

AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

Dean of Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert prepares his dish during the Iron Chef Cook-off at Hacklink 2K1 Friday night. Colbert competed against Executive Vice President John R. Curry.

Devereaux Elected UA President

Election Draws Largest Turnout In Eight Years

By Melissa S. Cain
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

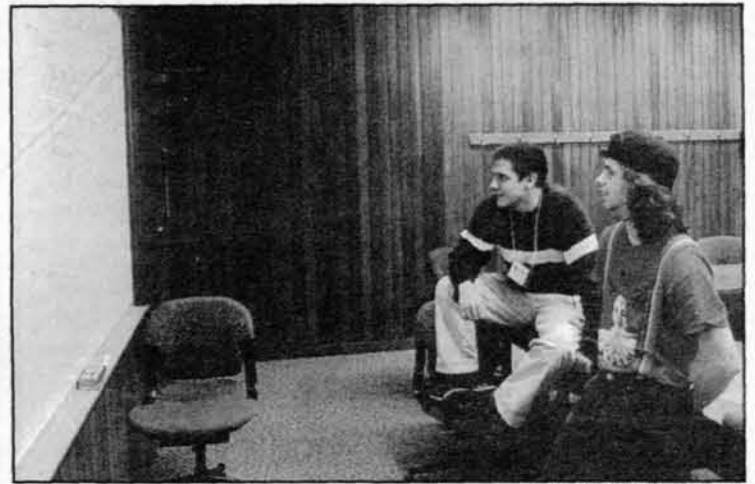
The undergraduate population elected Jaime E. Devereaux '02 and Allison L. Neizmik '02 Undergraduate Association President and Vice President last week.

A total of 1,726 students voted in the election, approximately 40 percent of the student body. Online votes accounted for 1,518 of those votes. Election Commissioner Zhelinrentice L. Scott '99 said "this is the second largest voter turnout in history."

Scott attributes the heavy voter turnout to the huge effort the Election Commission and the MIT community put forth to advertise the election and pre-election activities via word of mouth, regular and drop posters, MIT cable, Lecture Series Committee Slides, and a spotlight on *web.mit.edu*.

"I think the Election Commission worked really hard getting the word out," said President-elect Devereaux. "They did as much as they could to get information out to the voters. They put the platforms on the web and planned all the debates. They did a really good job."

Vice President-elect Neizmik attributes the high voter turnout to



NATHAN COLLINS—THE TECH

Undergraduate Association Election Commission member Terry A. Gaige '04 and UA presidential candidate Rhett Creighton '02 survey the results of Friday night's vote count.

the Election Commission as well, saying "they did a good job publicizing."

This is the first time since MIT has been keeping record that both offices have been filled by women.

Devereaux/Neizmik elected

Neizmik said she believes that one of the main reasons they won was that there were "a lot of people behind us," and added that their friends' "word of mouth was a great asset."

Devereaux also believes that their success is due to their accessibility to their constituency. "I think we were good about having conver-

sations with people and answering their questions," she said.

According to Devereaux, the main issue she and Neizmik are focusing on is student input and increasing interaction between students and the UA. "We want to get more students interested and involved," said Devereaux, "so that the UA is more effective as a representative body."

They are also working on expanding Saferide and getting more funding for events — especially large events — because "they add to the community by involving broad and diverse groups of students,"

UA Elections, Page 20

Following Protest, Coordinator Will Not Live at Senior House

By Jennifer Krishnan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Residential coordinators will not live in Senior House next year, announced Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict at a meeting with concerned Senior House residents.

"There will be none of these people living at Senior House next year," Benedict said at the Friday afternoon meeting amidst cheers from the audience. The coordinator slated to be housed in Senior House will instead live at Eastgate.

Assistant Dean for Residential Programs Katherine G. O'Dair said that it was impossible to house a residential coordinator in Senior House because the the space for the coordinator had already been

promised to a handicapped student.

Coordinators will also live in Next House and NW30, the new dormitory for graduate students which will open in Fall 2001.

Burton-Conner was also mentioned as a possible home for a residential coordinator. However, Burton-Conner president Kiwah K. Kendrick '02 said that the dormitory was unlikely to accept the proposal in its current state. Benedict and O'Dair will meet with Burton-Conner tomorrow.

The Friday meeting was organized to deal with the negative student response to the residential coordinator proposal, which the deans announced earlier this month. About 75 students joined Benedict,

O'Dair, Senior House Housemaster Henry Jenkins, and Director of Housing Operations Karen A. Nilsson for the discussion.

DSL will rewrite job description

Benedict and O'Dair also agreed to rewrite the job description for residential coordinators. "The language [in the original proposal] was atrocious," Benedict said.

O'Dair added that coordinators would not be granted any disciplinary or judicial power.

Under the new proposal, residential coordinators will serve both graduate students and undergradu-

Coordinators, Page 21

Undergraduate Advising Study Results Show Varying Quality Among Departments

By Eun J. Lee
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

The quality of undergraduate academic advising varies enormously in different departments, according to a survey presented by the UA Subcommittee on Advising and Faculty-Student Relations at the Undergraduate Association meeting yesterday.

"There's no absolute way to quantify the quality of advising, but

this is definitely a step in the right direction," said UA President Peter A. Shulman '01.

In the survey conducted by the subcommittee, 480 upperclassmen registering for classes in Du Pont Gymnasium on Feb. 5 were anonymously polled on the quality of their academic advising. The newly released report shows the results from six of the eight questions in the survey. It also ranks

departments in order from highest to lowest in overall student satisfaction.

The Departments of Nuclear Engineering, Urban Studies and Planning, Aeronautics and Astronautics, and Civil and Environmental Engineering consistently ranked among the top in student satisfaction.

Advising, Page 19

SIPB Members' Hack Draws Legal Controversy

By Brian Loux
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Usually six lines of text won't get you more than a poor poem, but it thrust Keith J. Winstein '03 and Marc H. Horowitz '92 into the middle of a major controversy. The two members of the Student Information Processing Board created a very small program that decodes DVDs and has reopened the debate on computer code, copyright laws, and freedom of speech.

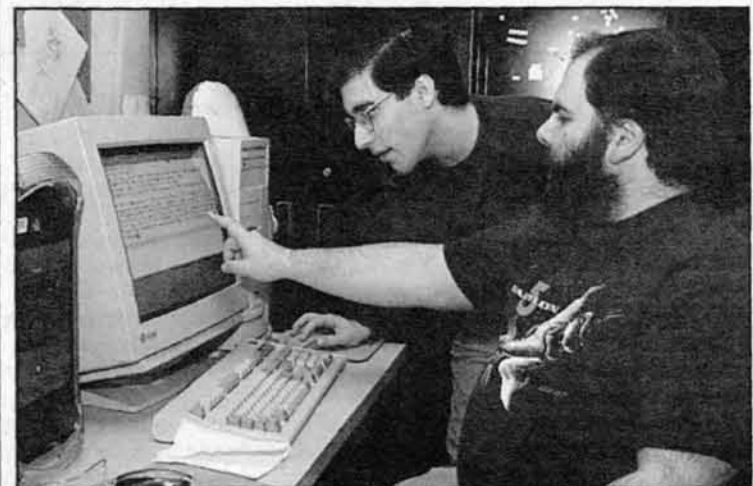
"We see source code as a recipe for a process, like a cookbook recipe is a process for food, and we

think that is protected" by the First Amendment, Winstein said.

As expected, the program has drawn fire from the Motion Picture Association of America, the trade association for the motion picture industry.

"It would not make sense to me to design a code that purportedly breaks current copyright regulations," said MPAA spokeswoman Emily Kutner. She said that the MPAA would say nothing further than "we are aware of the code and

DVD, Page 18



SEPHIR HAMILTON—THE TECH

Keith J. Winstein '03 and Marc H. Horowitz '92 discuss future improvements to their code in the Student Information Processing Board office last night.

ARTS

Vladimir Zelevinsky reviews the American Repertory Theatre's presentation of *Mother Courage and her Children*.

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Comics

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A biotech conference was held on campus this weekend.

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WORLD & NATION

Guerrillas in Kosovo Establish Deal Implementing Temporary Cease-Fire

THE WASHINGTON POST

The commander of an ethnic Albanian guerrilla group that has been attacking government police forces signed a temporary cease-fire Monday, a key concession that Western officials hope will ease the return of Yugoslav army troops to a buffer zone near the Kosovo border.

The commander signed the agreement shortly after NATO forces in Kosovo and Yugoslav officials reached final terms for Yugoslav reoccupation of a section of the buffer zone, created after the 1999 Kosovo war to keep NATO and Yugoslav troops apart. The Yugoslav troops could move in several days.

Inside the zone, where most of the population is ethnic Albanian, many residents said they would leave if Yugoslav troops arrived. And rebel soldiers said that despite the temporary cease-fire negotiated by their leaders, they would eventually resume their fight for freedom from Yugoslavia, which is predominately Serb.

"We will not let them come here, that's why we have uniforms and guns," one 18-year-old rebel said after the cease-fire agreement was announced on radio. "We started down this road, and we will follow it to the end."

Clinton Administration's Clemency Probe to Include Last-Minute Cases

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Rejecting the idea of an independent counsel, the Justice Department has created a special prosecution team to investigate all the last-minute clemencies granted by outgoing President Clinton, including the commutation for convicted Los Angeles drug dealer Carlos Vignali, officials said Monday.

The decision by Attorney General John Ashcroft, described by Justice Department officials as unprecedented in its scope, empowers U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White of New York to vastly broaden her review of three controversial cases to encompass all 177 pardons and commutations granted by Clinton on his last day in the White House.

"She is going to be doing the investigation of all of these cases," a Justice Department official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "It is yet to be decided if she will refer some evidence to other jurisdictions for prosecution, if that develops."

White's office already is investigating three cases with direct ties to her Manhattan-based district: the pardon of fugitive commodities broker Marc Rich, commutations for four Hasidic Jews convicted of fraud, and the allegation that the president's brother received up to \$200,000 for promising to help a Texas man win a pardon.

Experts Question Why Cheney Didn't Get Radiation Angioplasty

LOS ANGELES TIMES

In the aftermath of Vice President Dick Cheney's most recent hospitalization for heart troubles, some cardiology experts are questioning why he was not treated with a new radiation technology that they say could reduce his chances of a recurrence by more than half.

The technology, approved by the Food and Drug Administration in November, is not yet available in many hospitals — including George Washington University Medical Center, where Cheney was treated March 5. But he could have been sent to neighboring Washington Hospital Center, which has performed more of these procedures than any facility in the world.

Dr. Ron Wacksman, director of experimental angioplasty at Washington Hospital Center, said that "almost all" patients with Cheney's condition are treated with radiation. "We know it works," he said.

However, he added, because it is such a new technology, most patients "are treated conventionally," as Cheney was, rather than with radiation.

Stock Market Plunge Renews Fears of Oncoming Recession

By Peter G. Gosselin

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

For months, the U.S. economy has been batted about by the contending forces of improvement and decline. Only last week, it showed strength in an area where many had expected weakness — job growth.

But chalk Monday up for trouble.

By wiping out more than a half trillion dollars of paper profits, the day's stock plunge revived fears that a downward spiral of contracting wealth, shrinking investment and sharply slowing consumption could sweep the economy into recession.

That put economic policy-makers in a box. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan had begun to suggest that the economy and financial markets might not be quite as entwined as previously thought — that the former might be able to recover even if the latter didn't.

But now, "he's got to be worried that a collapse in market psychology could spill over into the rest of the economy," said David M. Jones,

chairman and chief economist of Aubrey G. Lanston & Co. in New York. "He'll probably have to cut interest rates more than he otherwise would because of this."

Greenspan and the central bank are in an even more immediate quandary if stocks keep falling. The Fed chairman has made clear he wants to hold off any further rate cuts until the bank's policy-making body, the Federal Open Market Committee, meets next Tuesday.

Any cut before then would be widely interpreted as aimed at shoring up share prices, something the Fed does not want to be seen as doing. The central bank's job is to control inflation and maintain stability, not ensure investors good returns.

But if the market continues to slide, analysts said policy-makers will have little choice but to act. "At some point, this takes consumer confidence and the economy down with it," warned Mark Zandi, economist with Philadelphia-based Economy.com.

The link between stocks and growth has been one of the most

hotly debated issues of the nation's decade-long boom. When the economy ballooned in the mid- and late 1990s, many analysts said stock gains were a principal cause, providing new capital for business, new wealth for families and a sense of near-boundless hope. As share prices have tumbled in the last year, many have warned of the reverse.

In round numbers, rising stock prices added \$14 trillion to Americans' wealth between the start of 1995 and the start of 2000, according to Pierre Ellis, a managing director of Decision Economics Inc. in New York. Falling prices since then have trimmed the gain by between \$4 trillion to \$5 trillion, Ellis said.

Analysts said that the problem with Monday's stock plunge is that it pushed key market indexes into hard-to-overlook terrain. For example, the once-hot NASDAQ Composite Index has now lost 62 percent of its peak value. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 Index is off 23 percent — more than the 20 percent that defines a bear market.

Navy Warplane Accidentally Bombs, Kills Six in Kuwait

By Paul Richter

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

A Navy warplane on a training exercise in Kuwait accidentally dropped a bomb on a group of military observers Monday, killing five U.S. troops and one New Zealander. Five other U.S. military personnel and two Kuwaitis were injured, authorities said.

The F/A-18 Hornet aircraft dropped the 500-pound unguided munition at the Udairi training range, about 30 miles from the Iraqi border in northwest Kuwait. The fighter was based on the carrier Harry S Truman, which has been patrolling the Persian Gulf, and was taking part in quarterly U.S.-Kuwaiti training exercises, officials said.

The U.S. dead were from the

U.S. Army and Air Force, officials said, though it was unclear how many were with each service. Two of the injured Americans were immediately treated and released; three others remained in the hospital, but military authorities said they did not have life-threatening injuries.

Authorities did not identify the U.S. victims, pending the notification of relatives. The New Zealander was Acting Maj. John McNutt, 27, New Zealand officials said.

The accident came at an especially difficult time for the Navy, which is still struggling to overcome the diplomatic fallout from the fatal Feb. 12 collision of the submarine Greeneville and a Japanese fishing vessel off Hawaii. That accident killed nine people and has strained the U.S.-Japanese relationship.

The Navy's performance also was questioned after the Oct. 12 bombing of the destroyer Cole in Yemen, which killed 17 sailors. A review in that case found many security shortcomings, although senior officials concluded that even if those mistakes had not been made, the terrorists still probably would have succeeded.

Most Kuwaitis strongly support the U.S. presence in their country as a defense against neighboring Iraq. But especially because of the injuries to the Kuwaitis, the accident is likely to spark calls from others in the Arab world for a reduced U.S. presence in the region, some U.S. officials predicted.

The incident may also raise questions about the Navy's hopes to begin live-fire bombing exercises near Big Sur, Calif.

WEATHER

Confusing Ice

By Greg Lawson

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

This morning's sleet and freezing rain mix will shift to rain and slowly end by late this afternoon or early evening.

Many people often confuse hail and sleet (and sometimes freezing rain). The confusion is understandable as hail is relatively rare and does look roughly similar to coarse sleet, however, hail and sleet are very different in nature.

Sleet and freezing rain are winter weather phenomena. Their formation depends on the vertical structure of the lower portion of the atmosphere. Frontal passages in winter storms often force less dense warm air above the denser cold air. This can form a layer of warmth between the clouds and ground which can melt falling snowflakes. If there is enough cold air between the warm layer and the surface, then the water can refreeze as ice pellets or sleet; if not, then it generally becomes supercooled and freezes instantly on impact; this is freezing rain, the main culprit of ice storms.

Hail leaves its precipitating cloud as ice rather than being transformed into ice on its descent. Hail is most commonly found in the spring and summer and is associated with large cumulonimbus clouds, the very tall "anvil" clouds which can spawn tornadoes. Even in the warmer seasons, these clouds are tall enough so that their tops are often well below freezing. Very strong upward velocities exist in these clouds, strong enough to overcome the weight of ice pellets.

Hail forms as a continual freezing, falling, partial melting, rising, and freezing cycle within the clouds until the ice pellets formed are heavy enough to overcome the strong upward velocities. By this time they are large enough to last as ice on their descent to the surface.

Extended Forecast

Today: Sleet or freezing rain changing to rain. Strong southeasterly winds. High of 38°F (3°C).

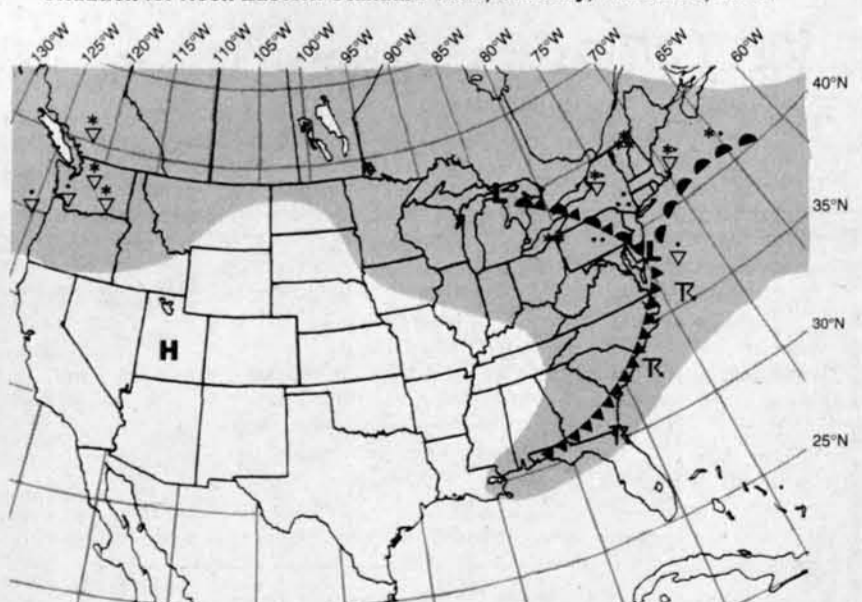
Tonight: Rain ending and skies clearing. Winds shift to the northwest. Low of 32°F (0°C).

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Breezy. High of 50°F (10°C). Low of 33°F (1°C).

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Windy. High near 52°F (11°C). Low near 37°F (3°C).

Friday and Beyond: Potential storm on the way ...

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, March 13, 2001



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

Summers Designated as 27th President of Harvard University

By Thomas B. Edsall
THE WASHINGTON POST

Lawrence H. Summers '75, the former Treasury secretary and professor of economics, will become the 27th president of Harvard University with the goal of further integrating one of the nation's premier educational institutions into a world economy dominated by revolutions in information and technology.

In accepting the post Sunday at a news conference in Cambridge, Mass., Summers, 46, declared that "in a global economy that is increasingly shaped around knowledge," it is "an exciting era for education."

The appointment of Summers to replace retiring president Neil H. Rudenstine signals the university's shift from focusing on what has been a period of highly successful fundraising. Summers made it clear that his focus will be on ensuring that Harvard remains on the cutting edge of teaching and research in the face of growing challenges, especially from such West Coast schools

as Stanford University and the California Institute of Technology.

"Harvard has long aspired to set a standard for education and scholarship of the highest quality, and there is no pursuit more important for individuals or for society," Summers said. "Working with faculty, students, staff and alumni, I look forward to helping the university extend its tradition of excellence in teaching and research while adapting to a rapidly changing world."

Summers edged out two other finalists, University of Michigan President Lee C. Bollinger and Harvard Provost Harvey V. Fineberg. Eighteen years ago, Summers, then 28, was the youngest person to win a tenured professorship at Harvard.

The decision to appoint Summers to the presidency was made at a meeting of Harvard's Board of Overseers in New York and formally announced in Cambridge.

A lifelong Democrat, Summers served as chief economic adviser to the presidential campaign of former



JUSTIN IDE—HARVARD NEWS OFFICE
Lawrence H. Summers '75

Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis. Summers, who has described himself as a "market-oriented progressive," is a proponent of what *The Economist* described as "free-market advocacy with a social conscience."

