Broken on New Dorm
By Perry Hwang

After a year's delay, amidst the stops and starts in construction, a formal groundbreaking ceremony took place for Simmons Hall, the new undergraduate dorm on Vassar Street.

The date for the groundbreaking was set to coincide with the MIT Corporation’s December meeting. The selection process for new members of the Corporation is underway.

Both students and faculty spoke at the groundbreaking. The surprise of the event was the announcement of an award by Chancellor Larry S. Bacow '72 for Founders Group McCants, who will be the housemaster of Simmons Hall, will receive the first ever William and Betty Leitch Associate Professor of History in Residence Endowment. This is the first time MIT has provided the backing of an endowment.

Corporation, Page 15

Protesters Attack Pfizer's Drug Policies

By Naveen Sunkavalli

About a hundred protesters gathered before Pfizer's Discovery Technology Center on Friday and presented a list of demands to the pharmaceutical giant concerning its pricing of the AIDS drug fluconazole.

The rally, organized by the Boston Global Action Network and meant to coincide with World AIDS Day, came on the heels of an agreement that Pfizer would provide the country with fluconazole for free for two years.

Protesters at the rally, who had heard the news the previous evening, expressed disappointment and vowed to press forward in their fight to get Pfizer to lower its drug prices.

"I just learned Pfizer offered a new drug in the market — the drug of fractional solutions," said Adam Taylor, a student at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

After eight months of negotiations, "they have the nerve to announce a fractional solution," said Brook K. Baker, professor of law at Northeastern University. "Pfizer should not receive praise; it should receive condemnation."

Demands include dropping patent

The list of demands made by the protesters includes dropping the prices of similar generic drugs, dropping the patent on fluconazole, and dropping a lawsuit in South Africa against companies manufacturing generic drugs.

As an example of the company's pricing inequities, Baker said that it costs Pfizer 5 cents to produce a tablet of fluconazole, but the company charges $10/tablet in the United States and $20/tablet in South Africa.

Pfizer has said in the past that it must keep its drug pricing policy so that it can maintain its level of innovation. At a press conference on Oct. 2, Pfizer Senior Medical Advisor Dr. Paul Fischthal said, "We're not going to do anything to lower prices." Dr. Fischthal said that Pfizer has made $10 million in profit from fluconazole sales.

By Melissa Cain

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By Matthew Palmer

A first year student at Harvard Medical School (HMS) apparently committed suicide last Thursday.

A small memorial to Chavez has been set up in the library, The Crimson reported. The date for an official memorial service has not yet been set.

The death follows on the footsteps of a similar tragedy on the MIT campus less than two weeks prior to the incident at Harvard, Lucy D. Crespo Da Silva '00 jumped to her death off the Westgate dormitory.

Her friends said at the time that her death was unexpected and that she appeared to be doing well. Similarly, HMS spokesperson Don Gibbons told The Crimson that "no students or faculty recognized any warning signs" with Chavez.

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By Melissa Cain

According to strong student opinions about academics during the freshman year, the Undergraduate Association passed a resolution supporting the Unified Student Response to the Report on Freshman Pass/No Record Grading and Advanced Placement Policy last fall.

The report is a compilation of open student opinions on the Freshman Pass/No Record-Grading and Advanced Placement Policy report presented by the subcommittee of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program (CUP) earlier this academic year.

The student report was "the result of months of deliberations with students," said Victoria K. Anderson '02, co-author of the report and Chair of the UA Student Committee on Educational Policy. SCEP gathered student input for the report from commentary at CUP meetings, from surveys, and feedback through the UA Council, and by holding a joint discussion session of the UA Cabinet and Council.

Anderson felt that the most important recommendation was to "delay changing the freshman
By Charles Lane

The most closely watched Supreme Court case in a generation reached an anticlimactic Monday, with the justices issuing a brief, unsigned opinion offering no resolution of the knotty legal issues that have arisen from the battle over Florida's 25 electoral votes.

Saying it did not yet have enough information upon which to base a holding of its own, the court, with no recorded dissent, threw out the Florida Supreme Court's Nov. 21 decision extending the deadline for manual recounts in the state. It then sent the case back to the Florida justices with suggestions on how to produce a further explanation of their reasoning.

"After reviewing the opinion of the Florida Supreme Court, we find that there is considerable uncertainty as to the precise grounds for the decision," the justices wrote, borrowing language from a 1946 case in which they also declined to rule definitively. "It is sufficient reason for us to decline at this time to review the federal questions asserted to be present." The opinion represented a relatively cautious way for the high court to handle one of the most politically explosive cases to come its way in years. And in the short term, the action may help Republican candi
date George W. Bush. Because it vacates the Florida court's order, it could mean that the manual recounts conducted under the Florida court's ruling would be wiped out—until at least the Florida court issues a new decision—and that Bush's margin of victory would return to 930 votes from the 537 certified under the later deadline.

The court's disposition of the case doesn't necessarily mean the justices will hear it again. Assuming the Florida court reaches the same legal conclusion but simply adds new language explaining itself, Bush would then have to appeal the case and the justices would have to agree anew to hear it, something that requires four votes.

