

Monday Classes Today

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather

Today: Cloudy, mild, 50°F (10°C)
Tonight: Showers late, 38°F (3°C)
Tomorrow: Blustery, 42°F (6°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 121, Number 5

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, February 20, 2001



WENDY GU—THE TECH

The sunlit steam globe in Kendall Square warms an otherwise frigid winter morning.

Senate Opens Deutch Pardon Investigation

By Brian Loux
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has begun an inquiry into President Clinton's 11th-hour pardon of ex-CIA director and MIT Institute Professor John M. Deutch '61.

Spurred by Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Alabama), the committee sent a letter Wednesday to Central Intelligence Agency officials asking whether they were consulted by the White House about the pardon. CIA officials responded that they were not informed by any White House officials about the pardon. The committee is presently examining four of Clinton's 140 pardons issued on January 20.

"If John Deutch had already agreed to plead guilty to criminal violation, I just don't understand why the president would undermine his own Department of Justice," Shelby said to *The Washington Post*. It was widely reported that before the pardon was issued the Justice Department had reached an agreement with Deutch about his alleged mishandling of classified information; the pardon would effectively nullify that agreement.

The Senate committee is trying to meet with the Justice Department and Deutch's lawyer, Terrence O'Donnell, to discuss the matter further.

Deutch comes under fire

Since allegations about his mis-

handling of information surfaced nearly one year ago, Deutch has come under heavy fire.

Professor of Science, Technology and National Security Policy Theodore Postol said, "I'm concerned about [Deutch's] conduct ... You have to ask yourself, with knowledge of this kind of consequence of release, how could anyone responsible [for the lives of intelligence officers] do this?"

Postol cited the case of Aldrich Ames, who was arrested in 1994 for selling CIA secrets to Russia. Postol, noting that "most intelligence information involves individuals who are involved in intelligence gathering," said such activity reveals not only the individuals, but also the head organizations, strategies and goals of the intelligence gatherers. In the Ames case, the Russians used the information gathered to identify CIA sources. "Once they were identified to the satisfaction of the Russian intelligence people, the individuals were executed," said Postol.

Postol said the same scenario could have resulted should Deutch's documents have fallen into the wrong hands. "[His actions showed] a recklessness, a disregard for the lives of people who are in the country. That I find absolutely astonishing, unforgivable, and unexplainable," he said.

Deutch, Page 16

MIT Not Alone in Suicide Struggle

By Sanjay Basu
STAFF REPORTER

While the spotlight generated by *The Boston Globe's* series on suicide at MIT offers insight into our campus's latent problem, one notes a distinct omission from the *Globe's* story: many other colleges were loath to assume responsibility — or potential liability — for suicides on their campuses, and several were reluctant to provide data.

Thirteen schools — including Princeton, Stanford, Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania, Carnegie Mellon, and Yale — either refused to furnish the data or said they did not

know how many of their students had killed themselves since 1990.

A comparison of MIT's suicide problem to those of comparable schools might prove essential to confronting the issue here, and although the *Globe* was unable to receive clear statistics on cases at other universities, *The Tech* has salvaged information from two schools that have experienced similar problems: Columbia University in New York and Harvard University.

Death and secrecy at Columbia

Columbia experienced four deaths last year, including three sui-

cides. In March, Brian Malmon, a student on leave, committed suicide at his Maryland home. One month later, senior Puneet Bhandari committed suicide after being suspended. But perhaps the most publicized tragedy was the death of sophomore Kathleen Roskot; after her murder, former Columbia student Thomas Nelford, the lone suspect in the crime, also committed suicide.

Mental Health, Page A2

Mental Health at MIT

A Special Report • Center Section

Allan F. Henry

Professor Emeritus Allan F. Henry, a member of the nuclear engineering department who developed mathematical models for neutron behavior and twice won the Outstanding Teacher Award in nuclear engineering, died on January 28 of kidney failure at the MIT infirmary. He was 76 years old.

Henry came to MIT as a visiting professor in 1968 and stayed for 32 years. He retired in 1995, but he continued to teach until 1999. Henry wrote the book *Nuclear Reactor Analysis* (1975) and served on the Board of Directors of the American Nuclear Society.

In 1974 and 1986, Professor Henry won the Outstanding Teacher Award in nuclear engineering. He also chaired the Department of Nuclear Engineering Committee on Graduate Students and served on the Committee on Graduate School Policy.

Henry graduated from Yale with a SB in chemistry (1945), and an SM (1947) and PhD (1950) in physics. Upon graduating, Henry volunteered to drive an ambulance for British troops in India after knee injuries prevented him from serving in the U.S. Army.

After the war, Henry joined the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory

Henry, Page 13

Lander Discusses Progress on Genome

Speaker Criticizes Corporate Rival's Tactics

By W. S. Wang
STAFF REPORTER

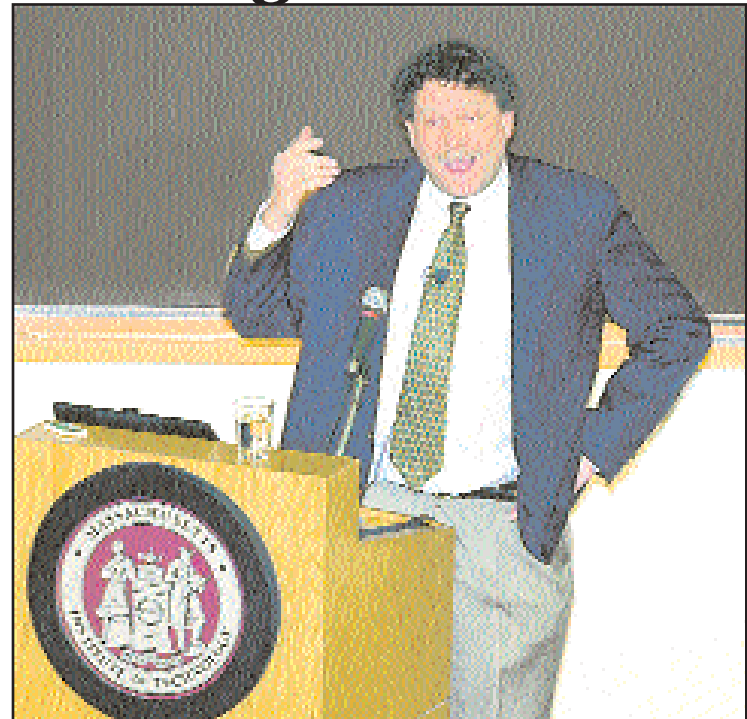
In front of a full-capacity crowd in Room 10-250, Eric Lander, professor of biology at MIT and director of the Whitehead Institute/MIT Center for Genome Research, gave an account of work on the Human Genome Project.

While praising the cooperation and dedication of scientists from across the world that have made the Human Genome Project possible, Lander blasted the corporation Celera in its effort to privately map the genome.

In the battle of academia versus business, Lander said that Celera's genome shotgun method failed despite the company's flagrant use of data, without any proper acknowledgments, that were shared in the public domain.

He likened the result of Celera's

Human Genome, Page 13



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

Professor of Biology Eric Lander presents an overview of the Human Genome Project in 10-250 Friday.

OPINION

Jason H. Wasfy argues that the UA is wrong in trying to delay the implementation of changes to Pass/No Record grading.

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Comics

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A new report questions MIT's conclusions on gender equity in academic science and engineering.

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WORLD & NATION

Roger Clinton Arrested On Drunk-Driving Charges

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Roger Clinton, half-brother of former President Bill Clinton, was arrested in Hermosa Beach, Calif., on suspicion of drunken driving, police said Sunday.

Clinton, who was pardoned by his older sibling last month for a 1985 drug conviction, was arrested about 2:26 a.m. Saturday in downtown Hermosa Beach after he was spotted driving a Ford Expedition erratically, said Officer Paul Wolcott, the city's police spokesman.

The traffic officer who stopped Clinton accused him of failing to signal when turning, not stopping properly at two stop signs, and straddling a center dividing line, Wolcott said.

The 44-year-old Clinton, who had apparently just left a bar in Hermosa Beach, south of Los Angeles, smelled of alcohol, Wolcott said. After failing field sobriety tests, Clinton was taken to the city jail for a breath test, Wolcott said. He would not reveal the blood alcohol level, but said it met or exceeded the 0.08 percent legal limit.

New Report Warns Of Global Warming Dangers

THE WASHINGTON POST

Rising global temperatures already responsible for shrinking glaciers and vanishing permafrost eventually could touch off climate changes that would literally alter ocean currents, wipe away huge portions of Alpine snowcaps and aid the spread of cholera and malaria, according to a study released Monday.

In the most comprehensive look yet at the existing and long-term effects of global warming, the report by a United Nations panel warned of the potential for large scale and irreversible climate changes — including large reductions in the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets and a substantial slowing of the circulation of warm water in the North Atlantic.

The report also warns of devastating droughts, floods, violent storms and the spread of cholera and malaria. It concluded that poor countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America with limited resources would bear the brunt of the most extreme climate changes.

"Most of the Earth's people will be on the losing side," said Harvard University environmental scientist James J. McCarthy, who co-chaired the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which issued the report in Geneva.

Police Regain Control Of Brazilian Prisons

THE WASHINGTON POST

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

Authorities regained control of penitentiaries throughout Brazil's largest state prison system Monday, after nearly 30 coordinated rebellions Sunday afternoon left at least 15 people dead, several of them apparently killed by police.

By late Monday afternoon, prisoners in the Carandiru complex, Brazil's largest penitentiary, had released more than 70 guards and about 5,000 visitors who were in the facility when the rebellion began. They agreed to release hostages and give up their weapons in exchange for an agreement by police not to send in an elite team to crush the rebellion.

The uprising in Carandiru, best known for a 1992 rebellion in which police killed 111 prisoners, set off turmoil throughout Sao Paulo state's 110,000-inmate prison system. Officials and human rights activists said the "mega-rebellion" was planned by a powerful organized crime group known as First Capital Command because some of its leaders were to be transferred out of Carandiru.

Teen Suspects in Dartmouth Slayings Arrested in Indiana

By Elizabeth Mehren

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BOSTON

The flight of two Vermont teenagers wanted in the savage killings of a pair of Dartmouth College professors ended at dawn Monday at the Flying J truck stop in New Castle, Ind.

Robert Tulloch, 17, and James Parker, 16, were apprehended when Henry County Sheriff's Department Sgt. William Ward heard a trucker say on his CB radio that he was driving two boys who were looking for a ride to California.

"Why don't you drop them off at the fuel desk and someone will pick them up?" suggested Ward, who was monitoring CB radio traffic in hopes of locating the fugitive teens.

Tulloch and Parker, objects of a nationwide manhunt, were picked up without incident at the truck stop on Interstate 70.

New Hampshire authorities have charged the pair with the Jan. 27 slaying of Half and Susanne Zantop. The Zantops were fatally stabbed in their home not far from the Dartmouth campus in Hanover. Their bodies, showing wounds in their heads and chests, were discovered by a dinner guest who found

the couple lying in blood in their study.

State, local and federal officials kept a lid on their investigation, consistently refusing to offer details other than the mode of the Zantops' death. The names of Tulloch and Parker did not surface as suspects until almost three weeks after the slayings.

Nor would state Attorney General Philip McLaughlin speculate Monday about a motive in a case that he stressed was moving from the investigation phase to prosecution.

At a televised news conference Monday, McLaughlin said state investigators were en route to Indiana to meet with the suspects.

As investigators searched for the Zantops' killers, the two teenagers caught their attention because one recently bought a military-style knife on the Internet. Police have not identified the murder weapon, but they also have not denied reports that the Zantops' killer used a knife with a 13-inch blade.

Kelly Ayotte, an assistant New Hampshire attorney general, said "forensic evidence" — possibly the distinctive shape of wounds on the

Zantops' bodies — led them to Tulloch and Parker.

In a makeshift lab set up in a trailer in Chelsea — a town of 1,300 about 25 miles from Hanover — Tulloch and Parker last week voluntarily provided fingerprints. Almost immediately afterward, the pair disappeared.

Tall and thin with clean-cut looks, both boys were among 325 kindergarten through high school-aged students in the town's only school. Tulloch, an honor student, last year was elected student council president. An avid debater, he also played soccer and once was voted "Most Likely to Take Over the World."

Parker, a jazz fan who played the bass, was known as the class clown.

But both boys also had brushes with the local authorities as suspects in at least one breaking-and-entering case. They were never charged.

Calls to the Tulloch and Parker homes went unanswered. But Robert Tulloch's mother, Diane Tulloch, told the student newspaper at Dartmouth College that "we love our son and we want the press to know that he's innocent until proven guilty."

Bush Dedicates Memorial Museum to Oklahoma Bombing

By Lois Romano

THE WASHINGTON POST

OKLAHOMA CITY

President Bush Monday praised the courage and spirit of those who endured the Oklahoma City bombing, as he dedicated a powerful national museum honoring the 168 men, women and children who perished nearly six years ago in the deadliest terrorist attack on American soil.

"Memorials do not take away the pain," Bush said moments before dedicating the Oklahoma City National Memorial Center. "They cannot fill the emptiness, but they can make a place in time and tell the value of what was lost."

Just a half block from where Timothy McVeigh detonated a two-ton truck bomb in front of the Alfred

P. Murrah Federal Building, Bush and his wife Laura joined relatives of the dead, rescue workers and survivors outside in observing 168 seconds of silence for the victims.

"Your loss was great and your pain was deep, but far greater and deeper was your care for one another," Bush said. "Oklahoma City will always be one of those places in our national memory where the worst and best both came to pass."

Before addressing the crowd of 2,000, Bush and his wife toured the \$7 million facility built in the old Journal-Record newspaper building, which was heavily damaged in the April 19, 1995 blast.

The museum, which depicts the frenzied aftermath of the bombing and features memorabilia from the victims, is part of an elaborate \$29

million, three-acre national park commemorating the dead and survivors. Last April, President Clinton dedicated the centerpiece of the complex, a dramatic, grassy expanse featuring 168 empty bronze chairs, a reflecting pool and the so-called "survivors tree," the only piece of foliage that survived the blast.

"It brought back April 19 all over again, but now the rest of the country can understand first hand what we have been through," said Dan McKinney, who lost his wife, Linda, in the explosion. McKinney said the hardest part for him was spotting his wife's watch in the museum, which he thought had been lost. "I recognized it because it had a little scratch on it," he said.