Mediators, Rebels Meet to Discuss Demands from Chiapas Uprising

By James F. Smith
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MEXICO CITY

Ski-masked leaders of Mexico's Zapatista guerrillas met Monday with congressional mediators in the first serious attempt in nearly five years to address the demands that spurred the rebels' 1994 uprising in southern Chiapas state.

Subcommander Marcos and 23 fellow commanders of the Zapatista National Liberation Army huddled behind closed doors with federal legislators in a university building in the Mexican capital to begin lobbying for Indian rights legislation.

At the conclusion of the two-

hour meeting, legislative spokesman Santiago Lopez reported that both sides had committed themselves to "a respectful, frank and cordial dialogue" and that the rebels remain committed "to resolve the conflict through the route of dialogue."

Lopez, a congressman from Chiapas, didn't disclose how the rebels would go forward in pressing their demands with the full Congress. The rebels didn't comment immediately on the encounter.

The meeting followed the Zapatistas' tumultuous arrival in Mexico City on Sunday, the culmination of a 16-day pilgrimage by the rebels from their jungle and mountain

hide-outs in Chiapas. The caravan was the boldest initiative by the rebels since their brief but bloody insurgency began Jan. 1, 1994, followed by a cease-fire and a negotiating deadlock.

That Monday's meeting happened at all illustrated the changes in the Mexican political landscape in the past year.

After years of acrimony between the government and the Chiapas rebels, President Vicente Fox — whose inauguration ended seven decades of one-party rule in Mexico — reversed his predecessor's policy of ignoring the insurgents and rolled out the welcome mat.

Anonymous \$360 Million Donation To RPI Sets New College Gift Record

THE WASHINGTON POST

An anonymous donor has pledged \$360 million to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the largest gift ever to a single U.S. college or university, and the latest in an extraordinary string of huge donations to higher education.

The gift to the 6,300-student school in Troy, N.Y. surpasses the \$350 million pledged to MIT last year at the peak of the economic boom and stock market surge that triggered unprecedented contributions.

"The size of this gift is remarkable in any era and it is a transformational gift without doubt for RPI," said Vance Peterson, president of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

At the same time, higher education officials worry that any sustained downturn in the stock market might reverse the trend. The nation's institutions of higher education reported receiving some \$18 billion in donations last year, but three quarters of the money came from just 5 percent of the donors.

"These gifts are reflective obviously of the appreciation in the stock market, which now seems to be headed in the other direction," said Sheldon Steinbach, general counsel for the American Council on Education, which represents 1,800 colleges and universities. "Higher education always has been dependent on the big gift. But it is possible that the glory days of these big gifts may be coming to an end."

The gift to RPI came from the same donor who in December pledged \$130 million to build two high-technology centers on the 260-acre campus overlooking the Hudson River. The donor then decided to triple the gift and give the school complete discretion in its use.

Russia, Iran Sign Cooperation Pact

THE WASHINGTON POST

Russia and Iran on Monday signed their first cooperation pact since Iran's 1979 revolution as the two countries' leaders met for four hours in a Kremlin session dominated by talk of increased arms trade.

Vowing a "new spring" in relations with Russia, Iranian President Mohammed Khatami arrived here for a four-day visit armed with a shopping list for Russian weaponry. His summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin amounts to a diplomatic jab at Washington, which has labored unsuccessfully to keep Russia from exporting arms and nuclear technology to Tehran.

Despite the U.S. concerns, Putin told reporters that "Iran has the right to arm and defend itself" and said Russia is eager to supply new weapons to Iran that analysts here said could be worth several billion dollars during the next few years.

The exact details of those sales have yet to be worked out — contracts are expected to be signed by this summer — but Russian officials said Monday that the Iranians have expressed interest in sophisticated anti-missile monitoring systems, aircraft and helicopters.

Last fall, Moscow abandoned a 1995 agreement with the United States to halt arms deliveries to Iran by 1999, and almost immediately after renouncing the deal with the Americans began a new round of talks with the Iranians on stepping up the weapons trade.

Strapped for cash to fund their own military, Russian leaders have increasingly turned to the arms export trade. Monday, Putin recognized that fact, saying that Russia is interested in Iran not only as a strategic partner but also "for economic reasons."



GSC

The MIT Graduate Student Council

office: Walker Memorial, 50-220 (above the Muddy)
phone: 253-2195
website: <http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www>
email: gsc-request@mit.edu

Professional Development Seminar

Spring 2001

PROFESSOR, RESEARCHER or MANAGER?

by

Prof. Lloyd Baird, DIRECTOR of LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 13th, 4.30-6pm, 4-237

Graduate Student Council Awards Nominations

Watch out for the Awards form in your mail and be sure to turn it in by the deadline: **March 23, 2001.**

Questions?, Contact gsc-awards@mit.edu

GSC Officers' Elections

Nominations open till March 28, 2001.

Election of Officers at the General Council Meeting on April 4, 2001.

Committee Chair elections dates

- Housing & Community Affairs Committee March 14
- Academics, Research & Careers Committee March 21
- Orientation Committee March 22
- Publications & Publicity Committee March 26

Interested in contesting the elections? Contact gsc-officers@mit.edu

March-Calendar

- 13 Professional development seminar
- 14 Housing & Community Affairs committee Meeting*
- 21 Academics, Research & Careers committee Meeting*

All graduate students are welcome. Food is provided.
* @ 5:30 in 50-220 (above the muddy)

OPINION

The Continuing Communication Problem

After a contentious town hall meeting on Wednesday, Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict modified his office's plan to install residential coordinators in dormitories across campus. His new proposal, announced at a Friday meeting with Senior House residents, lessens coordinators' authority while moving the Senior House coordinator to Eastgate and adding an additional administrator to the graduate dormitory at NW30.

The changes made by Benedict are in the students' interest, but they were necessitated by a lack of communication between the administration and the student body. Plans for the coordinators were already well under way when the student body first heard about them. Yet again, the Institute has acted on its assumptions of what students need rather than asking students for input.

In general, students oppose having additional administrative supervision, especially in their homes. Few residences oppose this more than Senior House, whose residents reacted understandably and predictably after learning that an administrator would share their personal space. Administrators should have been more sensitive to these concerns.

Student representatives also share the blame. Dormitory

Council President Jeffrey C. Roberts '02 was informed about the change months in advance, but he failed to notify his constituency. This is an example of a trend that this board has found between the administration and the student government at the Institute. While claiming that it seeks student input, the administration instead relies on the feedback of a few key "student administrators," such as Roberts. Although these students may attempt to act as advocates for the entire student body, it is unreasonable to expect them to be in touch with the views of every student. Instead, the administration needs to seek responses from a wider sample of students, such as leaders of individual dormitories.

In reviewing the coordinator controversy, we offer our standard refrain — administrators are out of touch with students. The solution is for administrators to consult with a variety of students before implementing any policy change that significantly alters any aspect of student life. Benedict's arrival had signaled a shift in that direction. The handling of this situation, however, leads us to question if such a shift has actually taken place. Benedict promised at the Senior House meeting that his office would work harder to increase communication between the administration and students. His promise must become reality soon, for students have waited far too long for the Institute's ear.

Editorial

Letters To The Editor

Red-Green Blindness?

Matt Craighead proposes a very selfish economy in his article ["If It's Green, It's Red," March 9]. Like Craighead and most other MIT students, I will probably never reap any tangible benefits from this socialist economy, so perhaps I should join the chorus calling for the abolishment of Social Security, income tax, public education, welfare, Medicare, food stamps, and anything else that will steal money from my precious bank account. I mean, why should I care if unskilled laborers work 80 hours a week for pennies or if elderly people are homeless because they can't afford rent? It won't affect me if poverty becomes a vicious cycle because child labor and lack of public education mean that poor children don't have the opportunity to be anything but unskilled labor. And those poor people had no business being sick or disabled, so why should I pay their medical bills? Why, in Craighead's economy, I should be able to buy poor people and trample them for pleasure, and anything less is denying me my economic freedom.

Though I do not support Ralph Nader or advocate a redistribution of all wealth, I feel that the taking of a fraction of rich people's wealth in order to better our society as a whole and give all people the opportunity to rise above poverty is something that we all should appreciate.

Julia M. Carpenter '03

Good "Karma"

How perverse of Aimee Smith to have invoked the sixties in her appalling call for the imposition of censorship at MIT. I was in the Class of 1970 at Georgetown, and I can assure Smith that the activists of the sixties were in favor of sexy art, and vigorously opposed to thought control. People only joined the anti-war movement of the sixties after they learned to think for themselves, with the freedom that would be destroyed if the renewed Puritanism that Aimee Smith advocates were put into practice here.

I thought the Karma Sutra posters represented an advance. They depicted stunningly attractive men as well as women; in the best tradition of Western culture, those posters celebrated the beauty of the human form. One wonders how Smith would deal with Rodin's *The Kiss*, featuring intertwined naked male and female bodies, or the Song of Songs, a Biblical tale in which

the lover boasts of his "sixty queens and eighty concubines (and countless girls)" and praises his beloved, "Your two breasts are two fawns, twins of a gazelle, that feed among the lillies."

The "comfort" that Smith seeks is rarely encountered in a society with freedom of expression — and a good thing, too.

Craig Abernethy
Senior Secretary of Chemical Engineering

A Sexist Attack

I was disturbed by Nnennia L. Ejebe's response to *The Tech's* endorsement of Sanjay K. Rao '02 as UA President and Jaime E. Devereaux '02 as UA Vice President. Ejebe appears to have made the unjustifiable assumption that the endorsement was motivated by the desire to assure that a man, rather than a woman, held the top position. Ejebe implies that, when two equally qualified candidates of opposite sexes run for a leadership position, the position should be awarded to the female so as to avoid sexist discrimination. But in this situation and many others, no discrimination is present.

Ejebe wrote: "It is unfortunate that, in

2001, we continue to place men in the top leadership positions, when qualified and talented women are just as able to serve effectively." I believe the key phrase in Ejebe's sentence is "just as able," which is distinct from "more able." Ejebe appears to admit that Rao would be at least as suitable for the job of president as Devereaux, and yet opposes *The Tech's* endorsement simply because Rao is male. I believe that Ejebe, and a number of other self-described feminists I have met at MIT, are practicing a brand of sexism just as real and harmful as the derogation of women. Women are not intrinsically better than men. If two equally qualified candidates apply for a job, it should not be awarded to the woman out of hand. We should judge individuals based on their relevant merits and weaknesses, not based upon their sex.

Personally, I think that Rao was the worst of the three candidates on the ballot for UA president. I am glad that Devereaux won. Nonetheless, attacks such as Ejebe's are the most openly accepted and visible, if not the post prevalent, form of sexism at MIT today.

Jason T. Rolfe '03



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 editors, and opinion editors.

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

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

Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and 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.

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

or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of *The Tech*. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

The Tech's Ombudsman, reachable by e-mail at ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu, serves as the liaison between the Tech and its readers. From time to time, the Ombudsman writes an independent column reflecting the complaints, questions, and concerns of the readership.

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>.



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Advisers on Hand

Jyoti Tibrewala

Baker House is considering implementing a residence-based advising system (RBA) next fall. The program is part of a plan by the Office of Residential and Student Life Programs (RLSLP) to expand the advising programs of McCormick and Random Halls into at least one new dormitory. As a McCormick freshman, I can offer some of my experience as a student coming to MIT under the residence-based advising program.

Application and acceptance to the program took place over the summer, as they would in the proposed expansion. This was by far one of the best things about it. It gave freshman an opportunity to get to know each other, even if only a little, before arriving for orientation. Every evening I would come home to find my mailbox full of condensed biographies of fellow freshmen residents. Being guaranteed a permanent residence upon arrival during orientation was another perk. It saved me the hassle of having to move during orientation.

Yet another strong selling point of RBA is that it fosters community-building. A primary reason it is able to do this is the early start it provides to the residential experience. Freshmen have the opportunity to start networking with their future dormmates prior to their arrival at MIT, and trivial as it may seem, that's actually one of the most significant contributors to the strong sense of community that would result from RBA. That isn't to say that freshman would only have contact with their classmates.

As upperclassmen would return during orientation, there would be more interaction in an environment where freshman are permanently assigned to the rooms they are in for orientation; knowing that that is your permanent dorm, you might make more of an effort to get to know the upperclassmen living

there as well, whereas non-RBA dorms would have freshmen living there only temporarily, worrying about selecting a permanent residence for the upcoming term. Freshman in RBA dorms might also find orientation more relaxing than their classmates outside of the RBA program, since residence selection would be one thing the former group wouldn't have to worry about.

You may notice that I've said nothing about the actual advising part of residence-based advising. That's because I don't honestly think

that residence-based advising would be vastly different from traditional MIT advising. Now, I don't have first-hand experience in non-residence-based advising, but it can't be that different. Sure, I know other students in my advising group better than I might if I didn't live in McCormick. But if there were a situation I needed to discuss with my adviser, I wouldn't be more or less inclined to contact him for advice if my advising weren't residence-based. The only disparity lies with the associate adviser; in RBA, students would potentially see their resident associate adviser (RAA) more often simply because that individual would be a fellow resident. But the actual student-adviser relationship couldn't differ much.

All is not lost, though. We've seen through the RBA program and in general that students tend to develop close relationships with those they live with. And last week, we saw that the administration has plans to phase in residential coordinators in the dorms. So why not incorporate the residential coordinators into residence-based advising? They're not students, so they wouldn't replicate RAAs; they're administrators. And as it is, the roles of these administrators aren't crystal clear. Thus the assimilation of residential coordinators into RBA would have the promise of creating a better student-adviser relationship. Of course, to be most effective, every dorm with RBA would need at least one coordinator. The presence of the middleman might also be a bit awkward. As you might have guessed, the implementation of residential coordinators would have to go hand-in-hand with the phasing out of non-residential advisers. This would accomplish both goals: eliminating the middleman and creating a closer student-adviser relationship.

Residence-based advising is an excellent idea, but it must be done for the right reasons. Its primary effect is building a tighter community within individual advising groups and in the dorm as a whole; accordingly, best results are attained when the goal is just that. But if RLSLP is going in with the goal of improving the advising system, this might not be the best solution. In order to do that, residence-based advising needs to be coupled with the residential coordinators. In addition to improving academic advising, this would also clarify to students the role of residential coordinators, and the administration just might find us more accepting of their plan.

If freshmen were given permanently assigned dormitory rooms, they might make more of an effort to get to know the upperclassmen living there.

Veena Thomas

Maybe you're feeling a bit down, wondering when MIT decided to turn against you by eliminating everything mentioned in their recruitment literature. Freshman pass/no record, choosing housing during a two-week party called R/O, and IAP convinced you to come here. Plus, you liked how MIT treated its students like adults. But now you're feeling betrayed by the very same administration which is supposed to be there on your behalf. Maybe you're tired of fighting one thing after another. Perhaps you're just waiting for an accidentally released e-mail announcing the elimination of IAP.

But look at it from the flip side, the administration's point of view. The poor administration tries very hard to pass new policies to make their lives, er, students' lives, easier and happier. But are students grateful? Of course not. They keep running amuck and giving MIT a bad reputation in the press. They demand that their voices be heard on policy changes affecting them. Think of how many more changes could have been made if protesting students didn't constantly get in the way! They keep insisting on thinking for ourselves — how annoying.

Clearly, there's only one solution. MIT would be a better place without students.

Of course, acceptance letters have already been mailed to many potential members of the Class of 2005. But by having next year's freshmen be the last class ever admitted, MIT will go a long way towards its goal of reshaping the undergraduate experience — namely, by eliminating it.

By eliminating students, MIT could bring in revenue by renting out dorm rooms. It would take a little work to clean up the dorms to make them suitable for real people, though. In addition, real adults, not just students over the legal age of 18, might have a problem with Big Brother RCs living next door.

justifying in ignoring student concerns; without students, there wouldn't be any concerns.

Obviously, MIT will go to great lengths to protect its reputation. While MIT wants recognition for its research and discoveries, undergraduates garner more press and notoriety

Winners in the Elections

Roy Esaki

A report commissioned by the National Science Foundation, released last week, declared that voters shouldn't cast ballots over the Internet because of questions of security, reliability, and social effects. The chairman of the committee claimed that "e-voting requires a much greater level of security than e-commerce — it's not like buying a book over the Internet," and that "remote Internet voting technology will not be able to meet this standard for years to come."

To accrue the benefits of a convenient and just system, however, students actually need to vote; when the majority of students don't vote, it makes the whole issue moot.

The some 40 percent turnout for the Undergraduate Association presidential election may be more than last year's turnout, but it's still less than the national voter turnout for the 2000 election, which was slightly over half of the eligible population. But the hue and cry about low voter turnout that follows an election is tired and hackneyed. The buzzwords of civic duty, participatory democracy, and the responsibilities of citizenship are happily thrown around to make arguments sound more intellectual and legitimate, with little impact.

Busy as students may be, we presumably had time enough during the week to take four minutes to vote online. Disconnected from current events as we may be, it's hard to claim unawareness of the election, considering all the e-mails, posters, and media coverage. There may be a few students who refrained from voting as a symbol of protest (in which case filling in "no candidate" is a much better form of active disapproval), but I doubt there are so many conscientious objectors. The primary reason for not voting must thus be that students simply didn't care to vote.

For all the endless arguments over tickets being taken on or off ballots, proper election

coverage in student publications, and allegations of biased conduct by election officials, the majority of the students don't care. Is that reason for concern? Not in and of itself; studying for that exam will have more of an impact than one person's vote in the UA election, and though the UA will act upon issues that may significantly affect us (such as that of residential coordinators), in the larger context of life, it's not terribly consequential. The Institute and its denizens will survive without any one person's vote.

So why is the low turnout noteworthy? Not because it's indicative of a sociopolitical problem; students aren't apathetic towards everything. Certain issues, such as alcohol policies or the residential coordinator issue, concern and anger many. Some are even passionate about issues that won't directly affect them, such as Pass/No Record policy and freshmen housing.

Rather, the issue at stake is the future of the "silent majority," who have opinions and passions, but decide to disenfranchise themselves. This self-disenfranchisement is what is responsible for "insider politics" and the perceived aloofness of politicians, and more dangerously, it allows for a few firebrands to dictate the policies and set the agenda for the entire community. The UA may seem to have little importance to students, but the problems encountered with it will be magnified and exacerbated at the level of local, state, and national politics. It's a vicious cycle, the seed for which has been sown in this collegiate politics game: discontent with the unresponsiveness of politics keeps people from voting or getting involved, which creates unresponsiveness.

Why volunteer to be a benchwarmer, when the bench is plenty warm and the home team is down 34 points? Or even a screaming fan watching the game from afar, swearing at the players with a remote in one hand and a beer in another? Winners always want the ball when the game's on the line. Are you a winner?

A Modest Proposal

Eliminating Undergraduates Would Make Life at the Institute Much Easier

with their shenanigans. Instead of passing policy after policy to keep students in line, passing just one — eliminating students — would ensure that MIT would enjoy a reputation in the media unsullied by the antics of its younger members. No more columns slamming the administration in *The Tech*. Heck, *The Tech* wouldn't even exist. The administration can pat themselves on the back all they want in *Tech Talk* instead.

The job of the campus police would also be easier. No more parties to break up, and no

more dealing with drunk students. Just think: no more errant police cars placed upon the Dome, and no more Commencements disrupted by Buzzword Bingo! This would even help out the MIT Museum — no more hacks that they lack the space to archive.

As wonderful as this policy might seem, it does have its downside. MIT would stand to lose a large source of income, its tuition. Money will become increasingly important as MIT shifts its focus entirely to research. But fret not. Alumni donations can be a particularly useful source of income, as the recent donations of hundreds of millions of dollars have shown. If the last batch of undergraduates graduates in 2005, at age 21, they still have around 50 years of donating time left. Perfect for the Institute. Of course, MIT

would have to rely heavily on corporate donations, but the Media Lab shows this is indeed possible.