With the legal and political ground shifting rapidly, it's possible by that time that the matter could be decided elsewhere, meaning that the court would not involve itself again. The justices told the Florida court they wanted clarification on two questions, and the Florida court on Monday afternoon asked for briefs on the issue by midweek.

The first was the extent to which the Florida court based its decision to extend the deadline on the Florida constitution's guarantee of a right to vote. If the Florida court's decision rested on the state constitution, that could run afoul of the U.S. constitution's grant of authority to state legislatures to regulate the conduct of presidential elections.

The second was how much the Florida court had considered the compatibility of changing the deadline with an 1857 law that requires presidential election disputes to be resolved according to rules already in place by Election Day.

These were the two questions that most concerned the court's more conservative justices during oral argument last Friday.

But both sides presented themselves with Monday's ruling. "When the Supreme Court of the United States unanimously vacancies the decision you sought review of, that's a win," said Theodore Olson, who represented Bush before the justices last Friday. "I'm very, very gratified they recognized that there are significant constitutional concerns with respect to what the Florida Supreme Court did."
President Clinton announced Monday the creation of the nation's biggest offshore park to preserve more than a dozen acres of the continental shelf in the Southeast to help protect seals, ocean birds and 70 percent of the nation's coral reefs.

The president's executive order establishes the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, a vast area larger than the state of Georgia combined. The order bars removal of coral from the region and caps both commercial and recreational fishing at existing levels.

The new reserve is "a special place where the sea is a living bow," Clinton said at the National Geographic Museum in Washington, where giant panels of coral from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands were displayed.

The order "marks the strongest protection for oceans ever," the president told members of the administration, who were wearing ties made from purple and yellow Hawaiian blossoms.

Though some fishing industry representatives voiced opposition to the reserve, "it sets a new global standard for reef and marine wildlife protection," the president told members of the audience, who were wearing ties made from purple and yellow Hawaiian blossoms.

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Letters To The Editor

Not an Election Article

Befores begin, for one must bear one thing abundantly clear, unlike all those other opinion articles you've been reading, this is NOT an election article. Let's face it — I think we all getting a little sick with all this unending election nonsense: you'd think we were trying to have an election between O.J. Simpson and Elias Gonzalez with the amount of air and political/legal rhetoric we've been hearing. Enough is enough. It's time for us to move on to something far more interesting.

That's not to say that I'm a political hermit. Why, back in my day (high school, that is) I was a very prominent member of the political scene. But now all the news seems to come down to an obscene number of court cases that really don't affect me (or anyone at all, really) very much.

I watch political commentators, and I have the sensation that I'm watching a football game. Everyone's sitting around the TV anxiously waiting to see who the referees are going to award possession to after the onside kick, and the different referees constantly overturning each other's decisions as to whether or not their feet were legally inbounds. Years from now, will we even care? I get the feeling that US History students will one day look at this period of time the same way I looked at all the taxes and acts passed by British Parliament during the colonial period: a whole bunch of stuff that was all essentially the same that I now have to memorize. The only people, years from now, who will closely look at the details of this election will be desperate grad students hoping to use the election as a "social commentary" in their theses. True, there's a chance that constitutional law might be changed, and we all know what a barrel of monkeys that is. A year from now I might think of the changes as being fascinating, but right now they're just overkill.

This is the election that proves that the adjective "interesting" is a relative term. I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired. Come January 20th, 2001, we'll have a president, be it Bush, Gore, or, heaven forbid, Strom Thurmond. Our country's been doing fine for a few hundred years, and I'm sure we can do just fine with whatever mountains or molehills we're currently going over. We're all just tired of hearing the incessant babble about how Bush's flopping technique is believed to be unconstitutional by members of the Gore team, so if you were hoping to maybe read some more about the Indecision 2000, then go read something else, because I certainly wouldn't be caught dead writing another article about the election. Aksay Patel '04

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, news editor, and opinion editors.

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

Tech Soapbox Misused

That a shame that The Tech's ombudsman Frank Dabek used his latest column ("Pravda We're Not," Dec. 11) to advocate not for The Tech's readers, but for his own legacy. Treating his position as a personal soapbox from which to vent over Matt Narwood's article in the latest issue of Counterpoint was wholly inappropriate. It served only to diminish the office of the ombudsman, compassing its appearance of impartiality and giving the lie to Dabek's purported "dedication to journalistic principles.

The role of the ombudsman is clearly delineated, to investigate complaints from the paper's readership, report findings, and help to achieve an equitable settlement. Nothing more. Dabek stepped outside his role to defend his own actions during his long tenure on The Tech's editorial board as News Editor and Editor in Chief.

The basic principle is that the ombudsman be independent of the paper's overseeing body. That is why the ombudsman's work is not subject to review by The Tech's editorial board. (And, consequently, why The Tech shares no blame for Dabek's bad judgment here.) So how can MIT students be expected to take seriously an invertebrate insider with the most blatant conflict of interest playing the role of impartial, independent ombudsman?

