



After Suicide, Many Search for Answers

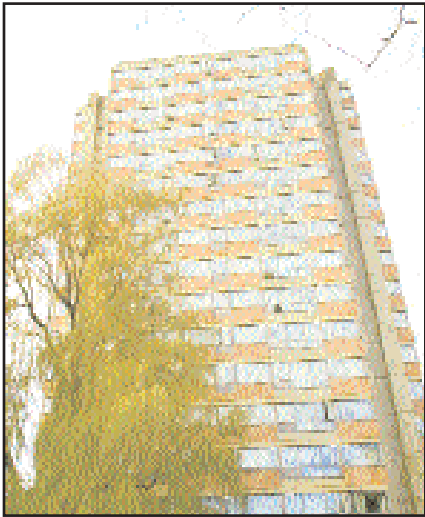
By Katharyn Jeffreys
FEATURES EDITOR

The note left behind by Lucy D. Crespo Da Silva '99 before she jumped to her death on Nov. 19 conveyed that she "was taking responsibility for her actions," said Senior Associate Dean for Students Robert M. Randolph. "It blamed no one but herself."

Yet students are undoubtedly left with questions whenever a peer takes their own life. Da Silva's death came as a surprise to those who knew her. Although she had been receiving relationship counseling as well as counseling for depression, friends thought her condition was improving.

While her reasons for committing suicide are held in the strictest confidence by her counselors as well as administrators, Randolph said that personal issues, not academic pressures, were the cause. Randolph said that her act was deliberate and that she had to remove the screen from her window before jumping.

A memorial service is tentatively scheduled for Monday at 5 p.m. in the MIT Chapel. It will be fol-



Westgate dorm at 540 Memorial Drive was the scene of a suicide on Sunday, Nov. 19.

lowed by a reception at the West Lounge in the Student Center. The parents of Da Silva have requested that gifts in her memory be sent to MIT Mental Health Services.

Distress may not be apparent

Peter Reich, Chief of Mental Health at MIT Medical, said that often "there are personal issues in

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Next House Will Face CLC Again

Second Appearance Will Focus on October Alcohol-Related Incident

By Jennifer Krishnan
STAFF REPORTER

For the second time this semester, Next House will face the Cambridge License Commission following an alcohol-related incident.

Early in the morning of October 28, an intoxicated underage female student on Third East was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital after allegedly consuming nine or ten shots of alcohol in an hour's time.

A few concerned students on the hall had approached Third East Graduate Resident Tutor Stacy J. Morris G to help decide if they should call the Campus Police. "When I got there, she was definitely unconscious and thrashing around a little," said Morris. "I advised them to call the CPs, and they placed the call themselves."

Next House will go before the CLC on Dec. 12.

Floor takes corrective measures

The two wings of the third floor have already received sanctions from the administration, including a ban on all parties and a limit on the number of people in one room at a time. In addition, lounges are only to be used by residents of Next House.

When they learned about the punishment imposed by the Institute,

residents of Third East responded by holding a series of meetings.

"We got together and said, 'we understand you're trying to prevent this kind of thing from happening, but we think you're doing it wrong,'" said Joanne Chang '03.

Chang said she saw the meetings as a "community-building forum. We discussed ways to improve our community and ways to hold people responsible for their actions."

As the major first step, many of the students who live on the floor signed a pledge "to be more respon-

sible and to try improve our living community," Chang said.

Residents decided to make some changes to their Judicial Committee system. Originally, they only had one person in the whole dormitory responsible for all disciplinary problems. Now, Third East and Third West each have elected a JudComm representative.

"They will act as delegates to JudComm, and they will be able to handle problems locally," said

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New Dorm Construction Progresses Smoothly, Expected to Finish in Time

By Brian Loux
STAFF REPORTER

MIT's growth spurt to house a total of 1,100 graduate and undergraduate students in three new residence halls is so far running smoothly for the undergraduate dorm and the warehouse on Albany Street. The graduate dorm on Sydney and Pacific Street, however, is still awaiting final approval from the Planning Board.

Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict said that Simmons Hall, the new undergraduate dormitory, is "on

schedule" to open by Sept. 2002. He said that the \$40 million building, located on Vassar Street, could even be completed a month early.

"The only problem I could foresee is if we have a bad winter," Benedict said about the timetable for construction of Simmons Hall.

Its official groundbreaking ceremony will be held this Friday at the construction site. Actual construction began last month.

Dormitory Council President and Founders Group member Jeff C.

Roberts '02 said the event will be a small ceremony featuring speeches from President Charles M. Vest and members of the Founders Group, which consists of faculty, students, and staff that plan how to incorporate the new hall into the MIT community as well as its logistical aspects.

Richard P. Simmons '53, who donated \$20 million toward the building of the new dorm, will also speak. The event has been com-

Construction, Page 17

Bufferd, Vest Lead Institute In Salary for 1998-99 Year

By Laura McGrath Moulton
NEWS EDITOR

President Charles M. Vest was the second highest paid employee of MIT for the third year running in the 1998-1999 fiscal year, according to a recent report by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Vest earned a base salary of \$355,500 and benefits totalling \$63,387.

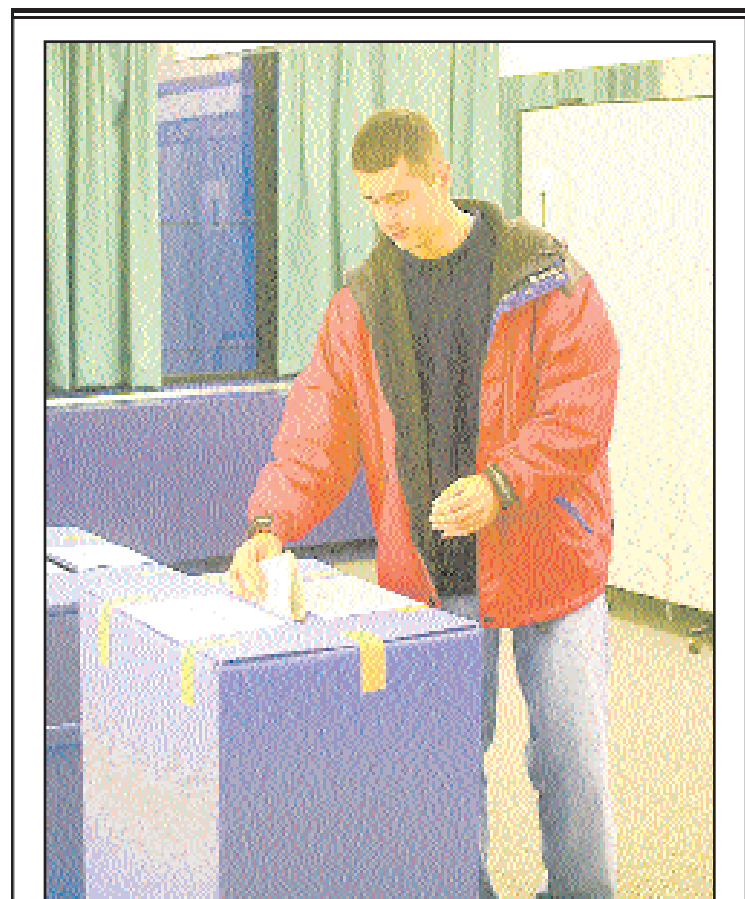
Treasurer Allan S. Bufferd SCD '65 was once again the highest paid employee, at \$429,860 plus \$28,744 worth of benefits. Although presidents generally earn the largest salaries at their institutions, Bufferd said that "there are a

number of universities where the president is not the highest compensated individual."

Coming in third at MIT is R. Bruce Journey, publisher and Chief Executive Officer of MIT's *Technology Review*.

Strikingly, two of the next three highest salaries went to management professors. Professor of Management of Technology Edward B. Roberts PhD '62 earned \$300,312 and \$23,497 in benefits, and Professor of Management Jeremy C. Stein PhD '86 earned \$269,484 and

Salaries, Page 20



KRZYSZTOF GAJOS—THE TECH

Andrei Caracoti, currently living in Boston, MA was one of about 290 people to cast a vote at the Student Center in the Romanian presidential and parliamentary elections held last Sunday. The Romanian Students Association at MIT, under the supervision of the Honorary Consul of Romania for New England, set up and ran the voting station. Voting results for the station are available at <http://web.mit.edu/romania/www>.

High Salaries for Higher Education			
A sampling of incomes from university administrators			
Name	School	Title	Total Salary
Harry Payne	Williams College	President	\$878,222
Judith Rodin	University of Pennsylvania	President	\$655,557
William Brody	Johns Hopkins University	President	\$645,710
Richard Levin	Yale University	President	\$525,687
George Rupp	Columbia University	President	\$500,204
Allan Bufferd	MIT	Treasurer	\$458,604
Harold Shapiro	Princeton University	President	\$456,170
Gerhard Casper	Stanford University	President	\$430,778
Charles Vest	MIT	President	\$418,887
David Baltimore	Caltech	President	\$411,780
Joseph Martin	Harvard University	Dean, Faculty of Medicine	\$362,357
		Professor, Neurobiology & Clinical Neuroscience	
Neil Rudenstine	Harvard University	President	\$342,599

SOURCE: THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION



FEATURES
Cleanup to make the Charles River swimmable is moving along.

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Comics

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Students in Cambridge and Boston place near the bottom in statewide MCAS testing.

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WORLD & NATION

Case of Mentally Retarded Death Row Inmate Goes to High Court

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A mentally retarded man on Texas' death row Monday was granted a hearing from the U.S. Supreme Court on his attorneys' contention that jurors in his case were not given adequate opportunity to consider his capacity when they deliberated on his sentence.

"I'm very pleased," said Robert S. Smith, John Paul Penry's lead lawyer.

The Supreme Court action came on the heels of its Nov. 16 decision to stay Penry's execution that day while deciding whether to hear the case. Penry has been on death row for 20 years for the rape and murder of 22-year-old Pamela M. Carpenter.

According to documents filed by his lawyers, Penry's IQ has been measured at various times from a low of 50 up to 63. A measurement of 70 is required for minimal normal intelligence.

This will be the second time that Penry's case has come before the Supreme Court. The high court overturned his conviction in a 1989 ruling, which held that Texas' death penalty law did not give jurors an adequate opportunity to hear about Penry's mental retardation.

At the time, the Supreme Court rejected the arguments of Penry's attorneys and mental retardation experts that it should categorically bar execution of the mentally retarded as a violation of the Eighth Amendment's prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment.

G.E. Names Immelt as Chairman

THE WASHINGTON POST

Jeffrey R. Immelt was named Monday to succeed Jack Welch as chairman of General Electric Co. when Welch steps down at the end of next year.

The selection of Immelt, 44, as the handpicked heir to one of the icons of modern business management ends nearly four years of speculation over Welch's successor. By the time the official announcement was made Monday morning Immelt had been the odds-on favorite for months.

Immelt has been president and chief executive of GE Medical Systems, a \$7 billion-a-year division of GE. It was his appointment to that post in 1997 that pushed Immelt to the forefront of the successor race. Like Welch before him, Immelt is young enough to have an opportunity to reshape one of the world's most successful corporations.

Welch has been chairman since 1981, boosting GE's profits from just under \$1.6 billion a year to \$10.7 billion in 1999.

Supreme Court Prepares to Hear Disputed Presidential Votes Case

NEWSDAY

WASHINGTON

As it prepared to receive written arguments Tuesday in its unprecedented review of a presidential election, the Supreme Court Monday reaffirmed a long-held precedent: No television cameras will be allowed in its courtroom when the nine justices hear oral arguments Friday by lawyers for Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore.

Responding to a request by C-SPAN Chairman Brian Lamb, Chief Justice William Rehnquist said, "A majority of the court remains of the view that we should adhere to our present practice" of banning cameras or audio recording of its proceedings.

Lamb's request was made before the court's surprise announcement Friday that it would consider Bush's appeal of a Florida Supreme Court decision favoring Gore's position in the controversial recount of some Florida ballots.

Television coverage of the court's proceedings "would be an immense public service and would help the country understand and accept the outcome of the election," Lamb wrote Rehnquist.

Bush Claims Florida Victory; Gore Continues Court Fight

By Mark Z. Barabak and Richard A. Serrano

LOS ANGELES TIMES

TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

Nineteen days after the election, George W. Bush proclaimed himself the United States' next president and revealed plans Sunday night for his prospective administration after being certified the winner of Florida's 25 crucial electoral votes.

Even as Al Gore prepared to address the nation at noon Monday, pressing the case to keep his legal fight going, the Texas governor assumed an air of inevitability by announcing the appointment of running mate Dick Cheney as head of his transition team.

Bush called on the Clinton administration to help in handing over the White House, even as partisan passions boil, saying he looked forward to "a constructive working relationship throughout this transition."

Bush spoke about two hours after Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris declared him the winner over Gore by 537 votes out of roughly 6 million cast. Her announcement capped a final day of frenzied hand counting in Palm

Beach County and a last-minute tally of scattered overseas votes in 10 other counties.

Within minutes, Gore's running mate, Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut, was on television denouncing the results as "an incomplete and inaccurate count" and asserting he and Gore had no choice but to contest the results in court.

"What is at issue here is nothing less than every American's simple, sacred right to vote," a somber Lieberman said in a brief address from Washington.

The Gore team was said to be stunned by Harris' decision to exclude Palm Beach County's hand counted results in the total she certified Sunday night — a move that cost Gore as many as 200 votes.

Lieberman was immediately followed on the air by James A. Baker III, Bush's Florida point man, who called on Gore to cease his legal fight and concede the election. "At some point there must be closure," he said at a Tallahassee news conference, in language far more blunt than Bush used a short time later.

Still, Baker said Bush would "absolutely" go ahead with his case before the U.S. Supreme Court,

challenging Florida's high court decision allowing the hand counting of ballots to go on past the state's normal seven-day cutoff.

"We have no assurance that the other side will stop," he said.

Indeed, even before the certification was completed, attorneys for Gore said they would be in court Monday contesting the results in at least three Florida counties, a move that threatened to extend the seemingly endless election deep into December.

Still, Bush's 537-vote margin presents Gore with a stiff challenge. He needs to prevail in just about every legal argument to stand any chance of winning the election.

Speaking from the second floor of the state Capitol in Austin, Bush pointedly spoke of the election in the past tense.

"The election was close, but tonight, after a count, a recount and yet another manual recount, Secretary Cheney and I are honored and humbled to have won the state of Florida, which gives us the needed electoral votes to win the election," Bush said. "We will therefore undertake the responsibility of preparing to serve as America's next president and vice president."

U.N. Report Criticizes Israel's Military Actions in West Bank

By Colum Lynch

THE WASHINGTON POST

UNITED NATIONS

In a toughly-worded report, the U.N.'s chief human rights official urged Israel Monday to curb its military action against Palestinians and to accept international observers in the West Bank and Gaza.

The 20-page report by Mary Robinson, a former president of Ireland, criticized Israel's armed forces for firing live ammunition, rubber-coated bullets and rockets against civilian targets. It said "a wide range of observers, including United Nations representatives" have concluded that Israel's military response to Palestinian unrest in recent weeks has been "excessive and inappropriate."

Robinson, the U.N.'s high commissioner on human rights, based the report on a Nov. 8-16 trip to the region. She recommended that victims of the violence be given financial compensation for the loss of family members or property, and she urged Israel to halt the expansion of settlements on land captured during the 1967 war.

"The human rights situation in the Occupied Territories is bleak," she wrote. "The civilian population feels besieged by a stronger power prepared to use its superior force against demonstrations and stone-throwing by adolescents."

Israeli officials condemned Robinson's report as one-sided. "There is an attempt to place the onus on Israel for the recent vio-

lence, and to absolve the Palestinians of their responsibilities," said Mark Regev, a spokesman at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

Regev said Israel is engaged in a "sort of mini-war" against gunmen and bombers, not just stone-throwing youths. He added that face-to-face negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, rather than the deployment of U.N. observers, offered the best prospect for peace.

More than 280 people, mostly Palestinians, have died since Sept. 28, when a visit by Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon to a holy site in Jerusalem set off Palestinian street protests. A U.S.-sponsored fact-finding mission will soon travel to Israel to determine what sparked the violence and try to reduce tensions.