In addition, MIT would actually save some money. By eliminating students, MIT would rid itself of potential lawsuits from families of students dying under questionable circumstances. This would save MIT a couple of million at least.

It has become increasingly clear that MIT is first and foremost a research institute. But a lack of students would slow research progress. Where else would MIT find extremely talented people willing to assist research for eight dollars an hour? MIT might have to invest a little more money in salaries to ensure that research continues unimpeded.

MIT could bring in some revenue and help the Cambridge housing shortage by renting out rooms in the soon-to-be-empty dorms. River views, and the chance to live in a dorm designed by a famous architect; that's got to be worth some money. Would people willingly move into dorms with ant and mouse problems? It would take a little work to clean up the dorms to make them suitable for real people to live in. In addition, real adults, not just students over the legal age of 18, might have a problem with Big Brother living next door. Those residential coordinators have to live somewhere, though.

Eliminating students is crazy, you say? Didn't you see it coming? Don't protest this one; you'll only prove their point that students cause too much trouble. It's actually a very good idea — the administration says so — and there's nothing you can do about it.

The issue at stake is the future of the "silent majority," who have opinions and passions, but decide to disenfranchise themselves. This choice is responsible for "insider politics" and the perceived aloofness of politicians, and it allows a few firebrands to dictate the policies and set the agenda for the entire community.

The poor administration tries very hard to pass new policies to make their lives, er, students' lives, easier and happier. But are students grateful? Of course not.

Community Space and Child Care

Guest Column
Soulaymane Kachani

Child care for graduate students is an issue that the Graduate Student Council takes very seriously. At the March 7 Sidney-Pacific Crisis Committee meeting, we clearly outlined that affordable child care for graduate students is one of the pressing issues to be addressed. We have already begun a conversation about this with Associate Dean for Graduate Students and Chair of the Women Advisory Board Blanche Staton.

Our commitment to affordable child care is nothing new. In fact, the MIT Technology Children's Center (TCC) approached us last October to support them in subsidizing child care costs for graduate students. Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert generously agreed to match our funds to TCC. At the November General Council meeting (our meetings are always open to all graduate students), we amended our budget (a rare procedure) and allocated money for TCC. The funds were transferred in early January.

The *Tech* article "GSC Wins Day Care Battle" [March 9] needs to be placed in context. The Graduate Student Council has been involved for many years in getting the Institute to move ahead with its plans to provide "affordable graduate housing close to

campus." As I am sure many of you are aware, affordable housing in the area surrounding Cambridge is practically non-existent. Graduate stipends do not reflect the cost of living in Cambridge and neighboring cities.

The GSC successfully called for two new graduate dormitories: Sidney-Pacific and NW30. Sidney-Pacific will house 750 graduate students. Together with graduate dorm leaders, the GSC Housing and Community Affairs Committee has worked very hard over the past fall with the Real Estate Office to get adequate community space in the building. After a marathon of consultations, we are reasonably satisfied with the design of the dorm as it stands now. However, we are still advocating a second housemaster in the building.

The decision to include a "revenue-generating" day care center in the dorm was unexpectedly brought upon us a month ago without prior student input. This idea consists of eliminating the only sizeable community space in favor of a childcare center almost solely targeted towards faculty and staff. Losing the little community space we have in this building would mean ending up with the same failures

as Tang, Eastgate and Westgate in terms of design and community space. Given that Sidney-Pacific will house twice the number of graduate students as Tang, and will most probably be the only new graduate dorm built in the next 30 years, lack of community space for graduate students' activities will harm the efforts to build a graduate student community.

The decision to include a "revenue-generating" day care center in the new graduate dorm was brought upon us a month ago without prior student input, threatening the little community space we have in this building.

Eastgate and Westgate's childcare facilities are being renovated (their capacity will increase) and a new child care center of 100+ children capacity will be available at the Stata Center. Will this help married graduate students? The answer is no; here are the reasons. Only 10 percent of the children in Eastgate and Westgate day care centers are children of graduate students. This limitation is an unacceptable administrative decision that the GSC is

ready to advocate reversing, with the input of graduate students with children. Further, child care centers at MIT are not affordable for graduate students given the current stipends. GSC has successfully demanded increases in stipends: an 8 percent raise in engineering and a 16 percent raise in science. The GSC is further working with the provost for a total subsidy of the medical costs for all graduate students including spouses, partners and children, and will continue advocating additional quality-of-life improvements. It is not the role of the GSC to call for additional day care for faculty and staff at the expense of graduate students.

The GSC is a diverse group of individuals that aims to bring all graduate students together. All graduate students are GSC members. Our meetings are advertised in *The Tech* and posted weekly around campus. Please attend our meetings, and voice your concerns and criticism. We welcome your suggestions on how to improve communication between the Council and graduate students. Our next Housing and Community Affairs Committee meeting will be on Wednesday March 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the GSC office (50-220). Our next General Council meeting is on Wednesday April 4, at 5:30 p.m. in the GSC office. We hope to see you all at these meetings.

Soulaymane Kachani is the President of the Graduate Student Council.

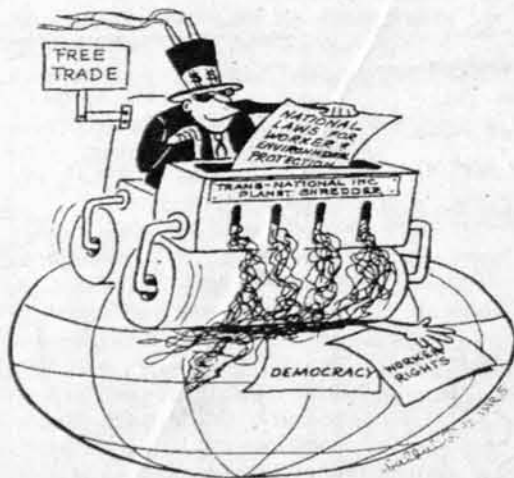
TEACH-IN

**FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS:
THE NEXT ITEM ON THE
CORPORATE GLOBALIZATION AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2001
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
4-145**

[FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS SERVED]

The governments of 34 nations in the Americas are currently negotiating the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement, an expansion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The purpose of the agreement is to liberalize trade, services, and investments among the 34 nations. This participatory teach-in will focus on how the FTAA is expected to affect various issues and communities including, the environment, labor, women, people of color, and delivery of services. How to take action against the FTAA will also be discussed.



For more information, contact Payal Parekh at parekh@pimms.mit.edu, 253-7967.
Sponsored by AID-Boston and Boston FTAA Taskforce.

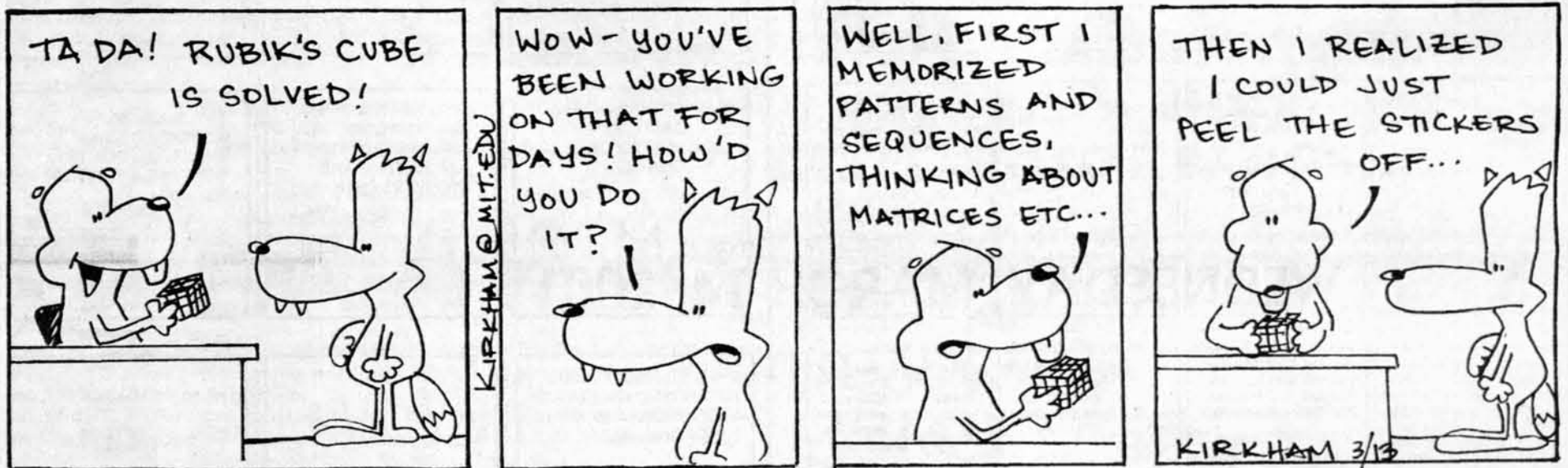
SPEAK YOUR MIND
EMAIL letters@the-tech.mit.edu

Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase



the crass rat



In
5:60
@ MIT
.....



Thank You for your Interest



A DAUGHTER WITH MY MOTHER WOULD BE 75% ME. THEN, A DAUGHTER WITH MY DAUGHTER WOULD BE 88% ME. TWO MORE DAUGHTERS THROUGH DAUGHTERS AND FINALLY, A SON IS BORN 99% ME. FIGURE 12 YEARS BETWEEN CONCEPTIONS, AND I'LL BE 70 WHEN MY CLONE IS BORN.

web.mit.edu/midha/www

by Dave, Kara, and Raj



thankyou@mit.edu

FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



Dilbert® by Scott Adams



Fun With Clip Art
Aaron Isaksen

PRESS

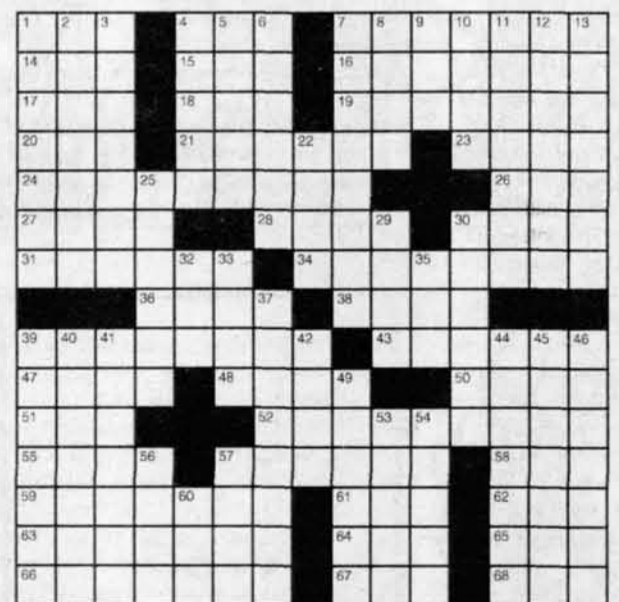


"Please God keep my Mac from crashing."

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 15

- ACROSS
- 1 Cushion
- 4 One meaning of 10
- 7 Deserved
- 14 Half and half?
- 15 Golf standard
- 16 Food expert
- 17 Trailblazed
- 18 Period
- 19 Mother of Persephone
- 20 Aussie bird
- 21 Repair with paste
- 23 Moore of "Ghost"
- 24 Gray-and-yellow parrot
- 26 Cover
- 27 Against
- 28 Meadow youngster
- 30 Cost per unit
- 31 Sampled
- 34 Stumbled
- 36 Mistake
- 38 Felt regret
- 39 Soup floaters
- 43 Tree with a huge trunk
- 47 Hodgepodge
- 48 Oz dog
- 50 Perry's pennier
- 51 Fuss
- 52 Hyphen's close relative?
- 55 Puerto
- 57 Rita of "West Side Story"
- 58 Pipe junction
- 59 Coarse jersey
- 61 Unwell
- 62 Pension \$
- 63 Bric-a-brac shelves
- 64 Prevaricate
- 65 Watch kids
- 66 Narrator
- 67 Inc. in Britain
- 68 Triumphant exclamation
- DOWN
- 1 Skunk
- 2 Flower or sea polyp
- 3 Takes away
- 4 "The Cloak" or "The Bat," e.g.
- 5 Insertion indicator
- 6 Calamitous
- 7 Of part of the brain
- 8 Dueling sword
- 9 Tire support
- 10 Chilled
- 11 Of guardianship
- 12 Religious recluse
- 13 Ridiculed
- 22 Table extension
- 25 Art in bad taste
- 29 Misplay
- 30 Makes over
- 32 "Black ___ Speaks"



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- 33 Weight reduction plan
- 35 Oolong or Earl Grey, e.g.
- 37 Advocate
- 39 Snake handler
- 40 Emerge in waves
- 41 Very self-centered
- 42 Be up and about
- 44 ___ Columbia, Canada
- 45 Neighbor of Libya
- 46 Under
- 49 "Strange Interlude"
- 53 Dark
- 54 Did some cobbler's work
- 56 Russian saint
- 57 Additional
- 60 Net-judge's call

TechCalendar

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

Tuesday, March 13

- 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - **Negotiating Two Cultures: P.M.S. Blackett's Turn from Particle Physics to Geophysics, 1933-1963.** Dibner Institute Lunchtime Colloquia. free. Room: E56-100. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Telephone and Voice Mail Quick Start.** If you are new to MIT or want to learn more about the features on your telephone and voice mail, this class is just what you need. Instructors will explain features which will help you get the most out of these useful tools and talk about the most common problems and where to go for help. Attendees will learn what features are available on different phones and classes of service. You will also be able to try features on telephones in the classroom. free. Room: E19-732. Sponsor: Information Systems.
- 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. Topics include: navigation basics, simple searching, creating and editing bookmark lists, printing a page, a tour of MIT Web pages for information and administrative applications, basics of Web certificates. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.
- 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Deep Water Archaeology Seminar.** Representatives from the newly formed Office of Ocean Exploration, a department of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, will come speak to DeepArch about a new era of ocean exploration. NOAA foresees entire suites of new science products, including new maps, technologies, education and outreach products as well as a new understanding and appreciation for the world's oceans. free. Room: E25-117. Sponsor: DeepArch.
- 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **DMSE Distinguished Lecturer Series: Unnatural Selection: Classification and Choice in Engineering Design (with Examples Drawn from Materials Selection).** DMSE Distinguished Lecturer Series, featuring world-class speakers in Materials Science and Engineering. free. Room: 4-270 (followed by reception at 4:30 p.m. in 8-314). Sponsor: Dept. of Materials Science and Engineering.
- 4:00 p.m. - **Pathways to Human Rights in Morocco.** Talk by a Moroccan human rights activist and former political prisoner. The McMillan-Stewart Lecture on Women in the Developing World. Refreshments served at 3:30 p.m. free. Room: E51-095. Sponsor: Women's Studies Program. Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.
- 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Kolmogorov Turbulence, Universal Peak of Sea Waves Spectra, Mean Winds, Convection, Hurricanes, Earthquakes, Etc.: A Unified Description.** Note Special Day. free. Room: 54-1611. Sponsor: MIT Atmospheric Science Seminars.
- 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Particle Clouds.** free. Room: 1-350. Sponsor: Engineering & Environmental Mechanics Group.
- 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **MTL VLSI Seminar Series.** Essential Physics of Nanoscale MOSFETs. free. Room: 34-101. Sponsor: MTL VLSI Seminar.
- 4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - **Gas Turbine Seminar Series.** free. Room: 31-161. Sponsor: Gas Turbine Laboratory.
- 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - **Reading the New Global Cinema: Ang Lee's Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.** History/Literature Workshop Series, Spring 2001. free. Room: 14E-304. Sponsor: History Office.
- 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - **How Do People Think About the Norms of War?** A session of the Inter-University Committee on International Migration. This was previously scheduled for March 6 but had to be postponed due to snowstorm. free. Room: E38-615. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.
- 6:30 p.m. - **Architecture Lecture: "Material Presence: Electricity, The Fairy and the Hollow Wall."** Talk by Sheila Kennedy of Kennedy Violich Architects, Boston. free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Department of Architecture.
- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - **Civic Environmentalism: Democratic Pathways to Sustainability- A Roundtable Series.** Social and Intellectual Underpinnings of Civic Environmentalism. free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Department of Urban Studies and Planning.
- 7:00 p.m. - **RACE: The Future! Ancestors in the Americas, Part 1: "Coolies, Sailors, and Settlers: Voyage to the New World."** free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Committee on Campus Race Relations. Counseling and Support Services.
- 7:00 p.m. - **"Bilingual, Bicultural, and Biracial Identity and Creativity in Contemporary Africa."** Panel featuring Tsitsi Dangarembga, Anne-Laure Folly, and Veronique Tadjo moderated by Isabelle de Courtivron. free. Room: 2-105. Sponsor: Office of the Arts, Women's Studies Program, Center for Bilingual/Bicultural Studies.

Wednesday, March 14

- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - **Ion-Sliced Ferroelectric Crystals for New Electro-optical Devices.** RLE/EECS - Optics. free. Sponsor: EECS, Research Lab of Electronics, 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. - **Sustainability - One Step At a Time.** free. Room: E40-496. Sponsor: 10.978 Seminar.
- 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **spouses&partners@mit - Introduction to Tai Chi.** Taught by Dorri Li, Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Boston Kung Fu Tai Chi Institute. Dorri has close to 30 years experience in fitness and martial arts. Tai Chi is the art of meditation in motion. It is a method of exercise which promotes physical and mental harmony through effortless movement. This introductory class begins with a warm-up consisting of standing and stretching, and then moves into a variety of movements to activate the body and engage the mind. Please wear loose fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. free. Room: W20-400. Sponsor: spouses&partners@mit, MIT Medical.
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - **Chemical Engineering Department Seminar.** Multiscale Modeling and Simulation of Semiconductor Processing: Application to ultrashallow junction fabrication in SiCal. Tech, Beckman Inst.. free. Room: 66-110. Sponsor: Chemical Engineering.
- 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Computational Algorithms for Aerodynamic Analysis and Design.** free. Room: 1-390. Sponsor: Singapore-MIT Alliance/HPCES.
- 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Nanostructures Seminar Series.** "Nanometers to gigaparsecs: the role of nanostructures in unraveling the mysteries of the cosmos." free. Room: 34-401B (Refreshments served at 3:45 p.m.). Sponsor: Nanostructures Laboratory.
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - **Psychology and The Church.** This talk by Father Rev. Nicholas Kromydas, chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Boston and lecturer at Holy Cross Seminary, will discuss the role of psychology in the church, pastoral care, and in the care of the laity. The talk will put particular emphasis on the situations facing college age students. free. Room: 37-212. Sponsor: Orthodox Christian Fellowship.
- 7:00 p.m. - **Whose Human Rights in Africa? An Interdisciplinary Dialogue on Gender and Power.** A panel featuring Monique Ilboudo, secretary of human rights in Burkina Faso and novelist, Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, a South African psychologist who worked on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and Moroccan activist and former political prisoner Fatna Elbouhi, moderated by Margaret Burnham. free. Room: 2-105. Sponsor: Amnesty International, Political Science Dept., Women's Studies Program.
- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - **Free Trade Area of the Americas: The Next Item on the Corporate**

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.

- Globalization Agenda.** The governments of 34 nations in the Americas are currently negotiating the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement, an expansion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The purpose of the agreement is to liberalize trade, services, and investments between the 34 nations. This participatory teach-in will focus on what how the FTAA is expected to affect various issues and communities including, the environment, labor, women, people of color, and delivery of services. How to take action against the FTAA will be discussed. free. Room: 4-145. Sponsor: AID-Boston. Boston FTAA Task Force.
- 7:00 p.m. - **RACE: The Future! Ancestors in the Americas, Part 2: "Chinese in the Frontier West: An American Story."** free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Committee on Campus Race Relations. Counseling and Support Services.
- 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - **International Film Club Film Seminar Series.** free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, International Film Club.