WEATHER

Ups and Downs

By Greg Lawson

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

This next week promises a somewhat typical New England weather scenario with change being the only constant.

A useful mental model might be a plane wave propagating to the east past a fixed point, the wave being the weather and the point being Boston. Today the point is sampling the wave at its ridge, as we have mild temperatures and southwesterly winds. Actually, the wave is waning from its true maximum yesterday when we had very little cloud cover. As the wave passes we will witness a drop in temperature, a shift in wind, and the emergence of precipitation. The suddenness of the changes is due to the passage of a cold front — the front may be modeled as the steepening of the wave. After the frontal passage we shall be left in the wave's trough with very cold air. Then the wave will begin waxing towards another crest and we shall see skies clear and temperatures slowly rise.

One must allow modulation of our wave by the diurnal cycle, with its very regular 24-hour period, and other less predictable waves, often termed "short waves" for lack of a better title. Short waves are smaller in scale than our main "weather wave" and they travel quickly along it, thus either accentuating or diminishing the signal of their sum. Short wave activity will be high over the next week and could cause rain or snow showers throughout the period.

Extended Forecast

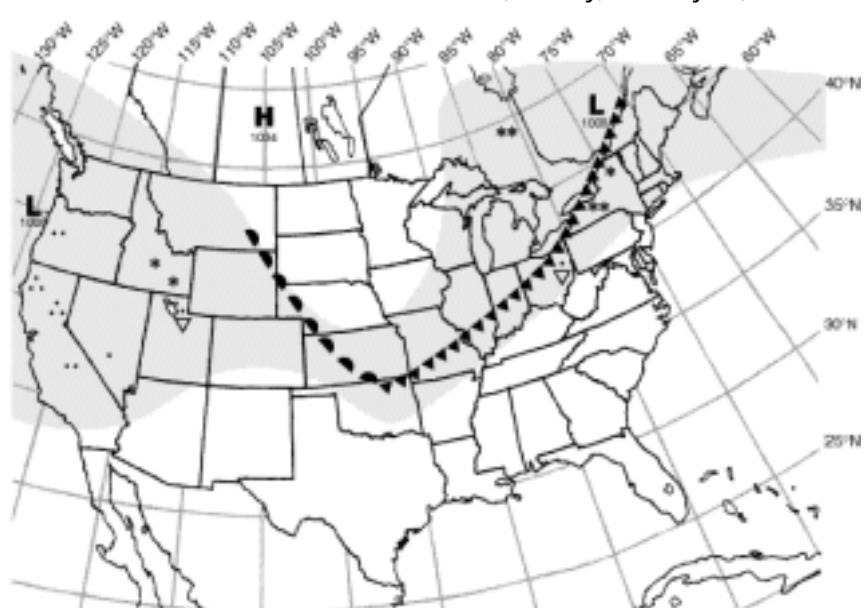
Today: Overcast and mild. Southwesterly winds. High of 50°F (10°C).

Tonight: Overcast. Rain showers late, possibly lasting into the morning. Low of 38°F (3°C).

Wednesday: Partly cloudy and blustery. An early high of 42°F (6°C), then dropping quickly. Low of 14°F (-10°C).

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Light winds. Chance of snow showers late. High around freezing. Low in the low 20s (-5 to -7°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, 20xday, February 20, 2001



Israeli Inquiry Investigating 13 Arab Deaths Turns Violent

By Davan Maharaj

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM

A government inquiry into the killings of 13 Israeli Arabs by riot police in October turned violent inside a courtroom here Monday when parents of one victim attempted to assault the policeman who allegedly shot their son.

The emotion-filled hearing into Israeli security forces' most politically sensitive killings was broken off for 2 1/2 hours after courtroom guards wrestled the couple away from the witness.

"You murdered my son! You murdered my son!" shouted Rushadia Ghara.

Moments earlier, her husband, Khaled, his fists clenched, had lunged at border policeman Moshad Rashed. The father was quickly subdued by courtroom guards. Rashed, visibly alarmed, was rushed out through a side door.

The incident occurred on the same day that Israeli forces in the West Bank fatally shot a leader of

the radical Hamas group, according to Palestinian witnesses. They said the man, 25-year-old Mahmoud Madani of the Balata refugee camp near Nablus, was the latest casualty of Israel's policy of hunting down and killing known militants.

Israeli radio reported that security forces targeted Madani because they believed he had planted car bombs that recently exploded in the Israeli towns of Hadera and Netanya.

The drama in the Jerusalem courtroom unfolded shortly after a three-member panel headed by Israeli Supreme Court Judge Theodore Or opened the official inquiry into the deaths of the 13 Israeli Arab men.

Israeli Arabs have long complained that they are victims of government neglect and various forms of discrimination. Many sided with the intifada that broke out at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque on Sept. 28.

During several days of rioting that followed, thousands of Arabs in northern Israel took to the streets, clashing with Israeli police and paramilitary border police who fired rubber-coated

steel pellets and live rounds.

Authorities have maintained that the 13 men were killed by police who were simply defending themselves against Arabs who attacked them with guns and rocks.

But last month, a joint inquiry by three human-rights groups found that riot police had violated their own regulations by firing at protesters who posed no deadly threat. The groups also faulted the police for shunning nonlethal riot-control measures.

Trouble broke out shortly after one border policeman was called to answer questions about whether he and his colleagues had fired at the Arabs from close range. When the officer testified that he had not fired any shots, the sister of one victim peeled off her headphones — which she was using to listen to the Arabic translation of his testimony — and flung them at him.

After the hearing was resumed, Or said he would allow other police officers to appear in disguise, so that they could be protected against possible reprisals.

Bush Revokes Executive Order Establishing Partnership Councils

By Stephen Barr

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Over the weekend, President Bush revoked the Clinton administration's executive order establishing labor-management partnership councils in agencies and directed the Office of Personnel Management and agency heads to rescind any rules, guidelines or policies related to the partnerships.

Bush also revoked a Clinton order giving labor unions priority for federal contracts.

The major federal unions backed Bush's opponent, Al Gore, in last year's presidential contest, and Bush's decision to abolish partnership councils had been expected since late January, when the White House sent a draft proposal to agencies for comment.

American Federation of Govern-

ment Employees President Bobby L. Harnage called Bush's action "hasty and foolhardy." National Treasury Employees Union President Colleen M. Kelley said Bush's decision "is extremely disappointing."

Bush's order, dated Feb. 17, will likely prompt unions to step up lobbying on Capitol Hill and to look for opportunities to file unfair labor practice charges and lawsuits against the administration.

Academia Ponders California Schools' Proposed Ban on SAT

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

College and university presidents from throughout the United States on Sunday defended the SAT as a possibly flawed yet important tool in evaluating student applications. And many said they were hesitant to follow University of California President Richard C. Atkinson in calling for elimination of the test as an admissions requirement.

"At present, it's the best measure we have for determining the level of preparedness of students and their potential for success," said Freeman A. Hrabowski III, president of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County.

"If you could interview every student and talk to their references and read their writing, you could predict how they would do in college," Richard M. Freeland, president of Northeastern University in Boston, said. "But we get 16,000 applications a year. The SAT provides for an efficient way to make a rough cut" of who will do well at the school.

CIA Blocks Access to Briefings

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

CIA Director George J. Tenet has refused to allow the "President's Daily Brief" to be declassified even for historical purposes after 25 years, arguing that an intelligence summary written specifically for the president offers a unique insight into the agency's sources and methods, according to State Department records released last week.

Senior CIA analysts hand-deliver the PDB to the White House six days a week and brief the president, vice president and a few other top officials on its contents.

After President Clinton declined to receive the daily briefing early in his first term, special efforts were made to spice up the PDB with clandestine reporting, intercepts and spy satellite imagery unique to the intelligence community.

But Tenet's stand against PDB declassification involved nothing so recent. Instead, the CIA drew the line on declassifying any portion of the brief last spring after a State Department historical advisory committee proposed citing a 30-year-old edition of the PDB in a footnote. The committee oversees production of the nation's official diplomatic history, "Foreign Relations of the United States."

At the meeting — full minutes of which were released last week — a committee member called the agency's position "pernicious" and argued that the CIA's interest in protecting sources and methods could be protected by redacting sensitive information in the PDB.

The CIA rejected the argument, saying the PDB included information not contained in any other CIA publication and was thus "particularly sensitive," according to the State Department minutes.

OPINION

TEAL's New Appeal

With the recent announcement that the Technology Enabled Active Learning classroom will not be placed in the Student Center, the Undergraduate Association has won a victory for students, preserving the integrity of the Student Center as a haven for student life away from classes. *The Tech* applauds the resolution of the TEAL situation as an example of what student government does right at MIT.

The UA did its job well. When it became clear that undergraduates did not want TEAL in their Student Center, the UA took the lead in calling for its relocation and officially endorsed placing it instead in the physics reading room. The UA listened to the student voice and represented our opinions, just as it was elected to do.

Not all involved, however, deserve equal praise. Chancellor

Lawrence S. Bacow '72 directed the initial proposal to place TEAL in the Student Center, a decision decidedly out of touch with student culture. Bacow was an early advocate for this location, and was one of the last to relent. Had he been listening more closely to students, he would never have proposed a plan which allows academic life to cross Mass. Ave. and infiltrate what is supposed to be a center for student life and relaxation. Bacow and other administrators were wrong to support a Student Center TEAL, and can be thanked only for recognizing their mistake and correcting it.

While TEAL's relocation to the Physics Reading Room is a positive step for student life, it is not the only or even the most pressing issue facing students today. The UA and MIT administrators can use TEAL as a lesson, and tackle other campus life issues with due consideration for students' needs and opinions.

Letters To The Editor

Will the Real Pied Piper Please Stand Up?

Mike Hall's column on George W. Bush ["Dubya, the Pied Piper," Feb. 16] makes a few interesting points, but fails to complete its own argument.

It is clearly obvious that Bush's charisma is his most significant asset as a politician. However, if you're going to insult Bush's political and business acumen, you must certainly use the *coup de grace* to the argument — he is also not original. After all, he's not the man who pioneered the role of the president as a "friend" instead of a stern paternal leader, and he's not the first man whose "charm offensive" has helped him out of some sticky situation. Since people couldn't re-elect Clinton, they re-elected another beguiling Southerner to fill the role, qualifications be damned.

Remember, even the Pied Piper needed someone to give him lessons.

Will Dolan '99

Pro-Life Roses Have Thorns

As a pro-choice staff person here at MIT, it drives me crazy each year when I see members of MIT Pro-Life selling roses in Lobby 10 on Valentine's Day. Why are there no students protesting this absurdity? It would be so easy and fun to do!

The punch line's right in front of you. Think of it as a flow chart: guy buys rose for special lady at Pro-Life flower stand. Guy gives rose to special lady. Special lady consents to sex with guy. Special lady gets pregnant. Special lady wants to have an abortion, but the grassroots efforts of groups like MIT Pro-Life have succeeded in limiting her access to abortion, and these groups want to

take that right away from her altogether. Special lady's in big trouble.

Hey, I love Valentine's Day! But every rose purchased from MIT Pro-Life equals another dollar for the fight against women's reproductive freedom. That ain't romantic.

Next Valentine's Day, I'd love to see some students in sexy outfits selling big red heart lollipops on the other side of Lobby 10. Then the women of MIT could tell which suitors were worthy ... headaches for the ones with roses, and heartaches for the ones with lollipops!

Betsy Nichols

Erratum

The caption for the photograph of the Civic Environmentalism talk in Friday's issue states the speaker's name incorrectly. His name is DeWitt John.



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.

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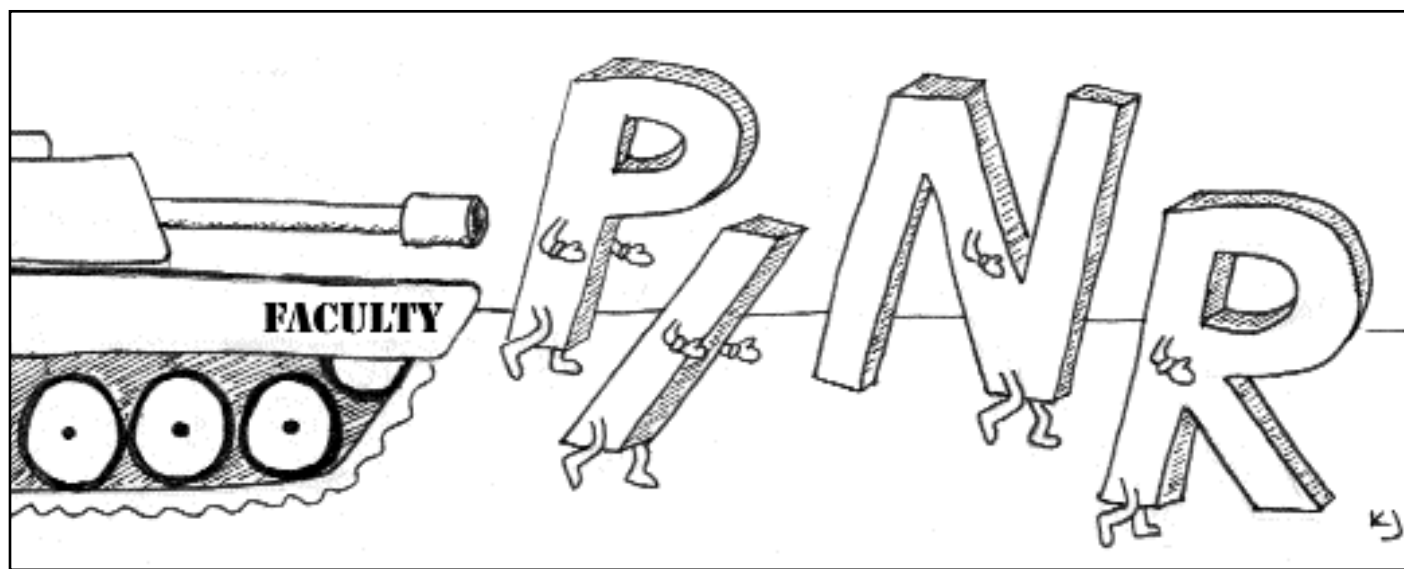
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P/NR Policy: The Wrong Battle

Jason H. Wasfy

Change is in the air at MIT, and freshman housing isn't all that's been on the table.