WEATHER

Coping with Inadequacy

By Greg Lawson

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

How well can we predict the weather? That is not such an easy question to answer. Personally, I am not that great at it, but the answer to the question does not really address individuals; rather it asks how well do the numerical models we run predict the weather. In practice humans provide mere second-order corrections to a first-order forecast from a computer.

So how well do computers forecast the weather? Again, it is difficult to say as it depends on how we choose to verify the forecasts. While there are published studies that indicate forecasts are mostly correct on average, it is also clear that forecast success on a day-by-day basis is highly variable. This is mainly due to the nonlinear evolution of our atmosphere and the inadequacies we have in describing that evolution.

A relatively recent technique for addressing these inadequacies is ensemble forecasting through which several forecasts are made for the same time period, each differing by some perturbation thought to be representative of the inadequacies. The hope is that the mean of this ensemble will be close to the truth and that the spread among the ensemble will give information as to which features of the forecast we are most certain of.

It just so happens that the ensemble forecasts for the upcoming week are in wide disagreement about this coming Wednesday night/Thursday morning. It is possible that we will have a large storm with moderate precipitation, possibly even snow; however, it is almost as likely that it will pass to our south and we will receive only cold temperatures and high winds. This is an example of probabilistic forecasting, and unfortunately, as of now, all I can offer is advice to be prepared.

Today: Partly cloudy and pleasant. Westerly breeze. High of 51°F (11°C).

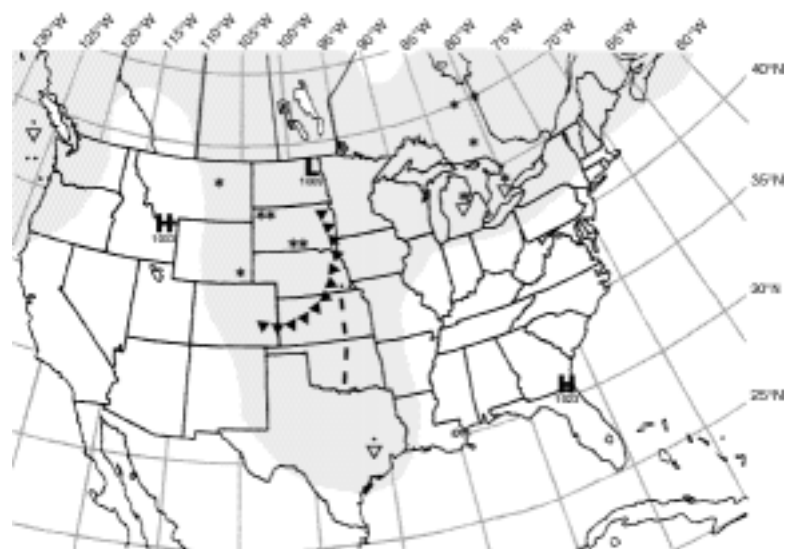
Tonight: Scattered clouds and cool. Low of 36°F (2°C).

Wednesday: Mostly clear day with a high of 48°F (9°C). However, clouds roll-in in the evening and temperatures drop. Winds pick-up. 50 percent chance of precipitation, possibly snow. Low of 32°F (0°C).

Thursday: Overcast and cold. Precipitation could continue into afternoon. Windy with highs in the upper 30s (2-4°C). Low around 30°F (-2-0°C)

Friday and beyond: Clearing-up and chilly.

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, November 28, 2000



Microsoft Asks Appeals Court To Dismiss Antitrust Lawsuit

By James V. Grimaldi
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Arguing that the Microsoft antitrust trial had been "infected with error," attorneys for the software giant Monday asked a federal appeals court to throw out the landmark case, including a judge's order to break up the company for violating federal antitrust laws.

In its filing to U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Microsoft denied that its Windows products amounted to a monopoly for personal-computer operating systems. The company said that the government had not proven its case that Microsoft had broken antitrust laws to protect and maintain that monopoly.

"Far from violating antitrust laws, Microsoft's conduct was pro-competitive, producing enormous

consumer benefits," the Microsoft appeal said.

Microsoft attorneys also asked that if the appeals court does not reverse the judgment, as the company requests, that if any matter is sent back to district court that it be assigned to a judge other than U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson. After a 78-day trial, Jackson ruled this year that Microsoft, partly in response to Netscape Communications' creation of the Internet browser, had mounted an illegal campaign meant to protect its monopoly and attempted to monopolize the new market for Internet browsers. He ordered the company broken into two competing companies, one that makes Windows operating system software and another that makes software applications, such as Microsoft Office.

"Revealing a profound misun-

derstanding of the antitrust laws, the district court condemned Microsoft's competitive response to the phenomenal growth of the Internet and the emergence of Netscape as a platform competitor," Microsoft said in its 150-page brief filed Monday afternoon.

The U.S. Justice Department, 18 states and the District of Columbia file their joint reply brief on Jan. 12. Oral arguments are planned for Feb. 26 and 27 before the seven judges eligible for hearing the matter. A ruling is expected as soon as later this year and appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court are expected.

The Justice Department said Microsoft's call for dismissal of the case was unwarranted. "The judgment is well supported by the evidence offered during a 78-day trial, including thousands of pages of documents," Gina Talamona said.

Albright Meets Yugoslav Leaders Briefly, Discusses Presevo Valley

By Paul Watson
LOS ANGELES TIMES

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

The postwar wall of distrust between Yugoslavia and the United States crumbled a bit more Monday as Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica shook hands and spoke briefly here with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

The surprise meeting was the highest-level contact between the two governments in the nearly 18 months since the United States led a 78-day bombing campaign against Yugoslavia to end a vicious civil war in the Serbian province of Kosovo.

After her chat with Kostunica on the sidelines of an Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe gathering, Albright briefly met with

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Goran Svilanovic to discuss attacks by ethnic Albanian rebels in southern Serbia's Presevo Valley, a State Department official said.

The discussion between Albright and Svilanovic was along the lines of "what can you do, what can we do?" said the official, who requested anonymity, citing department policy.

The two were "looking at how to really calm the violence there because we all recognize it's counterproductive," the official added.

Ethnic Albanian rebels attacked deep into an area of southern Serbia along the border with Kosovo, a Serbian province under international control since the war ended in June 1999. Serbia is the dominant republic of Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav army responded

Sunday by deploying tanks near the border and warning of a possible counterattack.

Yugoslavia and the rebels, who want to unite a mainly ethnic Albanian zone of southern Serbia proper with an eventually independent Kosovo, backed away slightly Monday from earlier threats and counter-threats. The rebels announced that they will continue a cease-fire until Friday. Yugoslav officials extended a Monday deadline for the international community to crack down on the incursion and said they would be satisfied if the guerrillas withdrew by Friday.

The ethnic Albanian fighters call themselves the Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac Liberation Army, after the three main towns in the zone.

After a Divisive Campaign, Canadians Cast Their Votes

THE WASHINGTON POST

TORONTO

Millions of Canadians cast ballots Monday after one of the most divisive national campaigns in Canadian history, which featured personal attacks more than discussion of the issues.

The vote will decide whether Prime Minister Jean Chretien's Liberal Party, in power since 1993, wins a majority of Parliament's seats for the third election in a row. If the party loses seats, analysts say, Chretien could be forced out as prime minister as early as next year — although another Liberal would likely succeed him.

On Sunday, Chretien turned aside suggestions the Liberals might lose their majority. "I am confident that we will have a very good result on Monday," Chretien told reporters. "The people of Canada don't want to turn back the clock. The people of Canada, they want to move forward."

Polls favor the Liberals to get the biggest vote. But if that happens, it won't be because of Chretien. Many Canadians, political analysts say, went to the polls unhappy with him for calling an election just 3 1/2 years into his five-year mandate, unhappy with his leadership and the image of "arrogance" he projected.

But often they were not unhappy enough to vote for the main opposition party, the conservative Canadian Alliance led by Christian fundamentalist Stockwell Day.

These sentiments were echoed at polling places in Ontario province, the main battleground.

"Canadians are left with ghastly decisions. We've either got to vote for the old crooks or the new crooks," said P.J. Wade, a voter who lives in Toronto. "Will the Liberals win? I'm afraid they will."

Torture Victims in Chad Pursue Ex-Dictator in Court

THE WASHINGTON POST

N'DJAMENA, CHAD

For eight years, Suleymane Guengueng and a handful of other former political prisoners in this impoverished country carefully gathered and hid evidence of mass murder and torture ordered by a U.S.-backed dictator, waiting to face their tormentors in court.

They may finally get their opportunity. In court cases unprecedented in Africa, Chadians are pursuing the brutal former dictator, Hissene Habre, and his collaborators, many of whom still hold powerful positions. Human rights activists say the legal action was inspired by the campaign to prosecute former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

"These cases sound an alarm for dictators across the continent," said Reed Brody, advocacy director for New York-based Human Rights Watch, which has supported the suits. "They know their impunity can be questioned. First Pinochet, then Habre, and they know maybe they could be next. It shows accountability is actually possible."

U.S. officials have said that Washington provided hundreds of millions of dollars to Habre and helped train his intelligence service, whose members are now accused of torture.

In February, Guengueng and four others got a court in Senegal to indict him for torture.

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sees to provide information on
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29th November 2000, 4pm
4-370

IAP Ski Trip

GSC Activities Committee
presents
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Tickets : \$30
Available at : GSC office, Rm 50-220
Contact : gsc-ac-chair@mit.edu x3-2195

OPINION

Letters To The Editor

Tech Fails to Report On Suicide Properly

I was quite disturbed by *The Tech's* treatment of the unfortunate suicide of Lucy D. Crespo Da Silva '00 ["Student Ends Life in Jump from Dorm," Nov. 21]. I am new to the MIT community and have heard and read about the many suicides that have been committed by MIT students. I am appalled by the number of suicides, and I feel each should be treated with a great deal of respect and care. I am saddened that this story was described in an excessively brief article, put with equal importance next to a photo of The Sorcerer and adjoining a larger article on students' and staff's Thanksgiving plans. I had never met

Da Silva, and would have liked to learn more about her. Any student at MIT is unique and deserves at least a full-page article devoted to his or her life.

In addition, many related issues were omitted from this article. More information should have been included regarding warning signs of suicide, not only specific to Da Silva's case (in the article, only one sentence addressed this issue in describing that "friends expressed their surprise" at the event). It is important to be able to detect and help potential suicide victims by directing them to the appropriate resources.

Another point of contention is the apparent treatment of suicides at MIT. The solution is not to patronize students for not using coun-

selling services when they feel stressed. Seeking counselling can be humbling and is a big step for some students to take, and many feel intimidated or embarrassed in getting help. Although counselling is indeed important, perhaps MIT should focus instead on why many students feel intense pressures which lead them to such drastic actions.

Suicide seems to be an immediately pressing problem. Any student at MIT deserves far more respect and attention, and more resources should be available for dealing with suicide. *The Tech* reaches a large audience and should treat this issue with great importance, regardless of the negative press it may generate for the school.

Rebecca Reich G



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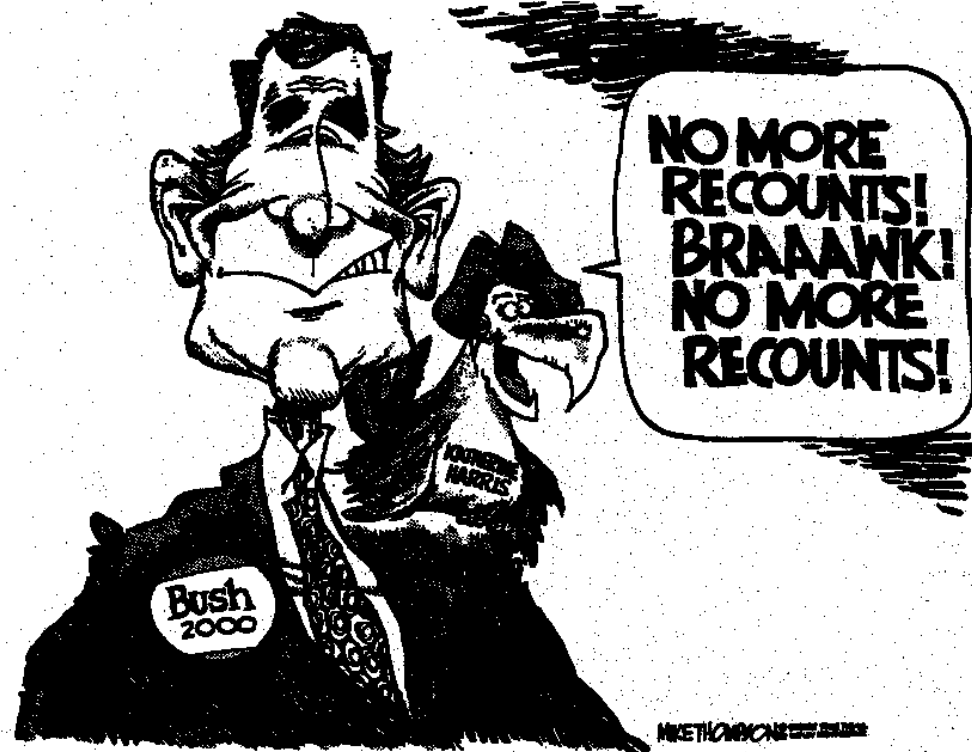
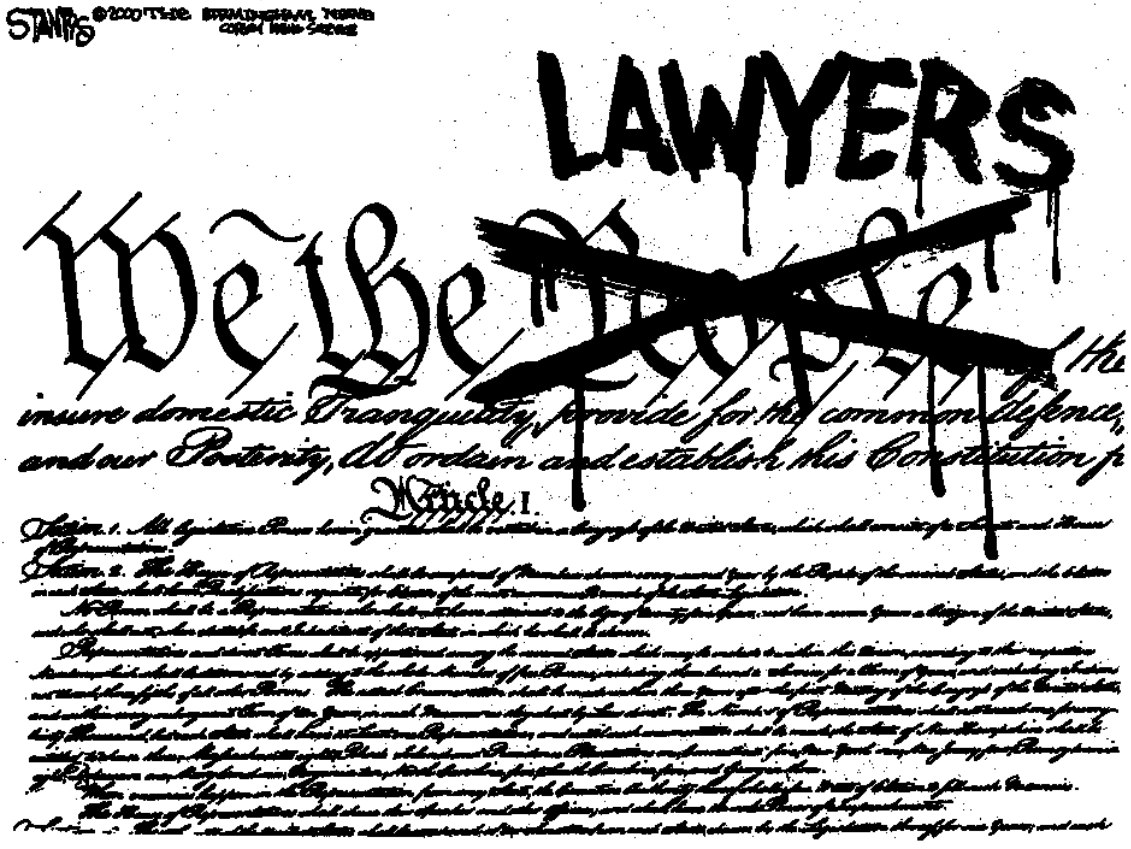
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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January and monthly during the summer for \$45.00 per year. Third Class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Permit No. 1. POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address, The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. Telephone: (617) 253-1541, editorial: (617) 258-8324, business: (617) 258-8226, facsimile: Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2000 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Charles River Publishing.