Thursday, March 15

- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Windows 2000 Quick Start.** This session demonstrates the new features and functionalities of Windows 2000 for the desktop user. Tour Start Menu enhancements; compare differences between the new My Network Places and previous Network Neighborhood; meet the Active Desktop, Power Management, and Windows Update. See how many Control Panel functions have been consolidated, where NT profiles and Administrative Tools now reside, and how to set up a printer. We will explain why Active Directories are not currently allowed at MIT and make some recommendations for operating in this new environment. (System administration not covered.) free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.
- 12:00 p.m. - **Noon Chapel Concert.** John Tyson, recorders; Miyuki Tsurutani, harpsichord. Baroque, 18th Century and contemporary works. free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.
- 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - **Revenue Management Models for the Sea Cargo Industry.** ORC Spring Seminar Series. Seminar followed by refreshments in E40-106. free. Room: E56-270. Sponsor: Operations Research Center.
- 5:00 p.m. - **"Gender and Human Rights in Africa through the Arts."** Panel featuring Monique Ilboudo, novelist from Burkina Faso involved in the Rwanda project, Veronique Tadjo, Ivory Coast author, painter, and poet on recent work in Rwanda, Anne-Laure Folly, Togolese documentarian on making documentaries on women, Tsitsi Dangarembga, Zimbabwean author and filmmaker on her experience there, moderated by Odile Cazenave. free. Room: 2-105. Sponsor: Office of the Arts, Women's Studies Program, Comparative Media Studies.
- 5:30 p.m. - **Giacomo Balla's Iridescent Interpenetrations.** Lecture by Christine Poggi, professor, History of Art, University of Pennsylvania. free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: History Theory Criticism Forum, Department of Architecture.
- 6:00 p.m. - **authors@MIT: Rachel Rosenfield Lafo: Photography in Boston: 1955-1985.** Boston played a crucial role in the development of American photography, including criticism, collecting, and curating, in the second half of the 20th century. This book accompanies the landmark exhibition at the DeCordova Museum that includes such important American artists as Berenice Abbott, Harold Edgerton, Nan Goldin, Olivia Parker, Rosamond Purcell, and Minor White. Rachel Rosenfield Lafo will show slides and discuss how the work of these and other artists helped to create a regional critical mass in photography
- Ms. Rosenfield Lafo is senior curator at the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln, Mass. free. Room: E25-111. Sponsor: MIT Press Bookstore, MIT Libraries.
- 7:00 p.m. - **poetry@mit: Michael Palmer.** free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies.
- 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - **Modern Square Dance.** This challenging class teaches you Plus level square dancing set to a wide range of modern music. We begin by teaching you the calls which make up each level of dancing, which you then apply throughout the class. A group of eight dancers works together in this unique form of American dance. Focus is on fast and rigorous learning, reaction time, and flow. No experience or partner necessary. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. REGULAR ATTENDANCE EXPECTED. First night is free. Room: Lobdell Dining Hall - Student Center. Sponsor: Tech Squares.
- 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - **International Film Club Film Seminar Series.** free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, International Film Club.
- 9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - **Ashdown House Coffee Hour.** free. Room: Ashdown House Hulsizer Room. Sponsor: Residential Life and Student Life Programs.

Friday, March 16

- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **AI-Anon Open Discussion: AI-Anon Meeting.** free. Room: E25-101. Sponsor: MIT Medical.
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - **Environment and Sustainability Brown Bag Seminar.** "The Green Edge: Competitive Advantage and Environmental Gain in the IT Industry." free. Room: E40-496. Sponsor: Center for Environmental Initiatives.
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - **Orientation to Computing at MIT.** This seminar provides basic, non-technical information about the MIT computing environment. Topics include: telephones and voice mail, operating systems, supported software and recommended hardware, the campus network, security, computer-related health issues. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.
- 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - **MIT Jewish Faculty Affairs Luncheon Series.** "From Dinosaurs to Birds: The Evolution of Yiddish Literature." \$10 for lunch, Pay by Wednesday, March 14th. Room: W11 Small Dining Room. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.
- 1:30 p.m. - **The Politics of Welfare Reform.** free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Women's Studies Program.
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - **Chemical Engineering Department Seminars.** Microchemical Systems-Synthesis of Chemicals and Information. free. Room: 66-110. Sponsor: Chemical Engineering.
- 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - **Discrete Morse Functions from Lexicographic Orders.** Refreshments will be served at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2-338. free. Room: 2-338. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.
- 5:00 p.m. - **Advanced Music Performance Student Recital.** Electrical engineering and computer science junior Jonathan Lee, piano. free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.
- 8:00 p.m. - **John Corley Tribute Concert.** MIT Wind Ensemble (Frederick Harris, director) and MIT Concert Choir (William Cutter, director); Jean Rife, horn soloist. World Premiere of *Roman Odes*, commissioned by the MIT Wind Ensemble in memory of John Corley; Grainger's *Handel in the Strand*, *Colonial Song*, *The Gum-Suckers March*, Copland's *Down a Country Lane*. Pre-concert lecture, 7p.m. The MIT Wind Ensemble pays tribute to John Corley, conductor of the MIT Concert Band for 51 years who passed away last October. Mr. Corley established a repertoire of 350 pieces with the ensemble and commissioned 40 new works. In tribute to his memory, the MIT Wind Ensemble has commissioned Boston composer Michael Weinstein to write a piece for chorus and winds. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

DATE:

**Wednesday
March 14th
2001**

TIME:

7:00 pm

LOCATION:

**Wong Auditorium
E51, MIT****Creating Tomorrow's Leading Firms****MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition™**

Semi-Final Awards

Keynote Speaker

Ian Eslick

'95, ME '96, Co-founder of Silicon Spice**MIT-\$50k Alumni '95****MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition™****<http://50k.mit.edu/>**

THE ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW ★

15 Minutes That's Right, One Star!

By J. F. Graham

Written and Directed by John Herzfeld
Starring Robert De Niro, Edward Burns,
Kelsey Grammer, Karl Roden, and Oleg
Taktarov
Rated R

Director John Herzfeld, of *Don King: Only In America* fame, brings his latest *15 Minutes* to the silver screen. However, despite starring Robert De Niro, possessing incredible potential and starting with a bang, *15 Minutes* all too soon waters down to a boring and formulaic mess.

De Niro stars as Eddie Flemming, a media-savvy homicide detective elevated to hero status with the help of his friend Robert Hawkins (Kelsey Grammer), whose *Hard Copy*-esque news show, *Top Story*, introduces all of its segments by using the tagline, "Hard to believe? Watch!"

Upon arriving at the scene of a double homicide Eddie meets arson investigator Jordy Warsar, a young idealist who professes no love for the media and follows a strict ethical code, with lusty exceptions. Jordy (played zealously by Edward Burns) teams up with Eddie and they begin to pursue Emil (Karl Roden) and Oleg (Oleg Taktarov), two violent, clumsy, and completely inept ex-cons that have unleashed a plan to videotape their various murders and sell the footage to *Top Story* with the help of the opportunistic slime ball Hawkins, all the while hoping to escape incarceration, cut a movie deal and attain fame and fortune.

Unbelievable? I know. Before they manage to set their fool-proof scheme into action we see that they are first bombarded with a media bonanza of trashy daytime talk shows and over-the-top news stories that show one

criminal after another reaching a celebrity-like status while never having to take any responsibility for their actions.

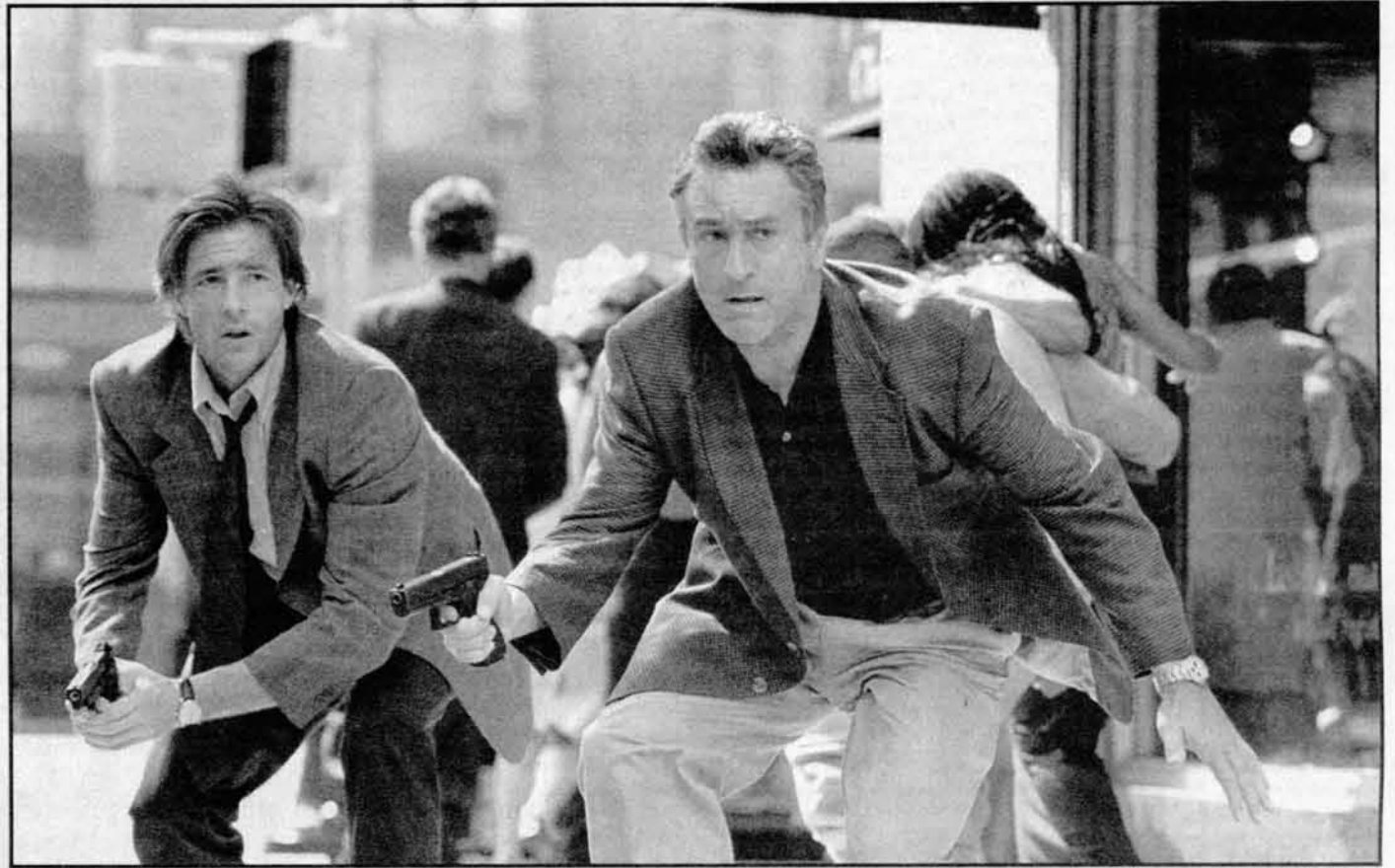
The film was written and directed by John Herzfeld, who has recently been quoted as saying that "we live in an age when even nutcases can become celebrities." This statement is basically the idea behind the movie, and Emil and Oleg are just that, nutcases. Mindless cartoon characters that leave behind crime scenes so sloppy that any six-year-old child who has seen *Scooby Doo* more than once would have no problem bringing these two felons to justice.

Unfortunately the film offers no explanation as to why this phenomenon of celebrated nutcases exists, and as a result *15 Minutes* becomes just another predictable police thriller. All the while it never seems to deliver the intended message. In a time when sensational journalism, realistic television programs, video news hounds, and the everyday person's shameless desire to see themselves on the tube is rampant throughout our society, it makes us wonder just what started all this madness.

15 Minutes has the makings of a very powerful, thought-provoking film, with a recog-

nizable cast and an accomplished director. But as Flemming, De Niro appears to be just going through the motions. He even manages to rehash the famous mirror scene from *Taxi Driver*, with a twist of course.

In the past De Niro has always managed to raise the bar when it came to convincing character roles. We will never forget characters such as Travis Bickle, Max Cady, or Jake LaMotta, just to name a few. Unfortunately, in *15 Minutes* he just comes across as dull and unenthusiastic while Herzfeld substitutes trendy filmmaking style over substance of content. Hard to believe? Watch!



Edward Burns and Robert De Niro star in New Line's latest one-Tech-star flick, *15 Minutes*. It's really that bad.

PHILIP V. CARUSO

MUSIC REVIEW

State of the Airwaves

Rock, Rammstein, and Represent

By Dan Katz
STAFF WRITER

Most of the time, my careful and diligent composition of State of the Airwaves is aided by Rehv-Yoo, Ancient Muse of Music Journalism. Unfortunately, this week, Rehv-Yoo was beaten senselessly by Sleuplehs, Evil Deity of Insomnia, and Tewlidj, Malevolent God of Homework. But just in the nick of time, the foul and offending beasts were vanquished by Ekstraowers, The Holy Spirit of Extended Deadlines. Thus, the day is saved, and you receive the (potentially abbreviated) column you sorely need to get through your week.

The week of live music starts tonight, just a few blocks up Mass. Ave., as the Donnas play a show at the Middle East. Tomorrow night, the Saw Doctors appear at the Paradise on Commonwealth Avenue. Thursday night, I'm fairly sure the Matchbox Twenty/Everclear/Lifehouse show at the Centrum is sold out, but you can still see a superior group as Mercury Music Prize winners Roni Size and Reprazent represent at the Roxy. Friday, it's metal night at the Worcester Palladium as Sepultura, Hatebreed, Puya, and Flybanger storm through, and on Saturday, the Dropkick Murphys and the Living End appear at Avalon, while a less intense Grey

Eye Glances play Club Passim.

Tuesday means new music on the shelves, and the big news for the week is the American debut of Our Lady Peace's *Spiritual Machines*, a slick and powerful album that was easily my favorite foreign release last year. Also out is a new disc from French dance craftsmen Daft Punk called *Discovery*. After being delayed a few weeks, Hesh's self-titled debut actually surfaces today, while Clutch produce pure rock fury in the form of an album called *Pure Rock Fury*. Finally, a more well-known band by the name of Semisonic return with *All About Chemistry*, featuring a horribly mundane pop single called "Chemistry." Ho-hum.

Just when I thought there was nothing to motivate me into writing this week, my brother clues me in that the new Stabbing Westward single is out, and suddenly I have something to listen to. The band has made a big deal about their fourth album being a rawer and more guitar-based album, shying away from the shiny semi-industrial sound of their last few records. I was a bit concerned that this would involve a drastic change of style, but "So Far Away" is very clearly the work of the same band that wrote "What Do I Have To Do" and "Sometimes It Hurts." It is guitar-driven, but the guitar effects are plentiful and create a rich landscape

of sound, balancing intensity and a feeling of floating through space as Chris Hall angstfully cries, "Every time that I touch you, you feel so far away." I'm very glad Stabbing Westward is back, and I'm glad they're still Stabbing Westward.

"Links 2 3 4" is the first cut from Rammstein's upcoming *Mutter*, and a lot of it sounds like every other Rammstein song. (Not that you'd know, since the German pyromaniac metal band never got much airplay for anything beyond "Du Hast.") However, there are some nice additional touches, like the eerie whispered verses, a bit of acoustic guitar, and a marching chorus I will be singing to myself all week ("Links two, links two, links two drei vier, LINKS!")

Finally, we check in with the most added song on modern rock radio for the week, "Comin' Thru My Stereo" by Hedrock Valley Beats. Two words leap to mind to describe this dance track: fast and repetitive. The groove is immediately infectious, but it wears off after a few minutes when the song doesn't really go anywhere. Nonetheless, there's been a bit of an absence of electronic music permeating rock radio recently, and it's nice to see somebody getting play who uses samplers and isn't named Moby.

Looks like I'm going to squeak this through to my editor in time; next week, however, I've got a date with crossword championship glory in Connecticut, so the column will probably be taking a hiatus. If anything catches your ear musically in the next couple of weeks, feel free to drop me a line at <airwaves@the-tech.mit.edu>. If not, I hope you'll come back and see me next time I'm in print; until then, keep your head above water and keep expanding your horizons.



Matchbox Twenty members Brian Yale, Kyle Cook, Rob Thomas, Paul Doucette, and Adam Gaynor come to a sold-out show this Thursday at the Centrum.

ANDREW MACPHERSON

Are You a Non-Business Major? Do You Want to Improve Your Marketability?

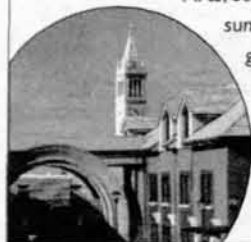
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THEATER REVIEW

Mother Courage and Her Children

Give A.R.T. a Second Chance

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

STAFF WRITER

Directed by Janos Szasz
Written by Bertolt Brecht
With Karen McDonald, Mirjana Jokovic, Tim Kang, Jonathon Roberts, Thomas Derrah, John Douglas Thompson, Paula Plum
At American Repertory Theater

There is one disquieting conclusion that can be made from watching a lot of productions at American Repertory Theater. If, as everyone agrees, A.R.T. is at the cutting edge of modern theatre

— well, then, this cutting edge is a very, very small place; not as much of an edge as a spot, really.

To put this simply, most A.R.T. productions look exactly the same, whether the play produced is Shakespeare or modern, whether it is Russian Yuri Yerminev directing Chekhov (last season's *Ivanov*) or Hungarian Janos Szasz directing Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*. There will be sets, hugely impressive sets, dwarfing the actors. There will be impressive special effects, most likely snow machines running for half an hour at a time. There will be complex music and sound effects. There will be the general feeling that the production team thought more about themselves than about the play.

All of this applies to *Mother Courage*, even though this is mostly a successful effort — by leaps and bounds the most emotionally evocative production I've ever seen at A.R.T. Half of the time (when the direction works to complement Brecht, rather than itself), the results are nothing short of splendid.

Brecht's war saga is full of larger-than-life characters, exciting action, and some of the most haunting moral dilemmas of theatre. Many of those are realized quite beautifully by Szasz: the usage of lighting is highly atmospheric, the staging is (mostly) lucid and natural, and the usage of sounds — music and noise and their contrast — is nothing short of brilliant. The actors are also at the top of their game: Karen McDonald makes a supremely tortured protagonist; Thomas Derrah and John Douglas Thompson add a sense of humor and vitality as her lovers; and all three actors who portray the titular children are very good indeed. The standout of the three is Mirjana Jokovic, who gives the most evocative performance even despite the fact that her character is mute.

As long as the production is about Brecht's play, it is wonderful. As soon it stops being about that, it stops dead in its tracks. *Mother Courage* is so clearly intended as a critique of war that the decision to stage it with modern costumes and props (another A.R.T. staple) is crushingly obvious. In this aspect, the production clearly wants to make a grand statement about war, and it does so by mixing in second century B.C. Chinese terra-cotta warriors, machine guns, landsknecht helmets, and similar props, each paraded about as a new piece of eye candy, to a rather distracting effect.

Even more disruptive are the supremely tedious interludes between the scenes (added by the director), which, also trying for the same grand statement, consist of about a dozen men moving about the stage in the fog, slowly hitting each other with bamboo sticks for about five minutes at a time. One can merely compare any of these scene to, say, a shatteringly powerful finale (the title character disappears into the snow storm) to see the difference between working with a play and working against it.

The beauty and inspiration of scenes such as the ending is enough to make *Mother Courage* a touching and a transporting experience — but, once in a while, despite all of the baroque touches of direction, there is a nagging feeling of familiarity. We all know what it breeds.

International Graduate Masters Degree Program in Global Manufacturing at Boston University

M. S. Degree Program Overview

This unique international graduate engineering program combines the theoretical approach of the American academic system with the German hands-on practical approach to engineering and manufacturing.

