and computer science and brain and cognitive sciences; Eric Chang, biology; Irena Goldenberg, economics and management; David Hu, mathematics; Miya Kayahara, materials science and engineering; Douglas Kriner, political science and history; Emily Meyer, physics and mathematics; Laura Moulton, history; Delphine Nain, computer sci-

ence and electrical engineering; Philip Osafo-Kwaako, chemical engineering; Dawn Perlner, mathematics and music; Anand Sarwate, electrical engineering and mathematics; Peter Shulman, mathematics; Manu Sridharan, computer science; Carl Steinbach, computer science; GiRim Sung, biology; Philip Tan, comparative media studies; Hilarie Tomaszewicz, biology; Jeffrey Viereg, physics and electrical engineering; Simone Berkowitz, economics; Nathaniel Choge, EECS; ManYan Ku, biology; Tara Rao, biology; and Daniel Riordan, biology and mathematics.

Cleanup, Investigation Shut Down Building 2 Wednesday Afternoon

Accident, from Page 1

Campus Police were the first authorities to arrive on the scene. Captain David A. Carlson reported that officers on-scene treated Brock's injuries, then pulled a fire alarm outside Room 2-310 to evacuate the building.

Members of the Emergency Response Group arrived shortly after the fire alarm and established an incident command post at the CP station outside of Building 2. The Cambridge Fire Department arrived minutes later and entered the evacuated building.

Assistant Safety Environmental Officer David M. Barber, who helped coordinate victim aid and cleanup, said that the response plan called for evacuating the building, covering all entrances to the affected areas, and looking for a safe route for transporting stretchers.

Barber secured two freight elevators on the building's ground floor, then helped escort the stretcher-bound students to waiting ambulances.

After aiding the students, MIT authorities began cleanup. "We were left with residual from ... water residue and waste products," Barber said. Water from the safety showers activated to treat the victims had seeped into two laboratories and an office on the second floor. Clean Harbors, an outside sanitary contractor, was called in to perform the cleanup.

By 3:00 p.m., all of Building 2 except affected areas on the second and third floors were reopened. Clean Harbors completed its cleanup at 6:30 p.m., with all affected areas reopening soon afterwards.

Explosion investigation ongoing

In the aftermath of the accident,

Cummins stated that his group wants "to determine ... the cause of this explosion so that it doesn't happen again." They plan to continue investigation of the events leading up to the explosion.

"These are experienced and trained chemists," said Rick L. Danheiser, the associate head of the Department of Chemistry, dismissing early news reports of misconduct as inaccurate.

Barybin returned to work on Thursday with no ill effects. Brock will miss up to a week of work, pending further treatment and diagnosis of her burns.

MIT traditionally is strong in maintaining laboratory safety. In 1991, the American Chemical Society presented its first award for "Best University Safety Program" to the Department of Chemistry.

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Monday, 2/21/00
6-8 PM
Room 4 - 145

ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS:
Tuesday, 2/22/00

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Deutch Asks That Pentagon Revoke Remaining Privileges

The *New York Times* reported that Institute Professor John M. Deutch '61, has asked the Pentagon to revoke his remaining classified privileges.

News Briefs

The decision by the former head of the Central Intelligence Agency to drop his industrial clearance comes after recent reports that high level officers of the CIA obstructed the investigation which led to the revocation of Deutch's original clearances. That investigation found that Deutch composed classified documents on an insecure computer.

Following the recent reports of

misconduct in the investigation and reports that Deutch was still dealing with classified documents through his industrial clearance, the Pentagon said it was considering ending Deutch's remaining clearances. Deutch, however, asked that those clearances be revoked in a letter sent to the deputy secretary of defense, the *Times* reported.

Deutch remains a member of the Institute's department of chemistry.

Govt. not liable in radiation deaths

The federal government can not be held liable for the death of two patients whose brains were damaged by experimental radiation therapy conducted at MIT's nuclear reactor

in the 1950s and 1960s, *The Boston Globe* reported.

