



Democratic Presidential hopeful Bill Bradley stopped by the Park Street T stop Thursday morning. Bradley disappointed journalists with a dearth of sound bites, preferring simply to shake people's hands as they emerged from the subway.

Faculty To Approve New CI Requirement

By Matthew Palmer
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A subcommittee of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program presented its final report of a plan to implement a new Communications Requirement at a faculty meeting Wednesday. The addition to the MIT undergraduate curriculum aims to improve students' mastery of writing and speaking.

The report, which will be voted on at the March faculty meeting, would replace the current Writing Requirement with a four-year program of new Communication Intensive courses. Most of the CI classes would be modified versions of existing classes, with an emphasis on writing, revising, and speaking.

"We're giving students experience with writing and oral communication for four years," said Biology Professor Gene M. Brown. He and Professor of Urban Studies and Planning Langley C. Keyes, Jr. were

co-chairs of the CUP Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement, which wrote the report.

Beginning with the Class of 2005, students would be required to take at least one CI course each year for four years. In the first two years, students can take humanities courses from any department. In the Junior and Senior years, students will take CI courses within their major.

The classes would resemble pilot projects, started by Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 in 1997, which led to the requirement. These projects include oral presentations on architecture, writing clinics about physiology, and the option to publish in the Biology Undergraduate Research Journal.

Incoming students would continue to take the Freshman Evaluation Essay over the summer. Those who fail will still have to take an experi-

Communication, Page 15

MacGregor Crowding Questioned

By Karen Robinson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Crowding and decrowding policies at MacGregor House have come under scrutiny recently this year. Some residents think that room changes are being made unfairly, while others object to the policies themselves.

House President Aaron D. Adler '01 said that crowding lounges in MacGregor — converting lounges in the high-rise A, B, C, and D entries — brings up some sort of controversy every year that it is done.

In an open email to MacGregor residents, Former Housing Chair Atish R. Babu '00 alleged that Adler, along with current Housing Chair Andrew D. Montgomery '01, have not been abiding by MacGregor's crowding policy. The matter arose in the past few weeks, and will be looked at further by MacGregor Judicial Committee.

The recent confusion seems to concern six SAE freshmen who moved to MacGregor last fall.

When single rooms in D-entry opened, Adler and Montgomery passed over the SAE freshmen and moved a freshman who had been living in a single in F-entry to D-entry.

Babu holds that that policy dictates that the SAE freshmen would be moved out of their crowded rooms, or alternatively other freshmen would have been decrowded. Babu declined to comment further on the matter.

Policy under contention

The policy aims to decrowd people as soon as possible, to avoid leaving any singles in the dorm open. Many freshmen do not like the policy, as they are forced to move to different rooms, generally after second semester has started. It is necessary for the house, however, Adler said.

During late IAP and early this semester, students in the tower were circulating a petition decrying the policy, but the petition effort has since been dropped.

"I don't think any of the freshmen want to move," said Natasha Singh '03. Singh has been an active member of A entry and was A entry

MacGregor, Page 14

Proposed Graduate Dorm in High Crime Area

By Daniel C. Stevenson
STAFF REPORTER

Building NW30, the site of a proposed 125-room graduate student dormitory on the northwest edge of campus, is in a relatively high-crime area, according to published Campus Police crime logs.

The crime figures are "startling yet not totally surprising," said Graduate Student Council President Luis A. Ortiz G.

The building was listed as the site of more trespassing and loitering reports (14) in 1999 than any graduate or undergraduate dormitory. Other reported incidents include a dead homeless person found behind the building and two arrests, including one resulting from a fight. Full police logs can be found at <http://www-tech.mit.edu/cp.html>

The three-story brick warehouse is located at 224 Albany St. at the corner of Pacific Street. It is close to the Cambridge and Somerville Program for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Rehabilitation shelter at 240 Albany St., which houses about 100 homeless people.

Ortiz described the site as being well situated for future expansion, especially with regard to the other planned graduate residence in the area. "This will be a great residential space once the northwest corridor of campus has been developed," he said.

Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin acknowledged that safety was more of a concern in the Albany Street area than on Amherst Alley, for example. "If you walk out [of the proposed new dorm] at 1 a.m., you really need to take a shuttle," she said.

The current level of criminal activity is actually an improvement on the past, Glavin said. The advent of a shuttle service in the past year to transport homeless people to and from the CASPAR shelter has significantly reduced their presence in the

area, she said.

Echoing Ortiz, Glavin also asserted that as the area's character changes from industrial to residential, the crime level will naturally decrease.

Safety key in planning

Glavin said the Campus Police would consider placing an additional emergency phone directly in front of NW30 if it were converted into a dormitory. Currently, the closest phone is across the street in a parking lot.

The Campus Police would also alter their patrol schedule in the area from random patrols to directed patrols with stops at NW30, Glavin said.

Additionally, the Parking Office would likely alter the Safe Ride schedule to include the new site. The Safe Ride shuttle currently stops several times along Albany Street, but not at NW30.

The company planning the renovation of the warehouse has been instructed to consider safety a key concern, said Associate Director of Planning Robert K. Kaynor. "Our expectation is that by the time the building opens, people will feel pretty confident," he said.

Kaynor also said the Planning Office has had preliminary conversations with the Dean's Office, the Graduate Education Office, and the Campus Police about how to address safety concerns.

The dormitory could open as early as August, 2001, with renovations costing 14-20 million dollars, Kaynor said.

Crime lower at other dorms

At Edgerton House, a 200-resident graduate dormitory one block away from NW30, police logs for 1999 show three incidents of trespassing, five assists of a homeless

NW30, Page 14



JAMES CAMP - THE TECH

MIT's proposal to house 125 graduate students in NW30 raises concerns about the safety of MIT's northwest property as part of a residential neighborhood.

MIT Suicides Reflect National Trends

By Kathryn Jeffreys
FEATURES EDITOR

The MIT community takes pride in its reputation for working hard. But following the death of Richard Guy in the fall, the tendency of MIT to force students to "drink from a firehouse," was linked to alcoholism, drug abuse and suicide by a score of national media reports. An analysis of historical data, however, reveals that suicide rates at MIT are now lower than the national averages for the same age demographic, having declined since statistics were first kept in the mid-1960s.

"In many respects this is a very caring community. The view that this place is a 'meat grinder' is wrong,"

said Dean of Student Life Robert M. Randolph.

A connection between MIT's academic pressure and suicide can not be substantiated. "It is wrong to assume that things that happen here began here," said Randolph. Stresses leading to suicide can come from parental pressures, religious crises, and mental or physical health problems. Randolph emphasizes that "we have a large community here of a lot of different people coming from many different places. There are not a lot of common threads."

MIT below national rates in 1990s

MIT has lost 47 students to suicide since 1964,

Suicide, Page 17



Chomsky speaks on national sovereignty

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CPs investigate rash of larcenies in West Campus dormitories

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WORLD & NATION

Ad Campaigns Come on Strong In Same-Sex Marriage Debate

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

Trailing in opinion polls, foes of a ballot measure to ban recognition of same-sex marriage in California took their campaign onto television this week, hoping to sway voters against an initiative they call mean-spirited and unnecessary.

With 19 days remaining before the March election, opponents are scrambling to pump up the volume on their campaign, which was hampered early on by sluggish fund-raising.

In two new ads, foes tell viewers that the initiative — just 14 words long — is not as simple as it looks, concealing an “extremist” subtext that harms gays and lesbians and intrudes on people’s private lives.

One spot, which began airing Tuesday, says the measure’s author, Republican state Sen. William “Pete” Knight of Palmdale, Calif., has a gay son of whom he disapproves and is making Californians “vote on his private problem.”

The other, which debuted Wednesday, says the initiative could lead to increased violence against gays and lesbians and spawn new laws discriminating against them.

Chechen Civilians Detail Torture By Russian Security Forces

THE WASHINGTON POST

NAZRAN, RUSSIA

Chechen civilians detained during the Russian offensive in the region have been routinely beaten and tortured by their captors at “filtration camps” run by Russian security forces, according to former prisoners and human rights monitors.

Former prisoners, interviewed in separate locations, described masked guards delivering repeated blows with rubber truncheons and sometimes with metal bars or hammers. Some cited rapes of male and female prisoners. At a prison in Chernokozovo — a closed filtration camp where rebel suspects are “filtered” from the mass of detainees — beatings were said to begin the moment prisoners arrived.

“The guards hit me and said, ‘What, you never learned to crawl?’” said Ruslan, 21, who was detained by Russian forces on Jan. 16 and taken to Chernokozovo, where he said he was forced to crawl to his interrogation sessions. “They said I would leave there half a man.”

Viruses Not Contaminated In Experiment, says FDA

THE WASHINGTON POST

Batches of genetically engineered viruses that were injected into sick children as part of a gene therapy experiment in Tennessee were not contaminated with the AIDS or hepatitis viruses as initially feared, according to followup tests conducted by the Food and Drug Administration.

The negative finding, released by the FDA late Thursday, puts to rest some of the concerns raised last week when FDA officials said they had been informed of the possible contamination by researchers at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis.

But the agency said Thursday it’s still looking into the circumstances that led to the contamination scare, including apparent lapses in safety testing and record keeping at St. Jude and questions about whether federal officials were notified “promptly” of the potential problem as required by regulations.

South Carolina Democrats May Sway GOP’s Primary

By Mark Z. Barabak
LOS ANGELES TIMES

GREER, S.C.

With most polls showing a dead-heat, the South Carolina presidential primary is shaping up as a pivotal event in the fight for the Republican nomination. And it’s Democrats who could decide it.

Like Beth McKiernan, who loves President Clinton and subscribes to the Democratic Party orthodoxy on issues such as abortion and gun control. Still, she plans to cast her ballot Saturday for John McCain, the first Republican ever to win her vote.

“I hate to sound trite, but I love his biography,” McKiernan, 44, said of her fellow Navy veteran, a Vietnam War hero. “I want somebody in there who can roll with the punches.”

Rules allowing all comers to participate in South Carolina’s vote have created a crazy-quilt contest in this first Southern primary, blurring party lines, testing political loyalties and probing whether the GOP is ripe for the sort of realignment that helped make Ronald Reagan president.

Hoping to replicate his victory in New Hampshire — which became a

roust thanks to heavy support from independents — McCain is aggressively courting cross-over votes in South Carolina. “Come Democrats! Come Libertarians! Come vegetarians! Come all of you!” the senator from Arizona cried at a recent barbecue in Seneca.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush, meantime, is running far stronger than McCain among traditional Republican voters — the bricks and mortar of his hoped-for Southern firewall — and has sought to make McCain’s appeal to swing voters a strike against him. “I’m a little concerned about who’s coming into the party,” Bush told an audience in Saluda earlier this week, suggesting cross-over Democrats may be trying to sabotage the Republicans by picking the weakest candidate to face their nominee in the fall.

The results Saturday will resound in contests that follow three days later in Michigan and Arizona, and two weeks after that in California, New York and more than a dozen other states. A McCain victory in South Carolina would throw the Republican race wide open by turning establishment jitters over Bush’s stumbling start into widespread panic; a Bush win could nip

McCain’s insurgency before it blooms into more than a February fancy.

The key question is this: how many Democrats like McKiernan will shed their party allegiance — at least temporarily — and how many independents will join them to vote in the Republican primary?

“It’s the signal variable, absolutely the most important thing in determining the outcome,” said David Woodard, a Clemson University political science teacher and co-director of the statewide Palmetto Poll. “I’ve looked at figures until I was blue in the face, trying to figure it out and I can’t. If anybody tells you they can, they don’t know what they’re talking about.”

Dick Harpootlian, South Carolina’s Democratic chairman, denies any organized effort to muck around in the GOP contest. But with so much focus on the Bush-McCain race — the advertising and news coverage has been pervasive as the pollen that coats the state in springtime — anyone who is politically aware can’t help but get interested.

Another big lure for Democratic loyalists to vote in the Republican race is they have no competing primary of their own on Saturday.

At Africa Conference, Clinton Calls for Increased U.S. Aid

By Steven Mufson
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Opening a conference here of 2,300 Africa supporters from across the troubled continent and the United States, President Clinton called on Congress to swiftly complete work on legislation that would expand access to U.S. markets for African textiles and other goods.

Clinton also said the United States must provide greater support for disease control, debt relief and conflict resolution in Africa.

“We must be involved in Africa,” Clinton said, adding that in an era of globalization, all countries are “more vulnerable to one another’s problems.”

Clinton’s speech at the Washington Convention Center came on the

second day of a five-day conference organized by the National Summit on Africa, an organization funded largely by the Ford Foundation and devoted to educating Americans about Africa and promoting U.S. involvement in African issues.

Though the delegates warmly greeted Clinton — the first U.S. president to visit Africa while in office — many also criticized the United States for its limited involvement in African peacekeeping missions, the reluctance of U.S. pharmaceutical companies to make cheap copies of their drugs available in African countries and the level of U.S. economic assistance to the continent.

In a feisty roundtable held Wednesday night, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former finance minister of

Liberia, sharply criticized the Clinton administration for coming to the rescue of Kosovo but failing to act in the brutal civil war in Sierra Leone. Ali Mazrui, a leading African scholar, argued that the United States and Europe should not only give debt relief but should also pay reparations for damage done by colonialism and slavery.

Before Clinton’s speech, the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity, Salim A. Salim of Tanzania, lamented that Africa “lacks a strong constituency in the United States.”

“A strong Africa is positive not only for Africa itself, but for its partners,” he said.

Much of the talk at the conference, however, has been about Africa’s problems, not its strengths.

WEATHER

Icy Friday

By Bill Ramstrom
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A strong storm will pass just to our south today, and will bring a nasty mix of winter weather to the Boston area. Snow will likely break out around noon today with a change over to ice and sleet for a time. Later tonight the mix will change to plain rain, and temperatures will likely rise to near 40°F (4°C), melting some of the accumulated slush.