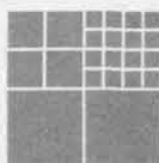
During the 2-year curriculum, students will have the opportunity to participate in research and development projects both at Fraunhofer's Center for Manufacturing Innovation in Boston and the Institute for Production Technology in Aachen, Germany.

M.S. Degree Program Highlights

- Successful candidates receive research assistantships that include a tuition waiver and a monthly stipend.
- Students complete coursework at Boston University and RWTH in Aachen — Germany's premiere engineering university.
- While at Boston University, students work at Fraunhofer's Center for Manufacturing Innovation and can select from a variety of research projects.
- Students can spend up to 1 year studying at the RWTH and working at the Institute for Production Technology in Aachen, Germany.
- There is no foreign language requirement — all courses are taught in English.

For further information

Visit Fraunhofer's Web site at www.fhcmi.org
or contact
Michael Reinhardt:
617-353-1820
mreinhardt@fraunhofer.org



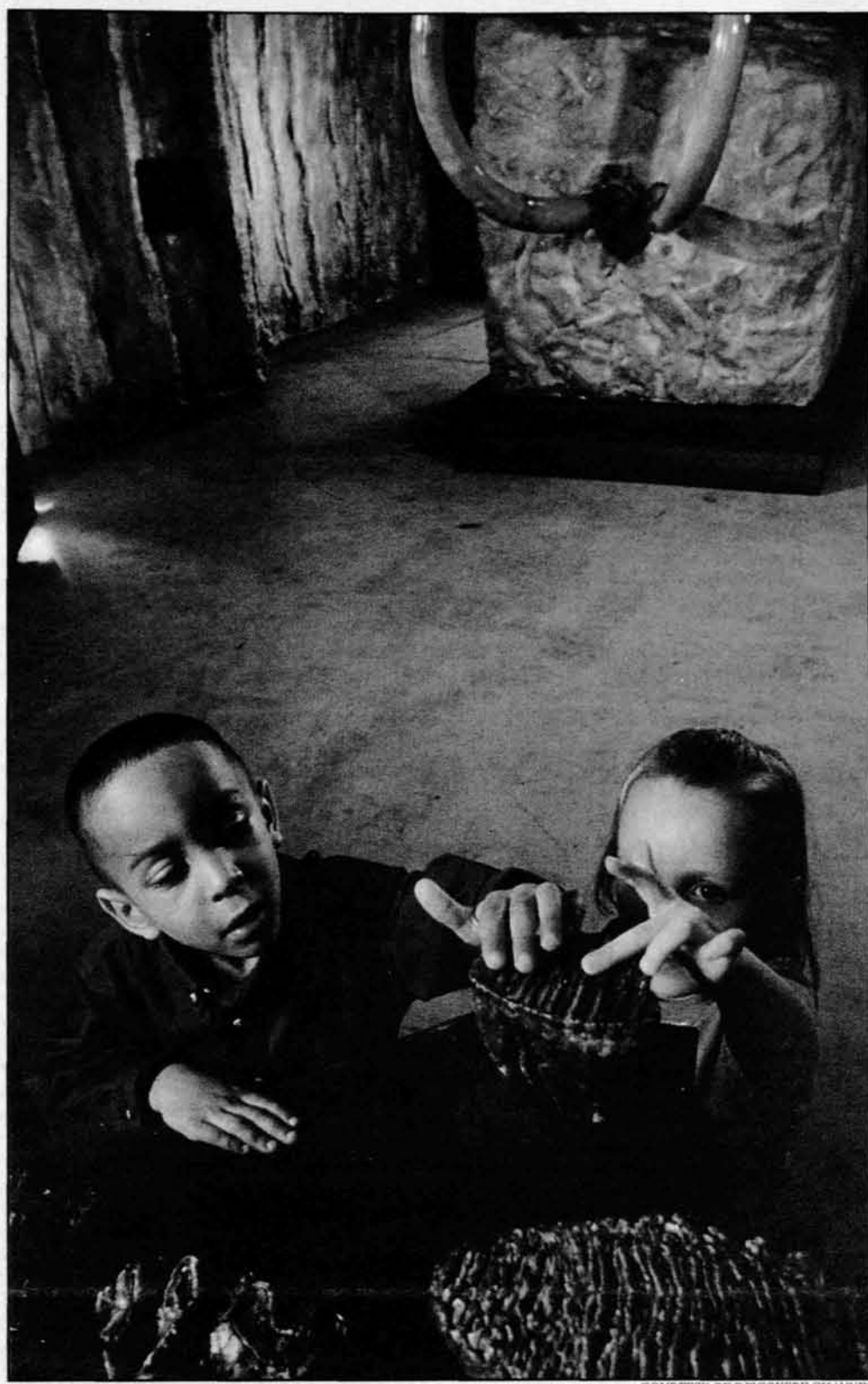
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COURTESY OF DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Children at the Museum of Science rub their fingers over woolly mammoth teeth.

EXHIBIT REVIEW

Mammoths Migrate To Museum of Science

Museum Debuts "Prehistoric Worlds, Backyard Discoveries"

By Erik Blankinship

STAFF WRITER

Museum of Science
 Science Park Stop on MBTA Green Line
 Exhibit Open until June 2001
 Museum Admission Free with MIT Student ID

The 1999 discovery of a woolly mammoth by the Jarkov family in their backyard — they found giant tusks sticking out of the ground — generated the impetus for a new exhibit, entitled "Prehistoric Worlds, Backyard Discoveries," at the Museum of Science.

The exhibit offers a number of hands-on activities, allowing visitors to touch real mammoth tusks and hair, for example. Accompanying the real mammoth samples are other pelts, allowing for comparison of feel and texture. Visitors also get a chance to "hear" a mammoth (an audio mix of African and Asian elephant roars and snorts) and "smell" a mammoth too (an olfactory creation reminiscent of Elmer's glue and damp leaves).

The exhibit also contains a number of videos, showing animated scenes of woolly mammoth activities, including walking around, taking baths, and engaging in other elephant-esque behaviors. Other videos suggest how we could clone a mammoth, before suggesting that impossible hurdles stand in the way. Just when I was beginning to become psyched ... which is, of course, the idea.

The exhibit does jazz up the kid in you, eager to learn about and explore the world. Visitors sense that ancient history is all around them, and that they just might find it if they look hard enough. It reminded me of fossils I prepared as a kid by burying bones between two rocks in the nearby forest for future people to uncover. The exhibit does rouse that

childhood excitement and feelings of possibility in you for a moment.

Along with the multisensory mammoth room, presented in an "ice cave," the rest of the exhibit highlights kids who have uncovered ancient skeletal remains in their own backyards. I expected a lot of kids in Montana to be the winners, but there was even a dinosaur dug up in New York! Each of the discoveries includes life-size photo cut outs of the children who uncovered the remains, along with recreations of their houses and bedrooms, adorned with books, dolls, and authentic dinosaur remains. It does provide an interesting touch to the exhibit.

For all of the inspiration it provides to young paleontologists, the exhibit doesn't offer any "learning by doing" opportunities as I would have expected from a contemporary science exhibit. Hopefully, the excitement of hands-on learning is reserved for kids when they get home and start digging — but even then, the chances are not too high that they're going to make any finds of their own. The "interactives" are limited to web pages on touch screen monitors, which are pushed to the side of the exhibit, dull, and just awful to navigate.

The exhibit does not have the grandeur of a permanent exhibit. For example, the aforementioned "ice cave" is constructed of plastic walls with the museum ceiling exposed. But it is by no means a shoddy collection of experiences. There are many skeletal remains on display, including a *Bambiraptor* discovered by a 14 year-old, alongside an artistic recreation of what the beast probably looked like.

The Museum of Science's mammoth exhibit presents a colorful, comprehensive depiction of the prehistoric animal that will without a doubt arouse the child in you.

BOOK REVIEW

Angles of Reflection

Intersecting Worlds Collide

By Jane Maduram

STAFF WRITER

Written by Joan Richards
 Published by W. H. Freeman & Company
 \$23.95

There are few books that investigate the intellectual and emotional underpinnings of researchers. While the images of the nerd and the geek have been redefined in popular culture, their appearances in literature have remained rare and, quite frankly, largely unfavorable. Even if they are featured in a novel, the emphasis of the book will probably rest on an unsavory professor's seamy side, a scientist's emotional instability, or the ever-fascinating world of college politics and tenure battles. This autobiographical book admittedly starts with a tenure battle, but it goes on to achieve a surprisingly deep commentary on the way the inherently multiple personas of a researcher conflict and are resolved in life.

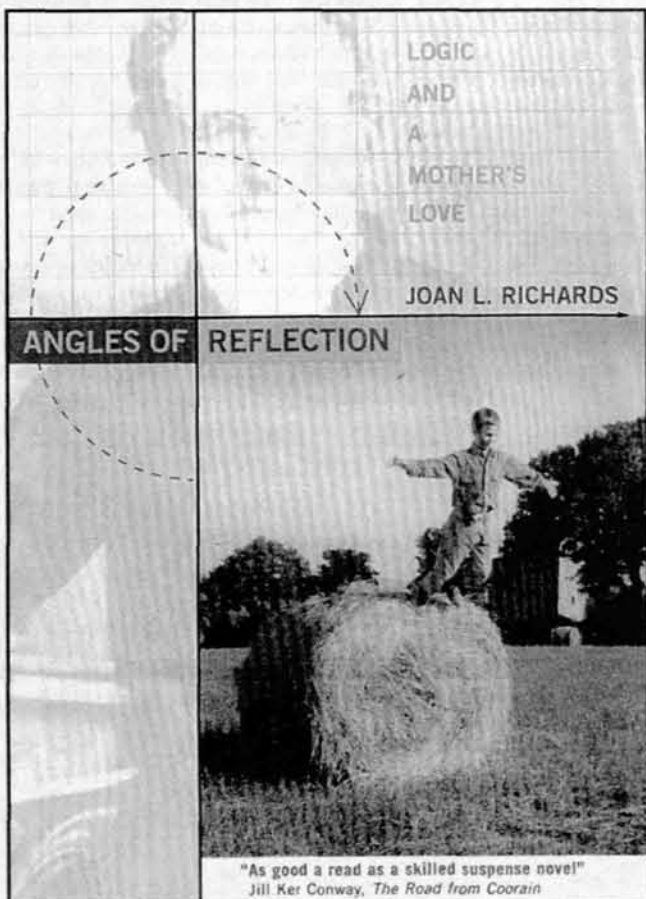
At the beginning of *Angles of Reflection*, author Joan Richards, a professor of science history at Brown University, brutally falls against the "publish or perish" phenomena. Refused a tenure promotion due to her failure to publish a second book, Richards gets two fellowships so she can have time to write. While she is on her first fellowship, however, her son gets seizures. And during her stay at her second fellowship, in Germany, the same son has a protracted problem with a broken arm. Both experiences leave her disillusioned with the medical system.

While Richards' encounters with doctors take up the bulk of the book, its most fascinating sections are those in which she applies the subject of her book to her life. Richards is a science historian and, at one point, writes about why she felt called to this topic. "Newton also understood that beyond all ... was an absolute world — calm, clear, and undis-

turbed ... at times Newton positively glowed with the peace of knowing things that were so true ... I am of a different world but as it often had in the past, my work with Victorian mathematicians served to tranquilize and reassure my mind on a very deep level."

The book that Richards was hoping to write during her two fellowships concerned De Morgan, one of the early founders of probability. He, like Newton, believed in absolutes: time, space, and probabilities were things that they believed to be constant. Perhaps more intriguingly was that they held life as well to be absolute. Leibnez, on the other hand, held things to be "purely relative." While Newton and De Morgan believed relative time and space to be reflections of human frailty, Leibnez believed relativity to be the foundation of life.

Richards agrees at first with De Morgan's application of mathematical philosophy to life, but her experience with her son's illnesses forces her to reevaluate her position. Her intellectual, mathematical philosophy is forced to bend to an emotional, personal tragedy. While digging through archives to find how De Morgan coped with the deaths of several of his children, she realizes that the position that De Morgan holds can only be achieved by trivializing life itself. "The more I pondered ... the more I saw my [Victorian] mathematicians trying to grab the truth, to control by knowing it ... Their mathematical work was magnificent, but they



had only been able to sustain it by disparaging the relative and consigning it to their servants and their wives."

The way in which Richards' personal problems affect her professional work and vice versa is written beautifully. There is a very real interplay between the research she carries out, her conflicts with the medical system, and the way in which she views the world. At times, Richards is susceptible to over-analysis; the conclusion in particular is dissatisfying in that it resolves the themes of personal identity, professional identity, and the Victorian mindset in pieces, not as a whole. These are minor quibbles, however — this is definitely one of the more intellectually satisfying memoirs I have read, and I look forward to reading Richards' next book.

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FILM REVIEW ★★★½

You Can Count On Me

A Cannes Winner Unearths the Blithe and Bitter In Daily Life

By Erik Blankinship and Pilapa Esara

*Written and Directed by Ken Lonergan
Starring Matthew Broderick, Amy Ryan,
Michael Countryman, Rory Caulkin, Adam
LeFevre, Halley Feiffer, and Whitney Vance
Rated R*

You Can Count On Me is a poignant movie about a sister and a brother, written with heart and authenticity. This film treats you like a friend who's been inadvertently asked to sit in the living room as a family drama unfolds. The characters are real and their challenges tangible. Screenwriter and director Ken Lonergan has come out of the depths of clichéd film scribing (see *Rocky and Bullwinkle*, or, rather, don't) and delivered a rough gem of a film. It has been widely praised, most highly with the 2000 Cannes' Grand Jury Prize.

Actress Laura Linney depicts Sammy, a single mother of an eight year old boy. Sammy's day to day routine is suddenly disrupted by the appearance of her estranged younger brother, Rory (Mark Ruffalo). Despite his delinquent lifestyle and his

family's problems, and her eyes revealed real concern and compassion.

The "star" power of this film is Matthew Broderick, who has claimed his next great role since *Election*. As a small town bank manager, he nitpicks on his staff's timeliness, presentation skills, and even their font color choices. The pettiness of his peevishness seem all too real to the nervous bank staff, and that real world, everyday workplace anxiety is conveyed to the audience.

The other "star" in this film is little Rory Caulkin, younger brother of *Home Alone* (now stage actor) Macaulay Caulkin. The kid is a clone of his brothers at the same age; those Caulkin parents birthed gold mines. He is at times hard to understand, mumbling his lines, but even that makes the movie feel more real — he's a little kid and of course he isn't all too clear! Little Caulkin actually comes across as a likable kid with real problems: he has begun to fantasize about his unknown bastard father of which he knows nothing.

We fear we might be overstating the omnipresent realism of the character's lives so as to lead the reader into believing that the minutiae of these character's lives will leave one numb. Rather, the characters eat, drink, go to work, do household repairs, and, despite the everyday, a convincing story and a rich familial theme illuminates their lives. This authenticity drives the emotional arc of the film.

The editing of this film is unlike anything we have seen in a theater for a long while. Dialogue scenes, regularly shot with the creativity of a WB sitcom, here are amazingly refreshing. Moments of familial intimacy in public places are filmed and edited so as to jar you. The camera is momentarily removed from the tripod and slides ever so slightly from emotional framed closeups as character's drift. It is subtle, unnerving, and intimate. Martin Scorsese is the film's executive producer, and we imagine had his hand in the cutting. Film editor Anne McCabe is one to be watched.

The film has some confusing elements, like the conflation of the United Methodist church and pastor with a markedly Catholic facade. Despite denominational issues, the presence of the church in the film and the message it delivers, one not cluttered by spiritual issues which could all too easily offend those not looking for pedantic preaching (ourselves included), strikes true.

Screening at the nearby Kendall Cinema, this film should not be missed.

BOOK REVIEW

More Stories From My Father's Court

Concentrated, Curdled Life of a Nobel Laureate

By Jane Maduram

STAFF WRITER

*Written by Isaac Bashevis Singer
Translated by Curt Leviant
Published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux
\$22.00*

The stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer read like the curdled concentrate of life. His autobiographical tales are bluntly hammered together and often fragmented, but they carry a heft and power rarely seen in literature. From the father who works himself to death to the rabbi that rebels against God, Singer treats his characters with respect and dignity.

Few explanations are made; for the most part, Singer refuses to interpret or psychoanalyze the situations that he encounters, and therein lies his strength — the people that he meets speak for themselves.

More Stories from My Father's Court is a retelling of Singer's childhood in Krochmalna Street, Warsaw. As a rabbi's son, Singer was an observer to the multiple worlds that intersected in his father's study at the dawn of the century — his childhood, the traditional Jewish community, and pre-World War Poland. And while the worlds he knew have long since disappeared, the voices that Singer calls up seem as current as those encountered today. Much of this cross-generational appeal rests on the universality of relationships — father to child, wife to husband, worshipper to God. Nonetheless, it is Singer's skill as a writer that brings those relationships to life.

As the narrator, Singer is the single unifying factor in this collection of short stories, and his unobtrusive but pervasive eye for detail is what brings unity to the book. Like many small children, Singer eavesdropped on his father's conversations, and each story is beautifully told from a child's view. Stolen information is supplemented with non-verbal cues, gossip, and speculation as to the oddities of grownups. The rabbi's court was the center for religious discussion, marriages, divorces, and law settlements among other things, and so there is plenty to watch.

Singer's acute knowledge of people and

communities plays out in spectacular writing. When a disgruntled wife accuses her husband, Singer writes, "She didn't yell and didn't cry but hissed like a goose, spat like a snake. She put a finger to her throat signaling how high the water had risen."

When he sees a rich, pious Jew who steals, he writes, "I began to lose my respect for these people who speak beautifully, smoke expensive cigars, make expensive weddings for their daughters, and travel to spas. Secretly, they are thieves. They will end up as bats."

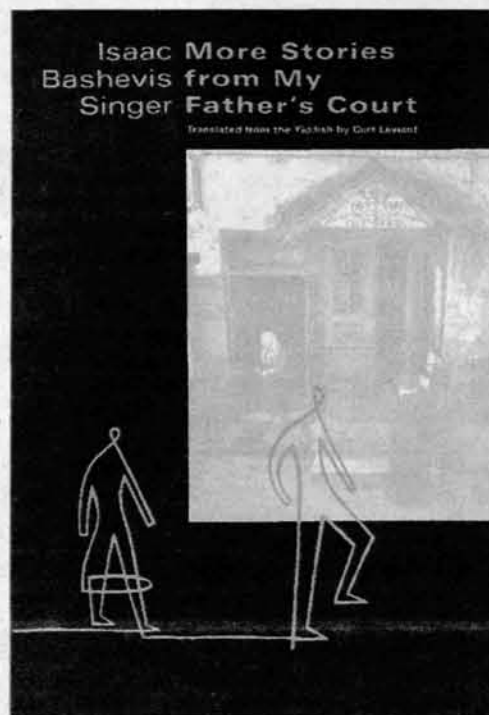
The strong, descriptive tone of these stories comes from their origin in Singer's column in the newspaper *The Jewish Daily Forward*, where they were published in Yiddish. The columns date from the 1950s, and Singer himself died a decade ago, but this new translation adds to the large number of stories, novels, memoirs, and children books that Singer published before his death. Singer won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1978; it is not difficult to see why.

In "A Chunk of Darkness," one of the short stories within this book, Singer compresses the destruction of a man into a few short, eerie pages. From his care-free agreement to say Kaddish (a prayer said after death) for a bearded, warty hag to his death as a worn, feeble man, Singer details the mysterious hold the hag has on her Kaddish sayer.

In the final paragraph, Singer writes, "The old woman stood in the kitchen, black as coal, with a distorted face, a drooping mouth — a chunk of darkness. She exuded a demonic power ... I was still a little boy at the time, but I clearly sensed that the old woman had in some secretive manner done in her Kaddish sayer. Like a spider she had enmeshed him in her web and destroyed him."