The government was not closely responsible for overseeing the research and thus could not be held responsible said Chief U.S. District Judge William Young.

An earlier ruling went against Massachusetts General Hospital and Dr. William Sweet, ordering them to pay \$8 million to the families of George Heinrich and Eileen Sienkewicz, patients treated with the experimental procedure. Both died within a year of receiving the treatment.

MIT was also charged in that case but found not liable.

The plaintiffs are considering an appeal.

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Information

Graduating Housing the deadline to apply for the Continuing Student on campus summer and fall 00-01 vacancies in family and single graduate student apartments and dormitories is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 29, 2000. On March 1, 200 there will be a housing lottery for any fully registered continuing graduate student wanting on-campus housing for the 00-01 academic year. Applications are available in Graduate Housing in E23-133, and must be returned by the deadline to the same office. Applications are also available on line at : <http://websis.mit.edu/cgi-bin/aghswapp/sh> Any questions, call 3-5148 The Graduate Housing Office will be closed on Wednesday, March 1, 2000 due to the lottery.

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All-College-Club-Nite this Sunday, Feb 13th Playhouse, 10pm \$10 sponsored by MIT class of 2002

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Meeting Tuesday, February 15th

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Tuesday, February 15th
5:15 PM, N42 Demo Center(211 Mass. Ave.)

- Please bring:
- 1) Your resume
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Interviews: Monday 2/14

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Activists Protest Colombian Oil Drilling

By Michael Borucke

Activists took to the streets of downtown Boston last week to protest Fidelity Investments' relationship with Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum as well as Occidental's plans to begin oil exploration in Colombia. Beginning at 11:00 a.m. last Thursday, approximately fifty protesters occupied the park area across the street from the Fidelity Investments building on the corner of Congress Street and Franklin Street. Among the protesters were students from the University of New Hampshire, Boston University, and MIT.

Protest draws concerned, curious

Armed with placards and chant sheets, the protesters drew the attention of people working inside Fidelity Investments as well as hundreds of bystanders on their way to work and a contingent of officers from the Boston Police Department. At around 4:30 p.m., protesters marched from the Fidelity building on Franklin Street to the Fidelity headquarters on Devonshire Street where the protest ended at 6:00 p.m.

Some pedestrians were clearly irritated by the protest. Interested

passers-by, though, took flyers from protesters and asked for explanations of the protest.

The protesters demanded that Fidelity use their influence as shareholders of Occidental stock to halt Occidental's drilling venture in Colombia. Fidelity is the third largest shareholder of Occidental Petroleum with over ten percent of the company's stock, currently valued at over \$700 million.

Occidental draws U'wa ire

Occidental Petroleum is currently poised to begin drilling in the Colombian cloud forest on the tribal lands of the U'wa people, an indigenous tribe. The U'wa believe that oil is the Earth's lifeblood and the extracting of oil by Occidental will signal the death of every living thing in the forest.

Spirituality aside, the U'wa may have tangible reasons to fear the destruction of their land with the onset of drilling. Caño Limón is a site 100 miles to the east of the U'wa on which Occidental has been drilling for 12 years. In that time, 60 attacks on the area from guerrilla forces have resulted in two million barrels of oil flowing into the river. One attack caused the death of 70 people in the village of Machuca.

Kim Foster, a member of the Rainforest Action Network, explained the motivation behind the attacks.

"The guerrilla forces see the profits from oil drilling as going to fund the Colombian military. Consequently, drilling for oil in Colombia has become associated with violence."

The original proposal placed drilling land at 1600 feet from the boundary of the U'wa reservation. In November, the U'wa revealed that they had bought the surrounding land from neighboring farmers, giving the U'wa legal claim to the proposed drilling site, rendering illegal the drilling permits issued to Occidental by the Colombian government. Occidental, however, has not acknowledged the U'wa claim to the land and is presently moving forward with their plans to drill for approximately 1.5 billion barrels of oil.