W. STANDS FOR "WELL-TRAINED"

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

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Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No let-

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The Ombudsman

Hard Questions

Besides the hordes noting the deplorable state of *The Tech's* webpage, several readers contacted the paper to complain about something far more central to its mission: our news coverage.

Two Next House residents raised serious concerns with a story about sanctions levied against that dorm's Third East hall ["Next House Pranks Result in Sanctions," November 7, 2000]. The story, which dealt with several incidents of vandalism and an alcohol violation at a party on Third East contained a number of inaccuracies.

Resident Zachary A. Apoian '01 says in his letter to the editor that the "article makes the completely unfounded inference that the acts of vandalism taking place around Next House in the days following the party were somehow the result of the party." As Apoian goes on to explain, a plausible reading of the story attributes the smashing of a four-year-old's pumpkin, the poisoning of a tank of fish, and other acts of vandalism to Third East partygoers despite the fact that these acts of vandalism and the party occurred days apart.

Apoian's concerns are justified and his disappointment with the article is understandable: The most basic requirement for any piece of journalism that appears in this or any other newspaper is getting the facts straight.

In defense of the authors of this story and the editors who prepared it for publication, these mistakes were inadvertent and the result of a bad decision to merge two stories and poor communication afterwards. The story, in its final form, is the concatenation of a story about sporadic incidents of vandalism around the time of Halloween and a piece about an alcohol violation that occurred at a Halloween party on Third East and subsequent sanctions against the hall.

Although the vandalism and the party were for the most part unrelated, when the two stories were combined by one of the reporters and then edited by three editors the lines between vandals and partygoers blurred to invisibility. A tight deadline before a Tuesday issue contributed to the confusion.

Misreporting wasn't this story's only problem: What the authors left out was, by virtue of its absence, as bad as what they got wrong. In failing to include comment from residents, the authors deprived the article of much needed balance. The rather harsh sanctions against Third East look much different from the perspective of residents than from that of Dean Carol Orme-Johnson. To the credit of the authors, attempts were made to contact residents. These attempts should have been reflected in the story. The editorial staff, however, should have seriously considered not running a story without such necessary perspective.

Another reader voiced her disappointment with *The Tech's* coverage of Lucy D. Crespo Da Silva's death ["Student Ends Life in Jump from Dorm," November 21]. Many reporters argue (out of respect for the grieving or a fear of being labeled sensationalistic) that suicides should be covered in the most minimal fashion possible. I believe that while such stories must be covered with care and sensitivity their import demands complete and accurate coverage.

While the initial reporting of Da Silva's death reported the bare minimum of detail surrounding the suicide, it failed to probe the difficult but important question of what drove a young woman to take her own life. *The Tech* should not be in the business of prying into the private lives of any student, but Da Silva's motivation could influence the design of counseling and support systems at the Institute. Additionally, the frequency of suicides on campus demands that we examine closely those support systems and those who administer them.

Another article about this topic is planned for this issue. I hope that additional reporting asks the hard questions that a campus must ask following the death of one of its own.

Giving With Meaning

Nine Hints to Keep in Mind when Shopping for Presents

Veena Thomas

In recent years, society has deemed it socially acceptable to kick off the holiday season the day after Thanksgiving. For those ambitious enough to battle a post-Thanksgiving hangover and rise at 6 a.m., early-bird shopping opportunities abound. Many major department stores advertise sales — "Up to 50 percent off!" — for those bleary-eyed shoppers who want to get a head start on their holiday shopping. What could be more fun than cavorting around a mall in the early morning listening to piped-in Christmas Muzak more than a month in advance of the holiday, carrying whining Junior as he presents his list of his fifty "must-have" toys of the season?

Everyone knows by now that the real meaning of the season has been lost amongst the consumerism and commercialism enveloping December. Gift shopping for friends, acquaintances, and enemies has become merely another chore and a hassle. Few people want to do it anymore. Short of starting an anti-gift-giving movement, there's no escape. You can, however, rebel against the commercialism and attempt to put some meaning into the gift-giving gesture.

Not sure what to get your long-lost cousin twice removed? How about your ex-boyfriend's roommate? Resist the urge to shop the day before and give them all traveler's checks. With a little a few words of advice, you be revered by your thoughtful gift-giver.

Hint #1: Avoid trendy. Anyone almost run over one of the new Razor Scooters has probably learned to hate fads. From scooters and Pokeman to Beanie Babies and Tickle-Me Elmos, fads are a perennial shopper's nightmare.

It's the same story each holiday season. At least one brand new product compel cranky mothers to wait in line at 6 a.m. for the latest shipment in order to please obnoxious Junior. He will, in turn, play with his new toy for approximately fifteen minutes before casting it aside and becoming enthralled with the cardboard box in which it was packaged. Save your self the trouble. Instead, you can be the wise one who refused to buy a pet rock because you knew they weren't going to go anywhere (pun intended).

Hint #2: While it might seem foolproof to ask someone "What do you want?" and then

purchase it for them, this is not always the best strategy. First of all, this does not demonstrate anything about your gift-giving talents except that you possess normal hearing. It shows little creativity and little effort on your behalf. Secondly, try this with your girlfriend, and you risk her pouting, "Well, I said I wanted that, but if you really knew me, you would have known what I really wanted!" Don't fret, however — if someone really does know specifically what he wants, and you're pressed for ideas, give it to him. At least you know he won't throw it away.

Hint #3: The ideal gift connects the giver to the recipient in some fashion. This could be through a shared activity, a common interest, or an inside joke. Find something that represents the bond that you two share. If you're not quite sure what that bond is, buy something — anything — and enclose a card with a nicely written explanation of how exactly

ting your best friend a bath set screams out "You don't mean that much to me — I couldn't put the effort into thinking up a real gift for you, so I got you whatever was on sale at K-mart." If you're really pressed for ideas, like a Secret Santa gift for your scary suitemate you've only seen twice, at least get them something suitably funky. Who wouldn't like one of those pin desk sculptures you can use to make impressions of your face? Plus there's the risk and danger factor involved — you could poke your eye out. How exciting!

Hint #5: Be careful about "regifting." You probably don't want all of the page-a-day calendars you receive as generic gifts from people to whom you don't mean that much, but be careful when you try to give them away. Make sure your sister doesn't tell the recipient an hour before she opens your gift that you received an abundance of calendars for Christmas. Trust me when I say this situation won't end well.

Hint #6: Women like diamonds. When in doubt, get her diamonds. She'll love you forever.

Hint #7: Avoid the obvious. Does she like U2? Don't get her their latest CD for the holidays. As wonderful as the CD may be, if she's a huge fan, she probably already has it. If she doesn't have it, she'll probably receive four copies of it from everyone else who also thought it was the perfect gift. Do your part and make sure she has one fewer copy to return.

Hint #8: Don't get your dad ties or socks. Chances are your dad is now in his fifties. By this stage in his life, he probably has all the socks and ties he can handle. Besides, think of all that he has done for you over the years. Shouldn't you get him something a bit more meaningful than a sock?

Hint #9: Resist the urge to get your brother whatever you want for Christmas, with the plan that he can enjoy it until you return to school, at which point it's yours. He won't appreciate it. If you're not careful, he'll do the same to your really cool gift next year.

By following these simple rules to gift-giving, you can get through this holiday season stress-free and adored by those to whom you've bestowed gifts.

Help others not as enlightened as you — make up a wish list of a few specific things you'd like, in case someone asks, in order to make their shopping easier. I've already started. See Hint #6.



the gift, but they'll appreciate the thought you put into picking the perfect shoe buffer. People like to feel that human connection.

Hint #4: Avoid boring generic gifts. Get-

He Did It!

Then there was a recount, and one candidate was the apparent winner. But the other was unhappy and so he started whining about losing. He must have been a really loud baby, because he certainly got everyone to listen. When officials listened and tried to pacify him by going ahead with recounts, I started tuning out. Don't feel guilty for doing the same.

This election fiasco bears a striking resemblance to a fight between two immature children and should make us all ask ourselves a

This election fiasco bears a striking resemblance to a fight between two immature children and should make us all ask ourselves a question: Do we really want either Gore or Bush in office?

question: Do we really want either Gore or Bush in office? What's going to happen if the United States should find itself involved in a war this term? An image enters my mind: one of the commander-in-chief throwing himself at his opponent's feet and begging to be allowed to win. Not too comforting. If anything ever goes wrong, will the president say, "He did it!" and point to his opponent in this race? Is our country going to be run by a man

with a child's mind? It seems that as soon as a result is reached that a particular candidate does not agree with, he starts crying again, hoping someone will listen, and most of the time the cries are answered.

You might argue that Bush seemed to be acting slightly better-behaved. After all, he was trying to stop the recounts. But if he really was confident of his victory, why should he be averse to recounts? They should have only confirmed his win. However, one must remember that no winner had actually been declared. So Bush was also trying to avoid having Gore win. He must have believed that Gore stood a chance; otherwise he would have no reason to object to recounts — except, of course, to spare the American people. Bush wanted to stop the recount because he was ahead. So don't put a golden halo over his head.

And in the midst of all this, who has considered the people who will actually have to recount the votes by hand? From the fact that these people are vote-counters it can be deduced that they value voting. But even these people were getting tired of Gore and Bush's whining. These people started saying that enough is enough, and they're the ones that actually had to do the work — not Gore, not Bush, not the Florida State Supreme Court. If the candidates cared about the people as much as they claimed to, they would have stepped back and looked maturely upon all of this.

Surely the antics of candidates in Florida have turned off a large portion of the American electorate. This is truly unfortunate since such a small portion of it pays any attention to politics anyway. Hopefully the candidates will realize the effects of this election on future elections and voter turnout.

Jyoti Tibrewala

Thanksgiving has come and gone, and the country has only just selected a president. The Florida votes have been counted and recounted so many times that none of us have kept track; so let's just say that the votes have been counted n times and we have taken the limit as n approached infinity.

This year's presidential election is the first one that I've found myself taking a keen interest in. I made a concerted effort to keep aware of the issues and key developments in the campaigns for the last few months. While I didn't actually watch the coverage on Election Day, the first thing I thought of when I woke up the next morning was the fact that I didn't know who the president was. Then I became aware of the mix-up in Florida. That was tolerable for a couple of days. A week would be stretching it. But at three weeks, the presidential elections had become quite sickening. Don't get me wrong — I'm all for justice. Of course everyone's vote counts. But some of the candidates' efforts are just plain ridiculous.

Consider the dispute over chads — dimpled, missing (presumably eaten), pregnant, what have you. This was a rather recent development, and I must admit that I haven't paid it an awful lot of attention because I was already sick of it all. But apparently the fact that the chads are deformed indicates a voter's intent. Once again, I am a firm believer in the importance of every vote, but this is going too far. It's all starting to sound like Bush and Gore are fighting like little children over this election. First one of them thought he was the winner; then it looked like the other had won.

The Economy of Kindness

Time Away from Home Reminds Us of What We've Forgotten at College

Roy Esaki

The long-awaited reprieve from the stresses of college life has come and — a hundred hours and ten pounds later — gone. Relatives, pie, and servings of fowl have made way for the familiar routine of relativity, pi, and foul servings. What now remains of the break is the bittersweet remembrance of the world we have departed, and the heightened awareness of what we have gained, and what we have lost, by our departure from home. Having been completely isolated from all things and people MIT-related (save my bags of textbooks, of course), I was surprised to realize just how much college life made me forget through neglect and disuse.

Forgetting people and places from home is understandable, but the loss of perspective, courtesy, and appreciation for generosity is something that must be guarded against.

The first concept easily forgotten in college is that there's much more to life than just college. Many students, with their extracurriculars and off-campus engagements, are well aware of the relative insignificance of individual assignments, courses, or social events. But for students thoroughly immersed in college, there is a tendency to over-emphasize the importance of what we do in college.

College is not completely absurd, of course, and to discount the worth of academic assignments is just as harmful as to become obsessed over work. But it's easy to forget that so many events and tasks of our working life — the sort of events that episodes of *Seinfeld* or *Fraiser* are based upon — don't have much to do with college. Managing the mortgage, getting married, minding the in-laws, raising kids, making sure the cranberry sauce isn't too thick, and all of the other things we aren't yet aware of have nothing to do with college. Certainly, what we do now may profoundly influ-

ence our future, but it hardly ensures, or precludes, our future worth or happiness.

Another concept that's easy to forget in college is the need for courtesy. College is, after all, an individualistic, "me-based" endeavor. We decide to attend a college to suit ourselves, to become better individuals in the ways we see

Forgetting people and places from home is understandable, but the loss of perspective, courtesy, and appreciation for generosity is something that must be guarded against.

fit. We choose our courses, living conditions, and extracurriculars to suit our needs, and do the assignments and tasks as we wish. That's fine, as we should be able to direct our own lives. It's easy to forget, however, that our actions do affect others, and that we should be mindful of the consequences for others.

Students often share the belief that all people are free to do as they wish, as long as their actions don't harm others. Essentially, consideration, and the courtesy of going out of one's way to benefit others, aren't necessary. As a trivial, but illustrative, example, most students agree that if someone makes a mess in the bathroom, then he (it's probably a guy that made the mess) should clean it up. Of course, some students unfortunately reason that it is the custodian's duty to clean up any mess we wantonly make, and refrain from cleaning up after themselves. So spills are left uncleaned, litter is care-

lessly strewn about, doors are left unopened for people with both hands full, and everyone passes by thinking, "Hey, it's not my problem."

Staying as a guest at a former teacher's house over Thanksgiving, I realized just how much courtesy is necessary, and how much it could be increased in college. When you're a guest, you not only clean up after yourself, but you try to leave things better than you found them. If there's water on the bathroom counter, you clean it up, necessarily if it's your mess, but even if it's not. If you're idly sitting around while the hosts are in the kitchen, you actively offer to help out. It's common courtesy to consider interests beyond immediate, personal interests. Heartfelt community service endeavors are great, but we should also remember to show courtesy daily to roommates, dormmates, faculty and staff, and others in our lives.

The critical reader would comment that unlike guests, students have paid their own fare, and are recipients of no acts of generosity or gifts that must be repaid through courtesy. I must admit, during my radical days of youth, I ventured such an argument in a high school column. As I reflect on the hospitality my former teacher showed me in having me over for the Thanksgiving weekend, and as I considered the compassion and generosity that my friends, family, and teachers showed me, I'm convinced that to believe oneself to be completely independent is inaccurate, and to strive to be so is needlessly anti-social.

Independence is good, but independently showing and returning kindness can only be a good idea. Isolationism works for neither countries nor people, and the interpersonal economy is based on reciprocal generousities and courtesies. These are the types of realizations — of how to be happy, of how to be nice people — that aren't taught in college economics, but that can certainly be learned by college students.

End of Story

Guest Column
Levente Jakab

In the past few weeks, I have been bombarded with dismal news about alcohol-related incidents.

MIT has paid off the Kruegers for their son's gross idiocy. A student at the University of Michigan gets himself killed foolishly, and the university braces itself for the flaming backlash. Students are afraid to call for medical transport for their neighbors, out of fear of punitive measures. Bizarre alcohol laws seek to punish those who invoke their natural right to self-destruct.

All these incidents demonstrate what is to me a clear violation of the fundamental concept of individual responsibility.

First of all, whose fault was it — honestly now — that Scott Krueger consumed some incredibly high amount of alcohol? Before submitting your final answer, bear in mind it was the decision of Krueger, and none other than Krueger, to physically ingest a substance

The decision to drink should not be made by the government, but by the individual. If a person feels that he should destroy himself in the name of 'entertainment,' then who are we to stop him?

that is by its very nature a poison. The fact that his housemates may have encouraged him to do such a thing is asinine behavior, but not grounds for prosecution. The immediate human tendency to assign blame for everything is inevitably invoked, but the fact is that there is no one to blame here. Not MIT, not the fraternity Phi Gamma Delta, and not even Scott Krueger. Scott Krueger made the decision to engage in potentially lethal behavior, and it happened to kill him. End of story.