While Singer's mastery over language is evident, there are times when he stumbles. When he ventures into the rare interpretation of a sequence of events, he seems shaky, as when he talks about his own maturation into an adolescent. When discussing himself, his observations are less pointed, less subtle.

Still, the overall quality of Singer's work triumphs over these minor mishaps. In his telling stories of the conflicts, coincidences, and clumsiness of life, Singer demonstrates that he has truly lived.



"The editing of this film is unlike anything we have seen in a theater for a long while.

Dialogue scenes, regularly shot with the creativity of a WB sitcom, here are amazingly refreshing. Moments of familial intimacy in public places are filmed and edited so as to jar you."

admission of visiting after a year only for cash, Sammy wants her brother to stay if only so she can take care him. The story unfolds with deeds of ambiguous morality and moments of personal redemption.

Although Sammy and Rory were orphaned in childhood, the death of their parents acts as a mere backdrop for characters whose complexity doesn't derive completely from one tragic source. Unlike with *Party of Five*, the viewer isn't annoyingly pestered with dialogue that rants of self-therapy and contrived angst. This film doesn't preach and it doesn't overdramatize. It grants the audience intellect and patience. This film is certainly a story worth paying for. The cast of virtual unknowns deliver performances of siblings you feel are your own, or have met in other families. At times we found ourselves staring into Linney's character's eyes looking for answers to her

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FOOD REVIEW

The Essential Vegetarian

Central Kitchen and a Light Spring Cooking Idea

By Katie Jeffreys
STAFF WRITER

I had walked past Central Kitchen (on Mass. Ave. in Central Square) for a long time but never stopped to go in. From the name, location, and outward appearance, I assumed it was a diner of sorts. I recently had the opportunity to dine there, and was pleased to find that my assumptions were entirely false.

The restaurant is small, with dim lights and distressed metal tabletops. Probably the most interesting aspect of the decor were a series of light fixtures which looked as though it were a wine rack. However in each row of bottles protruding from the wall, one was translucent and had the light bulb inside. We arrived early and had a prime table by the window facing the street, allowing us a view of the ever-entertaining crowd of Central Square.

So overwhelmed and impressed with the ambiance, I wasn't sure what to expect from the food, especially since the wine list was twice the physical size of the menu. Central Kitchen seems to change their menu regularly, so I can't say that what I had will be on the menu for long, especially as new produce becomes available in the spring and summer. Of the six or so entree choices, one was vegetarian, so I obviously chose it.

The dish was primarily different kinds of potatoes in a cream sauce. On top of that were some artichokes which were really poorly prepared (they had left some of the tough outer part on and even the hearts were not very tender). Added to the mix were zucchini slices (cut long-ways) wrapped around goat cheese. Having a certain penchant for goat cheese, those were the highlight of the dish for me. After awhile the potatoes got really boring to eat (and very filling as well).

We also tried the creme brulee for dessert, which was not very exciting but tasty nonetheless. All in all I enjoyed the experience, and if you can afford to splurge (entrees are around \$15), I would highly recommend this restaurant.

With spring break just around the corner, I thought I would share with you a healthy recipe in case you want to shed that extra winter weight. Of course two weeks really isn't enough time to make a big difference, but eating healthfully can never hurt.

As always, feel free to send me comments and suggestions at <veggie@the-tech.mit.edu>.

Spanish-Style Veggies

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 small eggplant, cubed | 2 cloves crushed garlic |
| 2 medium green peppers, chopped | 1 tsp. cumin |
| 1 medium zucchini, cubed | 1 tsp. coriander |
| 1 medium onion, chopped | 1/2 tsp. chili powder (or to taste) |
| 1 cup tomato puree | 1/4 tsp. cayenne (or to taste) |
| 1/4 cup water | |

Saute garlic and onion in a bit of water. Add eggplant, herbs, tomato puree, and rest of the water. Cover and simmer for about 15 minutes. Add peppers and zucchini. Simmer until all vegetables are soft. Serve over rice.

Do you pull hair out? The Massachusetts General Hospital is conducting a double-Blind study using Zolofit and behavioral treatment for chronic hairpulling. This research Study is free of charge. For further information, please contact Amanda Beals, M. Ed., at 617-726-9281

**Crossword
Puzzle
Solution**

from page 8

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ONE	PAR	EPI CURE
LED	ERA	DEMETER
EMU	REGLUE	DEMI
COCK	ATTEL	LID
ANTI	CALF	RATE
TESTED	FALTERED	
	SLIP	RUED
CRACKERS	BAOBAB	
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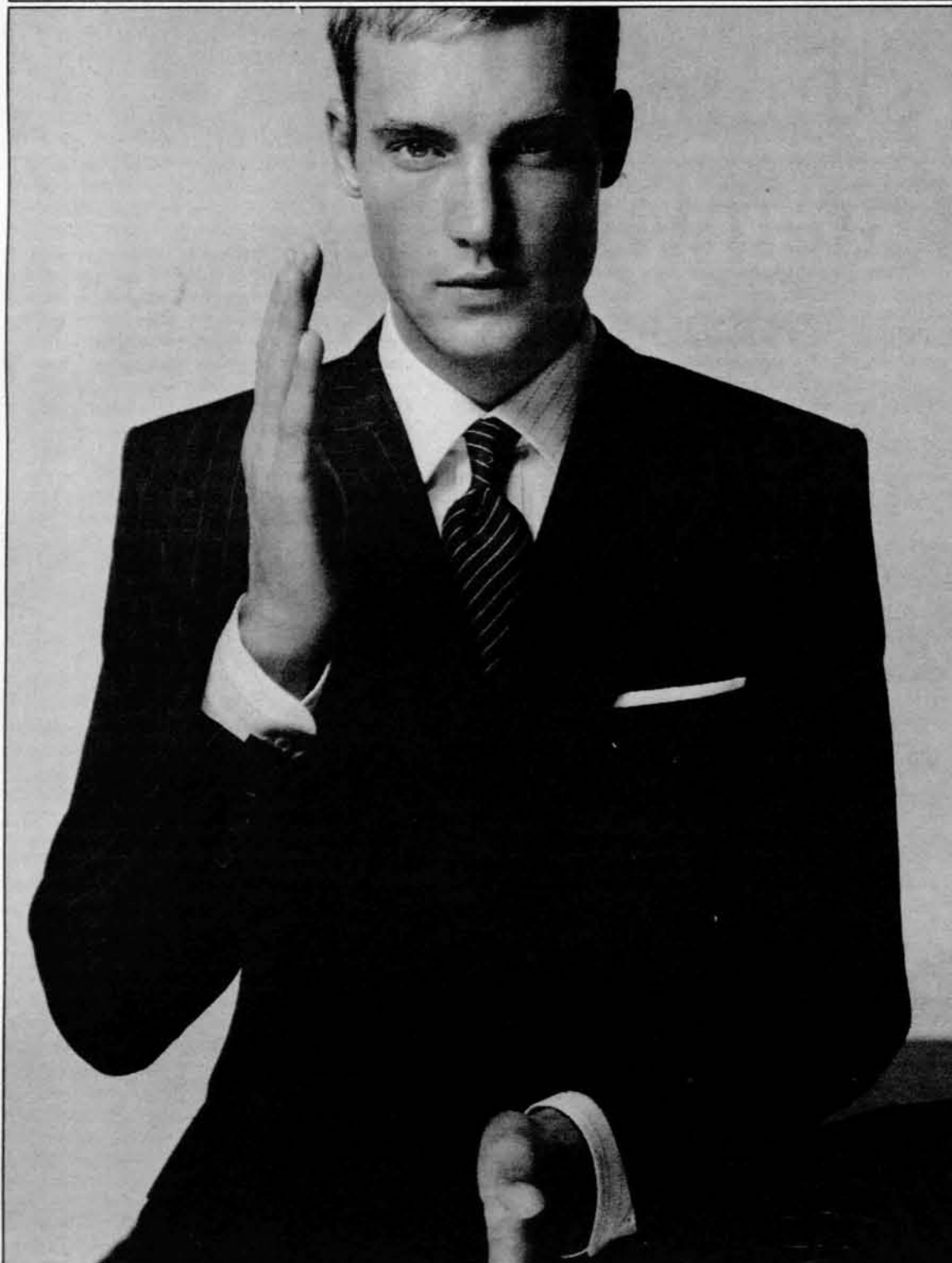
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Good Speakers, Good Company At Biotechnology Conference

By Pey-Hua Hwang
STAFF REPORTER

I arrived in Kresge Auditorium Saturday at 8:50 a.m. — an absurdly early hour for an MIT student — to update that database also known as my brain on the changing field of biotechnology at this year's Conference on Biotechnology, sponsored by MIT and Harvard's Hippocratic societies.

Reporter's Notebook

The conference was composed of a mixture of lectures, panel discussions, and smaller seminars. Some of the more memorable speakers included Dr. Robert S. Langer, Dr. Sheila Jasanoff, Dr. Fritz Bach, Dr. Lee Silver, and Dr. Phillip Campbell, editor of *Nature*. The highlight of the conference for me was Saturday's banquet, where I got to speak informally to many of the featured speakers.

Ideas, ethics, and Frankenstein

Langer, Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at MIT as well as the only person to serve on all three of the National Academies (Engineering, the Sciences, and the Institute of Medicine) gave the opening speech of the two-day conference.

Langer spoke about his involvement in the creation of various time-release drug delivery systems and the resistance he met from the scientific community. He introduced several concepts that would be echoed throughout the rest of the conference; most notably, the difficulty in moving ideas from the laboratory to the market. "Scientists oppose new ideas too," he said.

Langer's technical speech was followed by two presentations, both discussing fears and opposition to technology from different angles.

Justin Gillis, a *Washington Post* reporter covering the biotechnology industry, discussed how lack of information often predisposed the public to fear new technology. As someone without an extensive scientific background, Gillis said, he felt he could act as a "translator" for the general public.

"Public fear of new technology often overshadows reality," Gillis said. However, he also drew a comparison between scientific hubris versus science. Gillis emphasized the need to exercise caution so that there wouldn't be a backlash like the one described in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

Calestous Juma, Director of the Science, Technology, and Innovation Program at the Center for International Development at Harvard University, discussed bioethics and the role of new biotechnology in developing countries. "How do you make science serve the goals of humanity?" he asked. Both Gillis and Juma fielded questions from an audience comprised of approximately 75 students and faculty.

With over 450 people pre-registered, Kresge Auditorium, however, seemed almost empty. "There were transportation issues," said Harvard student Shashank S. Sinha '04.

A bit of this and a bit of that

In contrast to the morning, Saturday afternoon included small group seminars as well as panels of speakers and covered subjects from gene patenting to patient care.

MIT Professor of Molecular Biology Jonathan A. King kicked off the afternoon with a thought-provoking talk about gene patenting. He said that "products of nature should be outside the patent system" and that the current system caused an "enormous redundancy of efforts" within the academic community due to delaying publishing results while waiting for patent applications to go through.

King felt that this "profound reversal of openness" was a hin-

drance to progress in a field that could ultimately hold such possibilities for saving human lives. When he opened for questions at the end of his talk it seemed almost like a moderated debate about company profits versus moral obligations.

Slack livens up the afternoon

So, after four speakers all speaking on very serious topics, I found it refreshing to hear the anecdotes that Dr. Warner V. Slack, the co-president of the Center for Clinical Computing and Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School presented during a panel discussion titled "Changing the Face of Patient Care."

In grand storytelling style, he told about his creation of an interactive computer program to obtain basic patient information. The program was replete with humorous responses to patient input and choices for answering multiple choice questions like "none of your damn business" and "skip it." He advocated "Patient Power" and even seemed a bit miffed when forced to use a microphone, claiming that his voice projected fine on its own.

MIT Professor of Economics Jeffrey E. Harris also presented his perspective on the "Medicalization of life." He presented several case studies to try and point out that it was impossible to match every disorder with some sort of technological treatment.

Dinner, dessert, and debate

Following a long day of information osmosis I was more than ready for the banquet where I would get to eat and talk to some of the speakers on an informal basis.

This banquet, if you could call a gathering of approximately 50 people sitting in Lobdell eating catered food buffet style a banquet, was definitely what I felt was the highlight of the conference, but not because of the food.

Not knowing anyone at the banquet and having spoken briefly to Slack earlier, I asked to sit by him and found myself seated at the table that included almost all of speakers who chose to attend the banquet — most notably speaker of the banquet, Jasanoff, a professor of science and public policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, as well as Campbell, the conference's keynote closing speaker.

I found it very amusing that as the dinner ended the reporter from *The Harvard Crimson* made the mistake of attempting to ask Campbell about his thoughts on the conference so far, when Campbell had just flown in and just arrived in time for dinner. Sitting at the table with him I avoided this embarrassment.

However, as amusing as this incident was it was overshadowed by Jasanoff's articulate debating skills. In a speech titled, "Leading or Lagging?: Strange encounters of Law and Biotechnology," she said that the perception that the law is in a never-ending game of catch-up to the advances of science is untrue. In reality, she said, science and government actually work in conjunction each furthering the development of the other.

Many students disagreed with Jasanoff's viewpoint and each speaker was subsequently humbled. Jasanoff summarized the robustness of the law stating, "law is often questioning when is something just an incremental change or when is something a radical break."

The conference continues

Once again dealing with the jet lag created by the return from MIT time to the schedule of the rest of the world, Sunday began bright and early at 8:30 a.m. when I grabbed a donut from the conference continental breakfast and headed towards MIT's 10-250 to hear Dr. Barry Einstein, the vice president of the

Office of Science and Technology at Harvard Medical School.

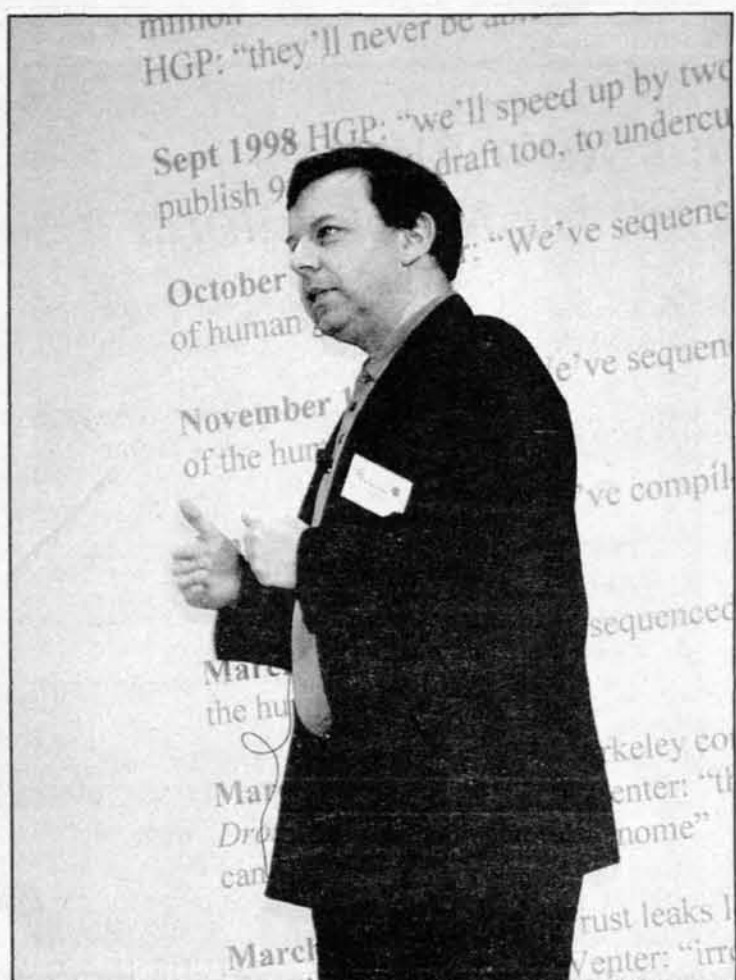
After Einstein's speech about the relationship between academic versus corporate research, I was able to have him comment further on his support of academic researchers being able to profit from their discoveries. He said, "You can have your cake and eat it too ... if done properly the transfer of technology benefits all sides ... it benefits society, and brings value to the investigator." He did add, though, that there needed to be boundaries so that there wouldn't be conflict of interest issues.

Monkeys and melodrama

Silver, Bach, Dr. Sheldon Krimsky, and Chair of the National Institutes of Health recombinant DNA Advisory Committee Claudia Mickelson inspired both laughter and debate. Silver, professor in biology, ecology, and neuroscience at Princeton University, went so far as to put a picture of his son next to a monkey up during his presentation as he spoke about the future of gene technology. Bach, professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, spoke about the need for an "informed public."

Krimsky, founder of the Council for Responsible Genetics and professor at Tufts University, then spoke the need to modify patent law, while Mickelson defended those regulations that had been implemented. "We hear extremes ... what we don't hear is active robust discussion by the people who are going to be living with these technologies," Mickelson said.

Aimee L. Smith, a graduate student at MIT, had very strong opinions about the topics covered and argued with the speakers during the question and answer session until



Phillip Campbell, Editor in Chief of *Nature* magazine, delivers his closing keynote address Sunday at the 2001 MIT-Harvard Conference on Biotechnology in Kresge Auditorium.

asked to step aside. When asked why she felt so strongly she responded, "I think that there are a lot of underlying assumptions defined by corporate interests ... things are always political whether we choose to look at that aspect or not," and that "there seems to be a lack of perspective in the field."

All weekends must end

The conference closed with Campbell's closing address entitled, "Voyages in Spinland." Campbell traced a "brief history of spin"

through the subtle mudslinging that occurred in the race to sequence the human genome between Celera and the Human Genome Project.

After his talk, beating out *The Crimson* and various other journalists, I was able to catch him to take a few questions before he had to run to catch his flight. He said that he would like "an appreciation of how information and misinformation gets circulated" to be what stuck with listeners. His opinion of the conference in general was pretty much in line with my own: "I enjoyed the talks."

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MIT Committee on Campus Race Relations

Hackers Discussed Descrambler Code During IAP Seminar

DVD, from Page 1

we are looking at it and discussing it."

Kutner seemed skeptical that the code actually worked. Horowitz and Winstein said that they have shown the code in operation during a seminar held over IAP.

"Our main point was to show the incongruity of six lines of code, something that can be written on a napkin or put upon a T-shirt and declaring it a circumvention device," Winstein said, also calling such reasoning "preposterous."

Each DVD player has a decoder

All DVDs are created as scrambled information that can only be unlocked by a DVD player, preventing the user from manipulating the DVD video or saving it in unencrypted form. In the past, programmers have designed more complicated programs to crack these codes.

During the months of November and December, Winstein and Horowitz designed a program that would descramble the DVD code

and subsequently allow one to watch DVDs on free software.

"We were programming in Perl, and one of the things to do with Perl is to see how much you can condense your code," Horowitz said.

The two immediately took up the challenge and were able to condense their program initially into seven lines of code. Over the next month, the seven lines became six.

Horowitz noted that "in order to descramble the DVD, you will need a key that is not a part of our program, but is available through other software." These codes were initially discovered when an anonymous German hacker reverse engineered a commercial DVD decoder.

Code featured in IAP seminar

During IAP, Winstein created a seminar to discuss the present legal and technical aspects of today's computer code copyright regulations. "On the first day we generally discussed the various weaknesses and flaws of the algorithm," said Winstein, who headed the seminar. During the class, he handed out the six-line code that descrambles all DVDs.

The next portion of the seminar included a panel discussion with Winstein, MIT professor Harold Abelson PhD '73, professor Jonathan Zittrain of Harvard Law School, and David Barr of C-Cubed Microsystems, a member of the DVD Copy Control Association. "We then discussed the legal ramifications of codes like this and the feasibility of restricting the distribution of algorithms, or computer recipes, in the future," Winstein said.

MIT not involved in dispute

Though no official legal charges have been filed against Winstein and Horowitz, the MPAA may soon file suit. According to section 2.1 of the the Guide to the Ownership, Distribution, and Commercial Development of MIT Technology, the Institute will not take part in any legal dispute.