The company said in a 1999 press release that it is the second oil and gas exploration and production company in South America to achieve ISO 14001 certification in recognition of its strong environmental management system.

More protests planned for March Project Underground and the

Rainforest Action Network were responsible for organizing the protest. The San Francisco-based organizations are two of the 200 environmental groups from 50 different countries that have since responded to the plight of the U'wa by putting pressure on the shareholders of Occidental stock.

More nationwide protests are tentatively planned for early March. "We will not stop the protests until Occidental is out of Colombia" said Foster.

An interesting sidenote to the Occidental controversy is the personal connection to presidential hopeful Al Gore. Gore, who has traditionally campaigned on environmental issues, inherited 500 thousand dollars worth of Occidental stock from his father. Environmental groups have also tried pressuring the vice-president to use his personal and political ties with Occidental to halt the drilling without success. A handful of activists were recently arrested outside Gore headquarters in New Hampshire in an attempt to force the vice-president to confront the issue.

1 year old, 1991

2 years old, 1992

Stevie Ace Flores.

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Down with Science (da Firenze)

by Jennifer DiMase



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2 GO AWAY, CHICKEN!



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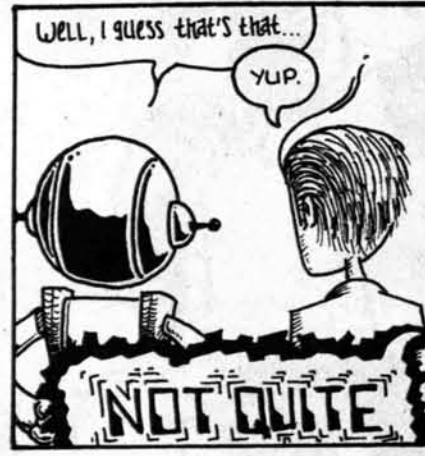
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POETRY CORNER

POETRY



interstate

that green stuff among the winter trees
 and those stumps on the side of the road
 somehow a hint of rain this dry thousand miles
 and what looks like yellow yucca
 auburn hay-bales beside the Big Sandy River
 where a white tractor trailer rig masks the landscape
 describing *Poison* describing *Flammable*
 erasing all the birdhouses and flagpoles
 further comes a billboard depicting another truck
 and then some newfangled outhouse mid-field
 where soon gods-willing soybeans will encircle
 and over its roof a fertilizer plane will soar
 stirring up Styrofoam and topsoil
 letting loose its veil of manufactured prejudice
 that seeps through runnels — a thicket of lost rays
 and alights like fog filling a hollow
 worming deep through the bedlam and whatever
 to yield each seedling a new palatable womb

By Del Ray Cross

The Poetry Corner is a new weekly feature which engages the MIT community in the art of poetry. Students, Faculty and Staff are welcome to submit their work to <poetry@the-tech.mit.edu>.