Last fall, a special subcommittee of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program (led by Professor Charles Stewart) released a well-researched, sensitive report that recommends modifying pass/no record grading for freshmen. The Stewart subcommittee will recommend at the March faculty meeting that MIT should assign letter grades during the freshman spring semester, with only Ds and Fs left unrecorded. This change is penciled in for the 2002-2003 school year.

But if the Undergraduate Association gets its way, this sort of reform won't come about until the spring of 2004. A mostly helpful report from the UA's Student Committee on Educational Policy argues that we should delay implementation of these proposals until a year after all freshmen begin living in Institute dormitories. Their logic goes that we shouldn't change both housing policy and educational policy at the same time, since doing so would cloud our ability to evaluate the individual effects of each of those changes in the future.

This evaluation concern is valid, but it pales in comparison with the rewards of replacing a bad freshman grading policy as soon as possible. The current freshman grading policy hurts students in subtle but serious ways, and we need to get rid of it as soon as possible.

Freshmen often think that pass/no record is a signal from the Institute that they need not worry too much about their grades. But freshmen aren't really on pass/no record — not in all cases, at least.

Some freshmen choose to "release" their grades when applying for jobs or internships with a signed letter from their adviser or with a photocopy of their unofficial report card. Even within MIT, where you might expect staff to respect pass/no record, the Office of Minority Education asked that I release my freshman grades as a condition for employment as a tutor three years ago. Students applying to medical school often face tough questions about their hidden grades in freshman classes, many of which are pre-med classes like 8.01 and 5.12. MIT will even release freshman grades officially for applicants to Johns Hopkins Medical School, because Hopkins won't accept MIT students otherwise.

And since some students release their grades in one way or another, companies, medical schools, and others sometimes expect other MIT students to release their grades. They assume that students who don't comply have poor freshman grades. That assumption has undermined pass/no record, and the saddest part is that many students don't even know it because the Institute doesn't tell them.

The Stewart proposals will begin to address this difficult issue by reducing the number of classes that students have to take on pass/no record. Of course, the Stewart proposals also address the other problems that pass/no record has caused — students taking classes out of order and without prerequisites (recently, 64 percent of students in 6.002 didn't have the prerequisites for the class), an uncomfortable jump into the sophomore year, and too little motivation to perform well in core science classes. If the Committee on the Undergraduate Program accepts the UA's request for a delay when it

meets on Wednesday, the committee will only perpetuate these problems.

Another reason why the UA wants to delay implementation is that they doubt that the clear pattern of low performance by freshmen at MIT is necessarily due to pass/no record. "Establishing pass/no record grading as the sole explanatory variable in the difference between freshmen and upperclassman grades," the UA report states, "ignores other important factors."

That suggestion defies both the evidence and common sense. The numbers suggest that pass/no record creates an incentive to slack off. The average, hidden GPA of freshmen is 3.8 in both the fall and the spring. Then in subsequent semesters, in chronological order, upperclassmen earn GPAs of 4.1, 4.2, 4.2, 4.3, 4.3, and 4.3. The big GPA jump from 3.8 to 4.1 between the freshman spring and the sophomore fall — precisely when students lose the protection of pass/no record — discounts the significance of these other factors. And I doubt that most MIT students would deny that they started studying a lot harder once their sophomore year began.

This is not the right battle for the UA to fight. Political capital is precious at MIT, and the Shulman administration has worked hard to garner the respect and attention of the administration and faculty. MIT undergraduates face a range of serious problems: bad teaching, lack of representation on important committees, limited housing, atrocious advising, and others. Student government leaders should be cashing in their hard-earned political capital on addressing those issues rather than on delaying the implementation of a proposal that most of us agree will help to improve the freshman year.

The SAT And You

Jyoti Tibrewala

Richard Atkinson, the president of the University of California, is proposing an end to the use of SATs as a requirement for admission to the state university system. He would be following in the footsteps of such schools as Bates, Bowdoin, and Mount Holyoke colleges. In defense of the exam,

Colleges should be more interested to know whether students have a clear grasp of the rules of grammar — the SAT II Writing — than whether students can accurately guess at the meaning of such obscure words as 'intransigent' and 'sycophantic.'

College Board President Gaston Caperton claims that the test measures not only what students have learned, but also their ability to think critically.

Let me begin with this: Well done, Mr. Atkinson! Finally, someone has noticed the pointlessness of using the SAT as an indicator of a student's performance in college. It doesn't measure knowledge of specific subject areas, save for some basic mathematics. Mr. Caperton is deluding himself if he really

believes that the SAT tests subject areas. All the SAT I does is waste students' time and money.

Hats off again to Mr. Atkinson for keeping the SAT II as a requirement. These subject-specific exams actually do what they claim: test knowledge in specific areas. Colleges should be more interested to know whether students have a clear grasp of the rules of grammar — the SAT II Writing — than whether students can accurately guess at the meaning of such obscure words as "intransigent" and "sycophantic." Which is going to be more important to your grade when you're writing a paper? And hey, isn't finding obscure words what Webster's and Roget's are for? As far as math is concerned, I concede that the SAT actually does test it. But let's be honest here. It should be obvious that a tight grasp of trigonometry, algebra, geometry, and pre-calculus is more important than the ability to handle simple math operations.

Unfortunately, though, I can't say I have only good things to say about Atkinson. He believes standardized tests have interfered with the way students learn and that they have aggravated educational inequities, and both of these are reasons for his proposal. This is where he is wrong. Standardized tests are necessary because they provide information on whether students nationwide are learning at the same level. If not, then the situation can be remedied. They point out educational inequities, not worsen them. They also do not interfere with learning methods, so long as students are being taught mastery of concepts rather than mastery of test-taking strategies. I will, however, concede that this only applies to some tests. Those that test specific knowledge, including state exams in subject areas, are essential to point out inequities. But the SAT I does nothing but get students panicked

about an exam that actually indicates very little.

A spokesman for the UC system noted that the faculty senate appeared to be in agreement with the proposal and that other universities nationwide would likely follow suit. Derek Bok, former president of Harvard, however, doesn't predict that Harvard would be one of those schools. Given this, it isn't likely that MIT will either. This is unfortunate, because there are students who could possibly fare well here but who just don't test well.

The SAT I should not be used as a factor in college admissions because a student's per-

The SAT I should not be used as a factor in college admissions because a student's performance on it is not indicative of anything, least of all his or her potential to succeed at a particular university.

formance on it is not indicative of anything, least of all his or her potential to succeed at a particular university. Hopefully the faculty senate at the University of California accepts Atkinson's proposal to eliminate this exam as a requirement for admission. With any luck, other universities won't ignore this proposal, even if the change doesn't occur, and they will seriously reconsider the SAT I requirement.

Faith And Good Works

Ken Nesmith

George W. Bush, in a first act of office that was, if nothing else, non-traditional, created the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. He hopes to effect good in American society by federally funding those religious and community groups which have shown themselves able to combat social ills.

Dubya, or Double-U if one prefers, is himself a man of strong faith. On the campaign trail, he often spoke of the importance of his faith to him, and his favorite philosopher, he has decided, is none other than Jesus Christ. In Texas he declared June 10 Jesus Day, stating that "people of all religions recognize Jesus Christ as an example of love, compassion, sacrifice and service." Clearly, by "all religions" he meant only those that recognize Jesus as an example of love, compassion, sacrifice and service, and none of those that do not.

Bush spoke of his desire to create a program like this one repeatedly during the presidential race, and he has acted quickly to fulfill the promise. In an almost boringly predictable debate, objections have arisen that this office violates the separation of church and state. Proponents vigorously deny that it does, guaranteeing that the social services these groups provide will be separated completely from proselytizing and other religious actions.

Bush has noted that there will always be a secular alternative to any services offered through religious organizations. This statement itself is an implicit admission that the work done through such groups will not be religiously neutral; if it were, there would be no need to provide a secular alternative. The government, then, will be endorsing religious groups and, importantly, religious activity by funding them. This is a nearly literal violation of the First Amendment, which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." Thanks to Bush's admission that the services will not be free of religious influence, there doesn't seem to be much room to debate the violation.

Those who are familiar with the nature of religious service know that acts of charity are inseparable from the faith that compels them. Belief and action are perfectly intertwined; one cannot be isolated from the other, and it is unfair to ask of the faith practitioner that separation.

That conflict will be taken up in the courts. There are, pardon the pun, a host of other problems with the office as well. Legitimate questions concerning a variety of matters have not been adequately answered. Who will decide who does or does not receive funding? By what criteria will the decisions be made? To what degree will these groups become beholden to the demands of the government should they become dependent on federal funds? How absurd is it that our taxes may be redistributed to the Church of Scientology, or the Nation of Islam, two groups that have come under heavy fire for their impugnable practices and teachings?

Religious organizations currently receive tremendous benefits from the federal government in the form of exemptions from regulation. They are tax-exempt, even despite sometimes egregious financial strength, and they are not subject to equal opportunity employment laws.

Bush could help, or rather avoid hurting, faith groups by reforming the estate tax instead of repealing it, as is his current intention. Only recently a group of 120 of the nation's richest citizens, Warren Buffett, George Soros, and Bill Gates Sr. among them, lauded the "powerful and positive effect" the tax has on charitable giving, and urged Congress not to repeal the tax because of the "devastating impact" its repeal would have on that giving.

Curiously, Bush's plans would have the effect of reducing private control and funding of charitable organizations, while introducing increased federal funding and control of those same groups. This, of course, is as far from traditional conservatism as one can get without expressing concern for the environment and praising Jesse Jackson.

Certainly, the work of faith-based groups and organizations is inspiring and amazing, and what is gained by making a personal choice to go and serve the less fortunate is priceless; the change in worldview that service can bring is something that can only be experienced and not explained. MIT, often struggling to function as a heterogenous but cohesive community, might do well to foster a stronger atmosphere of service itself. Federally funding such efforts, however, would be an unfortunate mistake.

MIT's Eightfold Path

Guest Column

Ron O. Dror, Robin C. Evans,
and Peter A. Shulman

The MIT administration currently faces major decisions which will affect the Institute well into the future. The ongoing Capital Campaign has raised over one billion dollars in the first of its five years. The endowment generated a return of 51 percent in the last fiscal year, growing by over two billion dollars. In the coming months and years, senior administrators will make decisions on how to allocate the hundreds of millions of available dollars which have not yet been earmarked for particular projects.

Last year, the Undergraduate Association and Graduate Student Council jointly chartered the Strategic Capital Planning Committee to provide a student voice in these decisions. Our committee consists of equal numbers of graduate and undergraduate students, including the presidents of the UA and GSC. We aim to identify the projects of greatest concern to students and to work with administrators to make these a reality.

To ensure that the twelve students on the committee reflect the concerns of the entire student body, we need your input. The remainder of this article lists eight projects we have identified as priorities. Some provide major improvements in the quality of education or student life at MIT in return for large expenditures; others require smaller investments but offer an equally high return per dollar.

(1) *Community space.* Topping our list of student needs is community space: space to work, study, socialize, and eat. This is "common space" that every member of the Institute can use.

The strongest needs include (a) dedicated student group space for meetings, activities, and equipment storage; (b) performance space for dance, music, and the arts; (c) outdoor space; and (d) attractive, functional, and versatile space for study, dining, and socialization.

Specific solutions first include the redesign and remodeling of the Stratton Student Center, returning the space for student use. Next, we call for a full renovation of Walker Memorial, repairing the damaged building to useful student group space. Third, a reinvigoration of the residence dining halls is needed, to provide for community development.

Finally, we recommend the construction of a dedicated "Teaching and Learning Center," a building devoted to flexible classroom space and private and group study

spaces.

(2) *Athletics.* MIT takes pride in offering an athletics program which furthers the Institute's focus on holistic health and provides broad opportunities for participation in varsity, club, and intramural sports. Despite high student participation, this athletics program currently lacks the facilities, equipment, and staffing expected of a world-class university.

We recommend that MIT invest in renewal of existing infrastructure, in addition to construction of the new Zesiger Athletics Center. The Sailing Pavilion and the Pierce Boathouse require extensive renovation. The entire floor of Rockwell Cage demands replacement, as does much of the equipment in the Rudovsky Weight Training Room. An additional lighted AstroTurf field would ameliorate the current shortage of field space.

We believe that MIT should provide additional funds, coaching, and space for existing sports teams at all levels, many of which currently limit participation and activities due to insufficient resources. Moreover, we recommend the establishment of endowment funds to support staff positions, maintenance, and capital improvements for athletic facilities in the future.

(3) *Libraries.*

Nearly one-third of MIT's unique collection of books lies in off-campus storage. Our situation is so dire that every new book in the stacks on campus causes a current book to be shipped into storage. For students who often require access to texts at a moment's notice, this plight effectively renders stored texts inaccessible.

Our proposed solution involves the construction of a new library, exemplary of the library of the 21st century, which will house MIT's science and engineering collections, and showcase the most advanced research and reference technology in the world, as is appropriate for MIT. This new building would liberate space in Building 14S, allowing this building to house the entirety of MIT's humanities and social sciences collections. An investment in a new library demonstrates MIT's commitment to adequate social, study, and research spaces for its students.

(4) *International Students Office.* International students comprise over 38 per-

cent of the graduate student population and more than a quarter of the total student population. In addition, over 1,450 visiting international scholars join the MIT community every year. Yet, severe staff and budget limitations prevent the MIT International Students Office (ISO) from fully meeting the needs of MIT's international population. There is a single student adviser in the ISO for every 900 international students at the Institute. We propose the creation of an International Center, operated by the ISO, that (a) creates a sense of multicultural and international community among both international and American students, faculty, and staff; (b) encourages MIT to make use of internationally focused educational opportunities; and (c) provides services and enhances the experience of the international community. Such an initiative would help MIT compete with other world-class universities for top international students.

(5) *Career Services.* Because MIT students tend to be career-oriented and ambitious, the resources in the Office of Career Services and Pre-professional Advising (OCSA) are in high demand. OCSA currently suffers from a severe staffing and funding shortage. Moreover, the office's activities focus on undergraduate services and advising. As career considerations are often the primary motivation for students to attend MIT, we recommend allocation of additional staff members and additional funds to OCSA.

We also recommend dedicated graduate counselors to provide specialized support for the large percentage of the MS/PhD population who pursue nonacademic careers. The addition of these dedicated counselors will free up the current counselors to focus on undergraduate needs, including pre-professional advising.