Winstein said that "our original goal was to play DVD under a GNU/Linux Operating System, which we accomplished." In regards to possible disputes, he said, "This will hopefully add to the debate about whether code is free speech or not ... we think our First Amendment rights will be upheld in this instance."



SEPHIR HAMILTON—THE TECH

Over 200 seniors attended the Class of 2001 Senior Gift Campaign kickoff yesterday in the Bush Room. The graduating students were encouraged to donate to any part of the Institute or support the class project, a scholarship to encourage improvements to student life at MIT. Donations will be collected all week in lobby 10.

The Committee on Campus Race Relations

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An Evening with Loni Ding
Thursday, March 22 7pm 10-250

Ms. Ding will present clips from her upcoming PBS series *Ancestors in the Americas* followed by a discussion jointly introduced and moderated by Dean Ayida Mthembu and Dean Kunya DesJardins. Reception to follow.

Loni Ding, a MacArthur fellow and Emmy-winning producer, has produced nearly 200 documentary videos and films. Much of Ms. Ding's work explores the history of race and race relations in the United States. Her videos are meticulously structured both in style and content, and convey the complex and often painful realities of the subject matter without sacrificing the lush aesthetics she brings to the art form of film.

The first two parts of "Ancestors in the Americas" will be screened in their entirety on campus prior to Ms. Ding's arrival:

March 13 - Part 1- *Coolies, Sailors, Settlers* 6-120 (7:00pm & 8:30pm)

March 14 - Part 2- *Chinese in the Frontier West* 6-120 (7:00pm & 8:30pm)

March 17 - both films will be shown in East Campus Talbot Lounge (4:00pm and 6:00pm)

-For more information, please contact Dean Ayida Mthembu @ 253-48610 or mthembu@mit.edu-

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2 years old, 1992



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UA Seeks Advising Changes

Advising, from Page 1

Students in the departments of Economics, Ocean Engineering, and Brain and Cognitive Sciences ranked the quality of their advising significantly below other departments.

"What we were trying to get out of all this was an overall ranking of the departments of where they stand in relation to each other," said Ekta M. Desai '03, a member of the subcommittee.

One alarming aspect of the report is that 80 percent of the students polled from MIT's largest department, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, believe that their advisers do not know them well enough to write a recommendation for them.

"I was disappointed in the results of the survey, since I believe EECS has some of the strongest advisers at MIT," said Anne M. Hunter, administrator of EECS's undergraduate and Master of Engineering Programs.

Each academic department separately administers its own advising program.

"We saw this as a very important issue since academic advising has never been looked at across the Institute. This study was a logical first step," said Jason H. Wasfy '01, head of the subcommittee.

UA hopes to improve advising

The UA passed legislation at Monday's meeting to continue the work of the subcommittee.

"The purpose of the legislation is to give a direction to the subcommittee for the next step, which is to work with the departments, the Committee on Undergraduate Program, and the Dean of Undergraduate Education," Shulman said.

"There were several departments that consistently ranked highly. We need to see what they are doing right and come up with standards for the Institute as a whole to improve advising," Desai said.

"We still haven't really decided where to go from here," Wasfy said. Several possible steps to be taken in the future by the subcommittee include surveying more students, asking broader questions, and working with problematic departments for improvement.

"I hope this will open the debate. I am really glad this is a big priority in the UA, and I hope it is as important in the administration," Wasfy said.

The subcommittee will release more detailed and extensive data from the survey later in the semester.

Survey methodology questioned

One weakness that Wasfy pointed out in the study was the inclusion of students from the Sloan School of Management, who have a different registration schedule.

"We only got about four percent of the department to respond," Wasfy said.

"If you look at the questions where we [EECS] did poorly, they were all very narrow and specific. I would have preferred a broader question asking students how well (on a scale) their advisers gave them what students asked them for," Hunter said.

Several departments such as Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, Linguistics and Philosophy, and Humanities programs were not included in the report due to the lack of undergraduate majors.

"It was naturally difficult to conduct the study with the smaller departments," Wasfy said. "Overall, I think our methodology was pretty strong."

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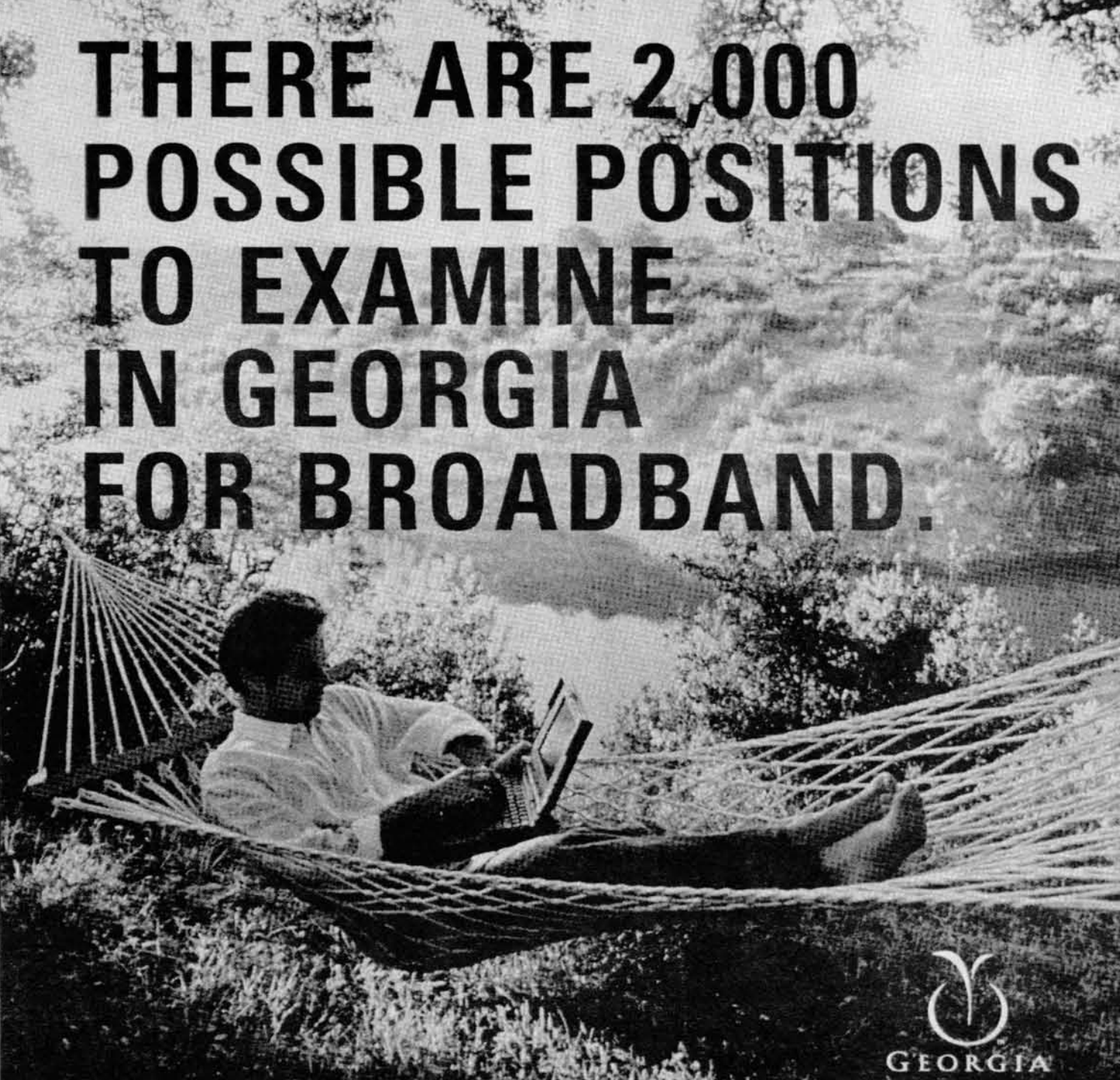
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GEORGIA

UA Councilors Popularly Elected for the First Time

UA Elections, from Page 1

Devereaux said. They are also planning to get more input from students about MIT's dining program.

Election system underwent change

There were several very large changes made to the UA election process this year.

One change was the school-wide election of UA Councilors. Prior to this year, each dormitory and the Interfraternity Council (IFC) separately elected its own representatives to the UA Council. This year the candidates for councilors submitted an application to the Election Commission and were elected through the UA election system.

Scott believes that electing councilors school-wide works really

well. "I think it gives students a huge mandate," Scott said. "For instance, IFC councilor Bruce Au received 118 votes. He has a huge backing. I think students both inside and outside the UA will realize what an awesome responsibility and honor it is to be on council."

The 2001 Election Commission also hired pollster Aaron B. Strauss '02, an unprecedented decision.

Strauss offered the poll to all the UAP/VP candidates and *The Tech*. Presidential candidate Sanjay K. Rao '02 and the Election Commission bought the poll.

Scott said that "when the commission received the poll on March 4 Strauss explained that the higher the voter turnout, the higher the likelihood of Rao winning. However, if the publicity was too low, that

would increase the possibility of Devereaux and Neizmik winning due to the loyalty and size of their 'certain to vote' base."

Scott said that the results of the election proved the poll was incorrect. The voter turnout was very large and there was a lot of publicity, which the poll indicated would mean that Rao should have won.

Write-in candidates win posts

Eleven write-in candidates won positions in the UA elections. Some of the candidates actively campaigned; others did not even know that they were running.

Alvin M. Lin '04 ran as a write-in candidate for 2004 Class Treasurer. Lin said that "I knew that it would be difficult for me to win as a write-in candidate, but I thought that it was important to have another candidate available. I was especially disappointed that the candidate running for 2004 Treasurer did not have a platform."

Several new officers were elected by a couple of their friends. Marlita N. Taylor '03 was elected publicity chair for the class of 2003 with two votes.

Taylor said she was elected on a whim. "I went to vote with my friends and no one was running, so my friends said, 'Let's vote for Marlita.'"

A similar thing happened to Julie M. Pinkston '04, who is now councilor-elect for Baker. She did not intend to run, but her roommates wrote her in, and she won.

When asked what she thought of getting the position without running Pinkston said, "I think it's just kinda funny that it happened, but it is sad that no one else ran."

Kelly N. Zimmerman '04 is also councilor-elect for Baker and was officially on the ballot.

Zimmerman was glad that Pinkston was elected because "I was afraid I would have to do it by myself." While she is generally in favor of the write-in policy of voting she feels that "it doesn't portray candidates accurately," because if the candidate had been on the ballot, she would have received a lot more votes.

"If you are the only person on the ballot then you'll probably get the position," Zimmerman said, which she feels is not necessarily the best system.

Scott feels that the public needs to take more responsibility for running for office. "Every year the MIT undergraduate community knows that the elections are coming up, and still people fail to make up their minds and turn in a petition on time. People had plenty of time to think about it, so if a person decided at the last minute that they want to fill a

position that the entire community had months and months to think about I think it's great. I am happy to see people wanting to get involved."

Recommendations for next year

Scott had a couple of recommendations for the 2002 Election Commission to help the elections run smoother. A lot of changes were made to the process this year, but Scott felt that improvements could still be made.

"I would recommend that they have a couple of meetings with the candidates to make sure that all the candidates understand why debates should occur," Scott said.

This was the first year the presidential candidates of each class, and not just the UAP/VP, got to debate.

In addition, Scott said, "I want next year's Election Commission to always be fair, and just."

This year there was some discussion about Scott's own impartiality, but she recused herself and said that she "was not even present when the ballots were counted."

Scott's final advice to the next Election Commission was, "Focus on the issues that face the students."

The complete UA election results are available online at <http://web.mit.edu/ua/elections/officialresults.htm>.



UA Speaker Jaime E. Devereaux '02 looks on as President Charles M. Vest addresses last night's UA Council meeting.



Practitioners of Falun Dafa, also called Falun Gong, take a break from a Saturday conference with a group meditation on the steps of the Student Center. Falun Dafa was publicized in 1992 by Li Hongzhi and has been recently criticized by the Chinese government.

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Benedict Addresses Concerns

Coordinators, from Page 1

ates, O'Dair said.

The original plan included one coordinator for all graduate students and three for the undergraduates.

Deans address communication

After announcing the new residential coordinator plans, Benedict and O'Dair addressed student complaints about ineffective communication between students and the administration.

Dormitory Council President Jeffrey C. Roberts '02 said he had known about the proposal as early as December. Dormcon didn't inform the public of the status of the proposal because it felt it did not have enough details to advertise, said Dormcon Vice President Matthew S. Cain '02. "It was basically a big miscommunication," Cain said.

Roberts added that when he was first informed, the proposal "was not a plan ... my expectation was that when it became a plan, [the dormitories involved] would be the first to hear. We just had a breakdown in communication."

The administration had also communicated with the Undergraduate Association and the Graduate Student Council, O'Dair said.

"One thing we've learned is that

we need to use multiple communication mechanisms, because as it is, the word doesn't get out," O'Dair said.

Students prefer new proposal

Most attendees at Friday's meeting acknowledged that Benedict's new proposal was an improvement.

Robin H. Ivester '01, who wrote the summary of student concerns provided to Benedict on Friday, said that Benedict's appearance at the meeting helped rebuild students' trust in the administration.

"I think what he did shows us very clearly that he's willing to work with us, for us," she said.

Other students commended the administration for responding to their concerns.

"I was pretty pleased with the outcome of the meeting," said Senior House resident M. Maitland Lederer '03. "I was glad to see communication [between students and administrators] and not just yelling and name-calling."

Lederer added that residential coordinators were "not a bad idea in principle" and that her main objections to the initial proposal were the original implementation plans and the wording.

"It's clear that Dean Benedict cares about the well-being of the students," said Senior House resi-

dent Geoffrey L. Goodell '01.

However, Goodell expressed reservations about the administration's failure to provide students with a long-term plan. He added that, without seeing Benedict's long-term vision, the residential coordinator plan seems "like a solution begging for a problem."

Meanwhile, the GSC expressed its support for the new proposal.

"Among grad students, we like the concept of having another person to help with residential life," said GSC Housing and Community Affairs Chair Shunmugavelu D. Sokka. "Undergraduates have a lot of support already, but we favor any help we can get."

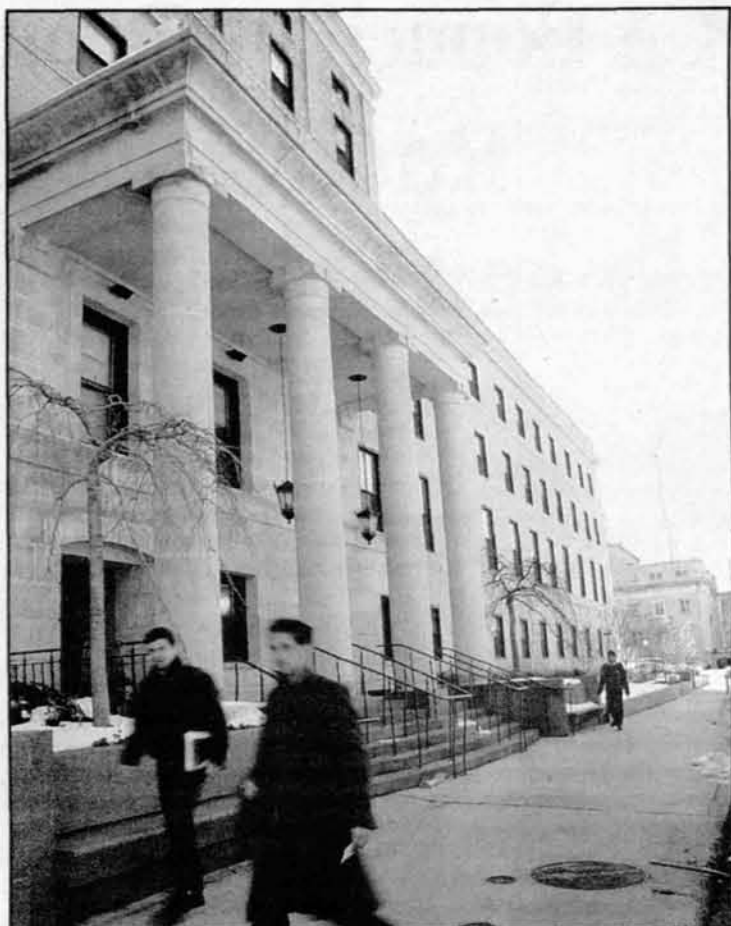
Students draft bill of rights

The controversy surrounding this proposal has inspired a group of students, led by Lederer, to create a "Students' Bill of Rights." Currently in its early stages, the document outlines students' basic housing rights.

Lederer said the idea had been tossed around by the UA and other groups. "It's not incredibly novel, but it's something that hasn't been done yet," she said.

The text of the current draft can be viewed online at <<http://web.mit.edu/surreal/www/sbor.html>>.

Mike Hall contributed to the reporting of this story.



KATHY CHEN

Students pass by Senior House yesterday afternoon. Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict and Assistant Dean for Residential Programs Katherine G. O'Dair said that the dormitory will not be home to residential coordinators next year at a meeting Friday with concerned residents.



KAILAS NARNEDRAN—THE TECH

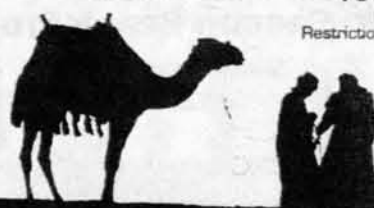
6.004 seems to be in the early lead on Monday as MIT students start voting for who's screwing them in the Alpha Phi Omega "Big Screw" fund-raiser. Students can vote all week in lobby 10.

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POSITION AVAILABLE IN THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE AS AN ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR

The Office of Admissions is now accepting applications for the position of Admissions Counselor. This is a one-year full-time position beginning in July 2001. Duties include:

- evaluating applications and participating in admissions committee decisions
- traveling throughout the country for recruitment purposes
- coordinating MIT student involvement in the reception area and Campus Preview Weekend
- conducting question and answer sessions

Applications are available in the Admissions Office, 3-108, with Hillary Oak and should be returned no later than April 13, 2001.

Note: This is for 2001 (January or June) MIT graduates.

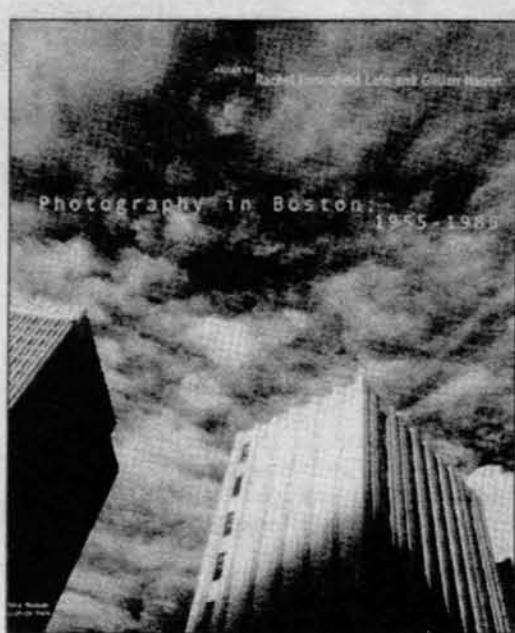
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Photography in Boston: 1955-1985

Boston played a crucial role in the development of American photography (including criticism, collecting, and curating) in the second half of the twentieth century. This book accompanies the landmark exhibition at the DeCordova Museum that includes such important American artists as Berenice Abbott, Harold Edgerton, Nan Goldin, Olivia Parker, Rosamond Purcell, and Minor White. Rachel Lafo will show slides and discuss how the work of these and other artists helped to create a regional critical mass in photography.

"This study makes an important contribution to our understanding of how Boston served as a nexus for many of the artists, critics, and historians who have shaped the recent history of photography in the academy and beyond." -- Deborah Martin Kao, Richard L. Menschel Curator of Photography, Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University

Rachel Rosenfield Lafo is Senior Curator at the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln, Massachusetts.