Similarly, a student at the University of Michigan apparently decided it was in his best interest to consume twenty-one standard doses of a substance whose effect in large quantities is clearly documented to be poisonous. He happened to die, and it becomes a national incident. In this case, it was his own peculiar set of standards — and that of nobody else — that caused him to engage in this behavior. It just so happened that he poisoned himself to death.

Again, end of story.

So now we move on to the apparent problem some people have with medical transport. If someone decides to poison himself or herself, then the laws the way they are cause others to be fearful of the ramifications, and therefore attempt to cover up the incident. This fear should be completely unwarranted, and it is an unfair set of laws that makes it very real. The laws seem to want to punish those who attempt to give medical assistance to those that have done something stupid, even though those who are calling for the assistance may have done nothing wrong themselves. Perhaps everyone involved has consumed toxic substances, but again that is their own right.

The fourth clause is much more general — the decision to drink should not be made by the government, but by the individual. If a person feels that he should destroy himself in the name of "entertainment," then who are we to stop him?

The only thing we should attempt to stop is behavior that adversely affects those that do not consent to being adversely affected — for example, drunk driving. To that effect, I say we abolish this silly idea of a minimum drinking age. We should not punish people for self-destructive behavior. This is a convenient solution — it allows those not responsible for the actions of others (namely, everyone) to not live in fear of false retribution.

It will eliminate the entire problem with the campus police providing medical transport — after all, the person in need of transport was not doing anything legally wrong, and neither were the people that called the police. Also, it will save people a lot of money, because they will not have to pay it out due to frivolous lawsuits and the avoidance thereof. Finally, it will set a standard that is easy to understand and quite agreeable — that the individual, and no one but the individual, is responsible for his or her own actions.

Levente Jakab is a member of the class of 2003.

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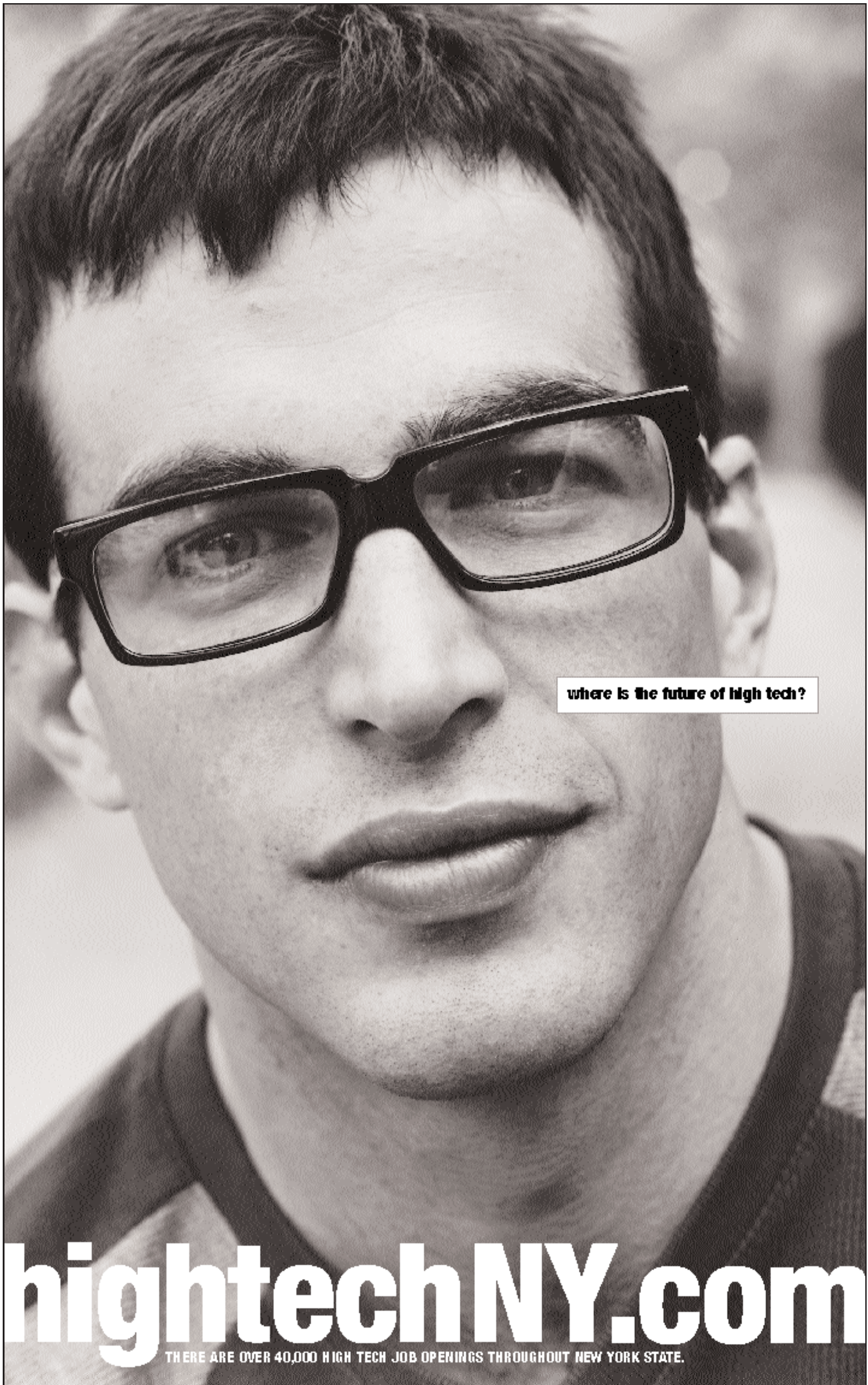
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FEATURES

Cleaning up that Dirty Water

Efforts Continue to Make the Charles River Swimmable by 2005

By Pey-Hua Hwang

STAFF REPORTER

Being a freshman at MIT means trying out lots of things for the first time. For Jaryn S. Finch '04, crew seemed like the perfect way to start something new. Little did she know that the Charles River is not only good for rowing, but is also good for getting eye infections.

"I contracted a viral infection from that nasty river, which meant that I couldn't wear my contacts for approximately two and a half months. My eyes turned bright red, and I went to the doctors five times in the space of a week," Finch said. She said that participating in crew became difficult because of the blinding glare off the water. "I'll definitely be more careful in the future on that river," she continued.

Surprisingly, just this last April the Environmental Protection Agency upgraded its rating of the Charles River to a B. A B rating means that the water is clean enough for boating 90 percent of the time and meets swimming standards 65 percent of the time. Five years ago, the Charles River was failing with a D rating. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, it was only meeting bacteria boating standards 39 percent of the time and swimming standards 19 percent of the time.

Luckily for it, the Charles River had friends in high places, and the Clean Charles Coalition was put together to pull up its D grade in 1995 to an A in 2005. This organization consists of area colleges including MIT, corporations ranging from Polaroid to Stop and Shop, and Triumvirate Environmental Incorporated.

Denise Breault, one of the TEI's representative in the Coalition, said, "We work closely in conjunction with the EPA," and "went on frequent cleanups." Some of the things that have been found on these clean-ups include shopping carts, mattresses, hubcaps, and even whole cars. The Coalition is primarily focused on educating riverside industries about ways to reduce waste in stormwater.

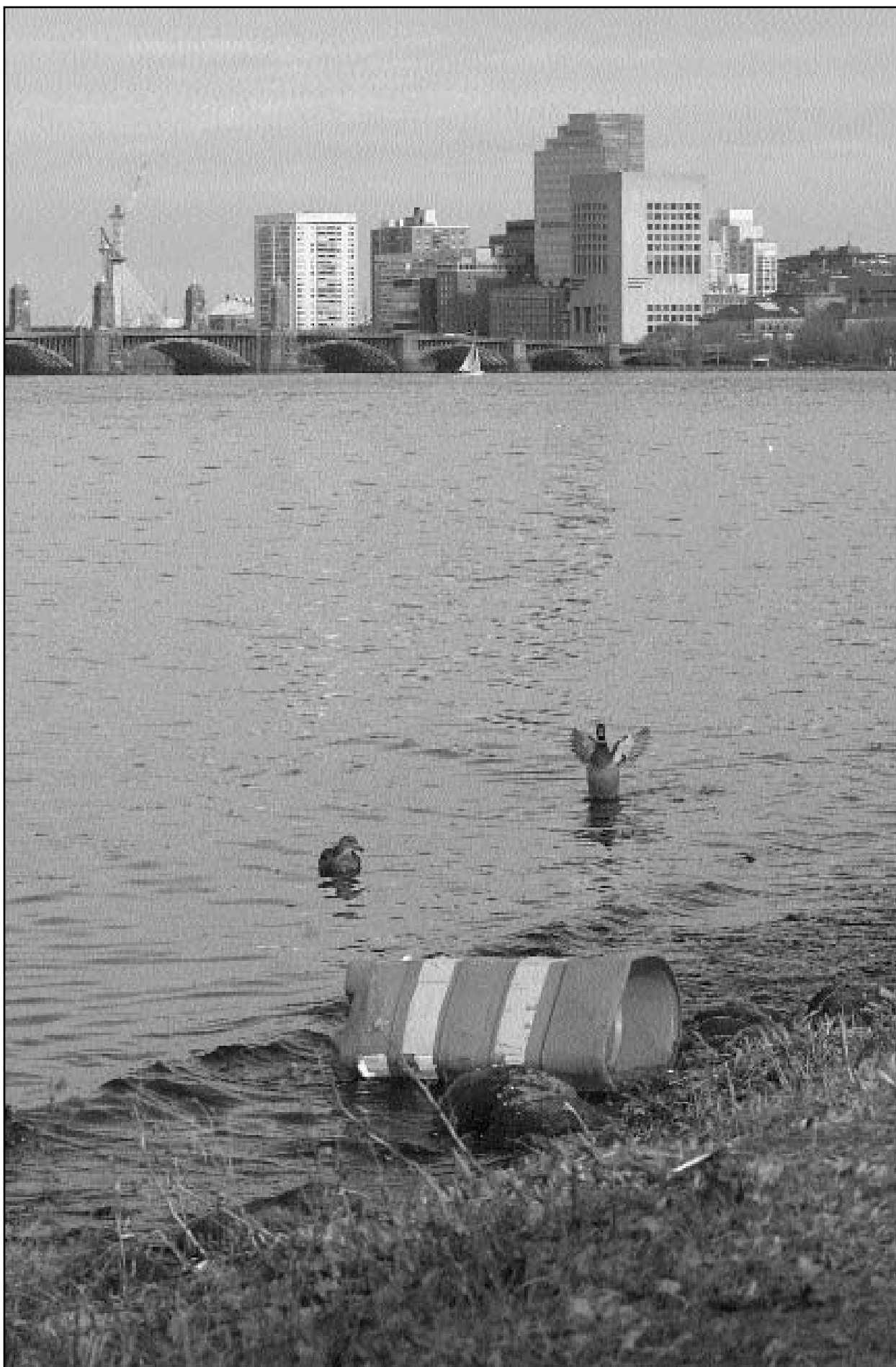
MIT Environmental Officer and member of the Coalition Zhanna Davidovitz spoke about on how MIT wasn't afraid to get its hands dirty either. "There was a push before Earth Day last year to clean the banks of the Charles," she said.

The ten communities in the lower Charles also contributed greatly to the improvement of the water by evaluating their storm drains for illegal tie-ins from sewer pipes. Removing these connections reduced illicit discharges by one million gallons a day over a period of several years.

However, improvements aside, Bob Zimmerman, executive director of the Charles River Watershed Association, which is responsible for collecting water quality data, said that he still awaits the year when "pollution problems are history." Currently color coded flags are used at boat houses to inform the public about days when water quality poses health risks.

This August a new type of barrier, called the Gunderboom, used for filtering suspended solids and bacteria, was instituted as a pilot program at Magazine Beach. Kristin Finn, the external relations coordinator for the CRWA, said that "unofficially the 'Gunderboom' did not perform as well as hoped." The EPA has not yet released official results of this pilot project.

The general opinion around the MIT campus about this issue is that the condition of the Charles has improved but that work still needs to be done. "I don't think that the water has been cleaned enough, and I definitely would not want to be swimming in it. However, I applaud the efforts of those who are cleaning it up," said Kimberly G. Chao '04.



The Charles River provides a home for various wildlife and a recreational area for humans.

WENDY GU—THE TECH

This Week in MIT History



In late November, 1901, MIT held its first field day. "Spurred on by class yells and the large attendance, victors and vanquished made the fights of their lives in order that the class they represented might have the honor of winning the first wreath on the new cup at this first Field Day," stated the article published that week.

The Tech noted at the time that "the success of our first Field Day instantly stamps that day as a fixture on our calendar, and on which should be looked forward to with an ever-increasing interest as years go by." Indeed, the tradition persisted for many decades, but was finally abandoned later in the century.

However, the criticism existed then as today, that MIT school spirit was lacking. "It has often been said of Tech men that their college spirit, their interest in Institute affairs, was noticeable only by its absence."

The Field Day, much like previous years' Johnson Games, was viewed as a method of uniting the campus. The day included three events, a football game and relay race, won by the freshmen, and a tug-o'-war, won by the sophomores. The football game, valued at four points and the relay race, valued at two pushed the younger class ahead of the older, which had only three points awarded for the tug-o'-war match. Thus, the class of 1905 was the first winner of the MIT Field Day.

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THE ARTS

ALBUM REVIEW

The Smashing Pumpkins

Machina II: The Friends & Enemies of Modern Music

By Ryan Klimczak

STAFF WRITER

In a follow-up to their earlier release of *Machina: The Machines of God* comes the Smashing Pumpkins' final album *Machina II: The Friends & Enemies of Modern Music*, a blended mix of both hardcore thrash and smooth melody. It is also the band's farewell release, as they have announced they are breaking up at the end of the year. In a final "fuck you" to their unappreciative recording label, Virgin Records, the band hand-pressed and hand-numbered twenty-five copies of their album on vinyl to be bootlegged among fans with the intention to disperse it free through MP3 media. Consequently, there will be no CD pressing for this album.

The album consists of twenty-five songs, almost all new, with the exception of a few songs, which have been redone from previous albums. These captivating songs encompass the entire gamut of the Pumpkins' musical spectrum, from the hardcore approach of old school Smashing Pumpkins to the more electronic side of their late '90s releases. In many ways, the side-stepped release of this album has encouraged an accurate and unfiltered representation of Corgan's work, which accounts for the true power of this album.

Songs such as the piano version of "If There is a God" feature some of the best vocals by Corgan, known for his usual scratchy and somewhat shrill voice. The piano melody, accompanying Corgan, is carried in the forefront of the song, which is an unusual, but welcomed approach to the Pumpkins' music. The second version of the song included in the album uses the whole



band with a cryptic, eerie feel. An acoustic guitar plays forcefully in the background with loads of echo and reverberation, which lends a spooky but appealing effect. The album contains many other smoothly flowing and softly vocalized songs such as "Go," "Real Love," "Slow Down," "Innosense," "Let Me Give the World to You," and "Home."

"Real Love," "Home," and "Let Me Give the World to You" seem to be a continuation of the romantic rock feel of *Machina I*'s "Stand By Your Love," with the same love-saturated lyrics and palpable affection. "Innosense" contains light and optimistic chords coupled with the almost nimble and softly sung whispers of Billy Corgan. When accompanied with a light tambourine and occasional piano chords, this song gives rise to an almost tangible feeling of innocence.

One of the only problems with the album

is the poor sound quality due to bad rips from people who lack the proper equipment to record the songs. This effect is most apparent in the song "White Spyder," which features a fast-moving bass rhythm throughout the track, which is consequently distorted. However, high quality recordings will soon be released — if they haven't been already — for straight download off the Internet.

"Here's to the Atom Bomb" is a laid-back groove similar to "1979" and other songs from 1995's *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness*.

In this song, a simple electronic drum coupled with a carefully hidden acoustic guitar accompanies the voice of Billy Corgan as he murmurs his way down the soft stream of music. An alternate version of "Try, Try, Try," from *Machina I*, is also available on *Machina II* and features a stripped-down mix with a similar melody but different lyrics.