(6) *Counseling and Support Services.* Counseling and Support Services (CSS) aims to advise students on personal, academic, and career matters, to respond to student crises and emergencies, and to consult with faculty, staff, family, and friends for support and intervention when necessary. In MIT's demanding, high-stress environment, these services are essential. Unfortunately, CSS presently finds itself so strapped for funds and personnel that it struggles even to counsel students affected by suicide cases.

We propose increased staffing and fund-

ing for CSS as a whole, with a focus on projects including (a) the introduction of an academic anxiety support program, (b) discretionary funding to assist students from low-income families when financial issues disrupt their lives and academic programs, (c) increased support services for women, minority, and gay/lesbian/bisexual students, at both the undergraduate and graduate level, and (d) resources for continual training of CSS staff.

(7) *Dining.* A perennial issue at the Institute, the dining system faces several challenges which students, faculty, and administrators must tackle.

First, a lack of campus food options and concerns about quality regularly frustrate students. Second, dining hours often conflict with student schedules, and late-night dining options are severely limited. Third, and perhaps most importantly, our dining system makes little effort to encourage campus community.

We suggest a return to the residence-based dining model, involving the renovation and reopening of all currently inactive residence dining halls. This plan would allow central dining facilities, such as in the Stratton Student Center, to be outsourced to local restaurants in order to provide more varied dining options at better hours. A revision of the MIT Card system, already underway, may require a minimum balance system for on-campus students, but will allow much larger access of the Card to on-campus and off-campus restaurants and venues. All these changes provide for an increased sense of community and more options for students.

(8) *A Safe Ride.* The Safe Ride program has been providing MIT graduate and undergraduate students with a warm, dry, safe commute since its inception in 1991. The four vans running in Boston and Cambridge serve dorms, ILGs, and student apartments. However, the cessation of rent control in Cambridge has prompted increasing numbers of students to live outside the existing Safe Ride routes. In addition, the vans are sometimes too small to handle demand during peak hours and cold, wet weather. We suggest that the routes and van sizes be analyzed with respect to the changing distribution of off-campus graduate and undergraduate residences. New vans should join the existing fleet to improve coverage and provide more frequent service to high-density regions.

Please take a moment to e-mail your comments to funding-ideas@mit.edu. Even better, fill out a quick survey on the Web at <http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/Committees/HCA/Transportation/survey.html>.

Ron O. Dror G, Robin C. Evans G, and Peter A. Shulman '01 are members of the UA-GSC Strategic Capital Planning Committee.



(1) Community space. Topping our list of student needs is community space: space to work, study, socialize, and eat. This is "common space" that every member of the Institute can use.

An Open Declaration of War

Michael J. Borucke

As I read about the most recent U.S.-British strikes against Iraq that occurred last Friday, an old joke came to mind:

What does an 800-pound gorilla have for dinner? Anything it wants.

In the area of foreign policy, the Bush administration has not let me down. It has moved quickly in assuming the role as a brutal world power; a role relinquished by the Clinton administration weeks earlier. Oh, Bush has made overtures to the isolationists in his party to be more reluctant in deploying U.S. forces onto the world stage. But when it comes to standard enemies, U.S. action remains unquestioned across the political spectrum. In the case of Iraq, it's a no-brainer: bomb the hell out of Iraq, show Saddam and the world just how serious "we" are, remind the U.S. public that there exist serious threats to our national security. There is no question about this line. Not in the *New York Times*, not in the Pentagon, and definitely not in the empty head of our beloved president. His father started the demolition; crushing Iraq is all in the family.

An article in the *New York Times* gave a more or less accurate picture of standard U.S. ideology. Of course, one needs to read between the lines to understand what things are assumed in U.S. foreign policy, which points of fact are emphasized, and which are totally neglected. That being said, allow me to give my biased interpretation of media coverage of Iraq.

Last Friday, an air strike by U.S. and British planes attacked several communications and radar centers in and around Baghdad. According to the *New York Times* coverage on

Feb. 17, there have been several attacks by the United States since Bush's inauguration in January. One might question why the media didn't report the three previous attacks when they occurred, but I guess they were simply too "routine" to mention. The previous attacks targeted sites all within the "no-fly zone." This time the targets were outside of the "no-fly zone," thus the attacks necessitated the authorization of one George W. Bush.

As the *Times* reports Bush's own admission, "[Bush's] policy toward Iraq would remain largely unchanged from President Clinton's." The new administration is picking up where the old administration left off, the only difference being a new set of puppets with their collective fingers on the trigger.

For his first act as commander in chief, Bush hardly seemed to give the matter a second thought. While meeting with the Mexican president, Bush authorized the attacks, calling them "routine." Indeed. They were so routine in fact that Bush didn't consult Congress as per U.S. law (the War Powers Act) before the strikes were carried out.

The reason for the strikes is interesting. Iraqi radar technology was getting better at detecting U.S. planes. U.S. reaction sends a clear message: you can't defend yourself against an occupying power when that power is the United States. According to one defense official, "they thought they could act with impunity." Somehow, the ability of Iraqi military to detect planes turned the United States into the victims.

"It's essentially a self-defense measure in conducting the operation," Lt. Gen. Gregory Newbold stated. Not that United States pilots shouldn't be protected; they simply shouldn't be there in the first place. They have no more right to be in the "no-fly zone" than the U.S.S. *Cole* had in Yemen. After all, the safest way to protect soldiers is to keep them at home.

The concept of a "no-fly zone" is also interesting. After the Gulf War, the United States and England established two areas — one covering northern Iraq, the other covering southern Iraq — into which Iraqi planes couldn't venture.

They have been patrolling these areas since the end of the Gulf War, ready to punish Iraq at a moment's notice.

The ridiculous assumptions of power and sovereignty that are involved with this concept are often obscured by the mainstream press and high-ranking officials. Imagine a foreign nation declaring that U.S. aircraft aren't allowed to fly into New England. This nation then enforces this pronouncement with missiles and bombs of its own.

One way to make this situation a little more palatable to the public is to make it appear as if the world is with the United States. "We will continue to enforce the no-fly zone until the world is told otherwise," says President Bush. That is not quite true. The majority of the world is against U.S. aggression in Iraq. Madeline Albright was a little closer to the truth when she said the United States will act "multilaterally when we can, unilaterally as we must." It would

be good to have allies, but if other countries (and the United Nations) don't see things as we do, the United States will go it alone. Britain's participation in the recent attacks is about as multilateral as the United States can be for now.

For their part, the media tend to downplay those times when the United States is acting alone or in opposition to most of the world. Rarely do you hear that the "no-fly zone" is illegal under international law and that the United Nations has never recognized the legitimacy of the "no-fly zone." Guess you can't cover everything.

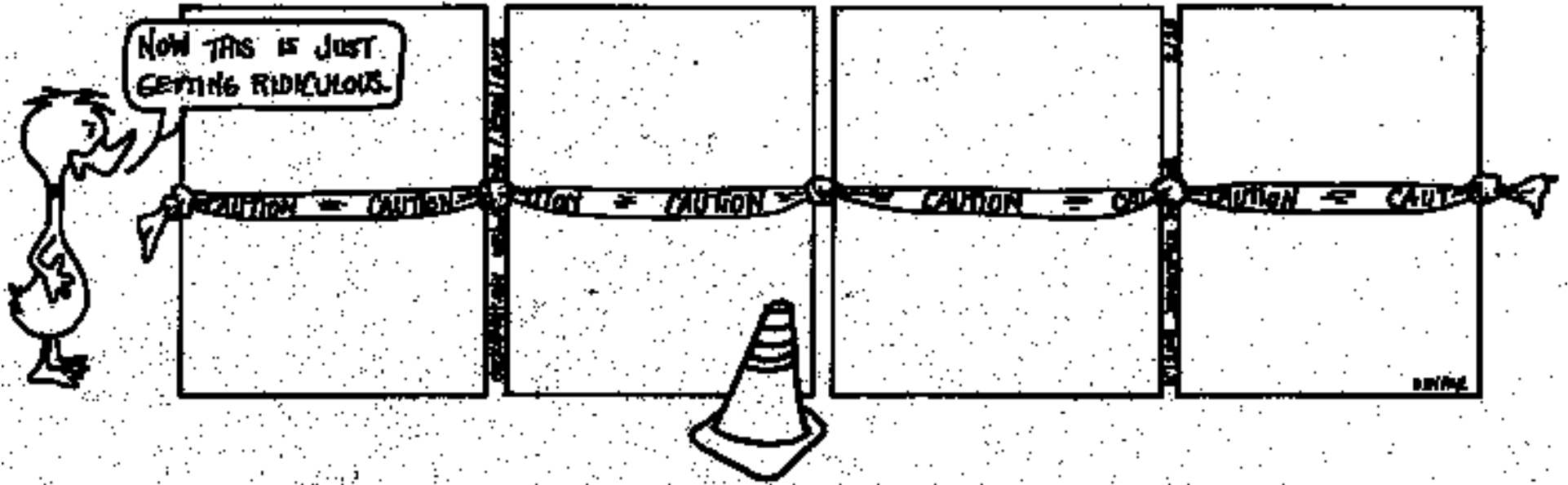
Another aspect of the unilateral aggression is the imposition of economic sanctions. The author of a different *Times* article reports that countries including France, Russia, and Middle Eastern and Asian states want the economic sanctions lifted. According to the World Health Organization, the sanctions are responsible for the deaths of 500,000 Iraqi children under five. But this fact is not mentioned by the author. As far as he's concerned, the reason for the other countries' desire to lift sanctions is purely economic. Other countries don't see the danger Saddam represents. Other countries act in their self-interest, whereas the great humanitarian nation is acting altruistically, keeping the world safe by starving the Iraqi people.

The truth is that the United States doesn't care about getting rid of Saddam. If we did, we would have done so when we had the chance, and we *have* had chances. We are using him as an enemy to justify protecting our national interests. Government officials do admit this, but cover it up quickly with an ideological smokescreen, which the mainstream media is all too eager to consume.

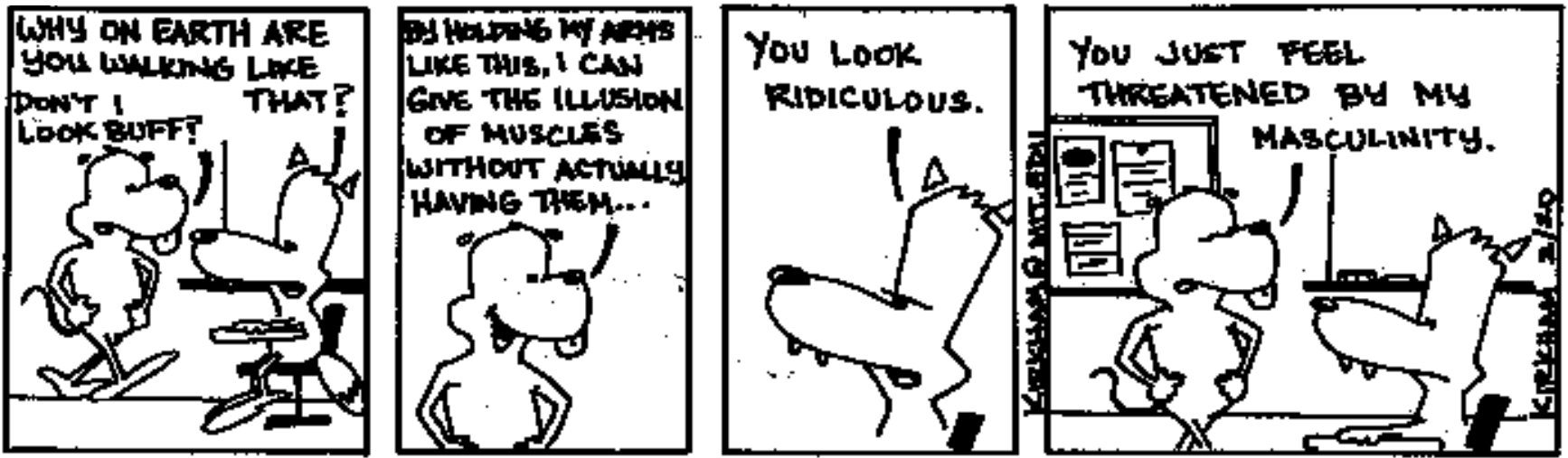
Death and destruction makes gas cheap. Ride a bike.

Down with Science

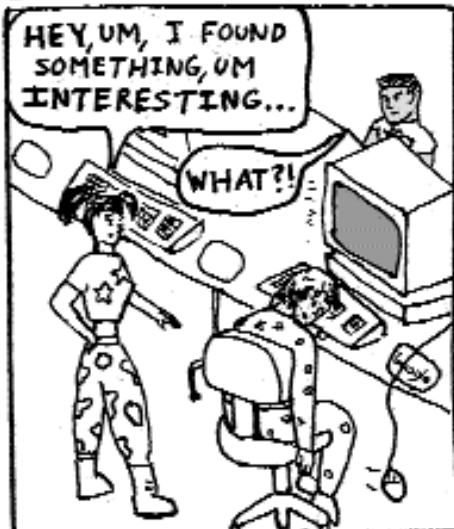
by Jennifer DiMase



the crass rat



INSTITUTE EVIL



11.24.00
 Life all-campus level quite what I expected. I'm really concerned about cleanliness most of all. We've developed a mouse problem which I suppose is normal for Boston residents. It wouldn't bother me if none of my housemates became sick. I've developed some mild acne myself.

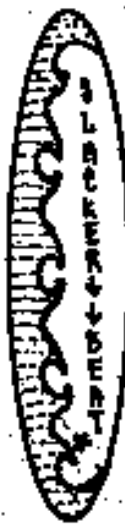
11.28.00
 I've finally seen those strange rats... they seem like mutants! That I remember that kind from my visits to the dormitories... those "smart MIT rats" that do math... They could have only been transported here by someone! That's not safe anywhere. My face... so itchy and full of pimples. What the hell is happening to me?!

12.2.00
 Scratch face up day. Dan come home from 6002 lab. Fired, happy, offers me Butterfinger candy. Clear skin so kick him in nuts. Crunchy.

12.xq1-134
 The STUDENT'S REPORT 1 has been filed.