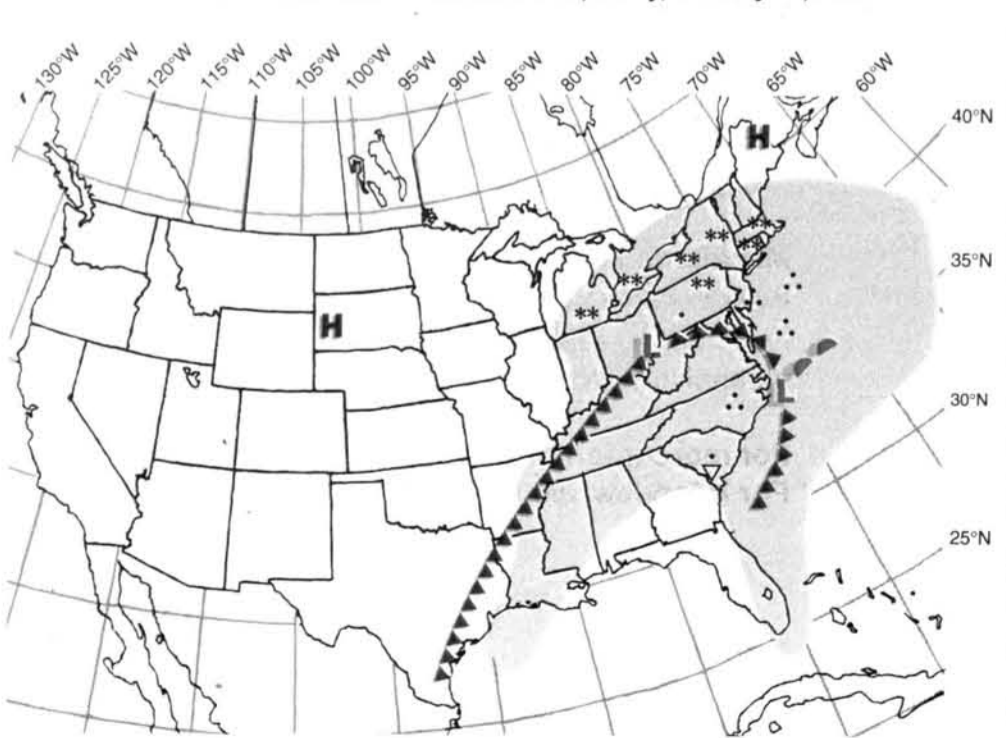
Fortunately, after this storm passes, a warmer airmass will move in, melting any remaining snow/sleet accumulations. Saturday will have a high in the upper 40’s (8°C), with Sunday will be a bit cooler, but Monday will also be sunny and again in the 40’s.

Extended Forecast

Today: Snow this afternoon, ice this evening. Temperatures rising to 32°F (0°C).
Tonight: Sleet/freezing rain changing to rain. Temperatures 32-34°F (0-2°C).
Tomorrow: Rain ends in the morning, then some sun. High 47° (8°C).
Sunday: Mostly sunny. Highs 40°F (4°C).
Monday: Sunny and warmer. High 48°F (8°C).

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow:	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Light Rain:	Thunderstorm
S Hurricane	Cold Front	Moderate Rain:	Haze
	Stationary Front	Heavy Rain:	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, February 18, 2000



Religious Moderates May Win In Upcoming Iranian Election

By John Daniszewski
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TEHRAN, IRAN

Could it happen again?

In 1997, a relatively unknown cleric stunned the religious establishment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and won the country's presidency in a 70 percent landslide. His victory was credited mainly to young voters and women weary of moralistic hectoring and failed economic policies from the country's ruling mullahs.

Friday, Iranians go to the polls in a general election. And many observers believe they will once again humiliate religious conservatives by choosing a parliament majority of reformists — deputies who, like their hero President

Mohammad Khatami, openly favor greater individual freedom, detente with the West and the transparent rule of law.

For three years, Khatami has been thwarted again and again by the hard-line parliament and judiciary — including the closure of pro-Khatami newspapers, the impeachment of pro-Khatami officials and the jailing of leading reformists. For the reform-minded set, this is pay-back time.

The election to Iran's Sixth Majlis, or parliament, is more than exciting, "it is vital," said 21-year-old Bahare Karimi, a student of commercial management.

Standing amid students from the Islamic Iran Participation Front, the most gung-ho, pro-reform pro-

Khatami party, she said: "If the next parliament will be the parliament of Mr. Khatami, surely it will be able to do whatever we want."

If all goes as these youths expect, it could be a new Iran. The hard-liners would lose control of parliament and Khatami would be given the leeway he needs to carry out his agenda.

Reformers are talking hopefully about early constitutional changes to reduce the clerical establishment's power grip on elections, the security services and the courts. They anticipate gradual shifts in foreign policy, too, such as eventual resumption of relations with Washington, a loaded political question here that Khatami has been unable to pursue energetically.

L.A. Mayor Proposes Paying Off Police Suits with Tobacco Money

By Rene Sanchez
THE WASHINGTON POST

LOS ANGELES

In yet another sign of how this city is reeling from a massive police corruption scandal, Mayor Richard Riordan Thursday proposed using much of the \$300 million it expects from settlements with tobacco companies to pay for lawsuits stemming from police abuse.

Nine more convictions linked to the police scandal were overturned in court Thursday at the request of LA County District Attorney Gil Garcetti, who said the police department is in a "huge mess."

Garcetti's move brings the number of criminal convictions thrown out since the scandal broke last fall

to 40. Dozens more cases may be overturned soon because they could be tainted or fake, the result of police officers framing suspects, falsifying arrest reports and lying under oath at criminal trials.

Thursday's developments capped another dismal week for city leaders as they struggle with the magnitude of the scandal. Dozens of officers in the Rampart precinct near downtown that is overrun with gangs are under investigation for allegedly planting drugs or weapons on suspects and in some instances shooting or beating them even though they were unarmed.

Police Chief Bernard C. Parks has begun bickering publicly with Garcetti over the pace and scope of

the probe into the scandal, and he also is facing tough new questions from some elected officials. Meanwhile, a growing chorus of civic groups is calling for the investigation to be taken away from the police department and handed over to an outside panel.

Just settling lawsuits from the scandal could cost at least \$125 million, city officials say. Under Riordan's new proposal, which needs city council approval, Los Angeles would set aside some or all of the money it is expected to receive over the next two decades from the landmark national settlement states have made with tobacco companies to recover the costs of health problems associated with their products.

Doctors Say Brain Damage Would Hinder Pinochet in a Trial

LOS ANGELES TIMES

ROME

Gen. Augusto Pinochet is unfit to stand trial because of "extensive brain damage" that dims his memory, comprehension and ability to express himself, according to disclosures Wednesday of a British medical report on Chile's detained former dictator.

Two newspapers in Spain and one in Chile published translations of the report a day after Britain's High Court ordered it sent to authorities in Spain and three other European countries seeking Pinochet's extradition from Britain on charges of human rights abuse during his 17-year rule.

Pinochet's brain damage dates from a series of strokes last year, and enough time has passed to conclude that "a sustained and significant improvement (of his condition) is unlikely," wrote the three British doctors who examined the 84-year-old retired general last month.

Their report had a sobering effect on the international legal struggle that began with Pinochet's arrest on a Spanish warrant in London in October 1998. He is accused of crimes relating to the deaths and disappearances of leftist opponents of his regime, some of whom were citizens of the countries now pursuing his extradition.

Labor's Call for Immigrant Amnesty Is Unlikely to Sway GOP

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Organized labor's unexpected call for amnesty for 6 million illegal immigrants and repeal of the federal sanctions against employers who hire them may result in changes if Democrats win the November elections but it is unlikely to sway the GOP Congress in the interim, lawmakers and analysts said Thursday.

The call, adopted unanimously by the AFL-CIO's executive council Wednesday, is expected to bolster repeal efforts by some business groups.

But many Republicans are considered likely to view the organization's turnaround as a move to recruit more immigrants as union members.

Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, chairman of the House Judiciary subcommittee on immigration and a key decision-maker on such issues, all but closed the door on labor's hopes of enacting such legislation soon.

"The union bosses have betrayed American workers," Smith said in a statement Thursday. "Legalizing millions of illegal aliens to compete with American workers will cost them jobs and reduce their wages."

Internet Pictures Corporation Visual Content Solutions for the Internet



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OPINION

Circus at the Council

The protracted Cambridge mayoral battle, resulting in the election of Anthony D. Galluccio as mayor and David Maher as Vice-Mayor, raises several important concerns regarding the election process and the representation of ideological diversity on the City Council's new leadership.

Editorial

The election process, which took one and one-half months and five ballots, and concluded shortly before 1:30 a.m. on Tuesday after a marathon council meeting, was shameful. The circus-like atmosphere in the Sullivan Chamber, complete with the requisite wheeling and dealing and the stench of backroom politics, damages the efficiency of the Council and impairs its ability to now move forward on more substantive issues. Future councils should not allow the process to lapse into February, and instead must move quickly and fairly to install the city's leadership.

The lack of ideological diversity among the Council's new leadership is also a problem. Presently, there are five progressive councillors and four moderates; fairness would dictate that on such a divided council, each group would elect a member of the leadership. Tuesday morning's election, however, gave both offices to so-called Independents and shut progressives out of the Council leadership.

The mayoral election was a death sentence for the gasping Cambridge Civic Association, once the city's liberal powerhouse. Two of the three CCA councillors, Henrietta Davis and Jim Braude, defected from fellow CCA progressive Kathleen Born to vote for the moderate Galluccio.

One promising feature from earlier mayoral ballots was the

groundswell of support for Kenneth Reeves, a liberal councillor unaffiliated with the CCA. With the CCA's disintegration, Reeves's strong progressive voice is needed now more than ever.

Students who supported the candidacy of Erik C. Snowberg '99 should be concerned with the lack of political balance among the Council's new leaders. Snowberg aligned himself with the liberal CCA bloc and embraced progressive issues such as affordable housing and rent control. An unfortunate consequence of progressives' absence from the new leadership team is that students' concerns are locked out too.

The Tech has additional concerns about the new mayor and vice-mayor as well. Anthony Galluccio is far from our ideal mayoral candidate. Galluccio is no champion of affordable housing, a particularly important issue to graduate students. He is known for his close links to developers, and raised eyebrows recently by engineering the exclusion of two blocks on Binney Street from a petition temporarily barring large developments from East Cambridge.

We are also concerned about Councillor David Maher's qualifications for the office of Vice Mayor. While Maher has served as a member of the Cambridge School Committee, this is his rookie term on the City Council. A more experienced member, perhaps a foil to Galluccio, would have been a better choice.

We can but hope that Mayor Galluccio fulfills his somewhat vague promise that his "door will be open" to all our councillors, including his progressive colleagues. It is vital to ensure that the Council's five liberals — and their constituents — are heard by the new leaders.



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Letter To The Editor

The Beauty Of Red Brick

I am dismayed that your article on the Kendall Square firehouse ["Old Firehouse to Make Way for Inn," Feb. 15] went to lengths to portray it as ugly, using terms like "degenerating" and "crumbling," and reporting that some citizens want it

destroyed.

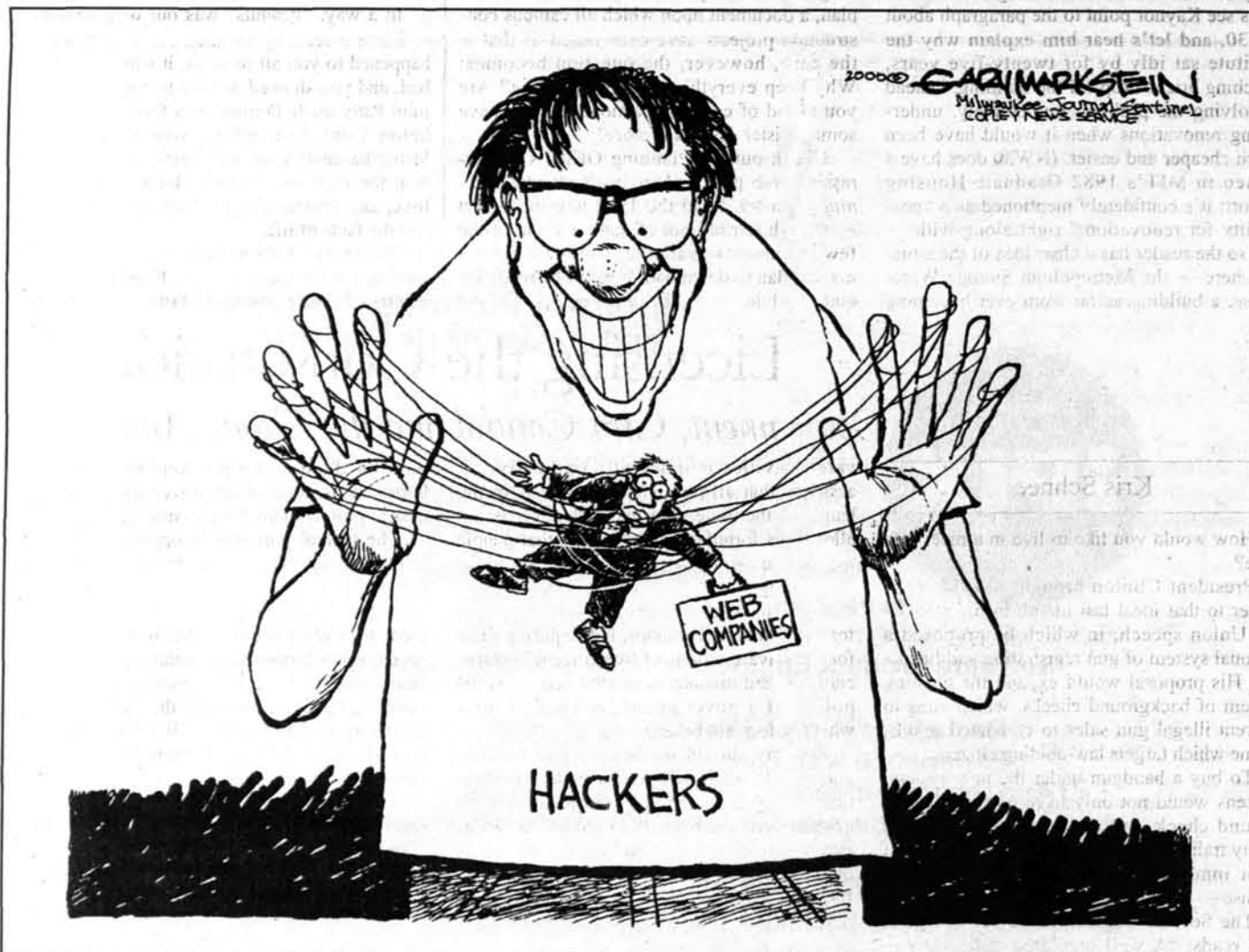
Just who have you been talking to? To my eyes, the building is a beautiful old structure that's certainly worthy of being restored.

The mall-ification of the United States can only be stopped one step at a time. Preserving lovely red brick buildings like the Kendall Square firehouse is one of them.

Fred G. Martin
Research Scientist, Media Lab

Erratum

Tuesday's obituary ["Seth L. Karon '01," Feb. 15] (incorrectly states that Karon was a member of "Tau Epsilon Pi." Karon was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi.



Opinion Policy

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Come in, Planning

Eric J. Plosky

Here we go again.

The administration last week announced plans to convert Building NW30 into 120-odd units of graduate housing. The reason you have never heard of Building NW30 is because it's a dilapidated, century-old warehouse on Albany Street, literally on the other side of the tracks. Nonetheless, despite that it's "in pretty bad shape," Associate Director of Planning Robert K. Kaynor assures us, "Due to [the building's] relatively small size, it should be able to be brought on-line quickly." That's swell.