Kevin Beach G
Senior Editor, Counterpoint

To Reach Us

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

Roy Esaki

At long last the Yuletide greets us with its festive season, when the usual poppy and pageantry — and that’s a good thing — will be leading into the holiday season. Christmas has of late departed from its trite, import, corrupted by commercialization and general complacency. To an extent, this is true; the message of appreciation of the holiday season continues to be lost amid the madding crowd of Selfish, commercially driven activities.

The secularization of Christmas, however, is a more egalitarian Christmas. Commenting explicitly on religious issues is always tricky, and what makes this Christmas so much different is that a secularized Christmas season — now referred to as the Holiday Season to be politically correct — is something that people of all denominations can enjoy and appreciate.

Secularization, of course, naturally leads to the question of why we mention the name of a god or god-thing in connection to a commercialized Christmas. Historically, the mention of Christmas has been heard many times. Commercialization of Christmas is practiced by millions of dollars on bags full of obligatory store-bought feelings, the Amazon.com commercial which tends to make us effortlessly find the perfect gift for friends online, and the endless Christmas shopping craze at the airport to buy what he or she wants online, and the consequent irony that a gift certificate is actual while the gift is nowhere.

Still, we need not lament that the commercial interest is the motive force in our consumer-oriented society. While we buy, sell, consume, and purchase, the city and its environs abound in commercial interests, there would be neither the Prudential or Rockefeller Tree, nor the department stores, nor the city-lined streets, nor the department stores, nor the city-lined streets, nor the advertising in the media, and is bonded to the city. It's a Wonderful Life where all people and institutions continually exchange and trade, sell, and buy, and just as it is imperative for us to experience and enjoy the holiday season, the religious significance of the holiday is lost.

In the same vein, the religious significance of the holiday is lost. The religious significance of the holiday is lost. The religious significance of the holiday is lost.

Communicate This!

JASON H. WAFSY

The new communications requirement is MIT's hallmark step in years to endeavor to develop the skills that their careers and lives will demand.

Starting with the incoming class of 2001 and the upcoming class of 2002, the requirement will require students to take four "communications-intensive" courses. The first two of these courses that students will take will be humanities, arts, and social sciences offerings, many of which will offer specialized tutors to help MIT's freshmen and sophomores polish their writing skills.

The last thing that the Institute should do at this early stage of the communications requirement is to alienate the faculty on whom the system will depend. Even if MIT intends to fund the communications requirement fully next year, it needs to be more forceful now in assuring faculty that the funds will come before rumors to the contrary begin to erode faculty support for the initiative.

And the case for full funding transmends just faculty creating new courses. Even though only freshmen will be required to take communication-intensive courses next year, other students will likely enroll in them as well, as the list of communication-intensive courses will include many manystay of MIT's offerings in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. We cannot assume that upperclassmen and sophomores will choose suddenly not to take those courses just because they've been designated communication-intensive.

Even with what I'm calling full funding, there will be only a small increase in the "funding" level hinges on the assumption of paying each tutor $3000 per semester for 10 hours total work per week. It may not be enough to coax an undergraduate struggling with a teaching assistant job, but it falls short of what we need to attract the best writing tutors in the country. Well-trained, experienced writing tutors, many with advanced degrees. This amount of money is not enough to produce high-quality, experienced, well-trained, experienced writing tutors, many with advanced degrees. This amount of money is not enough to produce high-quality, experienced, well-trained, experienced writing tutors, many with advanced degrees.

Full funding of the communications requirement next year will result in a one-time cost of the order of $50,000 for each course. This is certainly no more than a drop in the bucket for a university whose endowment tops $6 billion. Since the Institute incurs per the communications requirement a top priority for undergraduate education, it needs to find the money to support this important institutional goal. If MIT does not fund the initiative fully, then many undergraduates are going to start wondering if our education really is a serious priority.

Judgment by God.

Regardless of one's own religious beliefs, it should be evident that there is a danger in allowing a leader's personal beliefs, not shared by a majority of his constituents, to influence the national budget, and all after an election, to play such a strong part in making crucial decisions. Many think that it is important to rely on the competence of his advisors and staff, not on their personal philosophies.

However, more important than having an able staff who can administer good advice is the ability to make the soundest policy. When that staff is run by the President himself, the nation's moral image will be at stake, whether the policies are successful or not. Even if the President is making several demands, it is a matter of concern when his policies are not at all aware when the President is not fully aware of the strength of his policies. Even if the President is making several demands, it is a matter of concern when his policies are not at all aware when the President is not fully aware of the strength of his policies.

For instance, considering it from several vantage points, Bush's triumph will be shadowed in doubt. Regardless of who the eventual victor is, the legitimacy of the win will be diminished. The logic goes that since the Bush campaign was positioned pieces featuring George W. Bush him-
Anything Is Possible
This is where the generation of new ideas lives.
Because we've built a global network of people who see possibilities where others see confusion and risk — and who know how to turn those possibilities into realities.
And by working at internet speed — propelling dozens of companies and millions of investors into the new economy.

We are propelling careers all over the world.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Asia invites juniors (class of 2002) interested in Summer Analyst opportunities in Investment Banking or Private Equity to apply online at www.msdw.com/career/recruiting.