By Guan-Jang (John) Chen
**Tech
 Life**



Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

TechCalendar

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

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

Tuesday, February 20

Sponsor: MIT Community Players.

8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. - **International Film Club Film Seminar Series.** free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, International Film Club.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - **The Varieties of Conventionalism.** Dibner Institute Lunchtime Colloquia. free. Room: E56-100. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - **"Quantum products, Topological recursion relations, and the Virasoro conjecture for Gromov-Witten invariants."** free. Room: Room 4-159. Sponsor: Differential Geometry Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Death of the Washing Machine.** free. Room: 1-390. Sponsor: Engineering & Environmental Mechanics Group.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Materials Unlimited.** "Nanostructured Biomaterials for Orthopaedic Applications." The development of an alternative biomaterial combining mechanical resilience and an osteogenic surface to provide a stable interface with the surrounding connective tissue will be discussed. A half-hour panel discussion with audience Q&A will follow the 30-min. lecture. Refreshments 3:30. free. Room: 8-304. Sponsor: Materials Processing Center.

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - **Gas Turbine Seminar Series.** No Seminar, Monday class schedule.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - **You're a Good Man Charlie Brown-Auditions.** Musical Theatre Guild production. Bring prepared song, in English and sheet music; wear clothes suitable for movement. Constitution of the MIT Musical Theatre Guild, Section 2.1: "A full awareness of the Musical Theatre Guild's affiliation with MIT will be maintained. In filling cast and production positions, priority will be given to members of the MIT community, and in particular to MIT students." free. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Musical Theatre Guild, MIT.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - **Harvey-Auditions.** Auditions will consist of readings from the script; a copy is on reserve at the Rotch Library (Rm 7-238). free. Room: Rm 1-135. Sponsor: MIT Community Players.

Wednesday, February 21

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. - 2:00 p.m. - **Composition Based Modeling.** Composition Based Modeling represents a significant improvement in the approach to building kinetic models of petroleum systems. The activity is divided into three areas: The Model of Composition (High Detail Hydrocarbon Analysis), Describing the chemistry of petroleum mixtures (Structure Oriented Lumping), Model Delivery Technology. Free. Room: E40-496. Sponsor: 10.978 Seminar. 2:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **spouses&partners@mit - Tour of the Massachusetts State House.** Join us for a free tour of the State House, where the legislative and executive (governor) branches of government conduct business. It was designed by Boston architect, Charles Bulfinch, in 1798, and is considered by some to be his masterpiece. Meet in front of the MIT Coop in Kendall Square at 2:45 p.p. We will take the Red Line to Park Street Station and walk to the State House. The tour will begin at 3:30 p.m. and last about 40 minutes. free. Room: Meet at the MIT Coop in Kendall Square. Sponsor: spouses&partners@mit, MIT Medical.

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Faculty Meetings: Faculty Meeting.** Meeting of the MIT Faculty. free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Faculty Chair.

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - **Erdos Magic.** Refreshments will be served at 3:30 p.m. in room 2-349. free. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - **Private Portfolio Management.** An opportunity to learn about private portfolio management and how to plan for financial success. Room: E51-376. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, The Lebanese Club at MIT.

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - **MIT Student Phonathon.** free. Room: Bush Room (10-105). Sponsor: Association of MIT Alumni & Alumnae.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - **Dramashop Auditions for Bhoma.** Play by Badal Sircar; directed by Sudipto Chatterjee. Call-backs held Feb 24 (1-5pm, location TBA). free. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Dramashop. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - **You're a Good Man Charlie Brown-Auditions.** Musical Theatre Guild production. Bring prepared song, in English and sheet music; wear clothes suitable for movement.

free. Room: Kresge Rehearsal Room A. Sponsor: Musical Theatre Guild, MIT.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - **Harvey-Auditions.** Auditions will consist of readings from the script; a copy is on reserve at the Rotch Library (Rm 7-238). free. Room: Rm 1-135.

Thursday, February 22

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Web Publishers User Group.** free. Room: N42 Data Center. Sponsor: Information Systems. 12:00 p.m. - **Noon Chapel Concert: Jan Overduin, organ.** Mr. Overduin is organist and Chair of the Organ and Church Music Program at Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario, Canada. Andre Raison's *Christe: Trio en passacaille*; J.S. Bach's *Passacaglia, BWV 582*; Francois Couperin-J.S. Bach's *Aria, BWV 587*; Nicolas de Grigny's *Pange Lingua: Recit du chant*; J.S. Bach's *Allein Gott in der Hohdei Ehr, BWV 663*; J.S. Bach's *Piece d'orgue, BWV 572.* (Mr. Overduin is father to MIT freshman Simon Overduin.) free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Japan Program Forum "The Power Technologies for the Digital Age".** free. Room: E38-7th floor, Conference Room. Sponsor: MIT Japan Program.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **The modes of the coupled troposphere-stratosphere circulation in the northern hemisphere.** During Northern Hemisphere winter, troposphere and stratosphere are closely coupled by dynamic processes. In this talk, we will discuss physical processes inherent in this coupling and the relationships with interdecadal climate change. free. Room: Rm 54-915. Sponsor: MIT Atmospheric Science Seminars.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Constitutive Laws in Liquid-Fluidized Beds.** free. Room: 1-350. Sponsor: Engineering & Environmental Mechanics Group.

4:15 p.m. - **HST Biomedical Engineering Seminar Series.** The Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology (HST) presents the second of four seminars on signals and noise in biomedical sciences. Bertrand Delgutte, PhD (MIT, MEEI, and HMS) speaks on "Signal and Noise Issues in Medical Imaging." free. Room: E25-111. Sponsor: HST.

4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Traction in Action.** Refreshments at 4:00. free. Room: 31-161. Sponsor: Sloan Automotive and Reacting Gas Dynamics Labs.

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - **Random Walks with "Back Buttons".** ORC Spring Seminar Series. Seminar followed by refreshments in E40-106. free. Room: E56-270. Sponsor: Operations Research Center.

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - **MIT Student Phonathon.** free. Room: Bush Room (10-105). Sponsor: Association of MIT Alumni & Alumnae.

6:00 p.m. - **authors@mit - Dr. Clarence Williams - Technology and the Dream.** Technology and the Dream: Reflections on the Black Experience at MIT, 1941-1999. This book grew out of the Blacks at MIT History Project, whose mission is to document the black presence at MIT. The main body of the text consists of transcripts of more than seventy-five oral history interviews, in which the interviewees assess their MIT experience and reflect on the role of blacks at MIT and beyond. Clarence G. Williams is Special Assistant to the President, Ombudsman, and Adjunct Professor of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: authors@mit, The MIT Press Bookstore.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - **Dramashop Auditions for Bhoma.** Play by Badal Sircar; directed by Sudipto Chatterjee. Call-backs held Feb 24 (1-5pm, location TBA). free. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Dramashop.

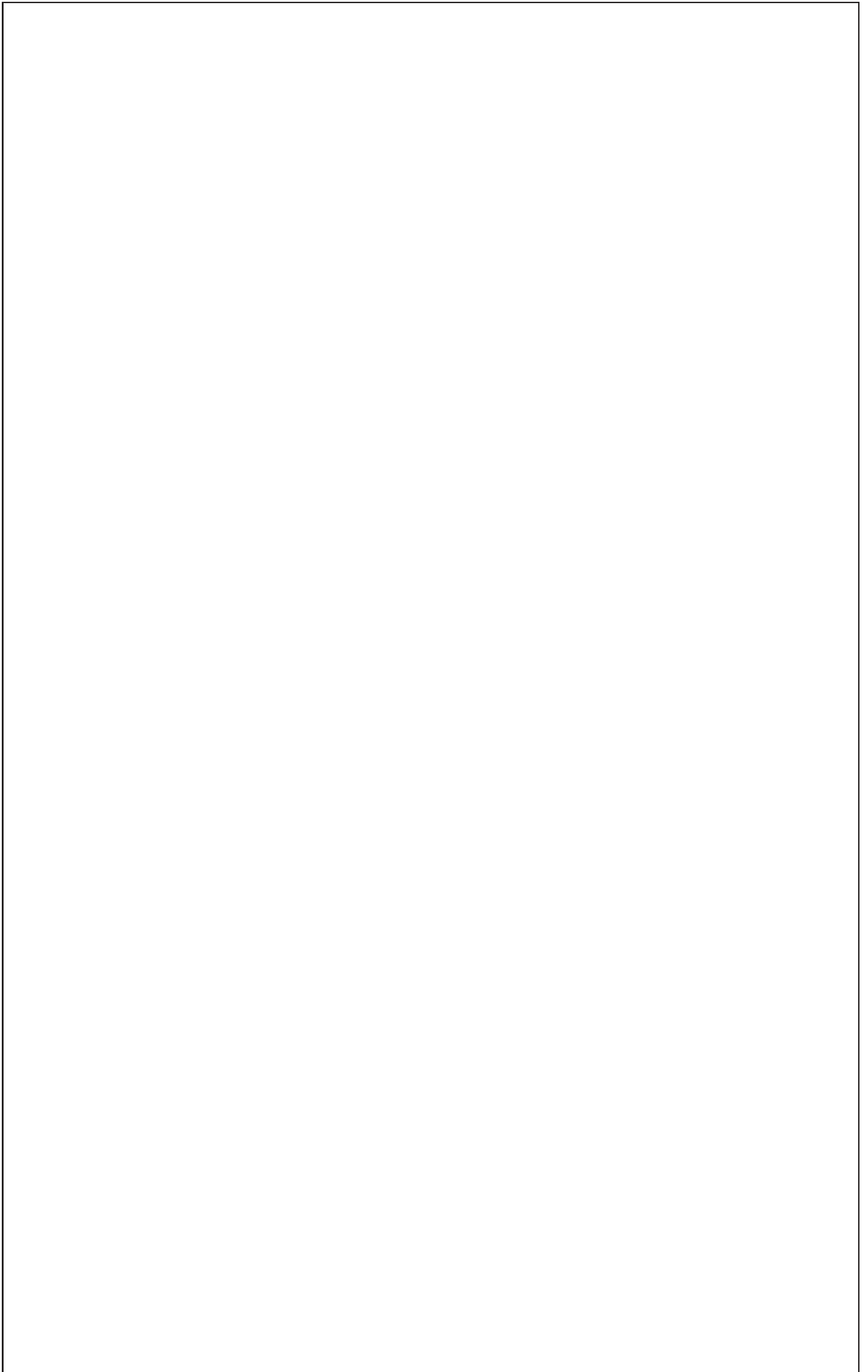
8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - **Modern Square Dance.** This challenging class teaches you Plus level square dancing set to a wide range of modern music. We begin by teaching you the calls which make up each level of dancing, which you then apply throughout the class. A group of eight dancers works together 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. - 1:00 a.m. - **26th Annual Ebony Affair: "Harlem Nights."** Come out to BGSA's 26th annual Ebony Affair, featuring a jazz band, other performances focusing on the Harlem Renaissance, and a DJ. Tickets will go on sale in Lobby 10 soon! Don't miss out! \$10 Advanced Purchase, \$15 At the Door. Room: VFW, 288 Green St., Cambridge, MA. Sponsor: Black Graduate Student Association, Graduate Student Council.

8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. - **International Film Club Film Seminar Series.** free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, International Film Club.

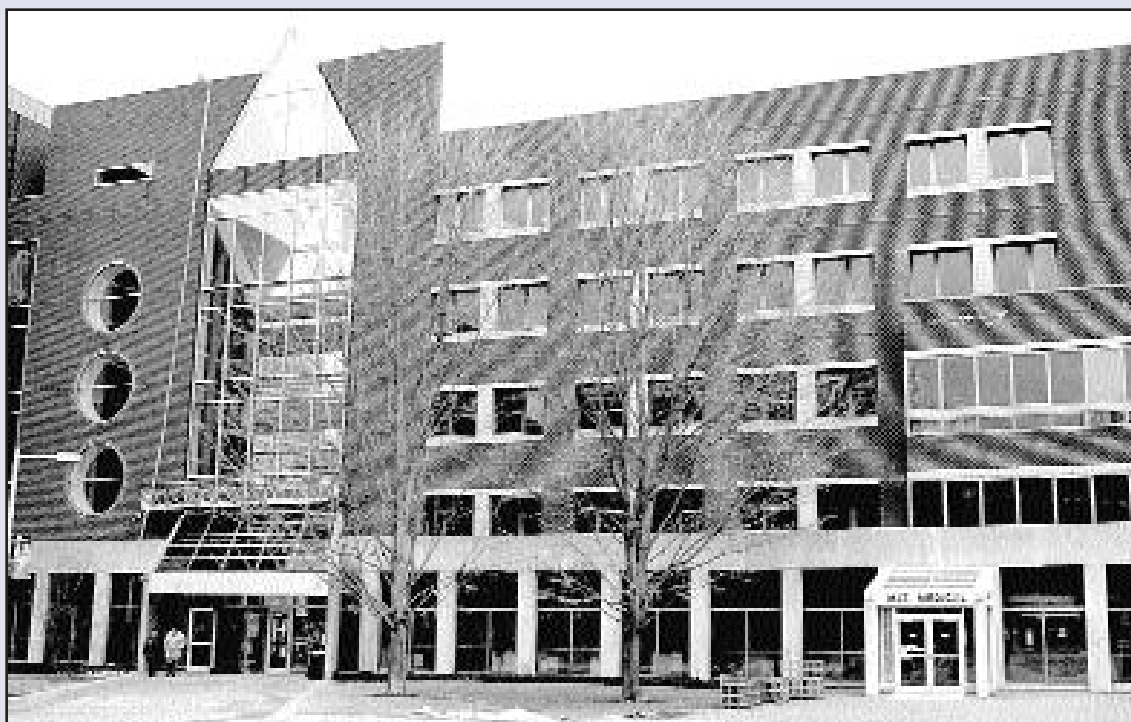
Crossword Puzzle

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Mental Health at MIT

A Special Report



Liability and Loss

Parents Speak Out About MIT's Mental Health Services

By Rima Arnaout and Nancy L. Keuss

STAFF REPORTERS

Parents of MIT students who have committed suicide in the past year are speaking up about MIT's mental health deficiencies and offering possible improvements.

While some families offer advice to MIT on how to change its medical services, others consider legal action to obtain damages for their losses. These considerations come at a time when MIT is reexamining how to create a community in which students feel comfortable seeking help.