But — wait. This building has been here for 96 years, and it's "recently," according to *Tech Talk*, been used only for storage. It hasn't gotten any bigger, so why, suddenly, is it so easy to be "brought on-line"? The administration has for three decades been hundreds of housing units short of its goal, which is to have half its graduate student population living on campus. Surely it would have been a better idea to renovate this ideal building years ago, before it really started to crumble.

The truth is, MIT's Planning Office is asleep at the planning switch in a major way. Lacking a master plan of campus, Planning takes action only in response to media and political crises, on an as-needs basis, never referring to a coherent central document that spells out an overall long-term strategy. Building NW30 "has been part of the long-term housing plan for graduate students for many years," the Institute propaganda machine quotes Kaynor. Right.

Let's see that plan. Let's see the Planning Office dust off an authentic black-and-white copy of MIT's Master Housing Plan, 1975. Let's see Kaynor point to the paragraph about NW30, and let's hear him explain why the Institute sat idly by for twenty-five years, watching bricks drop off the building, instead of solving the problem immediately, undertaking renovations when it would have been much cheaper and easier. (NW30 does have a cameo in MIT's 1982 Graduate Housing Report; it's confidently mentioned as a "possibility for renovation," right along with — just so the reader has a clear idea of the situation here — the Metropolitan Storage Warehouse, a building as far from ever becoming

graduate housing as the BankBoston ATM kiosk across the street.)

I challenge the Planning Office to produce a campus master plan. Sure, Chancellor Larry Bacow now, finally, has a housing strategy that's readable enough to have been made public. But that's anomalous. Planning has never made a habit of producing readable documents — or, for that matter, anything at all. All the decisions have been made behind closed doors, to the detriment of everyone — students and MIT community members would certainly appreciate the opportunity to have input on planning decisions; planning could without doubt benefit from input given by the people who live and work on the campus canvas.

I want to see a simple, concise document — one sheet of paper, printed front and back. I'm not interested in a huge report analyzing and justifying everything; I merely want to know *what* is actually going on. The housing plan, shrunk to bare essentials, will form one elegant section of this document. The plan to expand academic facilities and labs should form the second section. Parking, facilities, utilities, and support structures would be a logical third part.

A brief discussion of future developments and the Institute's planned response to them — such as the proposed Urban Ring transit line — could round out the plan.

Creating such a document — a master plan reference card, if you will — should not be hard. That is, it's not hard if a master plan actually exists. If creating the master plan reference card first necessitates the construction of an actual master plan, we could be in for a pretty long wait.

Naturally, I hope my suspicions are unfounded. It is my sincere wish that the Planning Office is in possession of a solid master plan, a document upon which all campus construction projects have been based. If that is the case, however, the question becomes: Why keep everything secret, Planning? Are you afraid of campus reaction? Do you have some sinister designs in store?

Check out the Planning Office's embarrassing web page (<http://web.mit.edu/planning/www/>). Read the 1982 housing report — though terribly out of date, it's one of the few documents available. Don't look for a master plan to download. It won't be ready for quite a while.

Lacking a master plan of campus, Planning takes action only in response to media and political crises, on an as-needs basis, never referring to a coherent central document that spells out an overall long-term strategy.

You Were a Good Man

The Passing of Charles Schulz Brings an Era to a Close

Daniel C. Stevenson

Good grief, Charlie Brown. What are we ever going to do? Lucy has sabotaged your last football kick. Woodstock has driven his Zamboni across the frozen birdbath for the last time. We won't ever again see Sally calling for her "Sweet Babboo." And we'll never find out how things go with that little red-haired girl you had a crush on. Your creator and alter-ego Charles M. Schulz died Saturday, and the final "Peanuts" comic strip ran Sunday — a tragically fitting coincidence.

There will be no more Beethoven from Schroeder, no more of Snoopy's dogfights (literally) with the Red Baron, and no more 5-cent psychiatrist booths. While we knew a few months ago that "Peanuts" was coming to a close, the end still came as a shock. With Schulz's and the strip's death, a part of everybody who was touched by "Peanuts" also died.

Sure, "Peanuts" was funny and charming, and we can find humor elsewhere in the funny pages or on Saturday morning television. But "Peanuts" was more than just a funny, cute cartoon — the antics of you and your friends resonated with the daily struggles of children and adults of all ages, a pathos that we'll certainly never get from the likes of Pokémon.

Where are we going to find another champion everyman? A protagonist who never quite comes out on top, but always manages to get by with help from his dog and his friends? Who will teach us that there is honor and charm in mediocrity? That being the best isn't what really matters — a lesson oft-overlooked here at MIT.

In a way, "Peanuts" was our own version of Linus's security blanket. No matter what happened to you all or to us, it was never too bad, and you showed us how to cope. Peppermint Patty made D-minus a fact of life long before I did. You suffered with a hopelessly losing baseball team well before the Yankees beat the Red Sox. Tangled kites, unrequited love, and spectacular dogfight crashes were just the facts of life.

We learned from you how to answer adversity with magnanimity. Even in defeat, whether Linus's perennial failure to witness

the coming of the Great Pumpkin or another one of your shutout baseball games, you were quietly triumphant. You also provided us with simple pleasures — the blissful relationship between a child and his dog, the heady rush of first love, or just playing in the snow — all in a few panels of black and white, color on Sundays, each and every day for nearly 50 years.

These were the simple joys of childhood, which hold far more meaning in life than most things we strive for today. While other comic strips endeavor to present gripping real-life situations, you and the rest of the "Peanuts" gang could tell it all with just a small repertoire of activities and situations. Your enduring antics were acted out by a cast of characters as rich and varied as those encountered in our own childhood and adult life.

Charlie Brown, you were the center of the strip yet never the hero. It was an ensemble strip that played each day to an audience of millions. Anybody with an older sibling can empathize with Linus or Sally. We all know a Pig Pen, probably have some inscrutable friends like Marcie, and have likely

met someone as bossy as Lucy. It's not much of a stretch of the imagination to see how teachers and other adults speak in what seems a foreign language to children. In a way, you shaped our perceptions of other people — foibles like Lucy's arrogance or Schroeder's aloofness are really quite harmless, and those who have them are still your friends.

Charlie Brown (and Charles Schulz), your legacy will certainly live on in reruns of comic strips and TV specials. And we'll get great pleasure out of seeing the familiar antics of the "Peanuts" gang again and again. But it won't be fresh, it won't be new, and it won't last forever.

Our children and grandchildren won't see a new "Peanuts" strip every day, like we, our parents, and even our grandparents have. In the end, it was the devotion of Charles Schulz to his life-work, drawing the strip entirely by himself day after day for half a century, that gave it a longevity and permanence in our culture that makes its passing so significant. Good grief, Charlie Brown.

Daniel C. Stevenson, a graduate student at the Media Lab, is a former Editor in Chief and Chairman of The Tech.

Charlie Brown, we learned from you how to answer adversity with magnanimity. Even in defeat, whether Linus's perennial failure to witness the coming of the Great Pumpkin or another one of your shutout baseball games, you were quietly triumphant.

Licensing the Constitution

Government, Gun Control and the Second Amendment

Kris Schnee

How would you like to live in a nice, safe cage?

President Clinton brought us all a little closer to that ideal last month in his State of the Union speech, in which he proposed a national system of gun registration and licensing. His proposal would expand the existing system of background checks, which aims to prevent illegal gun sales to convicted felons, to one which targets law-abiding citizens.

To buy a handgun under the new system, citizens would not only have to pass a background check, but also a government gun safety training program. Gun owners' proof of their innocence would take the form of a license — a license to bear arms.

The Second Amendment to the Constitution reads: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." American citizens have the legal right to own weapons. This right is "sacred" in the sense that it is part of the nation's highest law, and it may not be removed without constitutional amendment.

Licensing our civil rights would, simply put, profane them. Imagine if Clinton's licensing program were extended a bit: Since the pen is mightier than the sword (or gun), all writers should receive government training and permission for their work, to avoid harming people with their words. (Writers would have to buy their creative license.) We could then have the government license freedom of worship as well.

The concept of permits or licenses for pri-

ivate activities is inherently oppressive. It assumes that all power naturally rests in the hands of the State, and that "whatever is not allowed is forbidden," rather than that people are free to do whatever they like except for those things their social contracts forbid (like theft and murder). Licenses may be necessary for banks and barbershops, but requiring them for the private actions of free citizens — especially constitutionally-protected acts — is the policy of a government sticking its nose where it does not belong.

So why should we license gun owners, once we decide to ignore that pesky Constitution? Bill Clinton said he wanted to give the government "enforcement tools" to "trace every gun and every bullet" used in crimes. In other words, he advocated limiting individual freedom in the name of security. Logically, the next step from there would be to make policemen's jobs even easier by allowing universal wiretapping and search-and-seizure without warrants (another constitutional sin). We might ask whether getting total safety is worth the price of total surveillance and government control.

Another prime argument for licensing is the reduction of accidents and suicides involving guns. A *USA Today* editorial entitled "Why Gun Licensing Works" argues that "mandatory safety classes could help weed out emotionally unsuitable applicants." What an excellent idea, to have appointed bureaucrats decide whether we have the right to thoughts and emotions!

Yes, gun owners would be wise to take training classes; the National Rifle Association offers extensive programs for adult and child gun safety. But if citizens choose not to

train for the use of a gun kept in their own homes, it is none of the government's business to protect them from themselves.

The fear of gun-control opponents is that licensing will lead to outright confiscation of the American people's weapons. If the government tracks all guns, it has one list to find them all. Unlike licensed cars, which not even Al Gore has proposed to outlaw, guns are an obvious target for a government sweep; other countries have already made the slip from gun licensing to confiscation. We who protect individual freedom more strongly can avoid making the same mistake.

The main purpose of gun ownership conceived by the Constitution's authors is for the people to protect themselves from an oppressive government — one which violates their legal rights. If gun ownership is a constitutional right, then a government which tries to

forbid its law-abiding citizens to own guns (even for self-defense and hunting) is in violation of the Constitution and will be resisted. Reject all of the above arguments if you wish, but recognize that some gun owners will resist national disarmament.

How extensive and severe will such resistance be, if gun owners are ordered someday to turn in their weapons? At the very least, a national War on Guns would be a long battle of non-compliance and half-hearted enforcement, harassing innocent people without eliminating guns from the hands of criminals; at worst, people will shoot each other over their interpretation of the Second Amendment. To protect free citizens who do not want government protection, and to control gun-using criminals who by definition cannot be controlled, are gun-control advocates willing to risk more gun violence by revoking the Second Amendment?

Do you ...

blindly accept everything?

Write a letter to



<letters@the-tech.mit.edu>

THE ARTS

FILM REVIEW ★★¹/₂

Boiler Room

Risky Business

By Jumaane Jeffries

Written and directed by Ben Younger
Produced by Suzanne Todd and Jennifer Todd
A New Line Cinema film
Starring Giovanni Ribisi, Vin Diesel, Nia Long, and Nicky Katt
Rated R

You are thrust into a world of high-stakes brokers who learn to master their trade at an upscale office by day, only to fully engage in the role of common hooligans by night. The atmosphere is established by cheap suits, crass jokes, and slicked-back hair, and hip-hop surprisingly sets the tone. And then you wonder ... "This is Wall Street?"

No, this isn't Wall Street, despite the proficiency with which hotshot broker Chris (Vin Diesel) emulates one. This is *Boiler Room*, a gritty, revealing look at the business world from the very bottom, in which the players are willing to go even lower.

Boiler Room is told from the carefree, matter-of-fact point of view of Seth (Giovanni Ribisi), a recent college dropout, who earns his living rather successfully — yet illegally — running a casino out of his own home. For this, he is a symbol of disappointment to his parents, especially his father (played by Ron Rifkin). His longtime friend Greg (Nicky Katt) offers a "better" alternative: an apprenticeship at the small brokerage firm of J.P. Marley.

Predictably, Seth makes waves throughout the firm, gradually finding success both personally and professionally. He accomplishes so much only to discover the price that others have paid for his and his firm's actions. As he learns more about his "prosperous" occupation, it appears to him that he is destined to pay a price of his own.

The movie begins in the middle of the story, showing the benefits of being among an elite group of stockbrokers. The opening scene establishes Seth, a stoic, deep-thinking master of his domain, compared to his counterparts. When we see Seth's life before his employment, we learn of his prowess as a businessman, albeit an illegitimate one.

However, the tone of the movie is incredi-



Chris (Vin Diesel, left), Seth (Giovanni Ribisi), and other employees of the J.P. Marley are roused by a pep talk from Michael (Tom Everett Scott, offscreen).

bly stagnant from the point of Seth's employment, even as the true intentions of the firm reveal themselves. The majority of the middle part of the movie relies heavily on day-to-day situations, dialogue (which is admittedly witty at times), and the movie's subtle use of symbolism. Before the movie even began, the image of dead presidents in the New Line Cinema logo gave a hint at the film's clever and evocative use of symbolism.

It is fitting, then, that the most influential symbol in the movie is the character of Debbie, played by Nia Long. Debbie in the walnut is an otherwise homogenous loaf of good ol' boy pound cake, something that only Seth attempts to understand. I found her thematic role in the storyline to be perhaps a bit too large and crammed, as she was also the only character of non-European descent, and the only female presence, as well as the love

interest and potential partner of crime. Despite such pressure, Long turned in an effective performance.

First time writer/director Ben Younger delivers an intriguing premise. It isn't exactly very thrilling (the movie bills itself as a thriller) until very close to the end. The various family dilemmas add to the suspense, but it could have been increased by augmenting the roles of the FBI agents and increasing the tension between Seth and Greg. The often jerky camera-work integrates both well and awkwardly with the hip-hop tracks that set this movie's cash-rules-everything-around-me tone.

The plot works to an extent: Only your basic intuition tells you that something is askew about J.P. Marley's operations. If not, the speeches of Ben Affleck (in a whimsical cameo effort) can provide the necessary insight. (After all, the thought of fledgling

brokers becoming millionaires within three years of working at a second-rate firm is rather ridiculous, isn't it?) The trio of Katt, Diesel, and Ribisi, while having more peculiar names than this year's Super Bowl teams, hold their own. Businesslike Ribisi tells it like it is: "I don't want to be an innovator, I just want to make a quick and easy buck ... I just want to get in."

And then, like hanging up on a potential client, he leaves the audience hanging.

Boiler Room is a verbally clever, fairly decent movie, by no means to be forgotten, but by most accounts, inconsequential. In the end, when Seth takes off full of "what-ifs," I was left with a bunch of "what-thens." I enjoyed the ride, even though it was too smooth for a "thriller." Nevertheless, there isn't another movie out there that probes into Wall Street thug life, or at least, none like this.