Application Deadline: December 20, 2000

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER ASIA
the crass rat

LET'S SEE... I SWIFT THE FLOOR CHANGED ALL OF THE LIGHT BULBS.

ALPHABETIZED MY CD COLLECTION, REARRANGED THE STAR TREK POSTERS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

NOW WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO DO?

I ASSUME YOU MEAN BESIDES STUDY FOR YOUTEST.

"DO THE BLINDS TOMORROW?"

LOOK DUSTY TO YOU?

KIRKHAM 12/5

MEL'S - SCOT

SO, WHY ARE WE DOWN HERE?

C\-COUNTING THE HOUSES.

Huh?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE MIT SINGULARITY.

Huh?

SEE? THE MIT SINGULARITY IS WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION USES TO SLOW TIME TO A CRAWL DURING FINAL WEEK!

WHAT?

ARE WE GOING TO TRUST IT DOWN?

NOPE.

WHY NOT?

I'M A GRAD STUDENT, WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Tech Life
Hi there! I'm the Chicken!
And I'm the Pig!

We hope you enjoy the witty and insightful comments we make from time to time, especially mine!

If you have any comments or criticisms, please write to the author: kenlu@msn.com

Could you have just pointed to that?

Worst ever!  oo Oh!

PRICE CHECK ON TRIPLE-STRENGTH DANDURAN SHAMPOO!
PRICE CHECK ON TRIPLE-STRENGTH DANDURAN SHAMPOO!
PRICE CHECK ON TRIPLE-STRENGTH DANDURAN SHAMPOO!

I'm alive!

I'm happy to serve. It's my civic responsibility.

There's a guy here with a book.

Speaking of "Lifesavers," I could sure use one right now.

"Hey, one quiet week away from my job.
I'll have hours of quiet time to read my new book.

Jury Duty

What excuse are you planning to use?

I'm happy to serve. It's my civic responsibility.

Insanity: Good one.

by Scott Adams

MIT3K

by ToastyKen

"Meet the critics!"

Jury Duty

What excuse are you planning to use?

I'm happy to serve. It's my civic responsibility.

Insanity: Good one.

by Bill Amend

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams
WARNING! Eating gay fruit can induce homosexual feelings and or/actuallys.

TechCalendar
Visit and add events to TechCalendar online at http://techcalendar.mit.edu

Wednesday, December 6
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Excel User Group. The purpose of the MIT Excel User Group is to provide a means of support for members of the MIT community. The topic for each month's meeting will be announced in a mailing to all members of the group. The first fifteen minutes is for new members, future topics, and a Q&A followed by a thirty minute presentation to be followed with fifteen minutes of Q&A on the presentation. All levels of users are encouraged to attend. Room: 32-140. Sponsor: Excel User Group.
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Academic Resource Center. 3DRF. Room: 10-438. Sponsor: Academic Resource Center.
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Another approach for modeling radiating, MHD and. Room: 2-338. Sponsor: Statistics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Start-up Clinic. Attendees discover how to present a business plan to potential investors. At the phase II. Free food. Room: N52-390. Sponsor: Center for Advanced Visual Studies.
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Trading Game. Trade for your trip to New York to visit one of the top investment banks. Usually a dinner trip follows. free. Room: MITSFS Library, W2Q.473.Sponsor: Science Fiction Society.
8:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Jazz Night. Enjoy a night of good music, good food while socializing with your classmates and schmoozing with company recruiters!. free. Sponsor: Sloan Undergraduate Management Association.
10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. - AI-Anon Open Discussion: AI-Anon Meeting. free. Room: E25-101. Sponsor: MIT Addiction.

Thursday, December 7
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - MIT Lottery Open. free. Sponsor: Physical Education.
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Visting Artists Series: Experiment in Interactive Expression. Open discussion by various artists highlighting MIT's unique role in the development of interactive expression. Free. Room: Mit-229. Sponsor: Society for Advancing New Arts.
7:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Women's Basketball vs. Simmons College. free. Room: Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.
7:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. - BUSA General Meeting. Come to BUSA's General Meeting and learn how to pass the exams, find a job, and have fun. Room: N52-390. Sponsor: Science Fiction Society.
8:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Cloud Nine. Caryl Churchill's exploration of sexual politics examining the changing ideas of women's sexuality in the Victorian and Post-Modern periods. $2. Students, MIT community & $6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: MIT Community Players.

Friday, December 8
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Web at MIT Quick Start. Learn how to explore the Web using Netscape, and get an introduction to the Web at MIT. Room: 4-131. Sponsor: MIT Community Players.
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - AI-Anon Open Discussion: AI-Anon Meeting. free. Room: E25-101. Sponsor: MIT Addiction.
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Plasma Science and Fusion Center Seminar Series: Hyperfine-scale Turbulence and. Room: 2-108. Sponsor: MIT Plasma Science and Fusion Center.
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - MIT's Annual Messhall Ball. William Cutter, conductor with professional musicians, and section directors will perform under Loy Tyrrell. Scores provided. Refreshments served. free. Room: Twenty Chimneys.
4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Auidity and Blurred Boundaries in Men's Fantasies. The full title of this lecture is "Auidity and Blurred Boundaries in Men's Fantasies With Pornography." This is cosponsored by Women's Studies and the MIT Community Players. Room: N2-290. Sponsor: Center for Advanced Visual Studies.
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Women's Ice Hockey vs. Buffalo State College. free. Room: Johnson Rink. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Investments 101. Come and have your questions about investing and trading answered by representatives from the top Investment Benefit. free. Sponsor: Sloan Undergraduate Management Association.
7:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. - BUSA General Meeting. Come to BUSA's General Meeting and learn how to pass the exams, find a job, and have fun. Room: N52-390. Sponsor: Science Fiction Society.
TRUE OR FALSE?