Shins continue to consider legal action

The parents of Elizabeth H. Shin '02 are still investigating the circumstances surrounding the suicide of their daughter in April, says family attorney David A. Deluca of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey, & Lahane. No decision to file suit has been made yet.

Deluca said that he and the Shins are "continuing to investigate the circumstances [of Elizabeth's death] and gather as much information as we can, and talk with other sources available to us to gain some insight as to how MIT responded to the information that they were provided with at the time" of Elizabeth's death, to determine whether there were "other courses of action that might have been taken."

Deluca is investigating "both public and private, school and non-school evidence," including mental health records, police and fire reports from the night she attempted to commit suicide, and letters.

The statute of limitation to file for wrongful death suits is three years after the incident. In the case of the tragic drinking death of Scott S. Krueger '01, for which MIT paid his family a \$6 million settlement, his parents didn't file a suit against MIT until a week before the deadline. While Deluca declined to say whether the Shins would file suit against MIT for certain, he did say that he doesn't expect the Shin case to take as long as the Krueger case.

Further comparing the Shins' case with that of the Kruegers', Deluca said that Krueger "sort of voluntarily engaged in dangerous drinking. In Elizabeth's case I have a young woman who was doing everything possible to get help for herself and just couldn't."

"Every case is different; we don't expect

that MIT would want to do anything but review each case on its merit," he added. "However it is fair to say that ... your President Vest was honorable and proactive" in his decision to settle with the Kruegers and to change alcohol policy on campus following Krueger's death.

"The Shins would hope for a similar response regardless of where their case turns out — in the review and implementation of coordinated mental health treatment plans," Deluca said. He mentioned the formation of the mental health task force and the Undergraduate Association's Student/Staff Task Force on Mental Health as positive steps in that direction.

Parents ask MIT to keep them informed

The Shins are not the only families who have lost children to suicides in the past year: Jeffrey and Lu Millard lost their son Chris in March. While the Millards are not currently pursuing the legal actions sought by the Kruegers, the investigation status of the Shin case begs the larger questions of what these parents feel MIT is liable for and what can be improved in the MIT system.

The families seemed to agree that MIT should keep parents better informed about the troubles their children may be facing. "[The Shins] feel as though they were outside of the loop throughout this terrible worsening of Elizabeth's condition, which was so well known to everyone except them," Deluca said.

The Shins "are still just absolutely distraught over the sudden loss of Elizabeth without having an opportunity themselves to play an active role in seeking treatment for her illness," Deluca said. "That's really their chief complaint."

"I think the advice that [the Shins] would want to give is ... the need to fully inform the people who can best bring about some of the care and guidance of the person in trouble," he added.

According to Millard, her son did not seek help from MIT Mental Health Services, but other possible sources of help eluded him. "That support is not there [at MIT] and it ruins lives," Millard said. "MIT should call those kids in. Whatever that issue is needs to be laid on the table. Maybe he would have talked about it, if the right person asked the

right questions and showed concern," things would have turned out differently, Millard said.

MIT's responsibility for suicides unclear

While there is no argument that suicide is a tragedy, it is debatable whether MIT should be held liable. As for whether MIT can prevent suicides, Deluca said that "it's not possible for any institution to foresee everything," and that some tragedies "blindsided" MIT.

However, Deluca said that the lives of others who committed suicide were "cut short because there seems to be a lack of coordinated response to known problems."

Millard agrees. "MIT's not doing their job," she says.

As to whether Millard has considered filing suit against MIT, she says, "Probably someday. I'm still so mad. We're just trying to carry on our daily life to survive."

Deluca said he was not clear on what policy MIT had regarding when to notify parents of academic, social, or mental health issues their child may have. He believes that in Shin's case, "either there's a policy that wasn't followed or there is no policy."

"On the other hand," Deluca said, "there are cases like Elizabeth's where she cried out for help on a consistent basis, and when that happens, that's where I believe there needs to be a coordinated and aggressive response that does include the help that parents can offer in crisis situations."

Students urged to find other solutions

When asked about what advice she would have for someone considering suicide, Millard said, "If somebody considered suicide ... I don't know. I've thought of it. After Chris died, I called my daughter and told her, 'Everything in life is fixable except death. Drugs, alcohol, rape, failing grades ... everything's fixable, except death.'"

"Suicide is a personal choice except [for those] they leave behind, the ones who love them. They just totally destroy them," Millard added. "Everyone has a responsibility not only to themselves but the people who love them. What I want to tell Chris is that he failed his responsibility toward us by killing himself."

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Nightline: A Service for Those in Need

By Katie Jeffreys
STAFF REPORTER

DEF-TUV-TUV-OPER-OPER. MIT students know Nightline's five numbers as a way to get obscure information over the telephone. Yet for many students, Nightline provides a more valuable service as an anonymous and impartial ear which will listen to any problems a student may be having.

The purpose of Nightline is not to provide long-term therapy, but rather "to give people who are having a problem at the moment someone to talk to," according to a Nightline staff member who, like all Nightline staff members, serves anonymously to protect students.

Nightline is staffed entirely by volunteers and coordinated by students. The staff is made up of approximately thirty undergraduate and graduate students, generally evenly divided between males and females. Each staff member works two to three times a

week. The 7 p.m. – 7 a.m. shifts are filled by one male and one female each night of the week.

The entire staff undergoes extensive training, including four meetings with a trainer and role plays once a week with other trainees. The trainees are then critiqued on their ability to handle the simulated calls. If successful, they are offered a position on the staff. "Once people get on staff, most stay on until they graduate," said the staff member.

The Nightline staff is trained to deal with counseling calls ranging from depression, suicide, and rape to "stressed out freshmen, stressed out seniors, and stressed out graduate students."

Info calls increase comfort level

On average, Nightline receives nine requests for information for every one counseling call. This amounts to 10-20 information calls and 1-4 counseling calls each

night.

The information calls can range from phone numbers and Safe Ride schedules to more personal information, such as birth control options. "The theory behind doing information calls is to make callers more comfortable with the service," said the Nightline worker. "This way, people who have used the service for less critical purposes will be more likely to call when they actually have a problem."

"Sure, every call isn't like 'Wow, I just saved that person's life,'" the worker added. "But at least you helped them, even if it just meant giving them the Domino's Pizza number."

In fact, one of the ways Nightline can better serve the community is through raised awareness of their services. "People either think that it is only information or for someone who is about to jump off a building," said the staff member. "But it is for everyone."

Process confidential by necessity

The entire Nightline process is confidential. No Caller ID is used on the two phone lines, and callers do not (and usually should not) reveal their name, associations, or locations. Because of these constraints, Nightline workers are powerless to physically prevent a caller from doing something.

The Nightline member will likely encourage people to get help, said the staff member, but cannot force them to do so. One exception is when a staff member fields a particularly difficult call; he or she may share that case with the other members of Nightline.

Nightline workers meet in a weekly support group to discuss issues with the group or outside pressures "because we can't call Nightline any more." The sessions are attended by staff from Counseling and Support Services, who act as advisers to the group.

MIT's Shared Suicide Struggle

Mental Health, from Page 1

Columbia students were unified in their sadness and shock, and organized several vigils for their lost peers. But as television news cameras descended upon the school, mitigating the problem took a distinct backseat to the avoidance of harassment.

"I didn't want to either leave or return to the dorm, only to be hounded by reporters again," said Columbia student Andrew Ricci. "Their presence and lack of respect for my feelings and space personally made the tragedy much more difficult for me to deal with."

Some reporters allegedly asked students to direct them to the fifth floor of one Columbia dormitory, where Roskot's body was found.

"A reporter begged me to sign her in and walk her to the fifth floor," said Nick Dierman, a recent Columbia student. "She said, 'Just pretend I'm your friend or something.'"

In the midst of tragedy and media hounding, students also dealt with what may be a continuing motif for Columbia: an academic ranking inferior to those of other Ivy League institutions like Harvard and Yale. Indeed, the issue of intra-Ivy League competition appears to be plaguing a significant portion of the student body.

"It's the usual masturbatory Ivy League infighting," said sophomore Paul Campion to a *Columbia Spectator* reporter.

Lurching through the swamp of such

issues to confront a heady suicide rate is no easy task. By no means has anyone attributed either bad media coverage or Ivy League placement status as key motivations to commit suicide. But the environment into which Columbia's students are thrown might prove important to the confrontation of their suicide problem, just as MIT's resonant motifs and social environment may very well offer an essential backdrop to the problem here.

Mental health services at Columbia, however, face an overload of outpatients — so high, in fact, that the number of visits students are allowed as outpatients is limited in order to accommodate the many students who seek psychiatric service. Psychiatric services are also closed to students on weekends. And perhaps most striking about the school's problem is its low profile on campus.

"You won't find anything [about suicides] at Columbia," said Roger Craine. "The school just doesn't want to publicize this thing."

Administrators at Columbia declined to provide information on suicides at the school.

"Students here are also just as clueless about what to do," said Craine. "But it's ridiculous to not have service on weekends, when people go out to the bars and get wasted and then all this stuff happens."

Ridiculous or not, the situation seems to be carrying a low profile. Over the past year, Columbia's student newspaper has carried more stories on Middle East suicide bombings than on suicides within the college confines.

Craine and other students have since called upon deans at the school to consider adjusting their policies to offer more services. "It took a crazy e-mail from me to six people to get them to listen," he said. "The president of the university, three class deans, the engineering dean, and the Columbia College dean. Then I ended up meeting with the Vice President and spoke with her for an hour. She took me seriously." Craine said that they are now working on changes.

Suicides occur at Harvard too

Work has also been done at Harvard, where a rash of suicides plagued the Department of Chemistry not long ago. Although the *Globe* story barely mentioned the suicides at Harvard, the university stands second behind MIT in number of suicides per year.

The suicide rate in Harvard's chemistry graduate students has been extraordinarily high. Four of Harvard's eight suicides since 1980 in the 47 departments of Harvard's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences are from the chemistry graduate student body, a group of only 35 students. Three of those students worked under a single professor, Nobelist Elias Corey, who is known as "The Taskmaster." One of the graduate students directly attributed Corey in his suicide note, saying that his career should not depend on the judgement of any one individual.

At Harvard, chemistry department heads say they have confronted the issue by offering

a student lounge, which features a cafe, an espresso bar, a conference room for meetings between teaching fellows and undergraduates, and a TV room. They now recommend free psychiatric services, and also ask their graduates to meet with alumni about job opportunities — particularly out of a fear that graduate students will become depressed if denied a position in academia. New changes in the advising system are expected.

At the time of the Harvard suicides, ironically, it was MIT students who reacted with confidence. Geoffrey Coram, then head of the Graduate Student Council, told *Globe* reporters that MIT faced less agitation about problems with academic expectations and advising had "been brought up in a few forums, but I don't think the unhappiness is at the level it is at Harvard."

Prof. Stephen D. Senturia, who directed seminars on graduate student stress, also told reporters at that time that "it's very easy to fall into the notion that the adviser owns your life." He said MIT may have experienced fewer problems up until that time because research units here offer a "supportive environment."

Whether that still holds true is a question to be reckoned with. But a close comparison of pressures and environments at our neighboring institutions might offer the groundwork from which to construct an effective discussion about the problem — and hopefully, a mitigation strategy — at our own Institute.

Viewpoint: Student Perspectives on Mental Health

Question One: How does MIT's environment impact mental health?

"I think MIT doesn't give people a lot of time to devote to their mental health. In such a success-driven environment, every problem tends to seem magnified because people don't have time to straighten things out like they need to."

Walter G. Holland '01

"I think the campus aesthetic is pathetic. It is extremely austere. It is painful to walk through the halls because you just get a feeling of complete social disfunction."

Russell W. Driver G



"I feel like MIT makes people stress more than other places. The environment puts a lot of stress on achieving goals, but a lot of stress [also comes from] just from the kind of people who are here."

Effy J. Klopfer '02

"I don't think MIT's environment affects mental health. MIT has a very intense environment, but at the same time, I don't think it necessarily causes someone to have problems with mental health. It can, however, cause a person to get under a lot of stress."

Jaime E. Devereaux '02
Undergraduate Association Speaker

"For graduate students, the environment can differ depending on where you live. It seems like Tang and Ashdown are more socially active residence halls whereas Edgerton, where I live, is a very lonely place in that I don't even know who my neighbors are. In that kind of environment, if

you're depressed, it's harder to reach out to people. Different people have different ways of dealing with stress. If you're in that circle of depression, it's hard to get out of it."

Anshul Sood G



"The environment has a big impact on students. The atmosphere is very stressful, but it is really up to the students [to] handle it."

Jason P. Mendoza '02

"It depends on the person. For some people, MIT's environment can really get to them, but other people like the challenges. Sometimes, I get really stressed from the MIT atmosphere since there is so much going on. There are so many things that you have to do before you can do stuff that you want to do."

Carlos A. Renjifo '04

Question Two: How do you think mental health services can be improved at MIT?

"I don't think we would know anything about it unless we sought it out. I've had no contact with the formal mental health infrastructure at MIT."

Ed J. Hennessy G

"I didn't know MIT had mental health services. Whatever MIT gives as mental health services can only be effective if the students here can recognize if someone they know is depressed and can make him go to a professional counselor."

Sood

"I think they can have stronger peer counseling services."

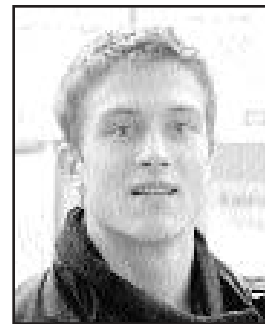
Holland

"I think they could be more accessible since sometimes people who seriously need help don't want to talk to anyone. I've heard that sometimes the mental health services try to force people to say and do things that they don't want to."

Heather K. McEwen '04

"I hear that the counselors are doing a good job. I think they could have workshops on time and stress management or maybe yoga to help people become acclimated to the MIT environment."

Patrick N. Freuler '03



"I don't really know much about MIT mental health services, so I don't know how it can be improved."

Kate V. Lesnaia G



"I think students need to be evaluated more closely. Also, before they come to MIT, they need to be prepared for the fact that things are not going to be the way they were at home."

Luwam G. Semere '01

Compiled by Melissa S. Cain and Eun Lee

Interview: Dean Robert M. Randolph

DSL Administrator Talks About Suicide and Mental Health at MIT

The Tech recently invited Robert M. Randolph, the Senior Associate Dean in the Office of the Dean for Student Life, to talk about the Institute's mental health efforts and the publicity surrounding The Boston Globe's recent articles on suicide at MIT.