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MUSIC REVIEW

State of the Airwaves

Salad, Smith, and Stefani

By Dan Katz

STAFF WRITER

Okay, the winter concert drought is officially over — just look at all the action in town this week. Tonight it's the Angry Salad downstairs at the Middle East, headlining a packed roster presented by WFNX. The Airwaves Show of the Week strikes at the Avalon Saturday and Sunday, a two-night stand by a man who contributed significantly to making the eighties depressing: Morrissey. Sunday, Christian neo-metal stars (is that allowed?) P.O.D. hit the Paradise Rock Club, while the more laid-back California Guitar Trio showcases form over flair at Johnny D's on Wednesday. And Thursday at the Avalon, it's an evening with the enchanting music of former Oscar nominee Elliott Smith. These, in addition to shows next week with Fiona Apple, Lit, Smash Mouth, They Might Be Giants (again?), and The Sheila Devine, mean that I can stop complaining.

And speaking of Oscar nominees (can I craft a segue or what?), nominations came out Tuesday morning. Obviously this doesn't fall under my jurisdiction as much as the Grammys do, but I do have one award to look at: Best Original Song. Thumbs up to the inclusion of Aimee Mann's "Save Me" (*Magnolia*) and Trey Parker's "Blame Canada" (which, even after you remove the desire to see *South Park* win an Oscar, really does deserve the award), but lots of sympathy to REM's "The Great Beyond," which was swept up in the Oscar-wide snub of *Man On The Moon*. It's a great and very voter-accessible rock song, and it would have been nice to see it at least in the running.

Ugh. Clearly Gwen Stefani's pissed off at somebody. "Ex-Girlfriend," the first release to come from No Doubt's upcoming disc, *Return To Saturn* (named for the amount of downtime since the band's last album, which is apparently the same length as Saturn's orbital period) is dripping with Alanis Morissette bitterness and Meredith Brooks cynicism. (Note to the musicians of the world: don't be formulaic and your name won't become an adjective.) Musically, however, the song is some of the most intriguing work the band's ever done, with a slow-to-frantic pace shift reminiscent

of "New," interesting drumlines, and an overall dark feel.

So when "Sexx Laws," the first single from Beck's *Midnight Vultures*, came out a few months ago, I suppose I liked it ... but I was hoping for a little something more from the god of funk and synthesizers. I've gotten it since; the Even Thinner White Duke's new single, "Mixed Bizness" is a relentlessly catchy fusion of saxophones, funk guitars, and strategic sampling that feels as retro as "Sexx Laws" but with a more futuristic tone wrapped around it. The climax sounds like the solo section of a jazz band number circa 2050. These are the kind of weird analogies I expect Beck to evoke in me. I'm much happier now.

Quick note on Angie Aparo ... I mentioned last week that while "Spaceship" is the radio single, "Alone" is the track I got to hear. Since then, I've gotten a copy of "Spaceship" as well, and I have to tell you, not only is it another great song, but listening to both of them really shows off his songwriting range. They're both available on the official website <<http://www.angieaparo.com>>, and I suggest you check it out.

An excerpt from a letter I received this week: "Just a word of support from a vegetarian who can't stand *The Essential Vegetarian*. Good God, what do we have to do to get a real restaurant critic around here? I don't think that chick knows food from plaster-of-paris."

Well, that could be viewed as a little harsh, but I'm glad to know some people on "the dark side" have seen the light. Maybe I'll start doing restaurant reviews: "There's a cozy little hideaway in Central Square called McDonald's. French fries delicious. Chicken McNuggets highly recommended if you don't ask what's in them. Get in soon before the public discovers it."

I'm buried in homework and booking responsibilities and employment and my personal life ... and yet I still manage to bring you *State of the Airwaves* every week. So write to me and tell me how much you appreciate it, or how much I'm wasting my time. I'm at <airwaves@the-tech.mit.edu> waiting for your e-mail with a big friendly smile on my face. Until next week rolls around, keep expanding your horizons.

FOOD REVIEW

The Essential Vegetarian

By Katie Jeffreys
FEATURES EDITOR

It's sometimes hard to be a vegetarian in college if you choose not to take advantage of campus dining programs. Finding interesting lunch options which are quick and easy to pack can be a challenge. Going beyond cheese and lettuce or peanut butter and jelly often requires time investment.

Some easy alternatives are cold pasta or cous cous salads. Add black olives, chickpeas and feta to prepared boxed cous cous for a Mediterranean treat. Or boil some rigatoni and in the last few minutes add some frozen vegetables. Drain, then mix a little pesto sauce or olive oil in with the pasta for a tasty salad. These can even be prepared in bulk and will keep for several days.

Sandwiches are traditional lunchtime fare, and since you are foregoing meat, splurge on "gourmet" fillings such as fresh mozzarella, artichoke or avocado, sundried tomato or roasted peppers. Try spinach, dark leafy greens, or mesclun mix for a fresh alternative to iceberg lettuce. Using a variety of breads, pitas, and tortillas can also add a little life to your lunch. Think of what you would want in a salad: carrots, hard boiled egg, celery, etc., and place it between two pieces of bread. Do not be afraid to use things not traditionally associated with sandwiches.

If time is a real issue, consider pre-packaged, ready-to-eat foods. By this I mean fruits and vegetables of course. I personally throw a kiwi or tomato in my bag and eat it like an apple — skin and all.

This past weekend I was fortunate to be introduced to a delightful tapas restaurant called Dali. Located at 415 Washington St., just past Inman Square in Somerville, it attracts a mixed crowd of trendy "Cantabrigians," ill-mannered MIT types, and assorted other "normal people". The atmosphere is remarkable — somewhat like an antique store with its assorted fans, flowers, and lampshades adding a warm inviting coziness to the dim rooms. One nook, seemingly designed for lovers, overlooks the street (through lace curtains) from the narrow red recess separating it from the rest of the establishment. The bar, too, is framed by hanging flowers, grapes and other dried goods. The Spanish and Latin music add the final flair to the restaurant's exquisite ambiance.

After settling in among the enchanting decor, I looked at the menu and noted the many delightful vegetarian options. I sampled several vegetarian tapas and was slightly disappointed to find that both the Alcachofas Rebozadas (Artichokes in Saffron Batter) and Buñuelos de Vedura (Cauliflower, Broccoli and Cheese Puffs) were both lightly battered and fried. I had hoped for a more fresh treat. Despite this, they were both savory and delicious. More notable, however, were the Setas al Ajillo (Sautéed "Meaty" Mushrooms) and Queso de Cabra Montañés (Baked Goat Cheese with Tomato and Basil). The mushrooms were rich and dark and mixed well with the warm flavorful cheese. The tapas, topped off with an order of Aceitunas (Marinated Olives) and the complimentary bread, provided for a festival of tastes that defines the tapas experience.

As far as service, I could not ask for more attentive, friendly waiters. It helped, I think, that one of my dining companions spoke both Spanish and Portuguese, allowing him to converse in the native tongues of the Portuguese and Argentinian waiters. It made the experience that much more enjoyable to hear the descriptions of their beautiful homelands and customs while tasting the food. The waiters' attire of beaded vests added a final note of festivity.

Be forewarned, however: A meal at Dali is not cheap. Tapas run four to eight dollars, and plates (none of which are meatless) are around twenty dollars each for a healthy portion. But on a celebratory or romantic occasion, the atmosphere is worth the cost of the meal. Reservations are not accepted, so a wait of three hours is not uncommon on weekends. Visit in advance to place your name on the wait list. The menu at Dali is identical to that of Tapeo, on Newbury St. in Boston (they are owned by the same couple). However, the atmosphere of Dali far outshines its Back Bay cousin.

The following recipe was submitted by a reader who shares my appreciation for sweet potatoes. As always, your feedback is necessary to keep this column running, so e-mail any suggestions or questions to <veggie@the-tech.mit.edu>.

Sweet Potato Burritos

2 onions	1 tomato	flour tortillas
4 cloves garlic	2 cans black beans	salsa
2 red peppers	2 cans veggie refried beans	cheese
2 large sweet potatoes	olive oil	

Put the canned beans in a large pot and heat on low. Stir occasionally. While that's heating, dice, cube, or slice all the veggies. Sauté the vegetables in a big skillet, starting with the sweet potatoes, as they take longer. Next, add the garlic, onion, peppers, and finally, the tomato. Cook until the sweet potatoes and onions are semi-mushy.

While that cooks, shred the cheese, sprinkle some on the tortillas and stick in the oven on a low bake temperature. Take them out once the cheese is melted, scoop on the beans, and add the veggies. Throw on some salsa (lettuce, sour cream, and guacamole are also possible) and dig in. Serves 8.

FILM REVIEW ★★★¹/₂

Titus

The Play's the Thing

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Written and directed by Julie Taymor, based on the play *Titus Andronicus* by William Shakespeare

With Anthony Hopkins, Jessica Lange, Alan Cumming, Colm Feore, Laura Fraser, Harry J. Lennix, Angus MacFadyen, Matthew Rhys, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers, Osheen Jones

It is inherently disappointing to watch a production of one of Shakespeare's weaker plays: Either the production will not be as good as the material deserves — or the production will be so good that the weakest part will be the source material. *Titus* is squarely in the second category — just about everything about it falls somewhere between inspired and brilliant, and the only thing that is merely good is the play *Titus Andronicus*, Shakespeare's first — and bloodiest — tragedy.

Titus Andronicus is pulp fiction, having the same time-tested structure as, say, most Hollywood action films. For the first two-thirds of the movie, the hero is being hurt by his enemies in various ways, and in the last section, he manages to gain an upper hand and exact his

revenge. The hero (perhaps anti-hero) here is Titus (Anthony Hopkins), having just returned victorious from the war with the Goths. The enemies here are his prisoners of war: the queen of Goths Tamora (Jessica Lange), and a brooding Moor Aaron (Harry J. Lennix). The bulk of the play is a vicious circle of revenge, with bodies hacked to pieces and rivers of blood flowing.

Director Julie Taymor (best known for directing *The Lion King* on Broadway) first and foremost makes sure *Titus* is impressive visually; and the word impressive here is a massive understatement. These are images you won't see anywhere else, the ones that pounce and grab, the ones that are likely to be forever burned into your retina. Some moments are truly indelible: the unexpected cut to the ruins of the Coliseum in the opening; the march of Roman soldiers, their bodies and faces covered with gray dust; or the shot of emperor Saturninus (Alan Cumming), beatifically smiling under a horrific iron sculpture of a rabid dog.

But *Titus* is more than merely a visual tour-de-force. On the basic level, it is simply a very well directed Shakespearean play, with every dramatic moment lucid and powerful, with visuals complementing — but not overpowering — characters, whose motivations and personalities remain human, even when they are performing all these heinous acts. Shockingly, and most certainly intentionally, the more these characters maim each other, the more human they become (witness Aaron's monologue when he expects to be hanged; only when he vents his deep-rooted fury do we understand

ALBUM REVIEW



By Efrén Gutierrez

STAFF REPORTER

A new boy band has hit the airwaves that will replace all the boy bands of today — Backstreet Boys, N'Sync, and 98° — and that band is 2Gether. If you haven't heard of 2Gether, you haven't been watching your MTV. MTV along with TVT Soundtrax has made a soundtrack for MTV's first made-for-television movie, *2Gether*, which will debut Feb. 21 and features the made-up pop boy band 2Gether. The movie is an attempt to show a behind-the-scenes look of what the boy band industry is actually like and how a boy band comes to stardom. MTV has put a lot of effort into the making of the movie; it even made a video for one of the songs.

In the movie, the band 2Gether, formed by Bob Buss (Alan Blumenfeld), definitely has the makings of a typical boy band, even having five different personalities: the heart throb, Jerry O'Keefe (Evan Farmer); the shy one, Chad Linus (Noah Bastian); the older brother, Doug Linus (Kevin Farley); the rebel, Mickey Parke (Alex Solowitz); and the cute one, Q.T. McKnight (Michael Cuccione). Bob Buss's reason to make 2Gether is to get even with Whoa!, the popular boy band that he was fired from, and to get himself back to the top. Though the line-up for the movie is weird, it contains the similar synthesized formula that all current and previous boy bands like New Kids on the Block and the Backstreet Boys have.

The soundtrack to the movie immediately brings parody to mind: Just look at the wannabe Backstreet Boys' *Millennium* cover. The songs are hilarious. Though they have the same sound and harmonies that all boy bands have, their lyrics are a bit different. One of their sup-

posedly hit singles "U + Me = Us (Calculus)" is a love song that makes a mockery of 18.01 by concluding that love to a girl is based on this equation. The video for the song, with scenes from the movie, is already playing on MTV, and it combines elements of all previous boy band videos like separate rooms for each boy depending on their personalities/ They even have a choreographed move to do to the "U + Me = Us" part of the song. We also get to see Chris Farley's brother trying to be a teen idol in the sight of a gang of screaming girls.

Other songs that mock current popular love songs are "Before We Say Goodbye", "Say It (Don't Spray It)", and "You're My Baby Girl". Each song covers a different aspect of love. For example, "Before We Say Goodbye" is about still having sex after the relationship is over, and "Say It (Don't Spray It)" is about a beautiful girl that keeps spitting into her lover's face. One love song that doesn't fit the goofy theme is "Visualize," by Q.T., which is an authentic love song with no comical addition. Besides the sappy love songs, there is one energetic song, "2Gether", which is similar to the Backstreet Boys' "Larger Than Life". These songs don't exactly bring into mind Weird Al Yankovic parodies, but they are funny nonetheless.

The album is crafted to give the appearance of a legitimate boy band album, but it doesn't actually contain anything that a typical boy band would sing about. Audiences will definitely be divided on how they react to this album. While it ridicules all the pop boy bands out there, the popularity of boy bands may actually push this album to the top. Then all MTV would need would be to make another band to bump 2Gether from the top of the charts.

precisely what makes him what he is). Speaking of characters, I'm firmly convinced that Shakespeare wrote *Titus Andronicus* with Anthony Hopkins in mind. I can't imagine anyone else taking this part and making the character's journey as riveting; it also helps to know Hopkins' certain other famous performance (it's referred to during the climax). Jessica Lange is almost on the verge of camp and vamp for most of her screen time, but she has such a forceful opening (when she pleads with Titus for the life of her eldest son), that this scene — as well as its implications — reverberates throughout the whole narrative. Alan Cumming goes far beyond the usual amount of camp. His emperor Saturninus looks like Hitler played by Pee-Wee Herman. Supporting players, especially Colm Feore (who played the title character in *Thirty-Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*) and Laura Fraser, are top-notch as well.