25% OF PEOPLE SAY THEY CAN DETECT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOW EACH NOSTRIL PERCEIVES SMELL.

AMERICANS EAT APPROXIMATELY 350 SLICES OF PIZZA PER SECOND.

7 OUT OF 100 AMERICANS HAVE FLOSSED THEIR TEETH WITH THEIR HAIR.

MEN BURP 4.7 TIMES PER DAY WHILE WOMEN BURP 2.1 TIMES PER DAY.

8% OF COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE NOT WATCHED T.V. IN THE LAST WEEK.

NEARLY 2/3 OF COLLEGE STUDENTS DRINK ON AVERAGE LESS THAN ONE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PER DAY.*

ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR AMERICANS HAS APPEARED ON TV.

3.9% OF WOMEN DON'T WEAR ANY UNDERWEAR. 6.4% OF MEN GO COMMANDO.

*SOURCE: CORE INSTITUTE 1999

GUESS WHAT? EVERY ONE OF THESE IS TRUE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE MAKING RESPONSIBLE CHOICES ABOUT DRINKING. THANKS FOR MAKING INTELLIGENT CHOICES THE NORM.

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BOOK REVIEW

Winter's Heart
Another Addition to a Great Series

By Jane Maduram
STAFF WRITER

Winter's Heart, by Robert Jordan, is an exciting continuation of the Wheel of Time series. Its popularity, not excluding its position as #1 on the New York Times Bestsellers List, is demonstrated by the fact that the Kendall/MIT COOP has run out of stock of this book at least twice within the past two weeks. The series was initially projected to span three books; it is currently nine books long and still going. Nonetheless, this novel is a wonderful addition to the series.

My own discovery of Robert Jordan occurred while I was in the midst of high school senioritis; the books in this series run an average of two inches in the soft cover editions, so it was quite interesting to start a book of the series in the morning and work my way through the book in class until the end of the school day. What made the series so interesting even then was Jordan's mastery of the nuances that make life real. Jordan is a beautiful writer in that most characters, even the relatively minor ones, are nicely delineated by their clothing, accents, or behavioral mannerisms. While some of the ideas he works with are stereotypes — such as Lan, the typical overachieving/hardened military man — Jordan nonetheless manages to flesh out believable, three-dimensional people. This is particularly impressive in light of the volume of people that pass through the pages of each book.

Jordan achieves believability in part through his writing style, through which he passes comments, criticism, and forewarnings. The conversational style is helped in large measure by Jordan's eye for detail. A reader can only interpret events from the writer's clues, and Jordan is quite good at noting what people look for when they see another person or place. The dialogue is quite realistically portrayed, as are the tensions within groups, the created societies, and the invented accents. An additional point in Jordan's favor is his subtlety. Metaphors and symbols run rampant through the book, but rarely do they interfere with the plot. More often, these metaphors and symbols are hidden within the details, making multiple readings of the book rewarding.

Perhaps more interesting in the series, however, is the way Jordan deftly weaves plot lines together. The way he jumps between three or four different plot lines can be awkward at first for the reader. The transitions make sense, though, even if they are fairly predictable. As usual, Jordan closes a few plot lines and opens yet more; some of the opened plot lines are so vague and obscure as to be irritating, but this does not happen very often. What is quite remarkable is the fact that Jordan has written so much within this series and is yet able to keep the narrative relatively cohesive.

Overall, this book is much, much more satisfying than The Path of Daggers, Jordan's previous book. A few new characters are introduced, the most significant being the Daughter of the Moon. While I'm not quite sure that the midpoint of the series has been reached, many of the odd prophesies brought up earlier in the series seem to be resolving themselves. In terms of plot, quite a few questions are brought to a satisfying close (I'd explain, but spoilers tend to be unappreciated). New readers really shouldn't start with this book, though, as the structure will be quite confusing. In those cases, it'd be probably best to work through the books in order: The Eye of the World, The Great Hunt, The Dragon Reborn, The Shadow Rising, Fires of Heaven, Lord of Chaos, A Crown of Swords, The Path of Daggers, and then, finally, Winter's Heart. The books are long, but they are also tremendously rewarding. Good luck!