The song "Le Deux Machina" is the album's only wordless song, featuring an almost harpsichord-like feel with several repeating chords oscillating on the two-minute track. Songs such as "In My Body," "Lucky 13," "Saturnine," "Speed Kills But Beauty Lives," and "Glass" (alternate version) represent the album's more cerebral and electronic side, with voice-distorted lyrics

and a subdued, psychedelic melody. Both versions of "Glass" in the album feature a distinctive lyrical repetition which lends to a hard-cutting and fast-moving tempo pounding insatiably throughout the song.

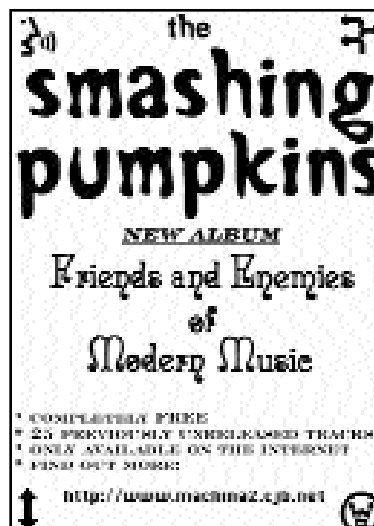
Machina II contains its share of hardcore songs, similar to earlier Pumpkins releases such as "Zero" and "Siamese Dream," with songs such as "Cash Car Star," "Soul Power," "White Spyder," and "Dross." By far, "Dross" is the epitome of alternative music, with squelching guitar riffs, hard-pounding drumming, and screaming vocals. Lyrically, this song almost seems to represent Corgan's frustration with today's musical standards. This is partially the reason for the band's formal breakup later this year. Apart from wanting to leave the troubles surrounding the band — including the unsuccessful release of the *Adore*

album in 1999 as well as lead bassist D'Arcy's leaving the band later that year — Corgan wants to leave a music industry which, he says, is saturated with "Britneys" and "Frat Rock."

Machina II: The Friends and Enemies of Modern Music is one of the best in the Smashing Pumpkins' collection of albums, a collection created in a decade when alternative music ruled. While this album will be appreciated most by seasoned listeners (the "friends of modern music"), it marks the end of the Pumpkins'

brilliant music career, and the death of alternative music.

For more information about the album or to download songs, visit <http://www.spifc.org>.



MUSIC REVIEW

State of the Airwaves

Sunna, Sitta, and Scissor

By Dan Katz

STAFF WRITER

Thanksgiving for vegetarians? What a hideous concept. I found myself sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner with haunting visions of Katie Jeffreys's "tofurkey" running through my head, and I almost lost my appetite. Almost. Everybody knows that the first Thanksgiving was an occasion on which the pilgrims and Native Americans gave thanks for not being vegetarian, and we shouldn't forget that hallowed tradition. Man, next thing you know, Katie's going to suggest that vegans should have the right to vote.

Once a year, WBCN shows its Christmas cheer by booking a whole bunch of nifty concerts on the same night and laughing at you because you can only go to one of them. Happy holidays, you sadistic bastards At the very least though, the WBCN Christmas Rave means there's probably at least one show you'll be interested in seeing tomorrow night: the spotlighted show takes place at the Orpheum and features Collective Soul, the underrated Fuel, and the over-rated Dust For Life.

The best bets for my money are the Paradise Rock Club (Orgy, VAST, and 6Gig) or TT The Bear's (The Dandy Warhols, whose live show rocks, as well as SR-71 and Good Charlotte.) Disturbed headline at Axis, accompanied by

Union Underground and Linkin Park; the rap side of neo-metal rears its head at Avalon with Crazy Town, P.O.D., and the Insane Clown Posse. Other shows include the Mighty Mighty Bosstones and Seventeen at Lilli's, C60 and Sunna at Bill's Bar, and Rancid at the Middle East. Pick your poison.

After tomorrow, the concert scene becomes sparser. The innovative trio of Medeski, Martin, and Wood have a gig Thursday at the Orpheum and Friday at the Somerville Theater, and the Middle East presents godspeed you black emperor! This eccentric Canadian band (yes, the lowercase letters are intentional) were rumored for a long time to be appearing on Radiohead's album, *Kid A*. That didn't pan out, but the bands have a lot of respect for each other, and I'm told godspeed's live show is spellbinding. Saturday night, go out and support your local scene, whether you're catching Canine at the Middle East or the Sheila Divine at the Lucky Dog in Worcester.

I picked up Harvey Danger's latest album this weekend: one of those discs I've been meaning to get for a while but never got around to. I was very pleasantly surprised. ... the band gets a bad critical rap for the stripped down simplicity of their big hit "Flagpole Sitta," but on *King James Version*, their second major release, they manage to create a lot of neat musical ideas without fancy instrumentation

— just good old fashioned guitars, drums, and the occasional organ or rockabilly piano line. If nothing else, the album contains a lot of Song Title of the Year candidates, including "You Miss The Point Completely, I Get The Point Exactly" and "This Is The Thrilling Conversation You've Been Waiting For." But there is in fact more than that, and the frantic pace of "(Theme From) Carjack Fever" and the awkward but tight rhythms in "Meetings With Remarkable Men" make this a disc I've been listening to over and over again to wrap my head around.

Just when MTV seems to have turned over any interest in indie rock to the airplay engineers at M2, they make things interesting by adding At The Drive In to their buzzworthy list. "One Armed Scissor" has in fact been getting more and more exposure on rock radio, despite the awkward structure of incomplete measures that dominates the song's verses. Personally, I feel the same way about At The Drive In that I did about Rage Against The Machine: they've got terrific musicians and a knack for intense songwriting, but I just wish the lead vocalist would do more singing than talking and screaming. On the other hand, he does it in a much more melodic fashion than Zach De La Rocha, so I'll mark it as an improvement.

The work I should have done over the long weekend awaits, so I must now bid you all goodbye. Here's the usual routine: Write me with comments and questions at airwaves@the-tech.mit.edu. Particularly clever e-mails will receive fabulous prizes, such as Oreos or Tastykakes (imported from exotic Philadelphia). Until next our paths cross, I encourage you as always to have a pleasant week and keep expanding your horizons.



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FOOD REVIEW

The Essential Vegetarian

By Katie Jeffreys

FEATURES EDITOR

Thanksgiving has passed quite peacefully. I had dinner at the family home of a friend whose parents do not eat meat. A turkey was served, but the side dishes were all veggie-friendly. Though I was away from home, the ambience of a family Thanksgiving was delightful. My family does not cater to vegetarian tastes (as I am the only one in the family who is vegetarian) so a vegetarian Thanksgiving was a special treat.

Aside from the traditional rolls, mashed potatoes, salad, and cranberry sauce, we were served delicious sautéed green beans, soup, squash, and fruit salad. The “main dishes” served to replace the turkey on the vegetarian plates were veggie burger patties and potato pancakes. Given my penchant for potatoes and the infrequency with which I encounter potato pancakes as an option, I chose that as my entrée. The pancake was complemented by the applesauce-like consistency of the cranberry sauce.

Later in the long weekend I went out to dinner at Boston Beer Works, a far cry from the warm, quiet Thanksgiving dinner of a few nights before. The restaurant, located at 61 Brookline Ave., Boston, should perhaps pay as much attention to its menu as it does to its beers. My dish, mushroom ravioli in wine sauce (\$10) looked appealing on paper, but was less so on my plate. Aside from having a runny sauce, the pasta was unevenly cooked. The mushrooms, both sliced and mixed with the sauce and chopped in the ravioli filling, were the redeeming factor of the dish.

I also sampled the sweet potato french fries. This variation on the traditional fry is a personal favorite, and BBW's dish came highly recommended to me by friends. I was not disappointed by their fries, which were thicker and less greasy than those found at, say, Courses. They were served with a raspberry vinaigrette, which was a surprisingly delightful companion to the salty and sweet fries. The “bucket” (\$4) was adequate as an appetizer for three or a meal for one, when combined with a salad.

For dessert I sampled the Mud Pie (\$5). Essentially two slices of ice cream cake mixed with crushed Oreos and peanut butter cups, it was a rich finish to an otherwise unsatisfying meal. I have included a recipe for a similar dish that is easy to prepare at the end of this article.

Overall, my dining experience was not unpleasant, but I can't see myself returning anytime soon. In addition to the mediocre cuisine, the atmosphere was, both literally and figuratively, chilly. We were seated near the door, and the freezing night winds blew across our table all night. In addition, our waitress, who may have fancied herself irreverent or sassy, came off as strangely rude.

The restaurant's trademark is its beer, brewed in-house. Since the occasion that brought us to the restaurant was the celebration of a friend's 21st birthday, we had to sample their beers. I tried the Bunker Hill Blueberry Ale which not only tastes of blueberries but also has a handful of berries floating in it. The drink is entertaining as the berries rise and fall in the glass due to the carbonation.

I would like to thank the one person who wrote me last week, who was not even an MIT community member. Rather, it was a student from the University of Illinois who was visiting Boston to look at graduate schools and visit a friend. Anyhow, this week I will offer a reward (yet to be determined) to anyone who sends me feedback at <veggie@the-tech.mit.edu>. I look forward to hearing from you.

Coffee Ice Cream Pie

26 chocolate sandwich cookies, finely crushed
(Oreo is a good choice)

1/4 cup of margarine or butter, melted

1 quart of coffee ice cream, softened

1 1/2 cups chocolate fudge sauce

Prepared whipped topping (Cool Whip is a suggestion)

In a small bowl, combine crushed cookies and melted margarine. Press onto bottom and side of 9 inch pie plate. Spread ice cream into prepared crust. Top with fudge sauce.

Freeze six hours or until firm. To serve, add topping to each slice.

BOOK REVIEW

The Truth

In the Spirit of Oscar Wilde

By Jane Maduram

STAFF WRITER

The *Truth*, by Terry Pratchett, is the newest release in the Discworld series. As usual, Pratchett's latest contribution to comic fantasy combines humor and political satire to great effect.

The plot line is as convoluted as ever: Dwarves introduce printing to the city Ankh-Morpork, a disinherited son finds employment and purpose in the family motto — “le mot juste,” and the major, Lord Vetinari, is framed for robbery and attempted murder. Pratchett uses this frantic plot to convey some very interesting ideas on freedom of speech, the influence of the press, and the wonder of words.

Pratchett's work is most similar to the plays and writings of Oscar Wilde, in which witticisms, character sketches, and ideas take priority over plot. Pratchett's characters, perhaps, are the most memorable, as evidenced by some of the brief sketches below:

Foul Ron: “There was this to be said about the Smell of Foul Ole Ron, an odor so intense that it took on a personality of its own and fully justified the capital letter: after the initial shock the organs of smell just gave up and shut down, as if no more able to comprehend the thing than an oyster can comprehend the ocean. After some minutes in its presence, wax would start to trickle out of people's ears and their hair would begin to bleach.”

Sacharissa: “She was quite good-looking if considered over several centuries ... three hundred years ago the sculptor Mauvaise would have taken one look at her chin and dropped the chisel on his foot; a thousand years ago the Epebian poets would have agreed that her nose alone was capable of launching at least forty ships. And she had good medieval ears.”

Dibbler: “Let me tell you about these sausages When someone chopped off his thumb in the abattoir, they didn't even stop

the grinder. You prob'ly won't find any rat in them 'cos rats don't go near the place. There's animals in there that ... well, you know how they say life began in some kind of big soup? Same with these sausages. If you want a bad sausage, you won't get better than these.”

Mr. Tulip: “It wasn't that he had a drug habit. He wanted to have a drug habit In a street where furtive people were selling Clang, Slip, Chop, Rhino, Skunk, Triplin, Floats, Honk, Double Honk, Gongers, and Slack, Mr. Tulip had an unerring way of finding the man who was retailing curry powder at what worked out as six hundred dollars a pound.”

Pratchett is also fond of inserting witticisms in his work, as a sort of “last word.” Therefore, we get such gems as a description of society in terms of beer and glasses, a description of racism as it would be practiced in a multi-species society (where humans discriminate against dwarves, zombies, werewolves, golems, etc.) and a rags-to-riches story involving naturally-produced phosphate. A talking dog calls itself “Deep Bone” in homage to the X-files, and there are a number of references to horror movies.

Pratchett churns out wonderful books quite quickly (This is his second book published this year; the first was *The Fifth Elephant*), but I have a few caveats with the book. The writing could be better, the dialogue could be improved, and some of the coincidences are unnecessary. It is quite unfair to set certain authors to higher standards than others, but with the level of work Pratchett has produced, one must wonder whether this is his best effort. In this book, a few threads are stretched too far to provide closure, and some of the dialogue tries too hard to be witty.

Nonetheless, I urge you to read at least one book by Pratchett over winter break; you will definitely find it worth the effort.



SLIDE FROM A PASSAGE TO INDIA, CARE OF SHIVJI

PREVIEW

A Passage to India

A Slide Show by Award-Winning Photographer Shivji

By T. Luke Young and Gabor Csanyi

STAFF WRITER

Tuesday, November 28th

7 p.m., Room 6-120

A *Passage to India* offers us a glimpse into the rural traditions of India. Presented tonight at 7 p.m. in Room 6-120, the show aims to satisfy both photography enthusiasts and those interested in the culture and daily life of India's people. The images are drawn from collections of the international award-winning photographer Shivji and demonstrate his mastery of the craft. The selection includes several beautiful and captivating desert landscapes: men and women pitted against the raw elements of wind, sun, and sand. But somehow it is obvious that they are at home, surviving as they have done for millennia. There are also many individual portraits — character studies — expressing deep emotions and whole lives in perfectly caught instants.

The show rewards the viewer with rich colors and textures through a narration highlighting religion, dances, festivals and marketplaces. The Indian subcontinent is a vast and varied geography inhabited by more than one billion people; while the slide show was surely never intended to give a comprehensive account, it is a personal statement, by someone with a keen eye, about a home. Shivji focuses much of his attention on his home state of Rajasthan, but at the same time manages to capture the cultural currents of many other regions of India. In a country with twenty-five states and more languages than that, it is never easy to coalesce a comprehensive picture in a slide show. His images to a large degree seem to portray both cultural differences within a society and the underlying glue that holds the country together.

The breadth and depth of Shivji's work is evident in the thematically narrated show. Perhaps the only drawback is the sheer quantity of slides packed into such a short span of time, resulting in a kaleidoscope of pictures shown at dizzying pace. *A Passage to India* is most effective when short sequences of the rural landscape combined with powerful portraits are viewed in absolute silence. It is only then that the impact of Shivji's striking images can be truly appreciated. Prepare to be visually exhausted.



SLIDE FROM A PASSAGE TO INDIA, CARE OF SHIVJI

Blood Drive • You can help save lives

Monday, December 11 through Wednesday, December 13
La Sala de Puerto Rico • Second floor of the Student Center (W20)
2PM until 8PM each day



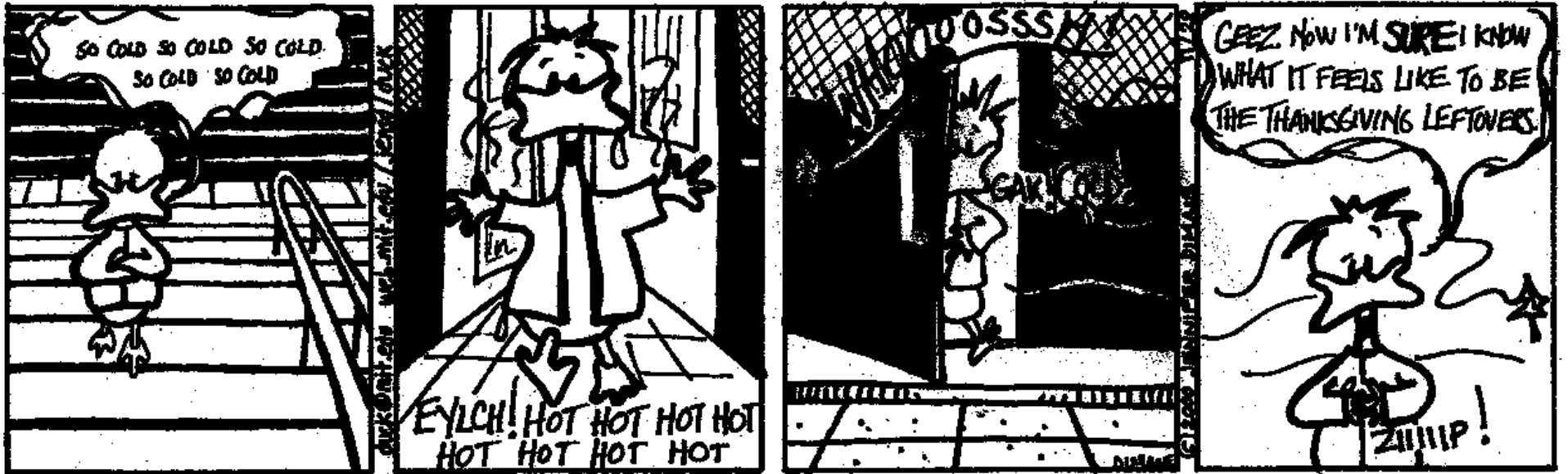
To make an appointment, fill out the form at:
<<http://web.mit.edu/blood-drive/www/>>

If you cannot make an appointment please come to the drive and donate.