As a result, from the narrative point of view, *Titus* is irresistible. It tells a gripping story in three hours, and it is so well-paced it feels like twenty minutes. It also avoids de-sensitizing the audience; each shocking moment somehow manages to top the previous one. The carnage also grows funnier and funnier as we go along. By the time the gory finale rolls along, we are in the full Grand Guignol mode, stomach-churning and utterly hilarious at the same time.

There's only one minor problem with the film when it unfolds — some of it is a bit on the obvious side. A couple of the elaborate visual set-ups are followed with slightly underwhelm-

ing payoffs (like the otherwise graceful final shot); and the sequence that first shows Tamora's children in their lair is also belaboring an obvious point. Yes, we know these people are Goth, so there's no need for hard rock on the soundtrack.

However, one fault with *Titus* — wholly stemming from the play — is that it's not really about anything (compare it with, for example, a recent film version of *Richard III*. The emptiness at the heart of this film is admirably covered up with an inordinate amount of style: Even the time is out of joint: The movie superposes ancient Rome, the 1930s, and the present (creating a dazzling contrast between the Roman aqueducts and Mussolini's government buildings). Taymor even uses a double framing device (the main action is framed as a play, performed in the Coliseum, which is, in turn, framed as a little boy's violent fantasy — the same little boy who plays with his action figures in the opening shot). But, story-wise, however enjoyable it is (if one can use the word enjoyable with a straight face when applied to such a story), there's little in the way of meaning.

But ultimately, and surprisingly, this matters little. *Titus* succeeds in creating its own world and forcefully pulling us into it, completely, with no ripples on the surface. However I might intellectually wish for a point to *Titus*, I am fully aware that I will very likely never forget most of its images. When I recall Titus gleefully licking his lips in the finale, or that slow zooming shot of his daughter Lavinia standing all alone on a tree stump, I can't help but shiver.

Popular Music

AXIS
Next: 423-NEXT, 617-262-2437
13 Lansdowne St.

Feb. 28: Lit.
Mar. 8: Agent Orange.
Mar. 10: Long Beach Dub All-stars.
Mar. 24: Reveille.

Avalon
617-262-2424
15 Lansdowne St.

Feb. 19-20: Morrissey.
Mar. 3: Gov't Mule.
Mar. 4: The Pretenders.
Mar. 15: Paula Cole.
Mar. 16: Kenny Wayne Shepherd.
Mar. 17: The Push Stars.
Mar. 29: No Doubt.
Apr. 4: Rollins Band.

Berklee Performance Center
Berklee College of Music
1140 Boylston St.
Free student recitals and faculty concerts, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. some weekdays. For info, on these concerts, call the Performance Information Line at 747-8820.

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
Ticketmaster 931-2000.

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

Club Passim
47 Palmer St, Cambridge.
Ticket prices vary. Call 618-492-7679 for more info.

Feb. 18: Einstein's Little Homunculus, \$10.
Feb. 19: Knots & Crosses.
Feb. 20: Songwriters in the Square.
Feb. 23: IndieGrrl, including Adrienne, Edie Carey, Sam Shaber, Anne O'Meara Heaton and Vanessa Trien.
Feb. 24: John McVey.
Feb. 25: Dee Cartensen.
Feb. 26: Mica Richards.
Mar. 3-4: Melissa Ferrick.

Fleet Center
Ticketmaster: 931-2000.

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

The Lizard Lounge
1667 Mass Ave.
617-547-0759

Feb. 29: Jim's Big Ego, 21+.

The Middle East
Ticketmaster: 931-2000.
Ticket prices vary. Call 354-8238 for more info.

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.
Feb. 19: Star Ghost Dog.
Feb. 20: The Damn Personals.
Feb. 20: Toshi Reagon.
Feb. 21: Labb with Roma, Tricycle, and Choke.
Feb. 22: Formula 1 with Chewy and If You Say So.
Feb. 23: His Name is Alive.
Feb. 24: Max Creek.
Feb. 25: Poppun Seven.
Feb. 26: Soulive.

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. 19: Celtic Fiddle Festival, featuring Ireland's Kevin Burke, Scotland's Johnny Cunningham (of Silly Wizard), and France's Christian LaMatre, \$25, \$20.
Feb. 20: Pro Arte and Coro Allegro.
Mar. 5: Dave Brubeck Quartet.

T.T. the Bear's Place
10 Brookline St, Cambridge,
617-492-2327

Feb. 18: Honeyglazed.
Feb. 19: Wildfire Willie & the Ramblers.
Feb. 20: Youngster with Tizzy.
Feb. 25-26: The Sheila Divine.

Jazz Music

Regattabar
Concertix: 876-7777

Feb. 18-19: Dave Frishberg and Bob Dorough.
Feb. 20: Aaron Goldberg Trio.
Feb. 22: Cindy Blackman Quartet.
Feb. 23: Kendrick Oliver and the New Life Jazz Orchestra.
Feb. 24-26: Bobby Hutcherson Quintet.

Feb. 29: Lello Molinari Project with George Garzone, Jeff Galindo, Frank Carlberg, Mike Goodrick, and Bob Guillotti.

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

Feb. 18: Nicholas Payton Quintet.
Feb. 23-24: Teri Thornton.
Feb. 25-26: Ray Barretto & Kenny Burrell with New World Spirit.

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. 18-19: Mahler: Symphony No. 7. Bernard Haitink, conductor. Pre-concert talk given by Marc Mandel.

Feb. 24-26, 29, Mar. 1-2: Britten: War Requiem. Seiji Ozawa, conductor; Christine Goerke, soprano; Ian Bostridge, tenor; Thomas Quasthoff, bass-baritone; Tanglewood Festival Chorus, John Oliver, conductor; PALS (Performing Artists at Lincoln School), Johanna Hill Simpson, artistic director. Pre-concert talk given by Marc Mandel prior to each performance.

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: 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

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 performances 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-

On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston
February 18 - 25
Compiled by Fred Choi

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



Call Ticketmaster (617-931-2000) today for a ticket to see Korn.

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

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.

Bear Icons
Mar. 6-19, Open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At The Gallery at Mount Ida College (Carlson Student Center, 777 Dedham St., Newton Centre, MA): A presentation of the "Art + Artifacts of Queer Masculinity," the presentation of this traveling exhibition reveals a vast array of self-representation of gay male "bear sensibilities" as a postmodern/avant-garde installation of two- and three-dimensional objects, multimedia, and live performance artists. The show mixes folk, commercial, documentary, and

fine art vocabularies to demonstrate the rapid expansion of a new gay male archetype. Free admission. Opening Reception will be held Fri., Mar. 10, 7-9 p.m. On Sat., March 11th, there will be an Evening of Live Performance by bear-identified artists: Alan Reade, Martin Swinger, and Ernie Lijoi, in the Auditorium adjacent to the gallery from 7-9 p.m. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. For more information, go to: <<http://bearhistory.com>>

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.

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. 19, 26: *A Hero for Daisy* By Mary Mazzeo (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 out-

lets 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. 23-25: *Genesis* By Cheick Oumar Sissoko (La Genhse, Mali, 1998, 102 min.) Cheick Oumar Sissoko marks the start of the 21st century with a film set at the beginning of time. By returning to the Biblical account of Jacob and Esau, he discovers insights into one of the most urgent problems facing Africa and the world: fratricidal strife. In Bambara 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, 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.

Mar. 3: *Lone Star Hate* (Director: Paul Yule, 76 minutes. UK, 1997): A Channel 4 (London) documentary on the gruesome 1993 gay-bashing murder of Nicholas West in conservative Tyler, Texas. *The Body of a Poet: A Tribute to Audre Lorde* (Director: Sonali Fernando, 29 min., UK, 1995): An imaginary biopic, this film centers on the efforts of a group of young lesbians of color to devise a fitting tribute to one of this century's great visionaries. Its genre bending celebration of the life and work of Audre Lorde, black lesbian poet and political activist, explores Lorde's trajectory from birth to death.

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



SUZANNE TENNER—COLUMBIA PICTURES

Girl, Interrupted is the true story of Susanna Kaysen (Winona Ryder), whose prescribed "short rest" at a mental institution becomes a strange, nearly two-year-long journey into Alice's Wonderland.

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

The Big Tease (★★)

A foreign film in the tradition of *Strictly Ballroom*, this import follows Scotsman Crawford MacKenzie as he stops at nothing to participate in the Los Angeles Platinum Scissors hair cutting competition. The film suffers from lackluster casting and bad editing, but the final hairstyles are truly remarkable. — Erik Blankinship

Boiler Room (★★½)

A fairly clever, decent movie about the shady dealings of the employees of a small brokerage firm. Witty dialogue and good acting make the film hard to forget, but *Boiler Room* turns out not to be as thrilling as it claims to be. — Jumaane Jeffries

The Cider House Rules (★★★)

Despite the fact that the protagonist's 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

Man on the Moon (★★★½)

The talents of director Milos Forman, writers Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski, and actor Jim Carrey combine in the remarkable *Man on the Moon*, a film about late comedian Andy Kaufman's life. Great performances and a complex underlying theme make this comedy a must-see. — 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 with the film's immoral protagonist. A bit too slowly-paced, though. — VZ

The Tigger Movie (★★½)

Pooh, Rabbit, Kanga, Roo, and of course, Tigger return to the big screen in the newest Disney animated adventure. This story of Tigger's quest to find other tiggers benefits from top-notch animation, but feels too childish to be enjoyable. — EB

Titus (★★★½)

An excellent film based on one of Shakespeare's weaker plays. With dazzling visuals, fabulous directing and acting, and a great pace, it's a pity that *Titus's* weakest point should be its source material. — 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



WHICH VENTURE CAPITAL FIRM
HELPED AKAMAI
GO FROM MIT TO IPO?

Down with Science (da Firenze)

by Jennifer DiMase



the crass rat



Xippo's Courseload
SOLAR C. OLUGEBEFOLA



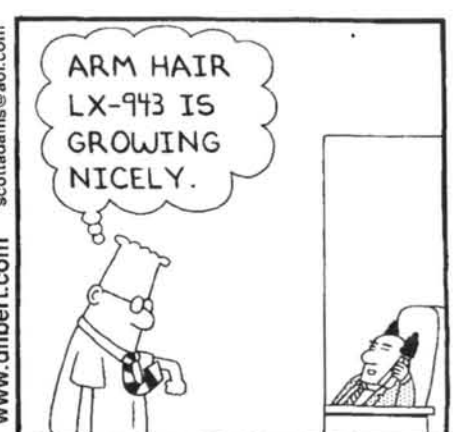
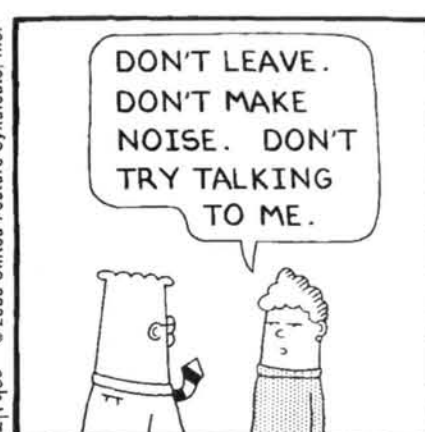
MIT

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BY JOCELYN LIN



Dilbert® by Scott Adams



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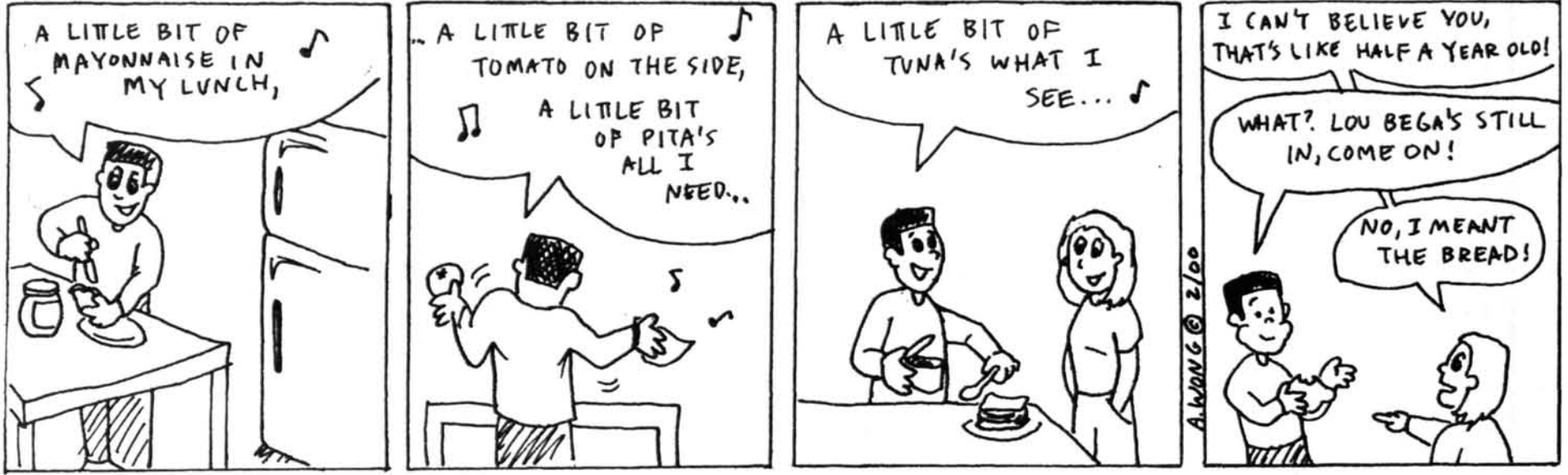
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TechCalendar

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

Contact information for all events is available from the TechCalendar web page.

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

Friday's Events

6:00 p.m. - **Graduate Christian Fellowship International Potluck.** Sample foods from around the world. Come whether you can bring a dish yourself or not. After dinner we'll play "Who Wants to Be a Mill—, er, rather, an MIT Fleece Pullover Owner?". Admission 0. West Lounge (W20-201). Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.

8:00 p.m. - **MITHAS Student Dance Recital.** Presented by MITHAS (MIT Heritage of South Asia). \$15, \$12—MITHAS & New England Hindu Temple members, students & seniors; \$10—MIT students. Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

9:00 p.m. - **Potluck Performance Art Party.** AKA show+tell. Bring video, poetry, slides, anything to read, show, perform and/or consume. N52-115. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

Saturday's Events

8:00 p.m. - **"The Long Form Show" An Evening of Improv Theater.** Come and see something different from Roadkill Buffet: an evening of long form improvisation. This is improv theater. It's experimental, it's high-zen, and it's never been done at MIT. Admission 0. Rm 6-120. 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.

Tuesday's Events

7:30 - 10:30 p.m. - **Contra Dance for All.** MIT Folk Dance Club presents a Contra Dance. No experience or partner necessary! Live music by Eric Merrill & Cal Howard. Refreshments served. Admission 0. W20-407 (Student Center). Sponsor: Folk Dance Club.