Concert Choir
Vocalists entertain with works by Copland, Bernstein

The MIT Concert Choir's performance of Aaron Copland's Old American Songs (above) featured soloist Robert M. McPhie '93. David Brenton Allen (right) soloed during Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms. The Concert Choir, under Music Director William Cutter, performed with MIT's Wind Ensemble, directed by Frederick Harris, Jr., Saturday, December 2 in Kresge Auditorium. In addition to Songs and Psalms, the choir also performed Four Motets and Canticle of Freedom, both also by Aaron Copland.
MIT Dance Troupe's Fall Concert

By Bess Rouse

Returning this year to perform in sold-out venues, dance troupes have served the inspiration on campus as always, with their varied and energetic performances. The choreographers and dancers in this year's show, "The Dance of the Troupe," a show sponsored by Rabbit and Bucky, brought to life a variety of styles and concepts, from the fiery and exuberant "Scream," choreographed by Sarah Funderburk '04, to the soothing and contemplative "Sanctuary," choreographed by Haixia Lin G and Ailin Yang '02.

In the first act's "Battle of the Boogie," Vikas Sodhani '00, Jun Liu '01, and James Camp '01 took the stage to perform "Bleeding Kindness," choreographed by Rebecca Lipon '00. This piece, set to Sisqo's "Uncensored," showcased the dancers' precision and energy, with a focus on the importance of teamwork. The music and choreography worked together to create a seamless experience, leaving the audience on the edge of their seats.

In the second act, Eric Gunther continued the "poppin'" theme with "One Wild Night," choreographed by Rebecca Lipon '00. This piece, set to Michael Jackson's "Thriller," allowed the dancers to showcase their technical ability and precision, as well as their ability to work together as a cohesive unit. The lighting and music created a palpable sense of excitement, leaving the audience in awe of the dancers' skill and dedication.

The show concluded with another hip-hop piece, "Partyin' with the Girls," choreographed by Rebecca Lipon '00. This piece, set to Sisqo's "Thong Song," allowed the dancers to "poppin'" ability. After the dancers finished, the audience erupted in applause, recognizing the talent and hard work of the dancers and choreographers.

The MIT Dance Troupe's Fall Concert was a testament to the power of dance, showcasing the diverse talents of the dancers and choreographers. It was a night of energy, precision, and creativity, leaving the audience looking forward to the next performance.

In order of appearance...

6: Carmen Carreras
5: James Camp
8: Rebecca E. Upon '03
7: James Camp
3: Carmen Carreras
1: Emily Lin
4: Emily Lin
2: Emily Lin

Credit:
Photography: Jordan Carreras
Design: James Camp

PHOTO CREDITS
6: Carmen Carreras
5: James Camp
8: Rebecca E. Upon '03
7: James Camp
3: Carmen Carreras
1: Emily Lin
4: Emily Lin
2: Emily Lin

Photo 1: Dancers with their "Bleeding Kindness" costumes
Photo 2: Dancers with their "Sanctuary" costumes
Photo 3: Dancers performing "Bleeding Kindness"
Photo 4: Dancers performing "Sanctuary"
Photo 5: Dancers performing "One Wild Night"
Photo 6: Dancers performing "Uncensored"
Photo 7: Dancers performing "Scream"
Photo 8: Dancers performing "Thong Song"
THEM
Conductor Frederick MIT Wind Ensemble

MUSIC REVIEW
State of the Airwaves
Megadeth, Matthews, and Mind-Blowin'

By Dan Katz

I could come with a clever pithy introductory paragraph here ... or I could pass Algebra. Decisions, decisions.

Come to think of it, I don't know how much more clever or pithy I'm going to get than this, so let's just move things right along.

Nice to see some life in the concert schedule again. Our first attraction is unfortunately one of those "free" win-your-tickets-in-the-radio shows I abhor. It's a WFNX holiday concert with SR-71, Nickelback, and Lifehouse tomorrow night. If you really want to go, turn on your radio and pick up the phone. You've got a better chance at getting in there than seeing the Mighty Mighty Bosstones; their annual five-night-stand starts tomorrow at Atlas, and is sold out all week. Thursday night, Dido, currently riding a wave of fame thanks to her backup vocal on Eminem's "Stan," opens for the Bangles at the Orpheum, while Seventeen plays yet another hometown gig at Bill's Bar.

Thursday and Friday, the Magnetic Fields play a pair of shows at the Somerville Theater. They may be drowned out Friday by loud noises from Worcester, where Megadeth, Sevendust, and Staind will fill the Convention center with distortion. Saturday there is a pair of cult favorites in town: PJ Harvey does the Paradise Rock Club, while Buffalo Tom shows up at the Middle East. Finally, Monday night, there's no better place to breathe in the mainstream like the Fleet Center, as Dave Matthews band rolls into town. Maybe they'll record a seventeenth live album.

A handful of records hit the shelves today, the most probable being the final release by the standard lineup of Rage Against The Machine, a covers album called Renegade. Alice In Chains also has a nonstandard disc out a record called Live that consists of ... well, you figure it out. Queen fans can get excited about Solo, a 5-CD set of tracks by the late Freddie Mercury, and no one can get excited about Vanilla Ice's new release, Mind Blowin'.