Fun With Clip Art

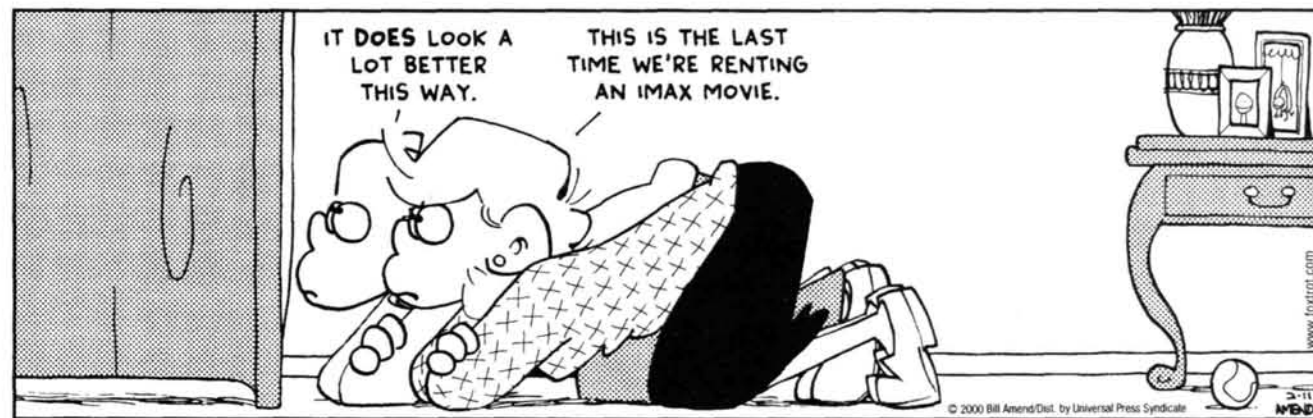
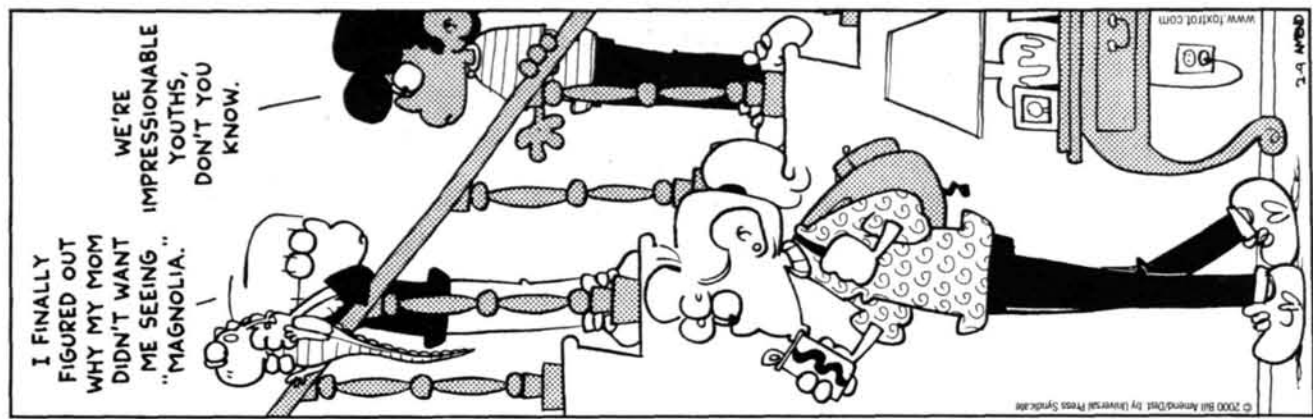


"Ok, now take off your pants and we'll measure your wee-wee."

Aaron Isaacson

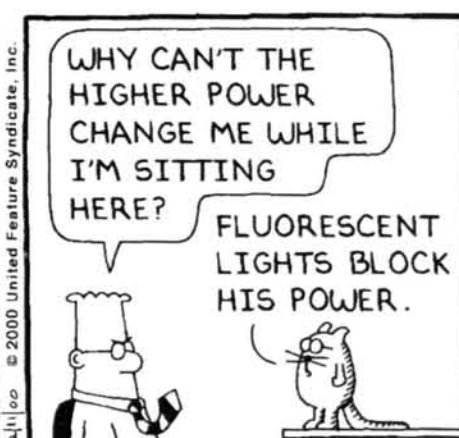
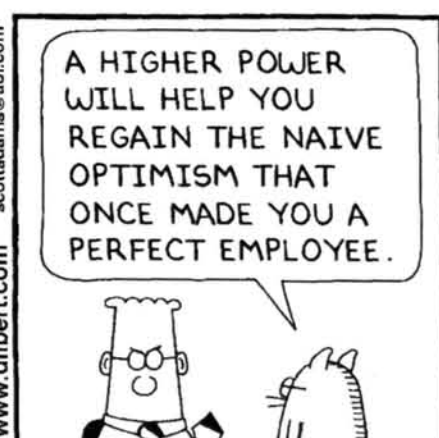
by Bill Amend

Foxtrot



by Scott Adams

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SPORTS

Nordic Skiers Hand Rival Clarkson Loss

By Samuel Coradetti
TEAM MEMBER

Last weekend, the MIT men's and women's nordic ski teams competed in a regular season league race in Grafton, Vermont. While the women's team won both race days defeating rival Clarkson University, the men split the two days.