12:00 p.m. - **Model-based Reasoning, Abstraction and Conceptual Change, Nancy Nersessian, Georgia Institute of Technology.** 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.

2:30 p.m. - **Viscoelastic Lattice Models of Brittle Fracture, Herbert Levine, Department of Physics, University of California, San Diego.** Refreshments will be served at 3:30 PM in Room 2-349. Open. More info: Call John Bush at 253-4387. Email bush@math.mit.edu. Rm 2-338.

4:00 p.m. - **Functional Imaging, Models and Applications, Jeffrey P. Sutton, Director, Neural Systems Group MGH, Harvard-MIT HST.** A short reception will follow in the Osborne Room (35-338). Open. More info: Call soosan beheshti at 253-2832. Email soosan@mit.edu. Rm 35-225.

4:30 p.m. - **Aeroelastic Mesoflaps of Supersonic Engine Inlets, Professor Eric Loth, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.** Refreshments served 4:15pm. Open. More info: Call Lori Martinez at 253-2481. Email dragon@mit.edu. Rm 31-161.

by Bill Amend



FoxTrot

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Crowded MacGregor Freshmen Object to Forced Midyear Moves

MacGregor, from Page 1

chair until she her turn came up to move. "A lot of people wanted to see the decrowding policy changed, but it is house policy," she said.

"Having people in the crowded lounges is bad for everybody," Adler said. "It takes away from entry common space, then is a bad situation for the freshmen." Adler also reasons that if freshmen are not moved into open singles, transfers from other dorms would be moved into the singles, making fewer free

spaces for the the next year's freshman class.

The order in which freshmen will move is determined at the first of the year by lotteries, and freshmen move as soon as rooms become open.

"There are really no exceptions made to the policy," although freshmen are usually opposed to moving, Adler said. "Freshmen get attached to their rooms and the people they live around and, understandably, don't want to leave ... space permitting, they can move back to their original entry sophomore year."

House decrowding policy was updated when freshmen from Phi Gamma Delta were moved into lounges in 1997.

The policy was clarified last summer by members of MacGregor HouseComm, Montgomery said. The main change made was to be certain that freshmen understand from the beginning of the year that they will not stay in a crowded double for the entire year. Montgomery does not anticipate changing the policy so that freshmen do not have to move.

More Frequent, Serious Crimes Occur Near Proposed Dorm Site

NW30, from Page 1

person to the CASPAR shelter, and five incidents of either an intoxicated person or a person causing a disturbance.

There was also a fight outside the dormitory, a homeless person attempted entry, and two people were arrested, including one juvenile for drug possession.

Criminal activity reported in the surrounding area — Buildings NW12, NW13, NW14, NW16, NW17, and NW21 — was also high, and consisted primarily of incidents of trespassing and assists to the homeless shelter.

In contrast, crime last year around graduate and undergraduate dormitories in other parts of campus focused on property theft, with significantly fewer trespass and disturbance reports.

In 1999, the outlying Eastgate and Westgate graduate residences had one and six incidents of trespassing, respectively, and Westgate had the only reported disturbance.

Ashdown House had only one report of trespassing. All of Amherst Alley had an additional six such reports and three arrests.

NW30 was built in 1904, and MIT acquired it from the Air Force in 1958. It is the former site of the Instrumentation Lab, now Draper Laboratory. The Institute has long planned to use the site for housing,

but feasibility studies didn't begin until last fall, Kaynor said.

MIT built the CASPAR facility for \$1.9 million in 1993 as part of a deal with Cambridge. In exchange, MIT received ownership of one street and obtained the lease on three other streets and sidewalks around campus. The shelter was previously housed in trailers at the same site.

Location	Assist to shelter	Disturbance, intoxication	Trespassing, loitering	Arrests
NW30	2	3	14	2
Edgerton	5	5	3	2
Albany St. (west) nearby buildings	3	0	3	4
Westgate	10	2	18	2
Eastgate	2	1	6	4
Ashdown	0	0	1	1
Amherst Alley	0	0	1	0
	0	0	6	3

Notes:
Tallies refer to number of individuals involved.
The fourth line refers to Buildings NW12, NW13, NW14, NW16, NW17, and NW21. Other buildings in the area had no such reported incidents.
Assist to shelter refers to assisting a homeless or intoxicated person to the CASPAR shelter at 240 Albany St.

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CCRR MIT Committee on Campus Race Relations

West Campus Crime Rash Leads to CP Investigation

By Kristen Landino
STAFF REPORTER

Six larcenies were reported from Baker, Burton-Conner, and MacGregor dormitory rooms between January 26 and February 1.

Due to the nature of the crime, Campus Police believe that the suspects will strike again. Chief Investigator and Detective Sergeant Mary Beth Riley describes it as "a crime of opportunity."

"We are working off information from victims. We have been diligently working in west campus for the past few days and have made two arrests. They may be tied in, or not," said Riley.

Victims report that their rooms were left unattended in all but one incident. Most crimes occurred between 9 a.m. and noon. One incident, however, occurred around 6 a.m. while the victim was sleeping.

Items stolen included a laptop computer, CD Player, wallet, computer games, watch, camera, and cell phone, among other things.

Victims describe suspects

A composite drawing has been created with the help of one victim and this description matches those of the other victims. This suspect is described as follows according to a bulletin distributed by MIT Campus Police: "male, black, 6 feet 4 inches, with a large build, 'huge,' no clothing description available, but he did ask for a cigarette."

Descriptions of two more suspects are also available from a victim in a MacGregor larceny. A second suspect was identified as "male, black, 5 feet 6 inches, medium build, with short black hair, wearing green and black camouflage pants, a black jacket and a black skiing style headband — may have been wearing a scully hat or beret." The third

suspect was described as "male, black, wearing baggy clothing or wind pants."

CPs are not sure whether the incidents are related. "There are three different suspects. It is possible that some are related, but not all.

CPs increase crime prevention

In light of the recent crime rash on west campus, CPs have become increasingly responsive to calls made reporting suspicious people in dormitories. Police have also increased security in dormitories on Amherst. They are making extra patrols in dormitory common areas and meeting with desk workers to discuss better safety measures.

"Educational effort is our prime concern. If more people are aware and sensitive to crime prevention, it will be easier to apprehend the suspect," said Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin.

Campus Police have initiated a number of educational programs in order to increase student awareness. Immediately following the larcenies on January 26, Campus Police issued a warning bulletin informing students of the incidents and the suspects involved. On February 2, another notice was dispersed which included a composite drawing of one of the suspects.

Most recently, CPs held a seminar at MacGregor as part of their crime prevention program. Topics focused on what to do if students spot someone suspicious in their dormitory as well as how to identify suspects by distinguishing characteristics.

"We try to encourage people to remember unique features of suspicious people rather than the general facts that people often focus on such as gender, height, or race. It is more useful if people focus on specific

things such as what kind of sneakers the person is wearing. It will make it easier for us to identify the suspect if details of this type are remembered," Glavin said.

In their programs, CPs also stress the importance of students locking their doors at all times. According to Glavin, none of the incidents involved forced entry because students had left their doors open.

Confirming suspects a problem

One of the major problems is that CPs are unable to say with certainty whether the suspects are students or not, or how entry to the dormitory was gained.

"They could be friends of students here or somehow have easy access to the dorm. We don't know for sure. We can't blame desk captains for letting people in ... the suspects could enter behind legitimate students who open the door with their card," Glavin said.

Current desk policy requires that people who enter the dorm be residents or invited guests of residents.

"Desk workers are being asked to be generally more observant — to look out for suspicious people," said Nicole Balli '00, Baker House President.

CPs also recommend students register their laptop computers and parents take out a waiver on their homeowner's insurance for their children. In most cases, Glavin said this extension did not cost parents anything.

"A series of larcenies is not too common at MIT. 'Occasionally, we have things like this happen. In this particular case, the person thinks they have found a perfect opportunity. They'll keep it up for a period of time," Glavin said.

According to Glavin, the pattern

Requirement Does Not Add Classes

Communication, from Page 1

tory writing course, but the new requirements mandate that it be taken freshman year.

The first CI courses will appear by 2002, but it will take until 2008 for the proposed public speaking requirement to be set up.

Enthusiasm about new program

Reactions by faculty and students have been mostly favorable; the CUP report is expected to be passed at next month's faculty meeting.

"There is enormous enthusiasm in the central administration about moving forward with the Communications Requirement," said President Charles M. Vest.

"I commend the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement for developing an initiative that does not add classes to an already crowded curriculum, but rather weaves the requirement within existing structures," said Undergraduate Association President Matthew L. McGann '00.

"We talked to students — most realize how important writing, speaking, and visual communication is for their professional careers and their lives," Keyes said.

Some students worry, however, that the new requirement will mean more stress and less choices with HASS courses.

"The new rules will remove some flexibility from the HASS requirement," McGann said.

However, Brown said the subcommittee crafted the new requirements to avoid crowding already tight schedules.

"It's embedded in the existing curriculum," he said. "There are no new required classes."

Brown also added that the new program will require faculty and financial support.

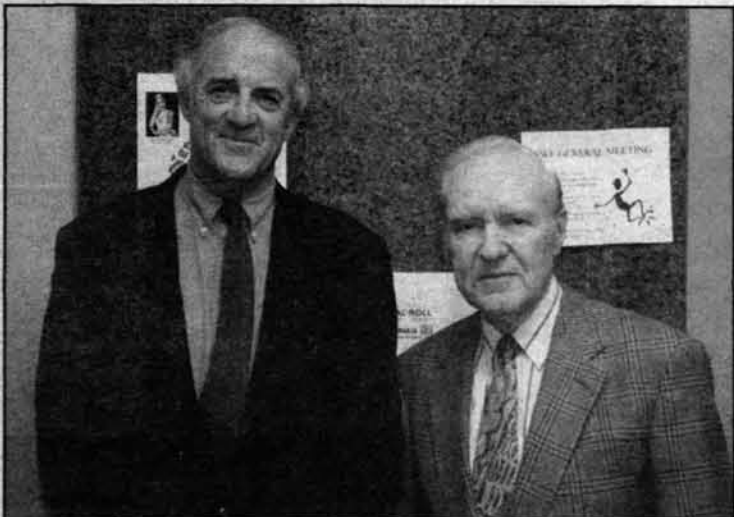
Three amendments shot down

At the meeting, faculty members voted down all three amendments to the final report proposed by Ruth Perry, a professor of literature and member of the CUP subcommittee.

Perry said she was in support of

the overall plan, but thought it needed strengthening. "I cannot remain silent about subjects so essential to undergraduate education," she said.

Perry's amendments would have required every student to take at least one small CI class taught by a faculty member, added "reading" to "writing and speaking" in the list of qualifications for a CI class, and placed a professor of literature on the CUP subcommittee overseeing the new rules.



ROSHAN BALIGA—THE TECH
Professors Langley Keyes, Jr. (left) and Gene Brown, co-chairs of the CUP Subcommittee on the Communications Requirement, submitted a proposal for a Communications Requirement at Wednesday's faculty meeting. If passed at the next faculty meeting, the proposal will require an emphasis on writing and speaking in HASS courses, starting with the class of 2005.

of a criminal like this one tends to show that the suspect will stop for a brief period of time immediately following a series of crimes and then start up again. The criminal will not stop because he/she thinks that they have been successful. The chances of the suspect returning are very good, said Glavin.

"If everyone knows what is going on and how to protect themselves, eventually we will catch them," Glavin said.

The CPs are working with other universities in the area to see if the

incidents at MIT match any patterns of crime observed at other nearby colleges. Riley noted that there have been larceny arrests recently on other campuses in the area.

Students as well as dormitory officers have been instrumental in the CPs efforts to apprehend the suspects, Riley said.

For example, Baker's internal security systems were utilized immediately following a larceny at Baker. All doors to the dormitory were secured and students searched the various floors for the suspects.

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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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SHOCK MARKET

Chomsky Attacks U.S. Abuse of Sovereignty Rights

By Rima Arnaout
NEWS EDITOR

Professor of Linguistics Noam Chomsky addressed a packed audience in 26-100 Tuesday in a talk entitled "Freedom, Sovereignty, and Other Endangered Species."

The talk, sponsored by the Technology and Culture Forum at MIT, drew so many listeners that many latecomers were directed to Building 34 to watch a live video feed of the event.

Technology and Culture Forum Coordinator Rev. Jane S. Gould

introduced Chomsky as someone who "has publicly, for four decades, addressed contemporary issues Welcome to those lucky enough to be here."

Chomsky began with a definition of the sovereignty of a nation, "the right of political entities to be free from outside interference."

But sovereignty is abused in the name of humanitarian intervention and international trade by world powers — namely the United States, Chomsky said.

Throughout the twentieth centu-

ry, the U.S. and other global powers have considered sovereignty the "duty of civilized states to conquer others, which is what we now call humanitarian intervention."

Chomsky said that that abuse is largely responsible for the humanitarian atrocities that have taken place throughout the 20th century but most notably through the last year in Kosovo and East Timor.

Chomsky also criticized the U.S. and the World Trade Organization, and noted that the U.S. undermined the United Nations' attempts to keep sovereignty from becoming the right of powerful nations over weaker ones.

The WTO is crafted to take sovereignty "away from people and put it in the hands of investors," Chomsky said.

Chomsky discussed the rhetoric of humanitarian intervention and of bringing civilization and rights to an impoverished people that surrounded Japan's invasion of Manchuria, Mussolini in Ethiopia, and Hitler's annexation of the Sudetenland

"A century later the same rhetoric resounds with about as much plausibility," Chomsky said.

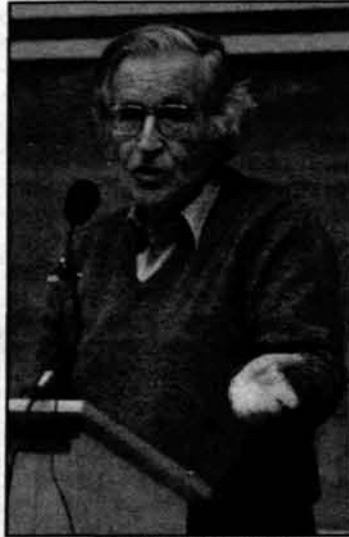
Chomsky argued that the U.S. uses the same rhetoric to justify both the U.S. bombing in Yugoslavia and its lack of action during Indonesia's massacres of the East Timorese.

U.S. action condemned in East Timor

In particular, Chomsky attacked U.S. policy in Indonesia, tracing back to U.S. support of former President Suharto.

Suharto invaded Indonesia in 1975 "with extensive U.S. aid and support," Chomsky said. "He had come to power with a Rwanda-style slaughter and was received with unrestrained enthusiasm" by the United States.