Since I'm too lazy to write a full-fledged concert review, I'll do some ranting about the Christmas Rave here. Unable to get tickets to the Dandy Warhol/SR-71 show Wednesday night, I went to the Paradise for a bill of Dyard, VAST, and 6Gig, and I think it probably worked out for the best. I enjoyed the Dandy's gig at Atlas a few months ago, but if you like Orgy at all, you truly need to see them live - they re-create the intensity of their music very well and complement it with appropriately eerie and futuristic light sets, and apparel. Most importantly, vocalist Jay Gordon was a born bandleader, pumping his mic stand to the music and generally keeping the crowd in the palm of his hand. The band opened with a raging rendition of "Suckerpunch" and moved on through highlights of both the band's albums, closing their set with their infamous cover of New Order's "Blue Monday" before a slightly anticlimactic encore. Fellow rockers Crazy Town are clearly fans of the band - they showed up in the audience during the set, having just played at the Avalon.

The opener were successors in their own right; the one-man orchestral goth-rock of VAST doesn't seem like it would translate well to the stage. At times, guitarists and sampled were sufficient, such as in the band's biggest singles, "Touched" and "Free." However, occasional numbers like "My TV And You" were bogged down in random power chords that drowned out the melodies, and front man Jon Crosby seemed more concerned with projecting a pained expression than connecting with his audience. 6Gig, a quartet of newcomers from Portland, Maine, were much more laid-back than the other two bands, and while their songs were somewhat basic, the aggressiveness of the music and vocals gave them life, and all had their three studio tracks, I think they are fan superior in a live environment.

It's that time again; as the calendar year comes to an end, I'll be ranting about what I thought was the best music had to offer in 2000, but I wouldn't want to provide a one-dimensional perspective (even though that's essentially what I do every year); hence the existence of the Airwaves Reader Awards. We'll keep it simple this year: vote for your Top Three Favorite Albums of the year, Top Three Favorite Singles, and Least Favorite Vegetarian Newspaper Columnist. Send your ballots to airwaves@the-tech.mit.edu, preferably with a clear subject line like "Voting" or "Awards" or "Hey, Dan, your refrigerator's running!" Any other comments you might have can be appended, or sent to the same address. I shall await your input, and in the meantime invite you to have a great week and keep expanding your horizons.

Megadeth (from left, Jimmy DeGrasso, Dave Mustaine, David Ellefson, and Marty Friedman) will fill the Worcester Centrum Center with distortion this Friday with the help of Sevendust and Staind.

Conductor Frederick Harris leads the MIT Wind Ensemble in Emile Barvenik's Divertissement last Friday in Kresge.
December 5, 2000

MIT Endows First Housemaster Post

Corporation, from Page 1

ment to a residence chair position. “Everyone was fairly thrilled to hear about it,” said Jeffrey C. Roberts ‘92, a member of the Founders Group.

McCants was also excited about the new developments. Apparently the arrangements for the endowment had just been finalized that morning. “I was most encouraged by talking with the members of the corporation. There seems to be a lot of support on taking the residential side of campus affairs very seriously... That mind set wasn’t around a decade ago,” she said.

Student representation at the dorm’s groundbreaking was small. Since the event was arranged to coincide with the Corporation meeting and had already been delayed due to the illness of the wife of Richard P. Simmons ’53, there weren’t many students present, McCants said. Even so, in the limited space of the tent every seat was occupied and there was some student representation in the form of the Founders Group and the Residential System Steering Committee.

McCants is enthusiastic about having “a more festive, party-like event” for students towards the end of the year, “when the timing is better... not so close to finals.” She also mentioned that “it would be fun to have a party in a half-built structure,” but she conceded that safety concerns would probably render that impossible.

Corporation seeks members

At their meeting last week, the Corporation and the Alumni Association were gearing up to find new members.

R. Robert Wickham ’93 is serving his last year in the Corporation and postcards for nominations were sent out this November to members of the classes of 1999, 2000, and 2001 before May. They then narrow down the nominees to between 6 and 12 candidates who are then put on a ballot that gets mailed to the alumni of 1999, 2000, and 2001 before May.

Online balloting is also going to be implemented for the first time this year.

Once these ballots are in, the candidate with the most votes will be put on a final ballot of approval which is addressed at the June 8th Corporation meeting. If the candidate is approved he will become a Corporation member for the next five years effective July 1, 2001.

Bonnie Jones, Alumni Recognition program manager also commented on the process. “We’re working to improve our communication with the students and alumni who are eligible with the hope that we will see greater participation and interest.” The Corporation also tries to maintain contact with current students through the Corporation Joint Advisory Committee which consists of one third graduates, one third undergraduates, and on third Corporation members.

The Sloan Subject Prioritization System

Bidding Dates for Spring, 2001 Classes

http://sloanbid.mit.edu

Institute-wide bidding for Sloan courses: Opens 12:00 p.m., Monday, December 11 Closes 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 15

Waitlist-Only Round for closed classes: Opens 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 20 Closes 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 5

Waitlists for Closed Sloan Classes are part of the Course Bidding System, beginning in Round II.

Successful bids appear on your Registration Form on February 5 and will be posted on the bidding website as of December 20 -- write down your password to check results!
Graduating Class Anticipates Unusually Strong Job Market

By Jennifer Krishnan

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START YOUR DAY RIGHT WITH BREAKFAST FROM LAVERDE'S

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on an english muffin or white, wheat or rye bread or have it on a fresh baked bagel. Two scrambled eggs with your choice of bacon, sausage or ham.