In his 22 years at the Institute, Randolph has served as a counselor to students and to the families of students who commit suicide. He established the forerunner of the Counseling and Support Services Office, which provides students with consultation and sponsors services such as Nightline. Randolph is also an ordained minister and officiates at campus memorial services.

The Tech: What was your reaction to the *Globe* articles on suicide at MIT? Did you feel they were accurate?

Randolph: I felt that we hadn't been very well-served in the articles. I don't feel [Globe staff member] Patrick Healy had been listening very well. Articles like that make us react rather than respond in a way that I hope will give us some insight into what's going on here. It's a tough problem, and we need to be encouraged to talk about it. What Healy did was make a lot of people irritated and angry. It confirmed the notion that suicide is something that you really can't talk about because it always gets misunderstood.

On the other hand, this is such a tough topic that I'm not sure what being well-served would look like. My preference would be to never have to talk about it again, because that would mean that we didn't have any suicides on campus. I'm confident that, in my career, that's likely not to happen.

The Tech: In 1973, Dr. Merton Kahne of MIT Medical said to *The Tech* that "it would be difficult to alter conditions at MIT in order to prevent suicides." Is this statement still valid today?

Randolph: If you think preventing suicide is a realistic outcome, that's probably true. I don't know that we can prevent suicide. There are 11,000 students here who are independent, free agents. Imagine the type of community we'd have if everyone was controlled. We're not going to become a police state. Even then, I'm not sure we could prevent suicide. I don't disagree with Merton.

Growing up is hard. I wouldn't go back and be 20 again if you paid me. It's hard work. The question is, how can we make it a better experience?

The Tech: Do you think that the administration acknowledges that the problem exists?

Randolph: I think it does acknowledge that and that it has acknowledged that. This isn't something we've suddenly discovered. Mental health has been a constant concern at MIT, and it's not because we think we have a particular problem here. Our goal is not to have suicide happen at MIT. The fact is, like a lot of other things, we don't control all the variables that make this a problem. You'll never know the suicides that don't happen.

Mental health is a community issue, and I think what talking about it will do is help us to understand the community dimensions of it. I don't want us to think it's just an administration problem. It's a problem that cuts across every community on this campus.

The Tech: President Vest has acknowledged MIT's shortcomings with other issues, such as the Krueger incident and women faculty. There hasn't been a public response recognizing MIT's shortcoming with mental health. Does Vest acknowledge that mental health is a problem?

Randolph: I think Chuck Vest, as you saw from the Krueger case, understands the human dimensions as well as anybody. I think he knows that this is a problem. He also knows that we're putting our best hands to it. It's almost impossible to talk about this without either sounding defensive or trivializing it. I think Chuck's wise enough to know that we can't rebut the *Globe*. What we can do is pay attention to the community dynamics that may be contributing to this.

I believe this place is changing. It's a better place than it was [when I began]. This has always been a remarkably caring environment, but we've got a long way to go. We've got lots of problems. This is just one of them. Chuck Vest would spend all his time acknowledging his problems if he ever got going down that road.

The Tech: There is some talk about the liability that MIT has in suicide cases, especially in the Liz Shin case. To what extent is MIT liable?

Randolph: I never hear liability talk at my end. There are people who speculate that we may have a lawsuit, and we talk about it, but

liability is just not an issue.

The problem is that what we're asking is what could we have done or should we have done that would have led to a different outcome. That question has no constant answer. Also, if the outcome had been different, would we have been asking the same question? I can assure you that everybody involved [in the Shin case] asked the next day: "What could we have done differently?"

The Tech: Is MIT responsible for every



Senior Associate Dean Robert M. Randolph has been a counselor and an active policymaker on mental health issues in his 22 years at the Institute.

student?

Randolph: Well, *in loco parentis* died before you were born, probably, but the truth is that the pendulum is swinging back in that direction. Whether or not we are "responsible," the students, faculty, and administrators all may feel some sort of personal responsibility, but that doesn't make them professionally responsible.

The Tech: Do you think students know enough about mental health services at MIT?

Randolph: We have to keep educating students about mental health all the time. Our difficulty is that we can only educate a generation of students at a time. If we take a deep breath and relax, we have a new generation that needs to be educated about what's available. It's always a problem, when I wake up on a Monday morning in June and realize that we've got another set of freshmen coming in, and ask myself: "How are we going to talk to them?"

There have been times over the years when I thought students were becoming comfortable with utilizing counseling services. But then students say that counseling still has a stigma to it. Even *needing* help has a stigma to it. That perception is something we've been fighting for as long as I've been here, and it sounds like we're going to be fighting it for years to come.

The Tech: In the *Globe* article, Dr. Peter Reich of MIT Medical was quoted as saying that he hadn't asked for more resources, but he thought that more were available.

Randolph: I think that was out of context. There are indications that the use has gone way up among students, and remember that there is this tension in our mental health services that we have a complete HMO for graduates, undergraduates, and staff, so there's quite a large community being served. A survey had just run that said student use was way up, which means that students are using a larger percentage of the resources because the total usage is not up. That gives us support in saying that we need more resources. Last year, we added another dean in the counseling office, and we will continue to add resources as they are available.

We've created a counseling office where you can go in to talk about everything from roommates to academics to drugs. The counseling office is being used to the point that I'm told all the time we have difficulties getting appointments.

The Tech: What else is the administration doing right now to address the problem?

Randolph: I think there is going to be a budgetary request for additional staff, and I speculate that they'll move towards more full-time people as opposed to what they have now. I speculate that you'll see a change by next September.

The Tech: Do you think that there's something about the MIT environment that makes people more likely to need help?

Randolph: Well, you know there are a lot of theories about that, and we've kicked them around. The notion is that there has been more mainstreaming in high schools and junior high schools of students who are being treated for mental disorders. There are students who are coming through the system now who wouldn't have been able to do so twenty years ago. For example, Ritalin can treat attention deficit dis-

at the student side, it means getting students who are willing to open up and ask for help. Right now, students say: "I need to have a faculty member who I know I can ask for help on a professional issue or an academic question, and I don't know who to talk to." That shouldn't be tolerated. We need students to speak up and say that we need to make this better.

The Tech: Let's talk about privacy. Does MIT have a specific policy as to when the parents are notified in terms of mental health issues of their child?

Randolph: There was a policy change last year where, if we perceive there to be a danger to the individual or to others, then we reserve the right to notify parents. We walk a very fine line here. We believe strongly that MIT students are adults. We want to honor that. However, at the same time, when you talk about community, one of the things that we sometimes forget is to include parents in that community. Over the next few years, you'll see conversations involving parents.

As you know, Congress changed the law so that in issues regarding alcohol and drug matters, parents could be notified. I never worried about that with alcohol and drugs because if students were in danger, we would have notified the parents anyway. "Notify" is a terrible word, because we don't want to just notify a parent that their child is in danger, but we want to talk to them and work out what we can do together to solve the problem.

The Tech: Where would you draw the line between concern for student's well being and infringing on their right to privacy?

Randolph: I'd do it on a case-by-case basis. It would depend on circumstances. You know, it's a very tough decision. I can assure you that it's not made on a checklist of liability. It's made with a good deal of anguish.

And also, speaking for myself, I will never notify a parent when I haven't asked the student before to talk with the parents, and the parents to talk with us. The student should have a chance to talk with the parents first.

The Tech: What specifically should students do to improve mental health on campus?

Randolph: We need to hear clearly from students what is needed. It's not just venting at the administration. It's about recognizing problems and verbalizing them.

I'd also like students to speak out about the loneliness. It's a reality around here. I think students say: "Sometimes, this place is as lonely as it gets."

We also need to be more comfortable with acknowledging our shortcomings. If you ask for help, your reputation with your peers falls. If we want a community where it's OK to ask for help, we can't measure others by saying: "So-and-so is just a loser because he couldn't pass 6.001 without help."

One of the things that bothers me is that students brag about the suicide rate here as if it were a badge of honor. I've had students tell me that our toughness is measured by the suicide rate. Do students want to be able to say that? That's a real desensitization to this issue, that students can brag about it.

I've had students tell me when they were seniors: "I hate this place. The pressure's enormous, people kill themselves." And when they graduate and come back, I ask them what should be improved and they say: "Don't change a thing." It's like the Marines — if you survive it, you want it to stay the same.

If we want the environment changed, everyone has to take responsibility to support change. It's a community issue. Students have to be understanding. Sometimes, students will have to be the ones placing the call for help. Faculty need to be open, recognize individuality in everyone's situation. There's not a one-size-fits-all solution. We need to have people available.

The Tech: How about the community? What specifically can the community change to ensure that individuals with mental health issues are better served?

Randolph: Everybody needs to realize that there is no simple solution. MIT people are engineers. We want to find quantitative problems and solve them. But those type of problems don't exist here. For example, if the problem is that you need more resources, then you hire more people and ask if that solved the problem. I don't think that alone is going to solve the problem.

Questions for this interview were compiled by Rima Arnaout, Melissa S. Cain, Mike Hall, Katharyn Jeffreys, Nancy L. Keuss, Eun Lee, Shankar Mukherji, and Michael J. Ring.

PEDRO L. ARRECHEA—THE TECH

A History of Suicide at MIT

Compiled & Designed by Katharyn Jeffreys

Chemistry major commits suicide by taking cyanide

Stephen L. Reinhardt '87 died of cyanide poisoning October 3 in his room at Besley Hall. He was taken to Mt. Auburn Hospital by the MIT Campus Patrol and was dead on arrival.

Reinhardt, 29, was majoring in chemistry; his academic work had been good and he had not been reported in any difficulty. No note was left, but his roommates reported he had been depressed during the previous few days because of personal problems.

The parents of the deceased are Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Reinhardt, of 3 Turkey Hill Lane, Westport, Connecticut. Reinhardt's roommates were Robert H. Donnelly, '87, of New York City and Abhijit Sen '88, of Calcutta, India.

Student takes own life

By Susan L. Isalick

Kenneth A. Hamilton '83 took his life on September 30, the Deans' Office announced last week.

The incident is the first suicide of a registered student in almost three years.

Hamilton, a former News Editor for *The Tech*, entered MIT with the Class of 1981. He hanged himself in his Somerville apartment, leaving no note.

Associate Dean for Student Affairs

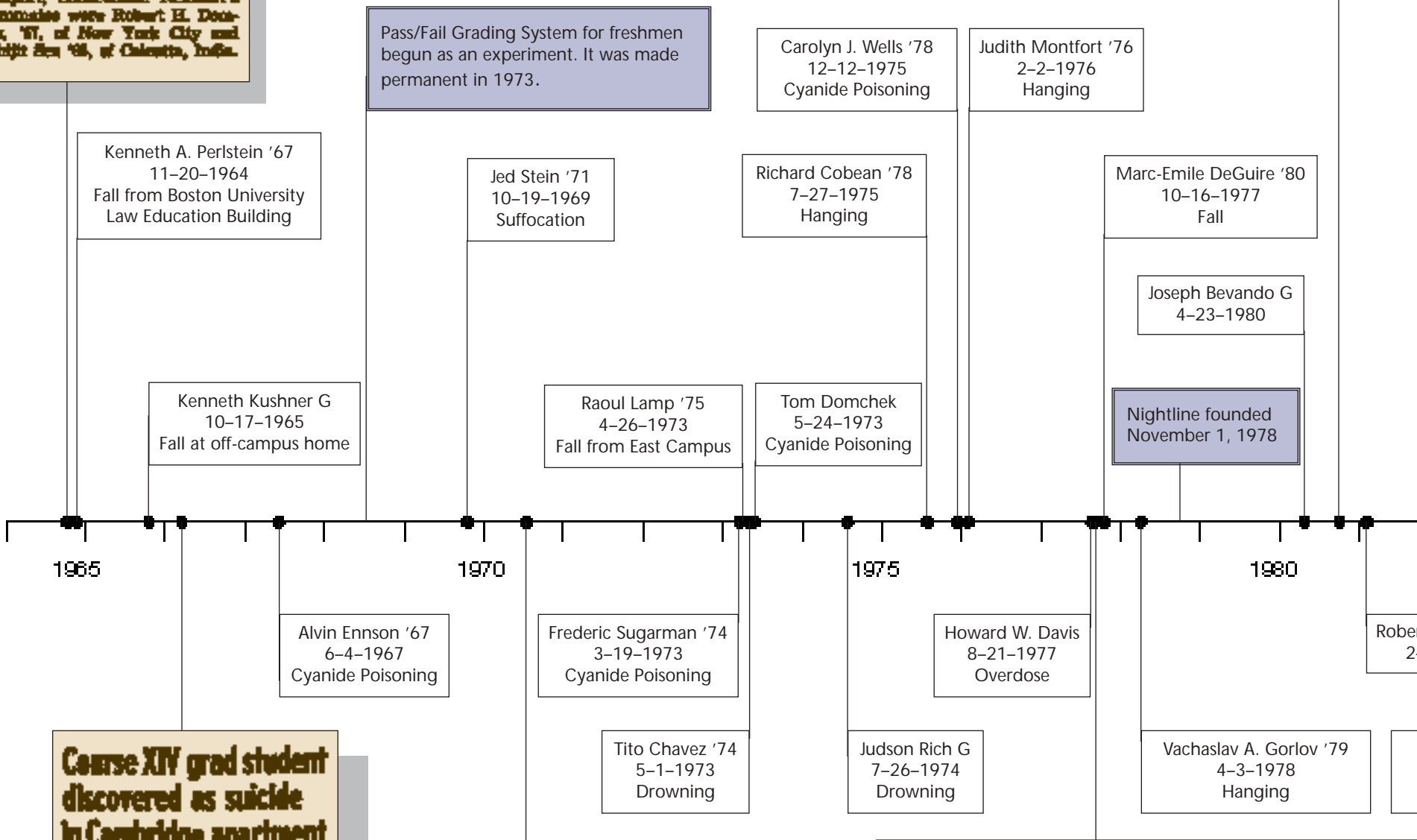
Robert Randolph, head of the counseling section of the Deans' Office, said that Hamilton had been seeking aid there and with the Medical Department. "The ultimate conclusion is that the aid wasn't enough," Randolph said, "but why this was so is hard to say. It's a very difficult situation."