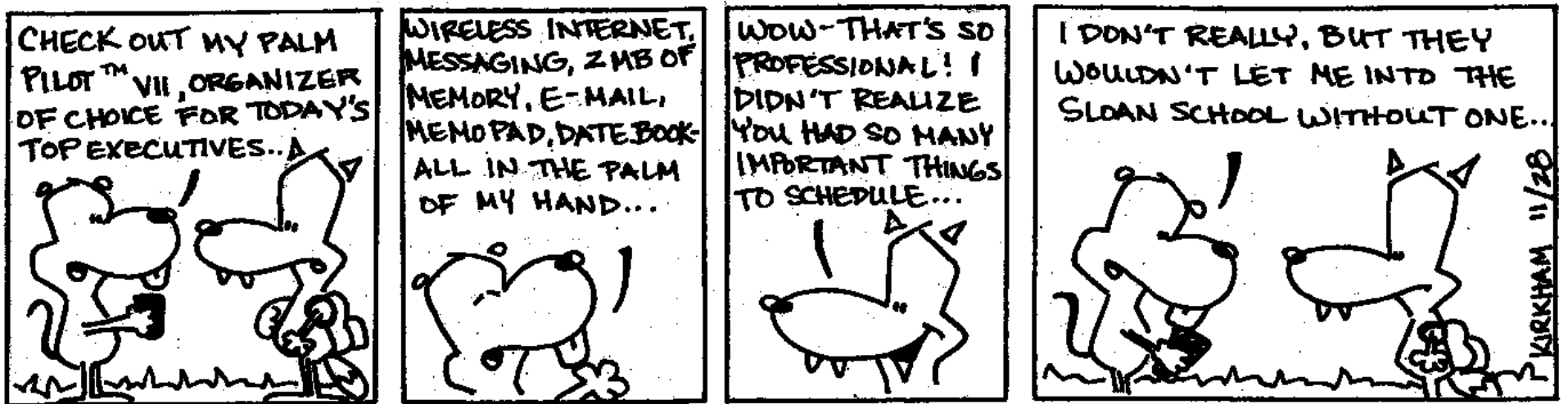
This space donated
by The Tech

Down with Science

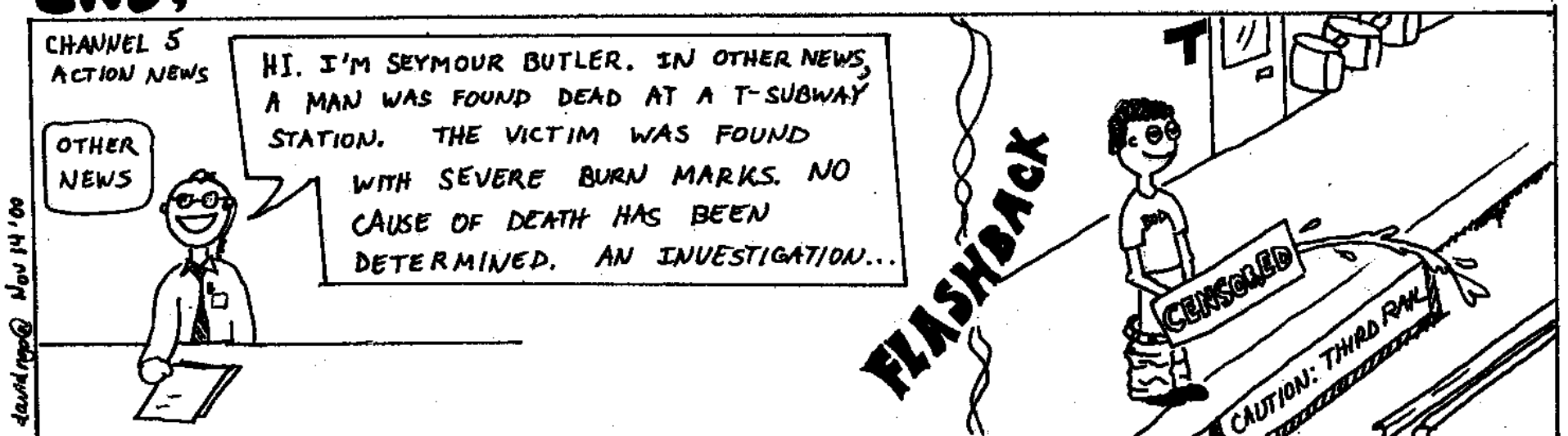
by Jennifer DiMase



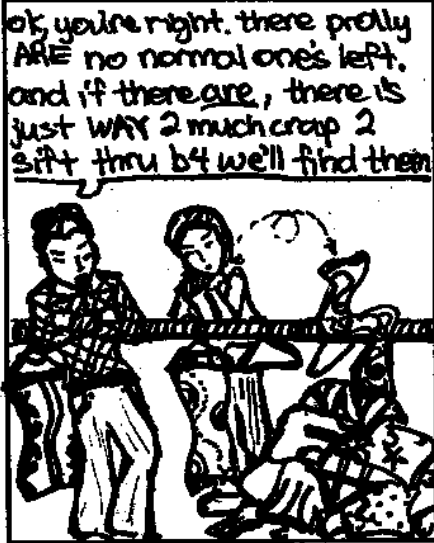
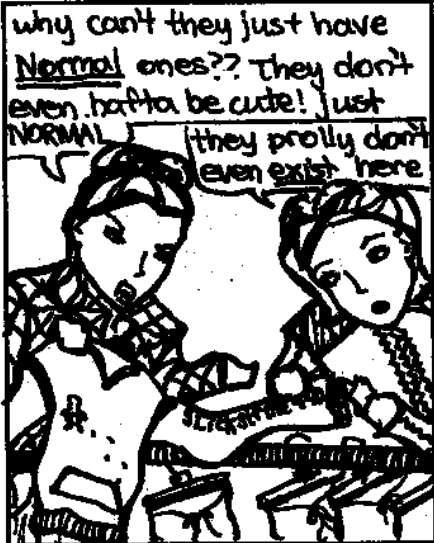
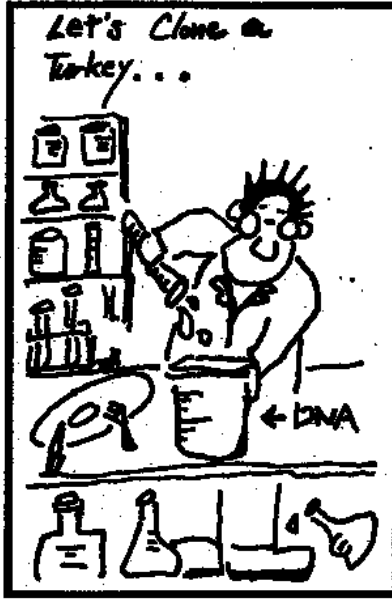
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END; BY DAVID



By Guan-Jong (John) Chen
Tech Life



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page XX

Fun With Clip Art Aaron Isaksen



"So, Billy...do you like ice cream?"

Spring Break 2001 - Spring Break 2001

Spring Break '01

Jamaica \$49

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Round Trip Air
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Spring Break '01

FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

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>

Tuesday, November 28

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Word User Group.** The MIT Microsoft User Group (WUG) was formed for people at MIT, from beginners to experts, who are using or interested in learning to use Microsoft Word word processing software. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Artists Behind the Desk: Artists Behind the Desk Concert: Bonnie Cochran, flute, French horn.** Musical series featuring (both solo and group) vocalists, pianists, strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion etc. Ms. Cochran is a staff member in the MIT Card Office. free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Artists Behind the Desk, a task group of the Working Group on Support Staff Issues.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – **Dibner Institute Luncheon Colloquia: Derivation and Revelation: the Legitimacy of Mathematical Models in Indian Cosmology.** Dibner Institute Luncheon Colloquium. free. Room: E56-100. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – **Seminars on "things Italian": Continuity and Change in Italian Politics.** Sponsored by the MIT-Italy Program, this is our monthly lecture on "Things Italian." Professor Cotta, professor of Comparative Politics and Director of the Center for the Study of Politics at the University of Siena, Italy, and visiting scholar at the Harvard Center for European Studies has conducted extensive research on Italian politicians and politics. free. Room: Center for International Studies, E-38, 6th floor. Sponsor: MIT-Italy Program.

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12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Modern Optics and Spectroscopy: Ultrafast Quantum Control of Atomic and Molecular Systems.** free. Room: Marlar Lounge 37-252. Sponsor: Research Lab of Electronics, Spectroscopy Laboratory. Rowland Institute for Science.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **MTL VLSI Seminar Series: Status and Trends in SiGe HBT BiCMOS Technology.** MTL VLSI Seminar Series. free. Room: 34-101 (Refreshments at 3:30). Sponsor: MTL VLSI Seminar.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **LIDS Colloquium.** Abstract:TBA. free. Room: LIDS - 35-225. Sponsor: LIDS Colloquium.

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – **Gas Turbine Laboratory Seminar Series.** Transient Aeroacoustic and Heat Transfer Measurement of Shock Tunnel Driven Flows. free. Room: 31-161. Sponsor: Gas Turbine Laboratory.

4:30 p.m. – **Lectures on Operator Algebras, Noncommutative Geometry, and K-Theory (primarily for physicists): Lecture 8: "Pseudo differential operators and the C*-algebra of singular integral operators."** free. Room: Room 4-231 at M.I.T. Sponsor: Harvard-MIT Mathematical Physics Seminar. M.I.T. Department of Mathematics.

6:30 p.m. – **Architecture Lecture Series: The Virus of the Balkans: The Years Eaten by Locusts.** Department of Architecture Lecture. free. Room: Rm 10-250. Sponsor: Department of Architecture.

Wednesday, November 29

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. – **Interference Lithography for Space Optics, Nanometrology and Integrated Optics.** free. Room: 34-401B, Grier Room. Sponsor: Optics.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Excel Quick Start.** This course presents an overview of Excel's basic functions, as well as some of its more powerful features and capabilities. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – **MIT Security Studies Program seminar series: Private Sector Perspectives on Future Threats.** free. Room: E38-615. Sponsor: Security Studies Program.

12:10 p.m. - 1:10 p.m. – **Physical Oceanography Sack Lunch Seminar.** Dynamic Paleooceanography: Reconstructing Upper Ocean Density and Circulation Jean Lynch-Stieglitz, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. free. Room: 54-915. Sponsor: Physical Oceanography.

2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **spouses&partners@mit - Ice Skating on Boston Common.** Join us for ice skating on the Boston Common. The entrance fee is \$3 (children under 13 years are free), and you can rent skates for \$5. If you don't want to skate, you can just come and watch. Meet at the MIT Coop in Kendall Square at 2:30 p.m. We will take the T to the Park St. Station (Red Line). \$3 entrance fee, \$5 skate rental. Room: Meet at the MIT Coop in Kendall Square at 2:30 p.m. Sponsor: spouses&partners@mit, MIT Medical.

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – **Weekly Practice Sessions for Oral Presentations: Weekly Practice Session for Oral Presentations.** Practice oral presentations and get professional feedback from Dr. Steven Strang, director of MIT's Writing and Communication Center. free. Room: 14N-325. Sponsor: Writing and Communication Center.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **Nanostructures Seminar Series.** Chemical Routes to Nanotube Science. free. Room: 34-401A - Refreshments served at 3:30 pm. Sponsor: Nanostructures Laboratory.

5:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. – **Middle Eastern Club Bi-weekly Discussion Series.** The aim is to meet in the evenings with refreshments provided and hold a somewhat moderated discussion on topics ranging from religion and secularism to economics and women's rights to activism in and outside the U.S. Some brief materials (a few pages worth) will be distributed some days ahead of time, with the assumption that participants will have read the material in advance. Examples of previous topics: "What Role, History?", "Cultural Perceptions and the Misconceptions of the "Middle-East" in the World. E-mail mideast-officers@mit.edu for discussion topics. free. Room: MIT Room 66-148. Sponsor: Middle Eastern Club.

6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. – **MITgaard Weekly Meeting.** free. Room: Student Center, PDR#3. Sponsor: Society for Creative Anachronism.

7:30 p.m. – **Men's Ice Hockey vs. Bryant College.** free. Room: Johnson Rink. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – **Open Mic Night.** Bring music, poetry or prose, or just come and be entertained! Signups start at 7:50pm. First come, first served! An accompanist

and keyboard will be available. free. Room: The Coffeehouse, Third Floor Stratton Student Center. Sponsor: CAC Program Board, Songwriting Club.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – **Salsa Workshop: Salsa lesson.** students \$7/lesson, \$12/series; non-students \$9/lesson, \$15/series. Room: Lobby 13. Sponsor: MIT Ballroom Dance Team.

Thursday, November 30

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **MIT Conference on Bioengineering & Health in the 21st Century.** This conference will highlight current research at MIT in the Division of Bioengineering and Environmental Health that is tackling important challenges at the interface of engineering and biology with the goal of improving human health in the 21st century. Presentations will cover Tissue Engineering, Protein Engineering, Drug Delivery, the Extracellular Matrix, Informatics in the Physiome, Pharmacogenomics and Emerging Infectious Organisms. \$395.00. Room: MIT Student Center. Sponsor: Division of Bioengineering & Environmental Health, Office of Corporate Relations/ILP.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **CLM Plastic Lunch Seminar Series: Regulations of Synaptic Transmission & Plasticity in Drosophila: Beyond the Neuromuscular Junction.** free. Room: E25-117. Sponsor: AID-Boston, Center for Learning and Memory.

12:00 p.m. – **Noon Chapel Concert. Per la notte di Natale.** 17th & 18th century noels and pastorales for the Christmas season, including music of Corelli, St. Luc, Delalande and others, performed by James Young & Eric Haas, recorders; Carol Lewis, viola da gamba; Chris Henriksen, archlute. free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Retrieve Your MIT E-mail from Afar.** If you're away from MIT on vacation or travel, and taking a laptop or using public computers, come and learn about options for getting your email from afar. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:10 p.m. – **GABLES Monthly Lunch.** GABLES is the Gay, Bisexual, and Lesbian Employees and Supporters group. Each month, on the last working day, we gather to enjoy lunch and the company of our colleagues and friends. Occasionally there are discussions of topical interest, however the focus of this event is social. The organization also works to advance the interests of GBLT employees at MIT. The lunches are open to anyone in the wider MIT community interested in our work. We have often welcomed guests from other universities and. 0.00. Room: To be announced. Sponsor: GABLES.

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **Distinguished Lecturer Series: The Case Against Software for System-on-a-Chip Design of Wireless Systems.** Prof. Robert Brodersen Berkeley Wireless Center Professor of EECS

University of California, Berkeley. free. Room: 34-101; 50 Vassar Street. Sponsor: Laboratory for Computer Science.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **Entry of Gas Phase Water Molecules into Liquid Water.** free. Room: Rm 54-915. Sponsor: MIT Atmospheric Science Seminars.