The Bagel Menu
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Plain Bagel 65¢

Toasted Bagel w/ Cream Cheese $1.39

Bagel w/ Peanut Butter & Jellly 89¢

Bagel w/ Cream Cheese & Lox $2.59

Bagel w/ Cream Cheese & Other Cheese $1.39

Bagel w/ Vague Scotchion or Lox Spread $1.69

Bagel w/ Bacon $1.59

Bagel w/ Cheese & Bacon $2.39

Sandwich on Bagel $3.50

The second annual MIT vs. BU 5-on-S bowling match ended up in an upsetting defeat this past Saturday, Beaver Bowlers Jennifer J. Ng '01, Daryn T. Harkins '01, Robert M. Hardy G, Jason E. Mueller '04 (above), and Christopher B. Buenrostro '04 lost by a combined pin count of 462 pins. The team average per game was 153.9 with a high score of 210 bowled by Hardy.
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Final date for return of application is
FRIDAY, DEC. 15, 2000 AT 5:00PM

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UA Council Suggests Changes To Advanced Placement Policy

UA, from Page 1

pass/no record system until after all the other changes had been made [and especially] until after the 2002 change in housing policy has been instituted.

The report begins by describing values students find important to the educational policies focusing on the freshman year. It then presents key statements drawing from these values, and makes recommendations for changes to pass/no record grading and advancement placement policy.

With regards to advancement placement credit, the report recommends "that departments publicize their own exams more so students realize that they do not have to spend the money for AP tests, especially if they will not get credit for them anyway," Anderson said.

The report also introduces the idea of an exploratory subject for sophomores to help ease the transition into grades.

SCEP recommends that sophomores be allowed to designate one subject in the fall term as "exploratory." Students would be able to change this subject to Pass/D/F status if they do not want the class to be counted towards their major.

Anderson said the report also recommends "revamping the fifth week flag system to provide unofficial, non-binding grades to help advisors and students know how they are doing."

Other changes that SCEP suggests include giving associate advisors grades based on attendance to their freshman seminars to increase accountability and make sure that freshman advisors have up-to-date information on classes that freshmen usually take.

In other business, the UA Council approved the UA's spring budget and the UA Finance Board's recommendations for allocations during Independent Activities Period and spring.

The UA Council also passed a resolution of appreciation of the life of Lucy D. Crespo Da Silva '00 as well as a resolution offering condolences for President and Mrs. Charles M. Vest on the recent loss of Mrs. Vest's father.

Largest Spring UA Finboard Allocations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
<th>Amount Received</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hillel</td>
<td>$3,805.00</td>
<td>$1,950.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APAC: Grains of Rice</td>
<td>$6,761.00</td>
<td>$1,632.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equestrian Team</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance Troupe</td>
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<td>Movements in Time</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MITGSP</td>
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Source: Undergraduate Association

Globe Reported Death Before Kin Were Told

Chavez, from Page 1

On Friday, The Globe reported Chavez's death, including her name. The Globe wrote that it had gotten the name from "an e-mail from a Harvard dean." The paper continued, "Harvard officials would not confirm her identity until her family was notified."

Even though it turned out that The Globe's information was correct, it may have been released before the university officially notified Chavez's family.

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Pfizer Defends High Fluconazole Prices

Pfizer, from Page 1

or Mike Magee said that the company spends $5 billion on research and development and that the company must make such sizable investments in order to "provide the hope that something can be discovered to make a difference in patients' lives."

In addition, in a press release on its web site <http://www.pfizer.com> Pfizer maintains the variations in its drug pricing around the world are due to market supply and demand and exchange rates, and that there are many products which vary in their prices from country to country.

Pfizer prices are also markedly lower in countries, such as India and Thailand, which have more lax patent policies, allowing manufacturers of generic drugs to prosper.

Martha Herbert, in the department of neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital, said, however, that Pfizer spends most of its profit on marketing and advertising and not on R&D as the company claims. "Pfizer is simply "making back money on advertising," she said.

Taylor also said that Pfizer should have an agreement covering other countries in Africa, Asia, and South Africa as well.

Alain Mignault, a visiting scholar at the Media Laboratory, was at the rally and felt that the "main issues aren't addressed" in Pfizer's agreement with South Africa. "The medication could be produced for a lot cheaper."

David L. Hu, a senior in Mechanical Engineering, said that he heard of the Pfizer rally through flyers in the Student Center. "I had some reservations," Hu said, but he believes that there is some truth in that Pfizer's pricing has a lot to do with profit rather than innovation.

FRESHMAN ALERT! PAID UROP OPPORTUNITIES in CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering offers funded freshman UROPs for Spring 2001.

See the Course One homepage (web.mit.edu/civeenv/html/academic_programs/undergrad/urop_opportunities.html) on the web for a list of UROP projects.

Or see Cynthia Stewart in the Academic Programs Office, Room 1-281.

If you don't find a project you like, propose your own.

Funding is available for a significant number of freshman UROPs, first come, first served.
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