The races started on Saturday with the women's 7.5 kilometer classic style race. The MIT women raced well with a second place finish by Jessica Kleis '00 in 27:49, seventh place for Jessy Baker '03 in 31:05 and eighth place for Teresa Hung '02 in 31:14 for a combined score of 17. That was just enough to edge out Clarkson University with 18 points, Cornell University with 20 and the Army Academy with 24.

In the men's 7.5 km classic race, the MIT put up a strong challenge with three top seven places. In second Sam Coradetti '02 in 24:31, fifth Jim Berry '00 25:11 and seventh Tim Garnett '02 25:23 for a score of 14. That was enough to crush Cornell University with 40 points, and the Army Academy with 53 points, but their arch rival Clarkson University captured three of the top four places and won with a score of 8.

On Sunday, the MIT women followed up Saturday's races with

stronger performances in the 10 km freestyle race. Jessica Kleis finished first, beating the entire field by 30 seconds with a time of 29:35. Freshman Jessy Baker put in a great performance despite battling illness which almost kept her from racing and finished fourth, covering the course in 31:32. Teresa Hung also scored for MIT with a strong ninth place and a time of 35:52. MIT won the race with 14 points again defeating Clarkson University and the Army Academy with 20 points each and Cornell University with 25.

Not be completely outdone by the women, the men's team bounced back from Saturday's defeat with some great finishes in the 10 km freestyle on Sunday. Derek Southwell '01 lead the team with a first place finish, covering the 6.2 mile course in just 26:27. Just two seconds behind him was Chris Testa '03, who stepped up to capture second place by less than second with a strong sprint in the last few yards of the race. Also scoring for MIT, was Sam Coradetti in sixth place with a time of 27:00. In the top ten, but not scoring were Tim Garnett seventh, 27:34 and Jim Berry eighth, 27:47. The MIT men won with a score of 9 over Clarkson with 12, Cornell with 36 and Army with 55 points.

Women's Track Beats Springfield

Defeats Rival at Tufts Invitational but Finishes Behind Hosts

By Robin C. Evans
TEAM MEMBER

The women's track and field team placed second at Tufts University's invitational last Saturday, despite a distant third place seed. Earning 157 1/3 points, the Engineers dashed past Springfield College (121 2/3) with 27 personal best performances and gave Tufts (183) a scare on their own turf.

Alyssa Thorvaldsen blazed the way with a phenomenal 28.75 individual points. Thorvaldsen was untouchable in the 55 hurdles, winning the event in a stadium record time of 8.62. The senior from Hingham, MA brought in a trio of third places in the 55 dash, 200m, and 400m, and flew past two 4x400 competitors in a second-placing anchor leg described by Coach Paul Slovenski as "nothing short of ridiculous!"

Lori Eich, Melanie Harris, and Princess Imoukhuede also epitomized track toughness. Freshman Eich blossomed under pressure in the long jump to claim a rookie record with a 5th-place jump of 15-1 1/4. On the track, Harris soared from her 11th place seed to a victory and ECAC qualification in the 1000m. When Imoukhuede's second shot put of 38'9" was outthrown by 1 cm, she rallied for a 40'3" 1/4 heave which earned her first place, an All NE Championship qualifica-

tion, and a new varsity record.

The MIT team has proved to be among the best in New England. Tufts had set goals for an undefeated season, yet Tech almost handed

the Jumbos their second loss, and looks forward to another attempt at the New England Championships. The MIT women finish up with a 16-5 quad cup record.