Suharto stayed "our kind of guy" until 1997, Chomsky said, when he



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

Noam Chomsky delivered a lecture on "Freedom, Sovereignty, and Other Endangered Species" to a full house in 26-100 Tuesday night.

lost control after Southeast Asia's economic collapse. And with just a word from the United States, Suharto handed power over to Bacharudin Jusuf Habibie within two days of our communication of discontent, Chomsky said.

"All that needed to be done was for the U.S. to advise Indonesia that the game was over. The issue of sovereignty never arose ... [Indonesia's sovereignty over East Timor] was based on the fact that the U.S. had authorized it," Chomsky said.

Furthermore, Chomsky pointed out that U.S. military intervention and support in the affairs of countries like Indonesia, Yugoslavia, and Israel has gone against numerous resolutions made by the United Nations since 1949.

The UN rules "against humanitarian intervention because it would always be the right of the strong to attack the right of the

weak," Chomsky said.

Serbian bombing, Israeli policies

"The U.S. consistently opposed the rule of law and consistently espoused 'rule of force,'" Chomsky said. He noted that the United States used the 'rule of force' in Yugoslavia as well as Indonesia over the past year.

"Outside the West, [the U.S. bombing of Yugoslavia] was roundly condemned," Chomsky said. The U.S. had in fact anticipated that the bombing would increase the number of violent acts against Kosovar civilians, he said.

"It was never the intention of political leadership to deal with ethnic cleansing, and, in fact, most of it happened after the bombing," Chomsky said.

In a question and answer session after his speech, an audience member asked Chomsky why he didn't mention America's support of Israel as an example of America's might makes right interpretation of sovereignty. Last Friday Israel launched air strikes in south Lebanon in response to the death of an Israeli soldier.

"What is called in the West terrorism in the rest of the world would be called resistance," Chomsky said.

The U.S. condemns Hezbollah's actions "in their own country against an occupying country," Chomsky said. Lebanese aggression against Israel "is the result of occupation ... bombing plants in Beirut [as Israel did] is a straight-out war crime."

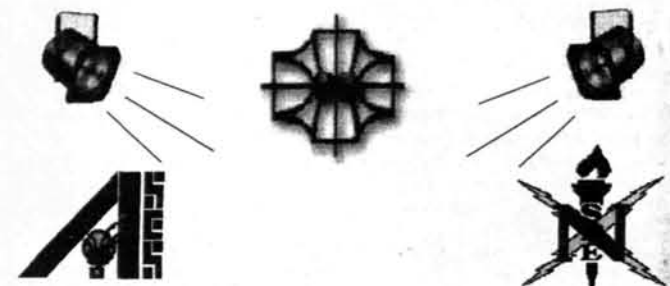
However, Chomsky said that U.S. sanctions against Israel would create a backlash against Palestinians and Lebanese, much like the bombing of Yugoslavia caused increased human rights atrocities against Kosovars. "[Sanctions] would make Israel respond in a way that would make Milosevic look like Mahatma Ghandi," Chomsky said.

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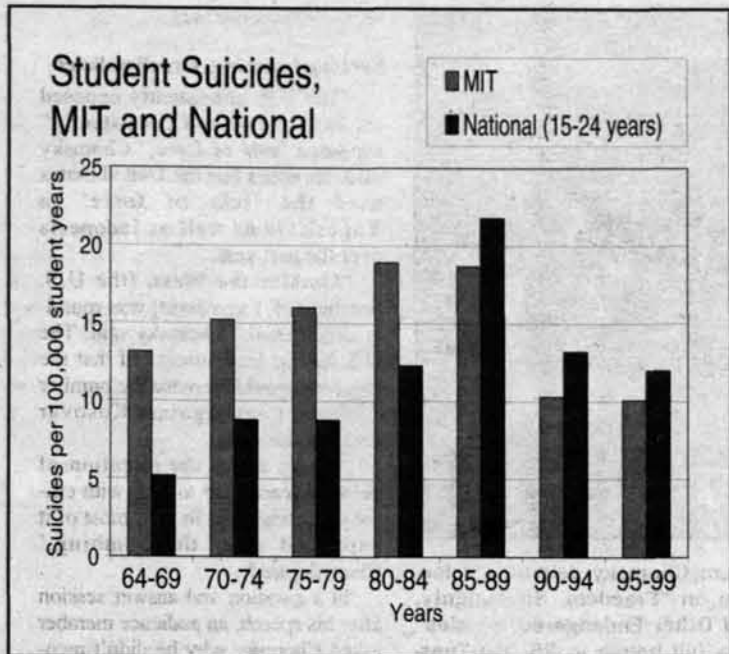
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KATIE JEFFREYS, THE TECH

Suicide, from Page 1

which translates to a rate of 14.6 per 100,000 student years. Over the period examined, MIT's suicide rate has fallen from well above the national average in the sixties and seventies to below average in the past two decades.

The relation of "per 100,000 student years" is used to compare suicide rates among different populations. Each year a student spends at a university is considered one student year, so summing each year's enrollment over the time period under consideration results in the total number of student years.

MIT's suicide rate peaked in the 1980s at nearly 19 per 100,000 student years. Throughout the 1990s the rates have been nearly half that of the previous decade at 10 per 100,000 student years. "None of us will be satisfied until the number is zero, which will never happen. But we can be encouraged by the fact that the rates aren't going up," said Randolph.

The 47 deaths include students taking time off for personal reasons, such as Seth L. Karon '01 who died last week in an apparent suicide, as they are still considered members of the community.

Study shows low student rate

Dr. Morton Silverman, director of the University of Chicago's Student Counseling and Resource Services conducted a study which showed that suicide rates among students during the 1980s were lower than among the general population at 7.5 per 100,000 student years.

Silverman's study examined pri-

marily Big Ten college campuses and provides an interesting comparison between student life at large public schools and small, competitive private schools: During the period of Silverman's study, the suicide rate at MIT was higher than both that of the schools in the study and the nation.

Students at universities of similar caliber and demographics seem to have likelihoods of suicide equivalent to those at MIT. Information released by Randolph was dated, describing suicide rates at Harvard University, Yale University, and the University of California at Berkeley from 1936 to 1961, making comparisons difficult. These schools, as well as Stanford University and the University of Pennsylvania, were unable to provide any data regarding suicide trends over the past three decades. A study published in the *Journal of College Student Personnel* in 1987 found that only 14 percent of schools keep suicide records.

Cornell University is one peer institution that does maintain moderately complete records of their student deaths in response to a common perception that they have a high suicide rate. Cornell had eight students take their own lives in the past ten years. With about 19,000 students on campus, Cornell has a suicide rate of about 4.3 per 100,000 student years for that time period, far below both MIT and national rates.

Differences among sexes, year

When examining the record of suicide on campus a number of interesting patterns emerge: only one student, Michael P. Manley '02, committed suicide in his first year at MIT since at least 1964, and women

are far less likely to commit suicide as compared to men.

National statistics show that women are more likely to attempt suicide and men are more likely to succeed. Out of the 47 MIT students who committed suicide, only four were females.

Using the Reports to the President to find male and female enrollment rates takes into account the gradually increasing female population on campus over time. This reveals that females at MIT commit suicide at a rate of 6.3 per 100,000 female student years. This compares to a rate of male student suicides at MIT of 16.6 per 100,000 male student years.

It has been hypothesized that the overall suicide rate has decreased precisely because women are less likely to commit suicide and their population has grown on campus. However, comparing suicide rates of the sexes relative to the population of each on campus shows that the rate of suicide has declined independently for each sex in the 1990s.

Another area of comparison is between graduate and undergraduate suicide rates. While Silverman's study showed that graduate students are more likely to take their own lives, this is not consistent with MIT statistics. The graduate student suicide rate is 8.4 per 100,000 graduate student years while the undergraduate rate is 21.2 per 100,000 undergraduate student years.

The chronology of suicides also reveals several trends. Silverman found that suicides are most likely to occur in the month of October, most likely due to pressures resulting from the new academic year. This holds true for MIT as well, with a disproportionately large number (10) of the 47 suicides occurring during October.

Suicides also appear in clusters across the decades. A cluster can be defined as a group two or more suicides occurring within about a month of each other. Clusters occurred in the spring of 1973, the fall of 1977, 1986 and 1987, and the summer of 1991. The longest period between suicides is 32 months, meaning that every graduating class since 1965 has had to face the loss of a community member who took his own life.

Study has potential error

A number of uncertainties make an analysis such as this one difficult.

Causes of deaths in the 1960s were often misnamed. A drug related death may have been termed a suicide, and a suicide may be termed an accident. The differing

standards introduce a small error.

Records of student deaths at MIT have been kept, somewhat loosely, dating to the mid-sixties. Uncertainty remains because several student deaths (not suicides) were reported in *The Tech*, but were not listed in the data provided by Randolph.

Commuting students also pose a

problem: the schools in Silverman's study may not be able to monitor their students as well as MIT. MIT is notable in this regard because even students who are taking academic leave are considered part of the MIT community and their well-being is followed more closely (although imperfectly) than at other schools.

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MIT Receives Solid Routine from Sonja

Gymnastics, from Page 20

were Lindsey Wolf '03 (8.1) and junior Liz Ellingson who led the way with a 9.1. The beam team total was a dismal 40.60 and I believe it probably marks the first time ever that MIT has scored higher on bars than on beam. Following, the team posted a well deserved 45.60 total on floor which included a great 9.15 routine from sophomore Cecile LeCocq, a 9.325 from Liz Ellingson and a solid 9.525 from Sonja Ellefson.

Controversy of officials' scoring

The difference in the scoring, from one week to the next and from a different group of officials, is what makes this subjective sport difficult to understand sometimes. The college gymnastics teams all throughout the nation have complained for many

years that scoring is not consistent from one region to the next. In this case, it is grossly inconsistent from just one neighboring state to another. The same Yale team that scored a 190+ at home last week, came to MIT and scored a 183.675. The third team in the meet was the University of Vermont who finished second with 172.525 points. The two point difference between MIT and UVM marks the closest that MIT has ever been to defeating the Catamounts.

For the second meet in a row, it was very solid and even stellar performances on three events, and a subpar effort on beam for the MIT women's gymnastics team. This team has another shot at getting closer to Vermont when they travel to Vermont in two weeks. It would be quite a feat for an MIT team to defeat a Division I UVM team, but the team must look to their next meet first.

Qualified Engineers Set to Go

Lori Eich Qualifies For N.E. Pentathlon

Track, from Page 20

and Helen J. Huang '01, also showed their promise for the team. They, along with jumper Mia C. Heavener '00, will have the outdoor season to continue with their successes.

Theresa M. Power '00 carried her season into the championship meets by surpassing the NE Division III qualifying mark of 6.5" for shot put.

Lori A. Eich displayed her all-around talent as she qualified for NE Div. III's in the pentathlon, while Chi-An Wang '03 and Regina Sam '02 both had outstanding individual races in the 600 and 400, respectively, to qualify for the championships.

Next up is NE Division III Championships this Saturday at Bowdoin College.

Scorecard

Long Jump		200meter dash	
5 Rui Tang	13-4 [PR]	2 Alyssa Thorvaldsen	27.46 [PR, ECAC]
6 Mia Heavener	13-0	3 Afua Banful	27.77 [PR, NE]
7 Paola Nasser	12-10 1/2 [PR]	8 Adeline Kuo	28.74
Sofy Tarud	10-6	Paola Nasser	30.96 [PR]
Shot Put		Mia Heavener	34.08
7 Theresa Power	33-5 1/2 [PR, NE]	400 meter	
Akua Asa-Awuku	31-10	3 Regina Sam	61.82 [PR, ECAC]
J. Buseman-Williams	28-2 1/4	600 meter	
Lori Eich	28-1 1/2 [PR, NE]	1 Chi-An Wang	1:43.97 [PR, VR, NE]
Theresa Burianek	27-9 3/4 [PR]	800 meter	
Jean Barnwell	25-5	6 Leah Nichols	2:32.46 [PR]
Irene Lee	24-10 1/4 [PR]	Theresa Burianek	2:39.50 [PR]
Pole Vault		Mealani Nakamura	2:44.95 [PR]
1 Vanessa Li	9-6 [ECAC]	Lori Eich	3:13.60 [PR]
3 Stephanie Norris	9-0 [ECAC]	1000 meter	
5 Barnwell, Jean	7-6 [ties PR]	1 Robin Evans	3:17.16 [NE]
High Jump		1500 meter	
6 Mia Heavener	4-8	Mealani Nakamura	5:48.65 [PR]
7 Lori Eich	4-6 [ties PR]	3000 meter	
Sofy Tarud	3-9 1/2 [PR]	1 Debbie Won	10:34.97 [ECAC]
Weight Throw		4 Robin Evans	11:14.22 [PR]
1 Princess Imoukhuede	49-5 1/2 [NCAA]	8 Melanie Harris	11:51.44
5 J. Buseman-Williams	40-1 [PR, NE]	5000 meter	
7 Akua Asa-Awuku	34-11 1/2	2 Helen Huang	24:42.53
8 Theresa Power	34-9	4x400 Relay	
Irene Lee	29-9 1/2	1 (Adeline, Vanessa, Paola, BB)	4:33.24
Jean Barnwell	29-2 1/4 [PR]	4x800 Relay	
Triple Jump		1 (Leah, Regina, Stephanie, Mealani)	11:24.44
2 Theresa Burianek	32-4 1/2 [NE]	DMR	
Paola Nasser	28-4 1/2 [PR]	1 (Melanie, Alyssa, Chi-An, Debbie)	12:55.55 [VR, TB]
Rui Tang	27-10 1/2 [PR]		
Mia Heavener	27-9 1/2		
55 meter hurdles			
1 Alyssa Thorvaldsen	8.73F [ANE]		
5 Theresa Burianek	9.74F [NE]		
6 Lori Eich	10.63F [PR]		
55 meter dash			
2 Afua Banful	7.77F [NE]		
3 Alyssa Thorvaldsen	7.81F [NE]		
5 Adeline Kuo	7.91		
8 Paola Nasser	8.48F [PR]		