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. – **Revenue Management Models for the Sea Cargo Industry.** ORC Fall Seminar Series. Seminar followed by refreshments in E40-106. free. Room: E51-361. Sponsor: Operations Research Center.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – **MIT COMMUNICATIONS FORUM: Journalism and Cyberspace.** A conversation about the current state of digital journalism. How have traditional newspapers been affected by the World Wide Web? How are new media being exploited by traditional newspapers? How are journals born on the Web differentiating themselves from their counterparts with roots in the print medium? What is known about the audiences for on-line newspapers? Is the content and even the mission of on-line journalism different from that of older media? What are the future prospects for journalism in cyberspace? With Rich Meislin, New York Times Digital, and Steven Johnson, FEED magazine. free. Room: 56-114, Whitaker Building. Sponsor: Communications Forum.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. – **authors@mit: The Neptune File - A Story of Astronomical Rivalry and the Pioneers of Planet Hunting.** The Neptune File is the first full account of the dramatic events surrounding the eighth planet's discovery, and the story of two remarkable men who were able to "see" on paper what astronomers looking through telescopes for more than 200 years had overlooked. Drawing on the recently uncovered scrapbook of a nineteenth century astronomer, Standage reveals the lost history of a discovery that caused an international sensation and spawned a controversy that continues to this day. "Fascinating.. Like the Titanic saga, this is a tale that should be repeated every generation!"

— Sir Arthur C. Clarke. free. Room: MIT 4-231, enter at 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. Sponsor: The MIT Press Bookstore. MIT Libraries.

7:00 p.m. **Men's Basketball vs. Newbury College.** free. Room: Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **BUSA Interviewing Workshop.** Come learn more about the interviews for graduate schools and medical schools. Free food!!!. free. Room: 5-234. Sponsor: Busa.

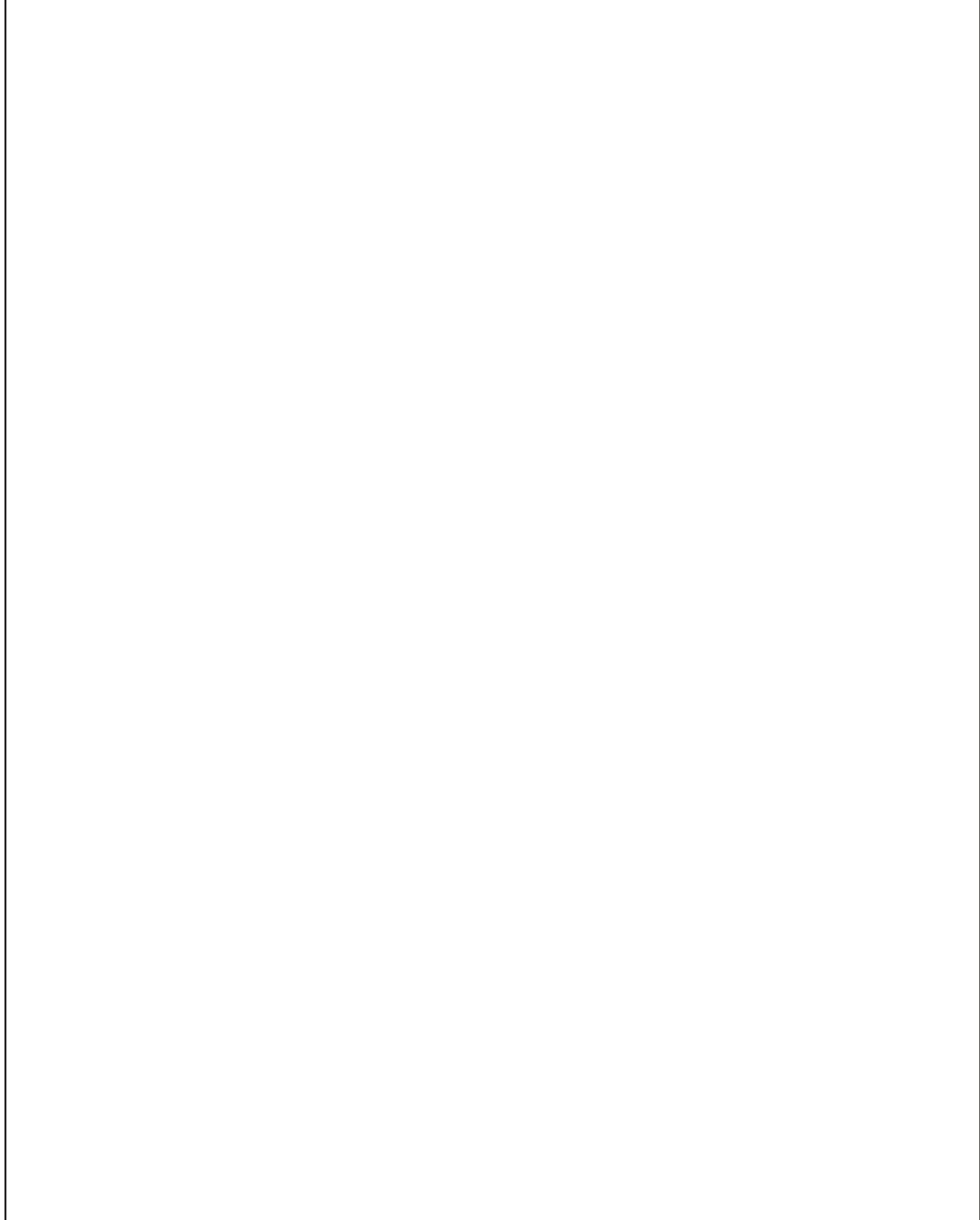
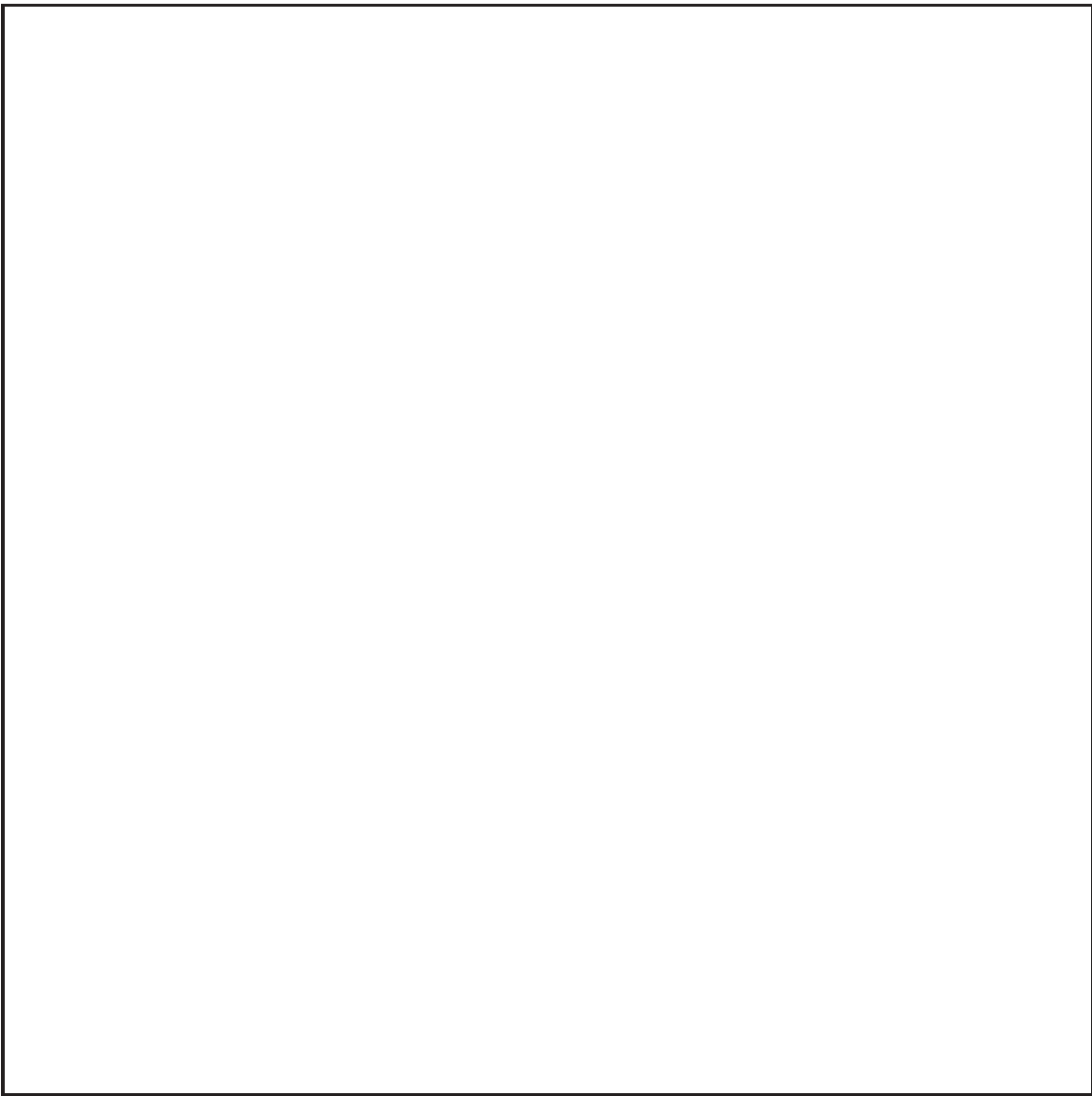
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **Seminar on Careers in Patent Law.** Interested in learning more about Intellectual Property Law? Come hear about careers in Patent Law from guest speakers visiting from the law firms of Fish & Richardson and Hale & Dorr. They will discuss the kinds of opportunities that are available to both undergraduate and graduate students directly after graduation. free. Room: Room 6-120. Sponsor: Science and Engineering Business Club.

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. **Exhuming the Truth: The Human Rights Information Act and U.S. Knowledge of Central American Atrocities.** U.S. involvement with the dictatorial governments of Central America is becoming well-known; documents outlining the U.S.-engineered overthrow of the Guatemalan government in 1954 (touching off a 36-year civil war) have recently been released. U.S. contacts with these governments have made U.S. agencies aware of the fates of many victims of torture, execution, and disappearances. Thus, the best evidence on human rights abuses in Guatemala, Honduras, and other countries is often in U.S. hands. But when foreign officials ask for help from the U.S., too often they confront a series of delays or refusals. The Human Rights Information Act (HRIA) would insure that the U.S. responds humanely to these cries for help without jeopardizing US national security. What right does the US have to know more about victims of the Guatemalan civil war than Guatemalans do?. free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: Amnesty International, Political Science Dept.

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an individual's life that are not visible to friends but may be deep and meaningful."

Dealing with these private issues "can make their lives miserable and may lead to desperate behavior," said Reich, who has been with MIT Mental Health Services for eleven years.

"Suicide is a multi-determined event, and many things can happen to lead to it," Reich said. He said that suicide often results from a combination of "an underlying vulnerability and a precipitating event."

The scenarios can range from a strong underlying problem, which can make a small event seem traumatic, or a minor vulnerability which makes it difficult to handle a massive crisis.

A break-up, for example, could be a significant event in someone's life. "In one person this could be handled in stride," Reich said. While that person may view the situation as a learning experience and grow from it, "in another it may be a devastating event," which, when combined with vulnerability, could lead to a desperate act.

In Da Silva's case, "she was

doing everything she was supposed to," said Randolph. "She was interviewing for jobs, she was doing well in classes, and she played hockey on Saturday. If you were to ask whether she was a person likely to commit suicide, the answer was 'No.'"

"The scary thing is people think someone is fine," Reich said, "and then they're not fine."

MIT offers wide range of services

"I don't feel we're a special place as far as suicide is concerned," Reich said. "People are concerned with the prevalence of mental illness on college campuses." The trend nationwide is that college students are more frequently utilizing their campus mental health services.

MIT Mental Health services offer primarily psychotherapy, or "talking therapy." Medication is prescribed when the doctor feels it is necessary and the patient is willing. For example, "anxiety problems are often a problem in student populations," Reich said.

These cases are often best treated with a combination of medication to ease the physical effects and talking therapy to uncover the root problem causing the anxiety.

Of the people visiting MIT Mental Health, eighty percent visit fewer than the average five times and the remaining twenty percent visit more. The number of visits is not limited, and can reach twenty or thirty. Dealing with both kinds of patients requires the department to manage its resources.

"You'd like to help everyone as much as they need," said Reich. But he pointed out that Mental Health Services "has to deal with the acute needs as well as take care of the longer range needs."

The services provided include general and relationship counseling and help with legal issues, family problems, or academic pressures.

"We keep confidentiality," said Reich. "We don't blow the whistle on people who are doing illegal things."

Room for improvement exists

What responsibility does MIT have in a student's death? Reich said, "It is hard to say that we are responsible in an individual case unless there was a failure." However, it is the responsibility of MIT Mental Health Services to "provide the programs that students need to support them here," he said.

The Undergraduate Association Task Force addressing the issue of Mental Health Services on campus will assist in improving these programs. "I think we could do better in making sure students know about the availability of helping care," Reich said. This is in addition to improving students' self-care and raising the awareness of "the signs and symptoms of distress."

Reich said that students who are helping others through problems related to mental health should try to be good listeners "and really try to understand without assuming too much responsibility." Additionally, a student can use MIT Medical as a resource in deciding how to approach a peer in need.

However Reich, "would not encourage people to do more than they can handle" but rather turn to deans, housemasters, or other administrators for help.

Students can access MIT Mental Health Services during their walk-in hours from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. or by a regular appointment 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays (Tuesdays until 8 p.m.). Other resources exist on campus as well, including Nightline (253-8800), which is staffed from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily. A dean-on-call is also available each night, accessible through the Campus Police (253-1212).

Grad Dorm Awaits Final Planning Board Approval

Construction, from Page 1

bined with the Corporation's luncheon and meeting.

The event, which will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., will be broadcast later on MIT Cable television.

Warehouse conversion on schedule

The conversion of the warehouse on 224 Albany St. to a graduate student residence is also on schedule, said John B. Hawes, the project manager for renovations in the Department of Facilities. "[We're] moving along on schedule. We haven't run into any major headaches," he said.

The building, expected to be ready by August 2001, will provide 120 efficiency units of housing. The building is being designed to accommodate plans to use it as hotel and conference space over the summer.

Graduate Student Council President Soulaymane Kachani said that the warehouse would primarily house MEng, first-year graduate students, and MBA students. A Founders Group consisting of six graduate students and led by Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Steven R. Lerman '72 was formed in early October to investigate ways to increase community in the residence, Kachani said.

Kachani said that one plan aimed at increasing community is to have eight to ten graduate students live in the dorm for multiple years, much as officers in Tang stay for multiple years in the dorm.

Grad dorm still awaiting approval

The other new graduate residence, to be located on Sydney and Pacific Street, is not faring as well: MIT is still awaiting approval from the Planning Board.

Last Tuesday, the Institute went before the Planning Board to discuss modifications to the plans requested

by the Board after the first hearing in early September. Michael K. Owu '86, project manager for the new dorm, said that MIT made minor changes to the plans with regards to the location of the driveway, the size of the interior courtyard, and the number of parking spaces.

However, Kachani, who characterized the two-hour meeting as "very tough," said that the Board was not fully satisfied and that MIT will have to appear before the Board again, either on Dec. 5 or Dec. 12. Still outstanding are issues regarding the entrance to the courtyard, Kachani said.

The GSC is currently working on increasing the amount of planned community space on the upper floors of the dorm, Kachani said.

Sample dorm room being built

Daniel O'Connell's sons, the company building Simmons Hall, is constructing a "sample room" from the new dorm for students to see.

The room is being assembled on the Vassar Street side of the West Gate parking lot and should be finished soon.

"When the room is completed," said Roberts, "we hope to make it available for students to look at."

Currently, a grid of the cement wall pieces has been put up, Roberts said. The reflective aluminum coating, a floor, and possibly a ceiling will be added soon.

New dorm 'a very exciting place'

The new undergraduate dorm is not just for freshmen; all four undergraduate classes will be welcomed to move in.

In fact, the Founders Group has already begun the process of finding new residents. "The Founder's Group will be working, starting very early in the spring term, to get more people in the community involved in this project," Roberts said.

MIT has created the e-mail list sponge-talk@mit.edu for those who wish to voice their opinions or just keep informed about updates on the new dorm, which has been nicknamed "The Sponge" for its unique architecture.

Benedict said the attraction of the new dorm is that it's a "brand

new building" that is the "state of the art." The hall will feature its own auditorium, a restaurant, and many common spaces, he said.