Photography in Boston is copublished by The MIT Press and the DeCordova Museum, 2000.

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Vermont Steals Spot From MIT Gymnasts

Catamounts Overtake MIT; Beavers Need A Score of 170 at Final Meet for Nationals

By David Hu
TEAM MEMBER

At this year's New England Championships, the MIT men's gymnastics team spent their most teeth-grinding moments sitting on the bench.

The Beavers had finished all six events while the University of Vermont competed on their final event, the parallel bars. Vermont needed to score 27.45 points in order to nudge the Beavers further away from qualifying for Nationals.

Vermont scored their highest on parallel bars this year, pulling ahead of the Beavers, 164.65 to 162.75. Despite the loss, MIT's score was a team high for the season.

MIT competed against five other teams at the New England, including the University of Massachusetts, Springfield College, Southern Connecticut College, and a new team called the "individuals." MIT lost to all but the "individuals," whom the Beavers proudly shut out by 71.15 points.

MIT had the potential to beat UVM. Coach Noah Riskin said MIT had "an excellent competition — some excellent performances and great overall spirit and focus."

The beginning of the meet proved traumatic for MIT. The sheer volume of the other teams and another team's catcall of "Special Olympics" clouded the Beavers' focus momentarily.

The result of the team's distraction was a score of 20.0 on pom-

mel horse. Every gymnast fell except Luke A. Massery '02 and David Yin '03.

Besides pommel horse, the MIT men competed at a high level and beat their scores from last meet on floor exercise, still rings, vault, and high bar.

The awards ceremony afterward recognized top scores in the New England region. Damian M. Engen '03 took sixth place on vault, parallel bars, and all-around. Massery took sixth place for his 8.3 on floor exercise. Patrick R. Griffin '04 won seventh place as an all-arounder for his total score and season high of 44.2.

"Patrick's parallel bars routine was very good; a strong mount, Stutz [to handstand], etc ... in other words Patrick performed to his potential," said Riskin.

In two weeks, MIT competes for the next and perhaps last time this year at the East Coast Athletic Championships, held at the College of William and Mary.

In order to qualify for Nationals, MIT needs to make up for Sunday's loss by not only beating Vermont at ECACs, but also by scoring at least 170. Attaining this goal is possible.

"If we're to win our trip to Nationals, Patrick's level of performance can't be the exception," said Riskin. "We need to add just a few requirements and double our efforts on routines... something I'm asking [all team members] to do together and support one another."

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Increased truck traffic carrying steel and concrete may cause delays on Vassar Street.

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The MBTA bus stop across from 77 Mass. Ave. is relocated to the corner of Mass. Ave. and Memorial Drive. Also, the main crosswalk in front of 77 Mass. Ave. has been temporarily relocated 100 feet south towards Memorial Drive. Handicapped access to the main building will be provided at the Amherst Street crosswalk only.

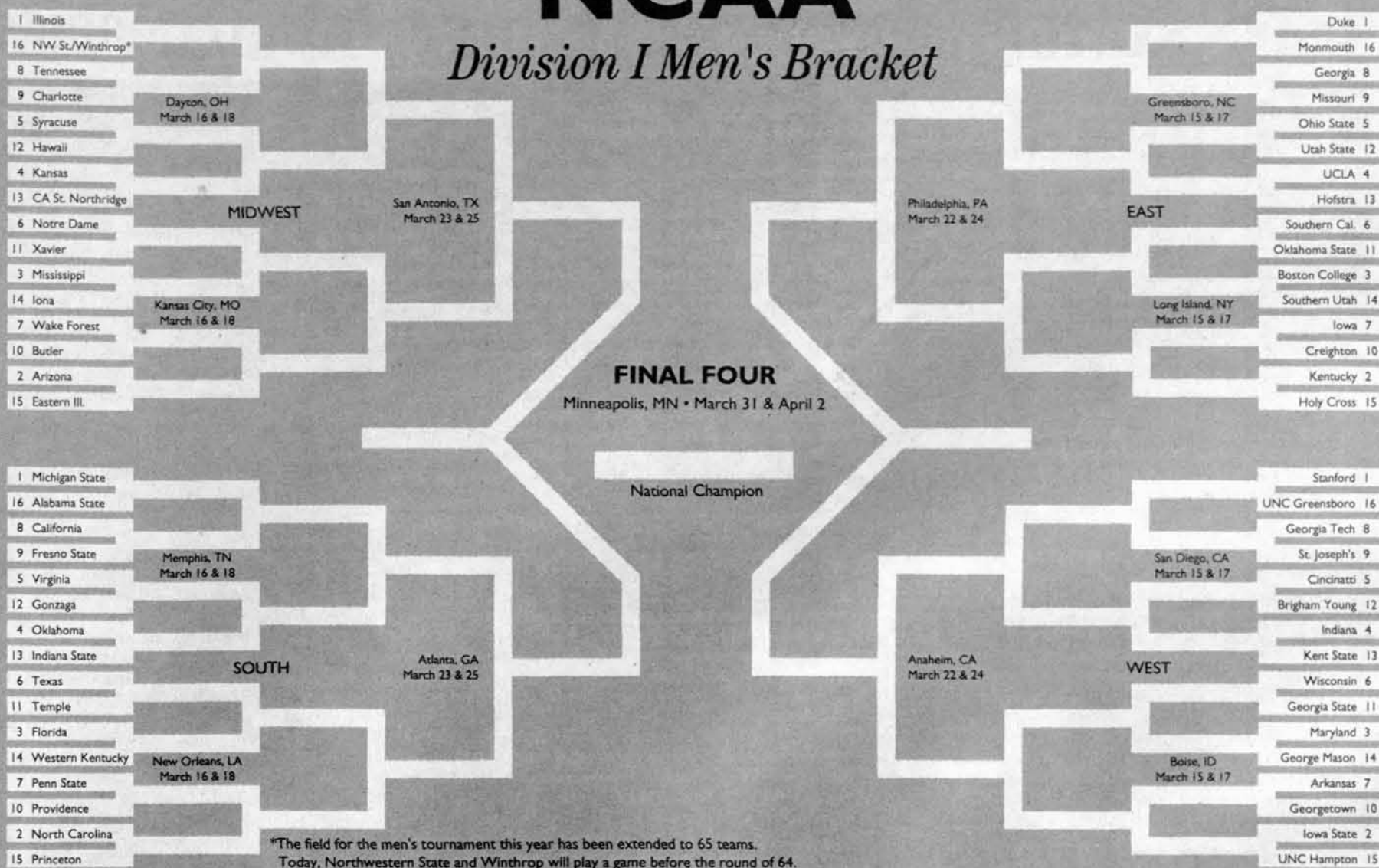
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Placement of a concrete base may cause disruption to vehicular traffic on Vassar Street.

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web.mit.edu/facilities/www/construction/

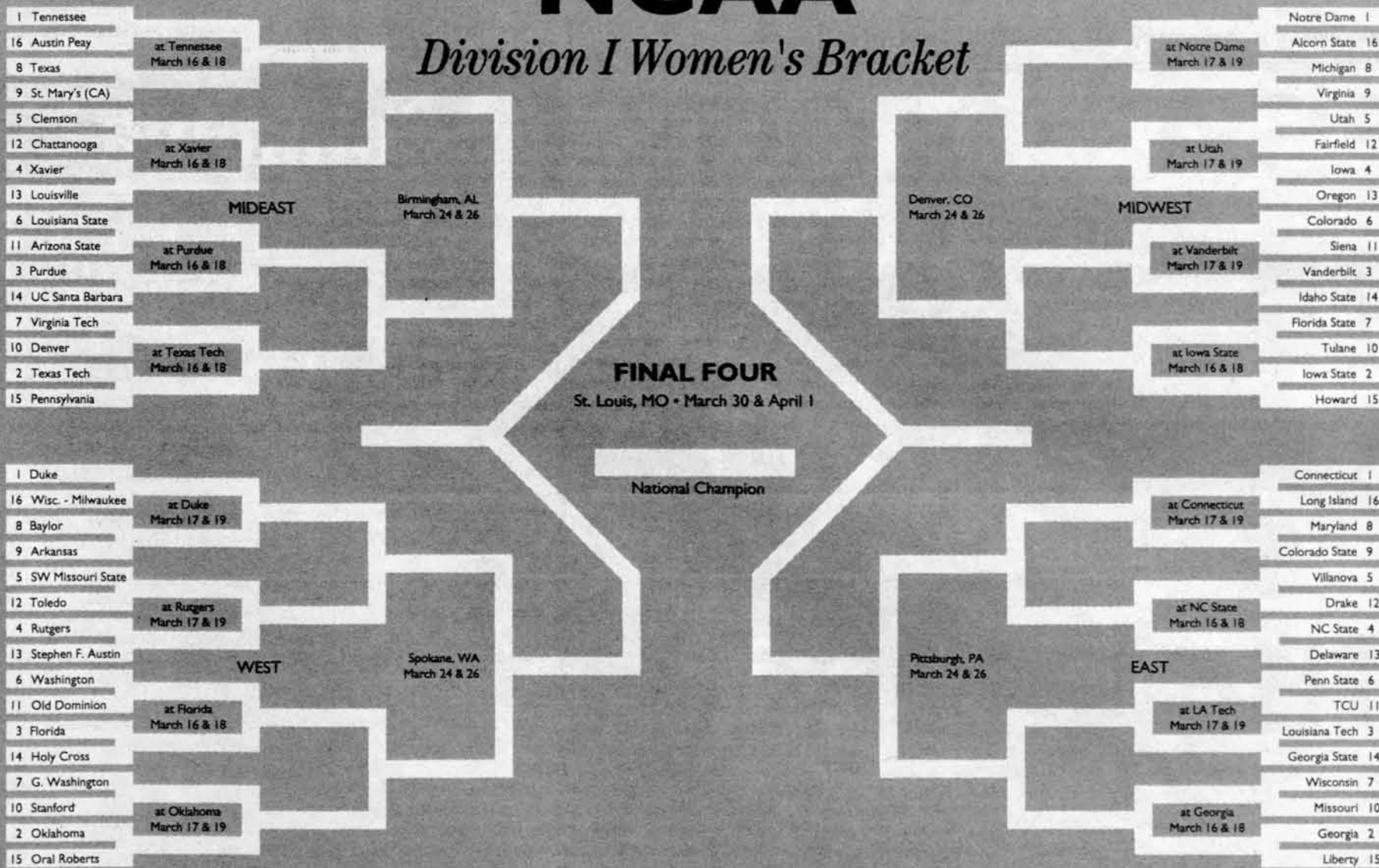
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Division I Men's Bracket



NCAA

Division I Women's Bracket



Established 1881 The Tech provides the Division I men's and women's brackets for the 2001 NCAA basketball tournaments for the enjoyment of its readers. If you want to write about college basketball or any sports topic, send e-mail to mihalik@mit.edu. And good luck with your Final Four selections.

SPORTS

Figure Skating Showcases Talent at Annual Show

By Diana Cheng
CLUB MEMBER

The MIT Figure Skating and Ice Dance Club held its 18th Annual Figure Skating Exhibition on the ice rink at Johnson Athletic Center on Saturday.



The program included a variety of skating disciplines, including three synchronized skating teams and ice dancers.

The synchronized skating teams that performed were the Linear Progressions from the MIT Figure Skating Club's team, the Esprit de Corps Masters, and the Esprit de Corps Adults from the Hayden Recreation Center in Lexington, MA.

Ice dancers performed the Rhythm Blues Dance and the Willow Waltz Dance. Three pairs teams performed, and there were 27 individual performances.

Several guest skaters performed, representing the Skating Club of Boston and other local skating clubs. Lara and Neill Shelton, from the Colonial Figure Skating Club, performed a pairs program to the music of Vogue. Nicole Sutherland from Northwestern University performed a singles program to the music of "The Reason," by Celine Dion.

Esther J. Horwich '77 founded the MIT Figure Skating Club in her junior year. She recalls giving "7:30 wake-up calls" to her friends in 1975, because she "didn't want to lose our ice time."

In the 25th year of the club she founded, she said, "It's like a family here — people just don't want to leave!" She noted that skaters range from ability level from beginners to adult national competitors, and that the show was "all-inclusive."

Beverly A. Thurber '01, President of the MIT Figure Skating Club, noted that the show is a "culmination of all [the skaters'] hard work." She said, "I came to the rink the first day [it opened] of my fresh-

man year and haven't left."

Thurber's mother Bonnie traveled from Chicago to watch the show. "It's my favorite ice skating show because everyone in it loves to ice skate," said the elder Thurber. Beverly Thurber performed in the Opening Number, Linear Progressions number, Ice Wars 2001, the Willow Waltz Dance, and her own program to the music of Black Death.

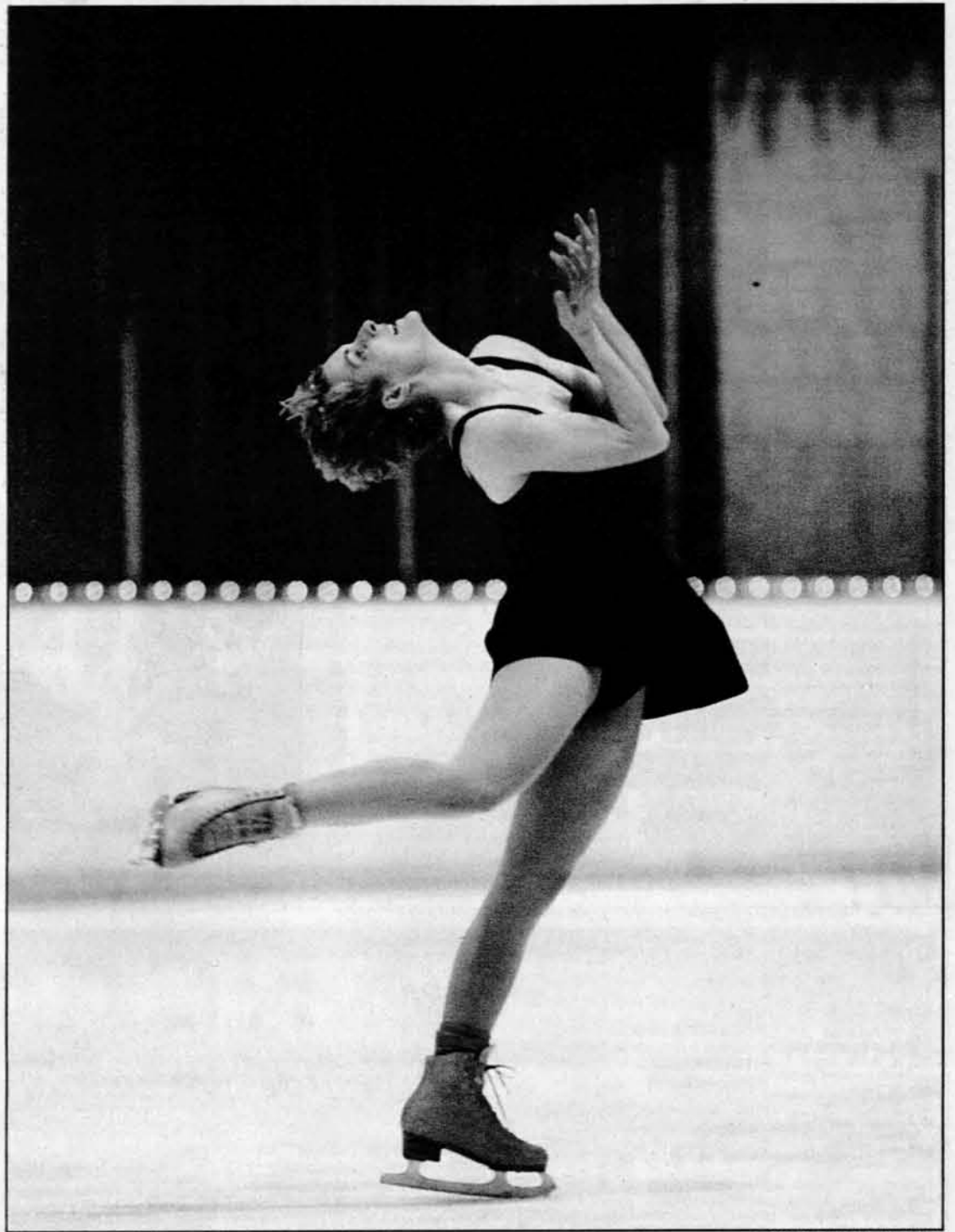
Synchronized skating team member and coach Bonny S. Kellermann '72, who is Competition Coordinator and Special Events Coordinator for the club, says she enjoys the "great feeling of skating, of camaraderie, and working with other people." Kellermann choreographed the Linear Progressions program to "Help," by the Beatles, and is also a member of the Esprit de Corps Masters group which will be competing in the National Synchronized Skating Competition next week.

Louise Silver '68 skated a pairs program with her partner Bill Rowe and a singles program in celebration of becoming a grandmother to her grandson, Sam. She said she began skating as an adult in 1985 when her husband "dragged her into it — now he can't get me off the ice!"

Maris Sparks, who performed in her own program, said jokingly, "we feel that we're as good as Popstars." Sparks particularly enjoyed the "comedy routines" such as Ice Wars 2001. In Ice Wars 2001, Bobby Piankian and Ray Magee pretended to challenge Sally DeFazio, Beverly A. Thurber, and Kellermann to a bubble-blowing and back-stroking competition.

President of the MIT Ice Dance Club Tracey Selsen commented, "I thought the show went really well. Everyone put in an excellent effort."

Kevin Xu '99 performed in the Rhythm Blues Dance after starting ice dancing during Independent Activities Period in January 2000. He enjoys ice dancing because "you can enjoy ice skating, music, and dance at the same time." He added, "I'll be back for next year's show."



Heather Clark performs during a Skating Exhibition of the MIT Figure Skating and Ice Dance Club.

AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH



Two Engineers plow a Panther to take possession. MIT defeated Plymouth State in an exhibition match.

AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

Lacrosse Dominates In Exhibition Match

By L. M. Hughey

Sticks checked mercilessly on the freshly plowed turf Saturday during the men's lacrosse pre-season scrimmage against the Plymouth State College Panthers. Despite the subzero wind chill and sideline snow drifts, the Engineers defeated to Panthers "A lot to a very little!" said defenseman Christopher K. Wilmer '02.

Head Coach Walter Alessi, while searching through the white mounds after the game for lost balls, said the score was, "around 12-6, or something like that. Once you're already winning, the goal is to learn and work on strategy."

The scrimmage served as a promising note for the men's lacrosse 2001 spring season. "The team should be pretty strong offensively since our top six scorers returned," said Alessi.

Previous four-year starter and league all-star goalie Justin M. Verdrame G is now a graduate student and serves as assistant coach.

The year's new starting goalie, Timothy P. Nolan '01, "has shown signs of brilliance ... and is anxious to prove himself," said Alessi.

Brent M. Schreiber '03, who is also a starting middle linebacker on the football team, is the single returning starting defenseman and is "one of the hardest hitters we have ever had," said the coach.

The two leading scorers from last season, co-captain Pascal F. Rettig '02 and Matthew P. Van Horne '02, have returned and are armed with firepower.

However, midfield is clearly the team's strongest position in terms of depth and it is led by Eli J. Weinberg '02. Weinberg has been an all-league player for two years and was an all-New England as a freshman.

The season should be a competitively wild one and Coach Alessi is ready: "All in all, this should be an exciting and challenging season, and I can't wait to play the games!"

Want to see some brutal checking and cannon shots? Come watch the team's first official season game against Tufts University on the turf at 3:30 p.m., Thursday March 15th.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, March 13
Men's Tennis vs. Brandeis University, 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 15
Men's Lacrosse vs. Tufts University, 3:30 p.m.
Friday - Sunday, March 16-18
Boston Open Badminton Tournament, Du Pont