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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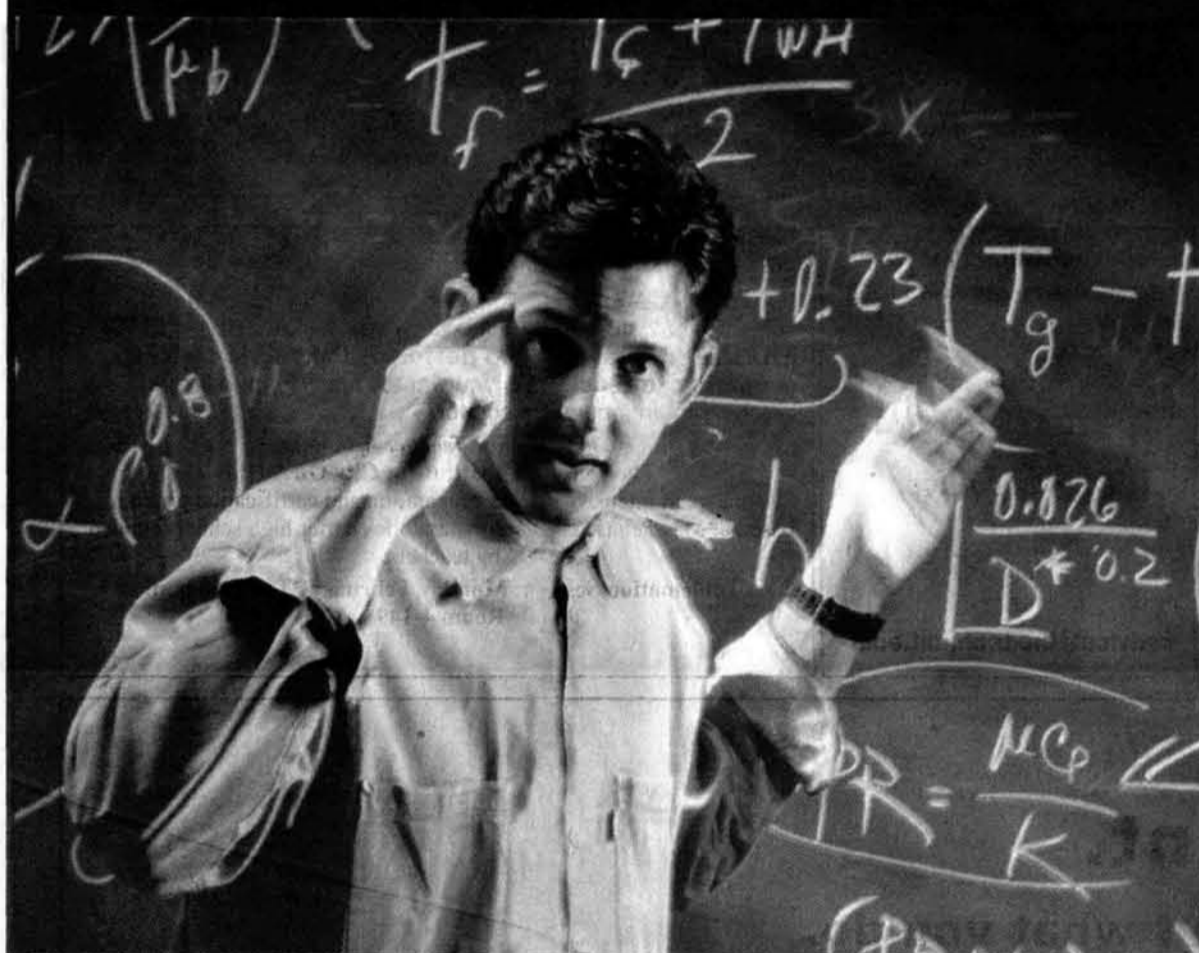
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SPORTS

Gymnasts Put Fear Into UVM

MIT Finds Troubles On the Beam Again

By Eduardo Ovalle
HEAD COACH

Saturday, the women's gymnastics team placed third, just two points behind the University of Vermont, whom the Engineers have never beaten. Yale University took first place ahead of the pack.

Ellefson returns with tsukahara

The meet began with MIT on vault and Vermont on bars. This meet saw the return of junior Sonja Ellefson's layout tsukahara for a 9.275. Overall, the vaults were as solid as they have been all year as the team posted a 42.225 event total. Meanwhile, UVM swung a 41.55 on bars with somewhat of a depleted line-up. MIT then moved to bars as UVM sat on a bye and Yale started their meet on vault. Last year student Carrie Garceau led the bars line-up and hit the best routine of the year so far for an 8.6. Other bar highlights included Karla Maguire's '01 solid routine with the new full twisting fly-away dismount for an 8.0, and Amy Shui's '02 8.6 that included a fall. Sonja sealed off a 42.15 bar total with a 9.4 routine. Yale meanwhile, was also competing with a shallow line-up on vault and posted a 44.90 event total.

Beam event troubles MIT again

The second half of the meet included MIT's beam struggles. The team was hoping to have a better team beam day at home, but the only two gymnasts that managed to remain on the apparatus

Gymnastics, Page 18

Fencing Ends Strong At Duke Invitational

Team Closes Season with 2-2 Finish

Evan L. Efstathiou
TEAM CAPTAIN

The fencing team finished off its season strong with a 2-2 finish at the 2000 Duke Invitational.

The Engineers began the day with a 17-10 win against #14 Ohio State, as mens foil finished 8-1, with Andre Van Horn '01, Oliver Chadwick '02, and Benjamin M. Vandiver '00 going undefeated. Sabre followed with five victories, and epeeist Neal K. Devaraj '02 swept all three bouts.

The competition intensified as MIT faced UNC-Chapel Hill, which had just defeated conference rival Brandeis 14-13. Sabre stepped up to the challenge with a 7-2 finish, inspired by a 5-4 comeback by Rafael Bras '02 after being down 4-0. Paul J. Thordarson '01 lead men's epee with three wins as they dominated UNC.

Air Force gives MIT first loss

The first loss of the day came against Air Force Academy, led by one of the top-ranked epeeists in the U.S. Despite solid finishes by Philip W. Miller '01 (2-1), Evan L. Efstathiou '00 (2-1), and Chadwick (3-0), sabre and foil were unable to pick up the slack. Air Force continued on to a 17-10 victory.

MIT faced Duke in the last meet of the regular season. Duke, undefeated during the invitational, was caught by surprise as the engineers gave them the strongest challenge of the day.

MIT sabre began the match, finishing 4-5 after Efstathiou swept Duke's sabre squad. Devaraj took two bouts against Duke's epee, and Freshman Cheng-Wei Pei swept to give MIT a 13-12 lead going into the last round. Duke came back to

win the final two bouts of the day and finish with a 14-13 win over the Engineers.

Top mens finishers at the invitational included Chadwick (10-2), Efstathiou (9-3), Miller (8-4), and Devaraj (8-4).

The mens sabre squad finished 2nd place overall at the invitational. Freshman Perry Hooker had a strong showing in his foil debut, finishing 1-2 for the day.

Engineers beat Div-I UPenn squad

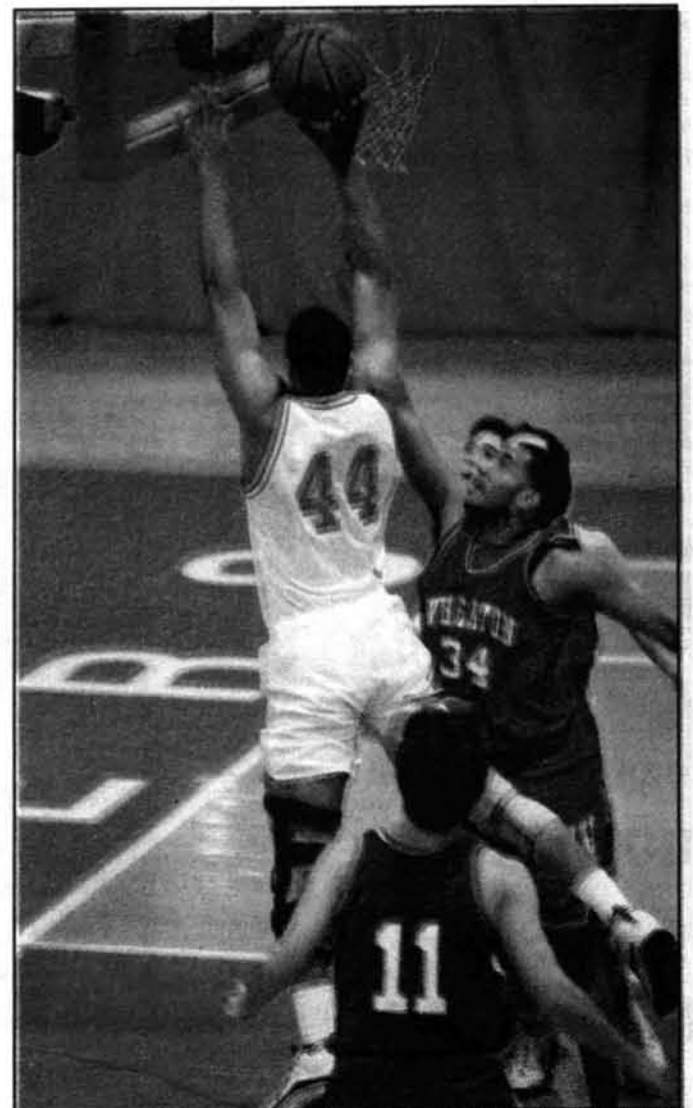
Last Sunday, MIT Men's fencing became the only team in the country to defeat #7 ranked University of Pennsylvania this year. The Engineers also defeated Yeshiva University, while losing to Rutgers, NYU, and #1 ranked Penn State.

Chadwick (foil), Devaraj (epee) and Miller (sabre) lead MIT by sweeping UPenn. Miller came back from a 3-0 deficit to defeat NCAA All-American Mike Golia in his last bout, while Chadwick commanded a 5-2 victory over Intercollegiate Fencing Association Champion David Cohen, brother of Ethan Cohen '01. Miller, Devaraj, and Efstathiou also posted wins against Penn State.

"I saw some great strides these past two weeks," said coach Jarek Koniusz. "I hope that they will carry this spirit over into the post-season."

The Men finished the season with an 11-7 record, with wins over NCAA Division I schools Ohio State, UPenn, UNC-Chapel Hill, Harvard, and Boston College. They stand a good chance to make the Top 10 in the NCAA team rankings, following this and last year's solid performances.

The Engineers now move on to defend their New England Division Championship title at Smith College on February 27th.

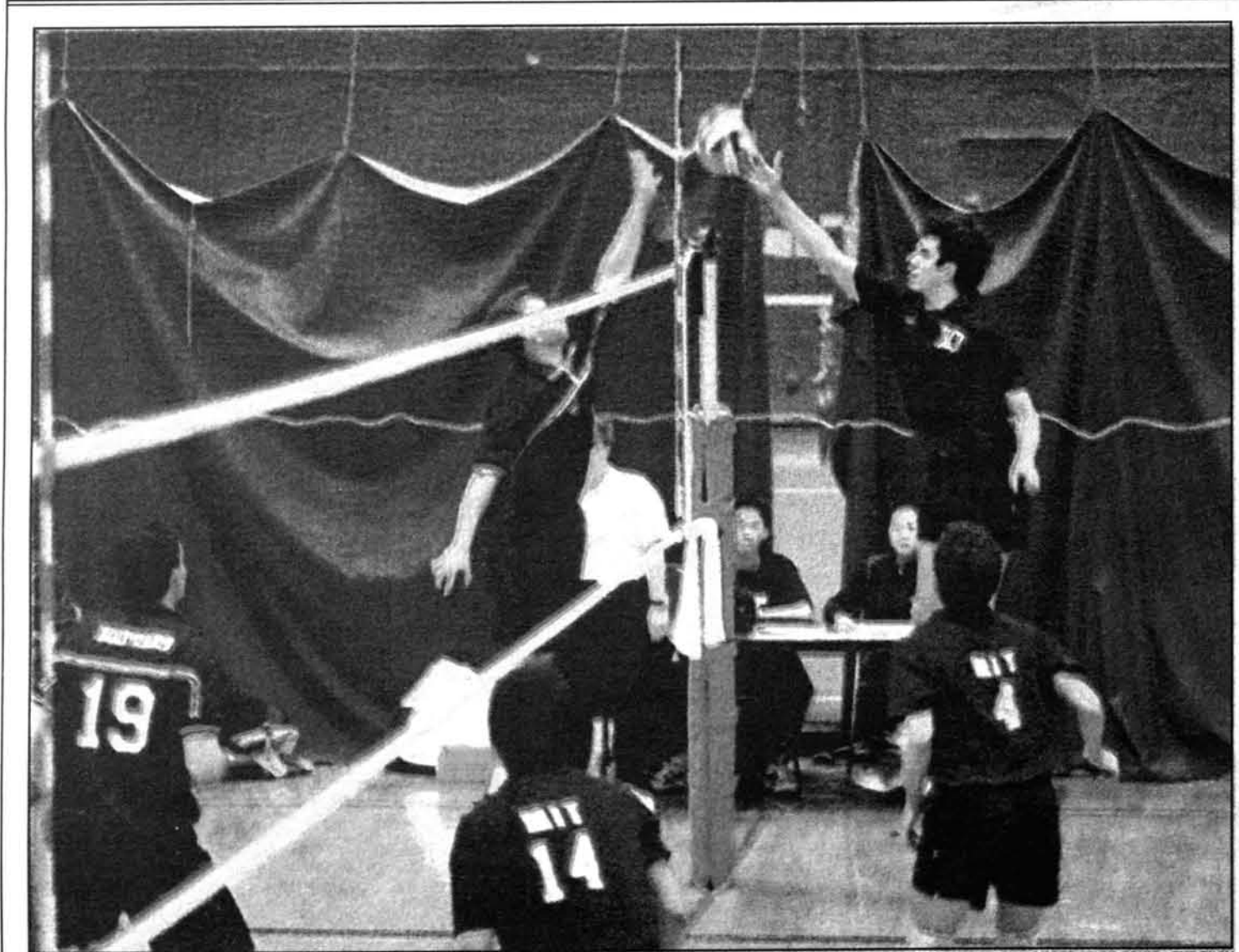


MIT forward Terraun Jones '01 reaches for the basket during Tuesday's narrow loss to the Wheaton College Lyons.

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Saturday, February 19, the women's basketball team takes on Clark University at 2:00 p.m. on the Rockwell Court. This is the team's last game of the season before heading into the NEWMAC tournament. Come out to cheer for them on our home floor.



Dan M. Roy '03 defends against a spike in Tuesday's match against Harvard University. The school up the street squeaked by the Engineers with a 3-2 win.

Track Team Heads into Postseason

Several MIT Engineers Qualify for N.E. Meet

By Deborah S. Won
TEAM MEMBER

Women's indoor track team capped off its successful regular season (16-5) with a non-scoring meet at home that provided opportunities to qualify for post-season championship meets or to get higher marks and better seed times.

Several Engineers ended their season with a bang as they set personal records and season bests. Mealani K. Nakamura '00 knocked significant amounts of time off her personal bests in both the 1500 and 800.

The most heartbreaking story of the day was Jean M. Barnwell's '03 impressive 3rd attempt at 8 feet in the pole vault, the qualifying height for NE Div. III. However, after clearing the bar, she watched from the pit as her pole knocked the crossbar down seconds later. Paola B. Nasser '01 continued to show dramatic improvement in the jumps and sprints in her very first season of track. Other rookies, including Akua A. Asa-Awuku '03