The new dorm could have a large impact on student life at the Institute, though some are concerned that its location on Vassar Street will separate it from the other

residences.

"I think it will add to MIT culture," Benedict said. "Every one of the dorms and FSILGs has its own culture and environment, even those that are far away."

Matthew Palmer and Naveen Sunkavally contributed to the reporting of this story.



WENDY GU—THE TECH

Renovations are underway to convert the warehouse on 224 Albany St. to a graduate student residence. The building, expected to be ready for occupation by August 2001, will house about 120 students.

Solution

Crossword

DUM	BORER	BEWED			
ERA	INIGO	CLIVE			
DAN	DEMOR	THENE			
GLIP		STOIC			
	LAMBS	RUSTLER			
CLARION	ARMOIRE				
RAP	BLIT	REAP			
IRA	SETUP	USE			
RIPS	BARE	TEL			
PAELLAS	LEABERS				
STRIATE	MORAN				
	TBONE	PABB			
NATHEMATICS	NAT				
ETHEL	TAROT	TRY			
LEERS	ELEGY	SAX			

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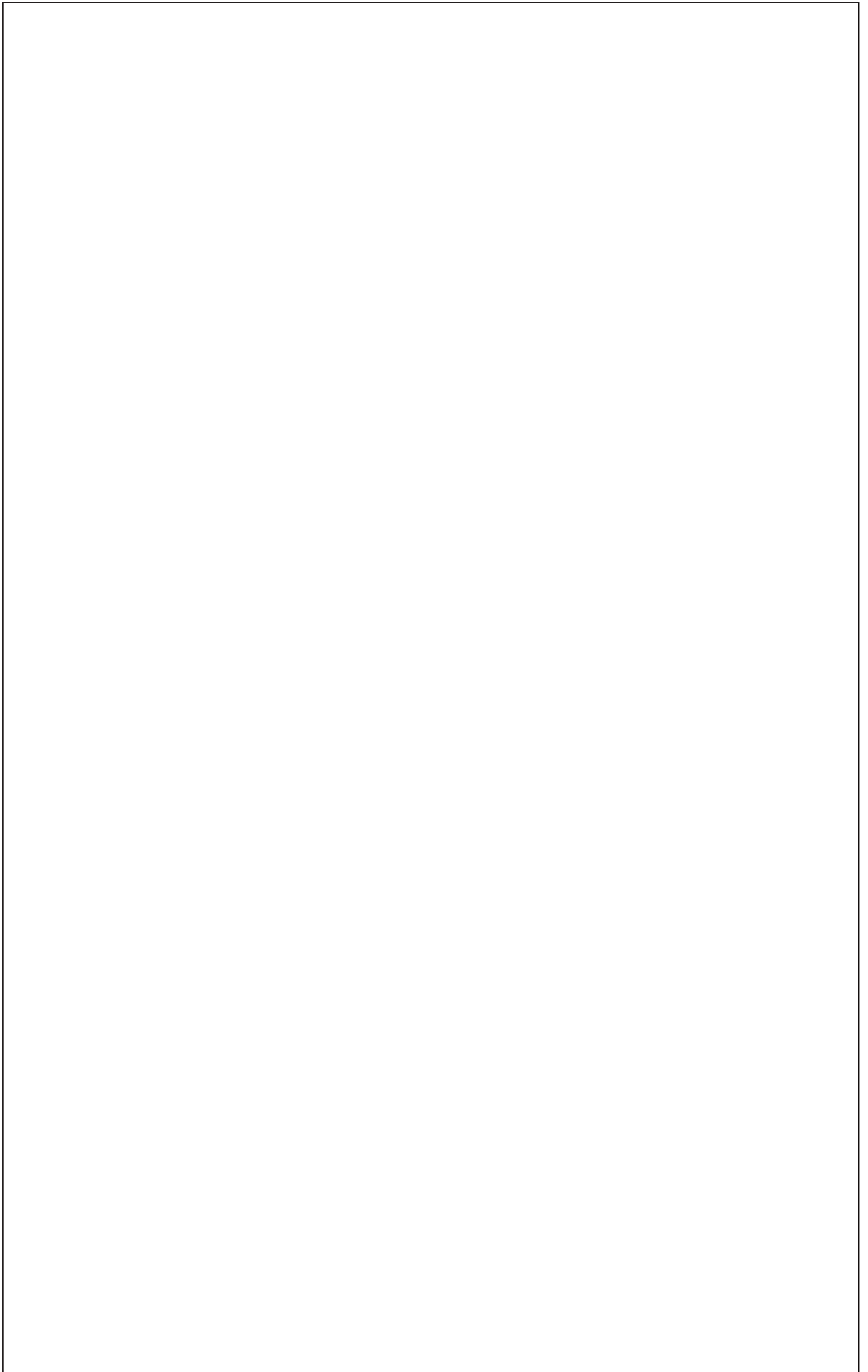
The 2001 Burchard Scholars Program Is Now Accepting Applications
On line <http://web.mit.edu/shass/burchard/application.html>

The Burchard Scholars Program brings together distinguished members of the MIT faculty and promising juniors and sophomores who have demonstrated excellence in some aspect of the humanities, arts, and social sciences. 25 Burchard Scholars are invited to a series of dinner-seminars throughout the year to discuss topics of current research or interest by faculty members, visiting scholars, and Burchard Scholars. The 2001 program begins in February.

For information or an application, contact: Dean's Office, SHASS, E51-255 (x3-8961) or the HASS Information Office, 14N-408 (x3-4443).

PLEASE NOTE - Application Deadline is December 1, 2000

Sponsored by the **DEAN'S OFFICE,**
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



CLC Previously Gave Next House Warning

Next House, from Page 1

Daniel P. Riordan '02, a Third East resident.

Among the other changes discussed was a group community service event and a wing sign-in sheet for all non-residents. In addition, on Dec. 12, the third floor wings will host an alcohol education study break with a doctor from the Medical Center.

Administration relaxes sanctions

Last Monday, the residents of the Third Floor invited Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict and Assistant Dean Carol Orme-Johnson to dinner. The students presented the changes they were making to the deans, as well as proposed amendments to their punishment.

"Dean Benedict and Dean Johnson were both really receptive to everything we presented to them," Riordan said. "They agreed to almost all the exceptions we asked for."

"The residents of the wing in question have done an excellent job of responding to the discipline imposed on them," Benedict said. "They're acting responsibly, and responsibility is my bottom line."

As a result, several of the sanctions against Third East and Third West were relaxed. In particular, the maximum number of people allowed in a room was increased from six to ten, with exceptions made for family visits. Study

groups will also be allowed in lounges.

CLC may further punish Next

One month ago, Next House received a written warning from the CLC. The warning was the result of a similar incident on Jun. 24 in which another intoxicated, underage female was hospitalized after attending a Next House room party.

MIT avoided serious action from the CLC after the June incident by introducing a multi-step plan to increase alcohol awareness and safety in all the dormitories.

"We've made good progress on that plan," Benedict said. "We've convened a working group and begun to survey other schools."

The group has created a job description and budget for a new administrative position, an Assistant Dean for Alcohol Education and Community Development. This dean will oversee alcohol education, training, and counseling. In addition, a quarterly report will be sent to the CLC shortly.

Benedict said that in this case he thinks the Institute's sanctions against Third East and Third West are sufficient. "The CLC has no need to impose any further punishment," Benedict said. "The Institute and the residents of Next House have managed the situation very responsibly."

Morris said she expects more severe disciplinary measures. "I would be surprised if it were just another warning," she said.

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MIT Department of
FACILITIES

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

LIFE SAFETY
Installation has begun in Amherst Alley on a fire protection water pipe from Burton Connor to Baker House. Work will continue for several weeks and will disrupt daytime vehicular traffic. Excavation of a trench will cause noise, vibration and some dust.
NW30 (GRADUATE RESIDENCE)
Pile installation during the next few weeks will cause noise disruption to the surrounding area. Project completion: August 2001.

STATA CENTER
Drilling of holes for tiebacks will cause noise and vibration. Soil excavation may produce a sulfur odor due to organic material in the soil. Truck traffic could cause delays on Vassar and Main Streets.
Project completion: Fall 2003.

AMES AND AMHERST STREETS
Utility relocation work will disrupt both vehicular and pedestrian traffic through the end of the year. The work is part of the Media Lab expansion. Project completion: December 2003.

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
Excavation of a fire protection main will close part of the sidewalk in front of Building 9 and affect the service road at W20. Work will take place in the evenings and on weekends.

SIMMONS HALL
Excavation of soil during the next two months will cause dust and trucks removing the material may impact traffic. Project completion: August 2002.

This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities:
web.mit.edu/facilities/www/construction/

State Releases MCAS Results

Cambridge Students Perform Poorly on Controversial Exam

By Shankar Mukherji
STAFF REPORTER

Although scores on the controversial Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) rose slightly overall across the state, scores in Cambridge schools fell sharply as the district finished 203 out of 208 districts according to *The Boston Globe*.

In a press release, Massachusetts Commissioner of Education David P. Driscoll said, "Overall, since 1998, we have seen improvement in the statewide results. Now, with the local results we can start to examine the information to find out what schools are doing well that is leading to the improvement overall across the state."

In the scores released November 21, fourth-graders again outdid children in the eighth and tenth grades, with just 13 percent failing English and 18 percent failing math.

At the eighth-grade level, 11 percent failed English and 39 percent failed math, both slight decreases from 1999.

Tenth-graders produced a significant improvement in math, with eight percent fewer falling into the failing category. Last year, 53 percent failed math, compared to 45 percent this year.

In English, the percent failing rose slightly, from 32 to 34 percent between 1999 and 2000.

MCAS controversy grows

Although the MCAS was designed to respond to a national trend toward standardized testing, it has drawn heavy criticism from several groups, most notably teachers' unions.

In early November, the Massachusetts Teachers Association opened an advertising campaign against the MCAS as a graduation requirement.

"Learning used to be about a lot of things. Imagination, creativity, discovery and dreams," a voice says as the camera scans a room full of test-takers. "But now the state says it's about one thing. A flawed and unfair test. The one-size-fits-all, high-stakes, do-or-die MCAS test."

Under current guidelines, beginning with the Class of 2003, all students will need to score at least 220 on both the Math and

English Language Arts MCAS tests as one of the conditions of graduation.

The MCAS has also come under fire from some school superintendents.

Suburban schools top cities

The *Boston Herald* reports that there was evidence that the suburban boycott movement – aimed at toppling the testing system and its high-stakes graduation requirement – had boosted failure rates.

In Lincoln-Sudbury, 19 percent failed English, up from 12 percent last year; in Arlington, 37 percent failed math, up from 34 percent last year; and in Cambridge, 74 percent of 10th graders failed the math exam, up from 61 percent last year.

Still, the traditional suburban versus urban gap in scores remains. Suburban school districts performed the best on the math and English sections of the exam, according to several analyses of the scores, while urban districts were at the bottom end of the spectrum.

The American Civil Liberties

Union also voiced its opinion against the standardized test when the data showed a substantial race gap.

According to results released by the Department of Education yesterday, black and Hispanic students failed the 2000 MCAS exams in math and English at two to three times the rate that their white counterparts did.

"Any time you have a system of measurement that flunks kids of color at those kinds of rates, there's something wrong that needs to be addressed," said John Roberts, executive director of the Massachusetts ACLU, to *The Boston Herald*. "You just can't blame it on the kids."

Still, however, state officials stand behind the MCAS.

"You can't say you have high standards for all students and then not have any opportunity for students to show what they've learned," said Boston Superintendent Thomas W. Payzant to the *Herald*. "We've got examples we can do this. Give us the time and we can do it."

Head & Tail of the Class

In a ranking of the best and worst scores on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test, Cambridge placed sixth to last.

Rank	Town	Score
1	Harvard	2219
2	Wayland	2211
3	Belmont	2209
4	Wellesley	2208
5	Winchester	2206
6 (tie)	Weston	2205
	Lexington	2205
	Needham	2205
9	Westford	2203
10	Westborough	2202
199	Brockton	2012
200	Lowell	2005
201	Fall River	2004
202	New Bedford	2003
203	Cambridge	1998
204	Boston	1989
205	Chelsea	1986
206	Springfield	1974
207	Holyoke	1955
208	Lawrence	1948

SOURCE: MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Rayna B. Zacks '04 puts up a short jump shot during the women's basketball game on Tuesday. The Engineers defeated the Wentworth Institute of Technology Leopards 72-29.

AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

Salaries in Industry Top University Pay

Salaries, from Page 1

\$25,926 in benefits. Stein left MIT for the Harvard Economics Department last summer, said Sloan School Dean Richard L. Schmalensee PhD '70.

Provost Robert A. Brown rounded out the top six at \$278,509 with \$25,162 in benefits.

Vest is the highest-paid university president in Massachusetts. At Harvard, President Neil L. Rudensine earns \$270,057 with \$28,107 in benefits. He also trails the \$330,000 and \$25,327 in benefits earned by Medical School Dean Daniel C. Tosteson. Vest cited his residence at the president's house as a major contractual benefit.

At the other end of the scale, the minimum base salary for an MIT support staff member at the lowest grade is \$17,720, assuming a 35-hour work week, according to the MIT Human Resources Office web page.

Management professors earn most

Salaries for professors of business or management tend to be at the high end across the board. At Harvard, Business School Dean Kim B. Clark earns the third highest salary at \$255,000 with \$27,327 in benefits.

Schmalensee said that salaries at the Sloan school were high, but noted that "it's the market, it's supply and demand."

He said that the salaries reported for the management professors included not only the base salaries for the nine-month academic year, but also sponsored research in the summer and extra teaching through the Executive Education program, which Schmalensee characterized as amounting to consulting on behalf of MIT.

Schmalensee said that because Harvard conducts its Executive Education program separately, their business school salaries appear lower.

Schmalensee said that the Sloan school was competing for professors not only with the business sector but also other schools. "We're not wealthy compared to other business schools so I feel

pretty constrained" by budget concerns, he said.

Academic salaries trail industry

Leaders at research institutions such as MIT could make more in industry. Vest said that leaders of "corporate organizations of comparable complexity usually receive compensations that are a large multiple of those of university presidents or provosts."

Bufferd agreed. "Compensation for treasurers and chief investment officers in either the investment management business or in other corporate entities are substantially greater than in the academy," he said.

However, Vest added, "Major leaders in government service may receive compensation that is comparable or a bit less than academic officers."

Schmalensee said that "it's hard to know" what management professors could earn in industry because "they wouldn't be doing the same thing in industry as they are here."

However, he said that in the recent past, professors in the field of finance could "double or triple" their salaries on Wall Street.

"You have to love being an academic," he said.

Corporation determines salaries

Merit increases for most high-level members of the Institute must pass through several phases before being implemented, Vest said.

First, the provost, executive vice president, or chancellor submit performance evaluations and increase recommendations to Vest "for those members of the Academic Council that report to them," Vest said.

Since the total increases must not exceed a pre-determined special budget, Vest said, "I fine tune these recommendations, iterate the entire package, and then make my own evaluation of the most senior officers and recommend their increases."

MIT's Corporation, through its salary subcommittee and executive committee, make the final approvals.

The Corporation alone, in closed session, determines the salaries of the president and the chairman, Vest said.

Technologist: Come Meet A Company That Will Change and Industry!

Who: nano

When: Thursday, November 30th, 2000

Where: Room 4-270

nano (www.nano.com) is a pioneering technology company located in Silicon Alley. Founded in 1999, nano addresses a fundamental market need: more closely align supply and demand in any networked marketplace. With a solution based on its patent-pending, distributed software architecture, nano allows e-businesses to better utilize their existing digital assets to create and enhance revenue channels. By automating the capture, delivery and integration of an e-businesses' digital assets, nano allows businesses to create relationships that previously could not exist.

A privately held company, nano was founded in July 1999 after the realization that e-businesses could become more profitable by creating an intelligent marketplace that could enable dynamic relationships in real time. The Company was founded by four ex-Wall Street investment bankers from DLJ, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley who hand-selected an executive team with management experience from IBM, PepsiCo, Procter & Gamble, Qwest, Reuters, Sony and other businesses to lead their new venture.