Score Card

1 Tufts 183, 2 MIT 157 1/3, 3 Springfield 121 2/3, 4 Wesleyan 81, 5 Mt. Holyoke 46, 6 NYU 27, 7 WPI 22

Long Jump

4 Theresa Burianek 15-2 3/4
5 Lori Eich 15-1 1/4 [PR,RR]

Shot Put

1 Princess Imoukhuede 40-3 1/4 [PR,VR, ANE]

Pole Vault

1 Stephanie Norris 9-6 [ECAC]
2 Vanessa Li 9-6 [ECAC]
5 Barnwell, Jean 7-0

High Jump

(tie)8 Mia Heavener 4-7 3/4

Weight Throw

3 Princess Imoukhuede 48-9 [NCAA]
7 J. Buseman-Williams 37-3
8 Akua Asa-Awuku 37-1 1/4 [PR]

Triple Jump

6 Theresa Burianek 32-9 [PR,VR] [NE]
7 Vanessa Li 32-0 1/4 [PR,NE]

55 meter hurdles

1 Alyssa Thorvaldsen 8.62F (8.73t) [ANE]
5 Theresa Burianek 9.79F (9.51t) [PR,NE]

55 Dash

3 Alyssa Thorvaldsen 7.78F (7.86t) [PR,NE]
4 Afua Banful 7.78F (7.82t) [NE]

200 meter

3 Alyssa Thorvaldsen 27.63 [PR, ECAC]
5 Afua Banful 28.11 [PR, NE]
8 Lori Eich 28.61 [PR]

400 meter

1 Alyssa Thorvaldsen 61.82 [ECAC]

600 meter

2 Leah Nichols 1:44.98 [PR, NE]
3 Regina Sam 1:45.50 [PR,NE]

800 meter

5 Chi-An Wang 2:27.56 [PR,NE]

1000 meter

1 Melanie Harris 3:11.65 [PR,ECAC]
3 Robin Evans 3:13.35 [PR,NE]

1500 meter

3 Debbie Won 4:54.44 [ECAC]
6 Robin Evans 5:06.08 [PR, NE]

3000 meter

4 Debbie Won 10:33.40 [ECAC]

4x2 relay

3 (Adeline, Lori, Chi-An, BB) 1:53.13 [TB]

4x4 relay

2 (Regina, Chi-An, Leah, Alyssa) 4:20.63 [TB]

DMR

4 (Helen, Paola, Melanie, Jantrud) 14:59.99
—2nd best in MIT history.

PR = indoor personal record
VR = Varsity record
RR = Rookie record
NE = NE Div. III qualifier
ECAC = ECAC qualifier
ANE = All NE qualifier
NCAA = NCAA qualifier (provisional)
TB = Team best <relays 2000>

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Featured Upcoming Event

Men's Volleyball Team has a doubleheader this Saturday against Eastern Mennonite University at 10:00 a.m. and Roger Williams University at 7:00 p.m. Come watch them play at home for the first time.

Friday, February 11
Pistol Intercollegiate Sectionals, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 12
Pistol Intercollegiate Sectionals, 9:00 a.m.
Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Quad Cup Invitational, 12:00 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Clark University, 2:00 p.m.
Men's Gymnastics vs. University of Vermont, 2:00 p.m.
Women's Gymnastics vs. University of Vermont and Yale University, 2:00 p.m.
Women's Hockey vs. University of Southern Maine, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 13
Women's Hockey vs. Bates College, 4:00 p.m.

A discussion between two highly provocative thinkers about evolution's higher purpose and whether evolution has a tendency to create ever more complex forms of life.

Robert Wright
author of *Non-Zero: The Logic of Human Destiny* and *The Moral Animal*

Bridging fields of cognitive science, evolutionary psychology/biology, and philosophy, this forum will forge new thought about complex issues of our heritage and our future as a species.

Daniel Dennett
author of *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*

Moderated by Hilary Putnam
The distinguished Hilary Putnam is a Cogan University Professor, Department of Philosophy, Harvard University.

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