Randolph said Hamilton "had many friends" and was close to his family but added that, ultimately, "he felt very alone."

Hamilton had taken more than a year off from MIT. He lived at East Campus and moved to Besley last year before moving off campus. He was majoring in computer science at the time of his death.

In addition to serving as News Editor, Hamilton was elected as a Contributing Editor of *The Tech*. He had also worked for the MIT News Office.

Pass/Fail Grading System for freshmen begun as an experiment. It was made permanent in 1973.



Course XIV grad student discovered as suicide in Cambridge apartment

J. D. Freudenfald, a graduate student in economics, was found dead in his apartment room at 111 Harvard Street Tuesday night. According to the medical examiner, he had shot himself.

Runge, asst. professor, commits suicide in E40

By David B. Koretz
Dale Runge, a young assistant professor of management, committed suicide yesterday in the basement of the Energy Laboratory building (E40) according to Middlesex County Medical Examiner David C. Dow.

Runge, who died of several self-inflicted knife wounds, was found in the boiler room of the building at 5:13 p.m. The workman who discovered the body notified the Campus Patrol, who in turn informed the Cambridge Police Department. The Cambridge Police arrived on the scene at 5:29 but had to wait more than two hours before Dow arrived.

As a result, for more than two hours the "homicide of an unidentified man" was being reported on police and commercial radio broadcasts. Building E40 employees were taken down to the basement during this period in an attempt to identify the body, but returned, visibly shaken by the sight, without an identification.

During the wait for the medical examiner, about fifteen MIT and

Cambridge policemen were on the scene at one time or another, well as several State Police officers and detectives. Shortly after 6 p.m., the body was transported to the Watson Funeral Parlor in Cambridge.

Runge, who lived in Arlington, Mass., was appointed assistant professor of management after a short tenure as research associate in the department of management. He recently received his doctorate in management from MIT's Sloan School.

A Cambridge Police spokesman said that there was no apparent motive for the suicide.

Building E40 is an old structure at the corner of Amherst and Wadsworth Streets, a block away from the Sloan School. The walls of the building in which the body was found is being emptied as the occupants of the suite of offices have been moved to Building E3.

The boiler room is not often used — there was apparently some time between the time of death and the discovery of the body, according to a Cambridge Police officer who was one of the first on the scene.

Mental Health Resources at MIT

The following resources are accessible by MIT students for mental health care.

MIT Medical Mental Health Service

E23-368, (617) 253-2916
No referral necessary. Call for more information or to arrange a confidential appointment. Appointment hours are weekdays from 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Urgent services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling (617) 253-1311.

Counseling and Support Services

5-104, (617) 253-4861
Offers confidential counseling for all students and consultations to any member of the MIT community who may be worried about a student.

Nightline

(617) 253-8800
Hours: Every day, 7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.
Student run hotline that provides counseling by student peers and is supervised by the Dean's Office of Counseling and Support Services.

Health Education Office

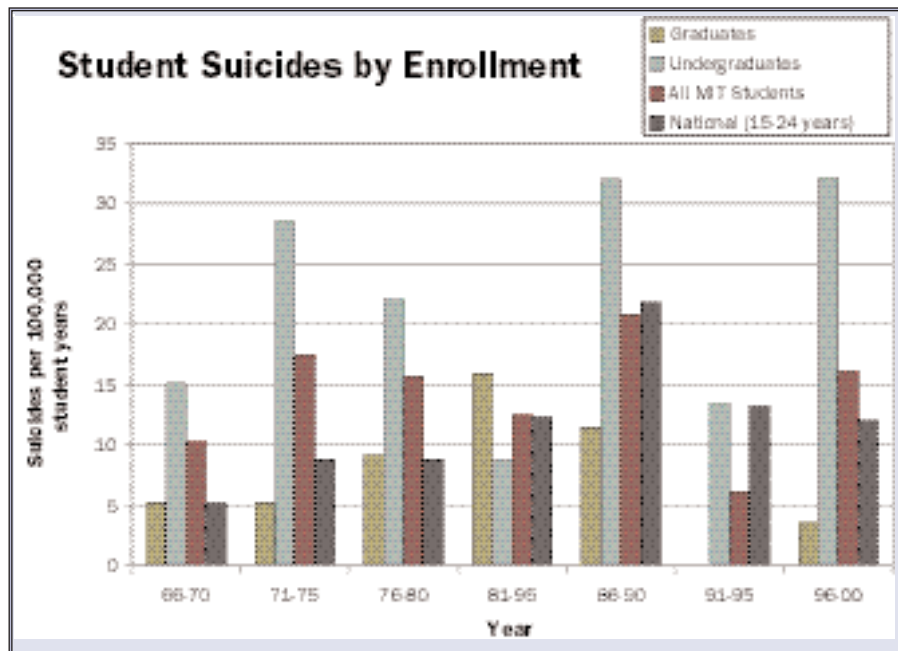
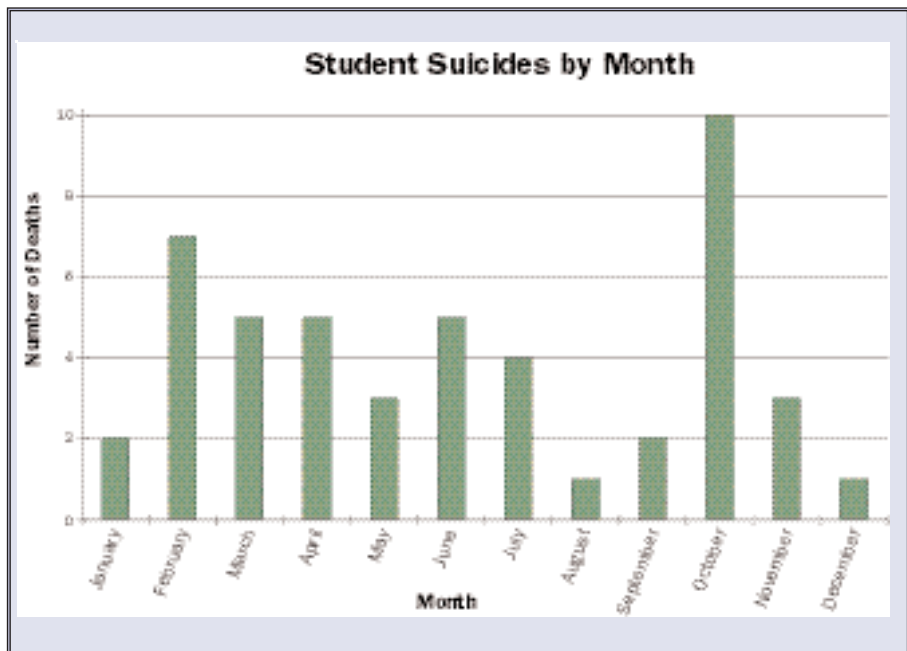
E23-205, (617) 253-1316
Hours: Weekdays, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Provides personal, confidential assistance to help find information on health issues. Also provides help in connecting with other resources at MIT and off-campus. Offers private consultations for students with a health educator to answer questions, by phone, e-mail or appointment.

MedSTOP

W20-540A
A satellite student health information resource center in the Student Center. Open all hours.

MedLINKS

E23-205, (617) 253-1318
A group of volunteer undergraduates who can answer basic health related questions and connect students to MIT Medical's services and other helpful resources. MedLINK representatives live in most campus and off-campus residences.



John A. Lomanto G
6-13-1982
Asphyxiation

Hilbert B. Pompey '85
2-8-1983
Hanging at Next House

Peter T. Reid '88
5-15-1986
Chemical Ingestion

Asit Sarkar G
6-21-1984
Cyanide Poisoning

Keith T. Ennis '84
2-29-1984
Asphyxiation at TEP

Jeffrey Leibman '88
10-2-1987
Hanging off-campus

Randolph G. Wei '87
10-5-1986
Chemical Ingestion

Daniel J. O'Day '87
10-17-1986
Asphyxiation

David Gianni G
3-1-1987

Mark R. Kordos '89
4-8-1988
Fall from MacGregor

Thomas F. Trobaugh G
10-22-1987

Kent D. Anderson G
10-3-1987
Fall

Clifford A. William '90
7-24-1988

Edward B. Hontz '92
6-4-1991
Fall

Younes Borki '92
10-1-1990
Fall

Melissa N. Ronge '98
2-26-1996
Fall from MacGregor

Douglas P. Rodger '93
6-20-1991
Asphyxiation

Edward B. Hontz '92
6-4-1991
Fall

Festus M. Moore '94
1-29-1993
Fall from Boston University School of Law

Douglas P. Rodger '93
6-20-1991
Asphyxiation

Mark E. Sitton G
1-24-1998
Shooting

Lucy Crespo da Silva '99
11-19-2000
Fall from Westgate

Elizabeth H. Shin '02
4-14-2000
Burn

Christopher Millard '98
3-24-2000
Fall from PBE

Seth L. Karon '01
2-13-2000

Michael P. Manley '02
2-6-1999
Fall from MacGregor

Window restraints in the lounges of the upper twelve student floors of MacGregor House were reinforced in order to make the windows safer for residents during the summer of 1996. Latches that limit the windows' opening were installed in response to the suicide of Younes Borki '92 in 1990, one of three students who have jumped to their deaths from MacGregor's tower in the past several years. Since then many restraints have been removed or damaged. The 1996 repairs were prompted by the death of Melissa N. Ronge '98. The restraint had been removed from the 14th floor window from which Ronge jumped.

Gale Falls to Death from Green Building Classroom



RICH FLETCHER—THE TECH

Scraps of wood and broken glass litter the ground in front of the Green Building Friday evening.

By Zoranna Hussein
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Philip C. Gale '98 fell to his death from a classroom on the fifteenth floor of the Green Building Friday evening in an apparent suicide.

Gale, a music major and member of the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity, returned to MIT in 1996 to complete his studies after taking a leave of absence from the Institute. Originally from Charlotte N.C., Gale first came to MIT four years ago at the age of 15, but left to serve as Director of Research and Development for Earthlink Network, an internet service provider, from March 1995 until March 1996. Gale lived off-campus in an apartment in Central Square after his return to the Institute.

Police informed immediately

An anonymous male contacted the Campus Police at 7:27 p.m. Friday to report the sound of breaking glass followed by a scream and a person falling outside Building 54, said Chief of Police Anne P. Glavin.

A wooden chair was reportedly thrown out of the window of a classroom on the fifteenth floor on the side of the building facing the Charles River. Shortly thereafter, Gale fell to his death from the broken window, Glavin said. Gale was pronounced dead upon arrival at Massachusetts General Hospital after being transported from the scene by Cambridge Rescue. Multiple agencies reported to the scene, including the Boston and Cambridge Police, Glavin said.

Whether the death was a suicide has yet to be determined, Glavin said. The Middlesex County Medical Examiner said that the death was caused by "multiple traumatic injuries."

While there was no suicide note left in the classroom, "some information was left in the room," Glavin said. She would not comment on the nature of that information.

Gale had been preparing to take an Undergraduates Research

Perspectives on Mental Health

Why Mental Health Matters A Student's Perspective

Guest Column
David Mellis

The words "mental health" echo through my head each day, bringing with them an intense feeling of urgency and dread. My backpack holds a thick gray folder, bursting forth with articles on suicide, posters declaring "You are Not Alone," surveys, data sheets, and hand-written notes from countless meetings with doctors, deans, and students. Falling asleep one night, I scrawled an e-mail address — the name of a colleague working on a planned mental health survey — on the chalkboard above my bed. My phone rings often, a reporter on the other end of line from *The Tech*, *Tech Talk*, *The Boston Globe*, and even the University of Pennsylvania's daily newspaper.

I know why I'm doing this. It's because I've seen what the MIT Medical Mental Health Service can do for students — and what it can do to them.

Late one night during freshman year, I brought a friend to the Med Center, scared that she'd be dead by morning. The psych-on-call informed us she was an hour away, at home, and asked if she *really* needed to come to campus. My depressed friend decided that her situation wasn't actually an emergency, and headed home.

On another night, I came with a different

friend, who was also talking of suicide. He spoke with the medical doctor in Urgent Care, who did what he could do, then followed protocol and phoned the psych-on-call. She talked to my friend on the phone. We returned home, unsatisfied by the conversation. Any benefit of our trip had been supplied by the young doctor, and my friend left without any lasting improvement or even a future appointment.

These are far from the only problems, however. Another friend of mine needed someone to talk to but couldn't make it to E23 at 8:00 a.m. Even the appointment she managed to keep was a disappointment. My friend, in an unusually forthcoming manner, related many of the traumatic events of her childhood. Instead of offering guidance and support, the therapist began crying.

The first friend I brought to the Med Center at night eventually returned for a scheduled appointment. Pressured to begin medication, she decided it was easier to stop going to the Mental Health Service than to spend numerous hours resisting anti-depressants.

I too have used the Mental Health Service. The first doctor who saw me was aloof and unconcerned with my problems. I only went to him once. The next provider was a bit better. She cared, but only enough to evaluate me and decide what, if any, long-term treatment I needed, not to offer advice or support

of her own. Now I see a therapist outside of MIT (on my parents' insurance), and she's great.

I'm fortunate enough to live in a place where seeking counseling is an accepted course of action. Many people aren't so lucky. In many parts of campus, mental health care is stigmatized and no one admits to having sought professional help.

Additionally, communication between various campus support structures can be difficult and sporadic. GRTs and professors may not know who to call if they're worried about a student; some have never seen the inside of the Mental Health Service. Moreover, justified confidentiality concerns prevent them from discovering whether or not a student is getting help. Increased communication between these groups and mental health professionals, in accordance with a student's wishes, would enable all to better serve student needs.

Hoping to expand on the power to help and heal, I started working with the UA Committee on Student Life last year. Now I co-chair the Student/Staff Mental Health Task-Force, a group that includes graduate and undergraduate students and various faculty, staff, and administrators. It was established primarily through the efforts of Eric J. Plosky '99, a former opinion editor at *The Tech*. We hope to make broad but precise improvements to the support structures and mental health services at MIT.

The Institute seems to have channeled any and all initiative for improving mental health at MIT into this task-force. Often I worry that if we don't do our job well, nothing will change. One reason I'm concerned is that our group has only the vaguest sense of the reception our recommendations will receive.

When Harvard re-examined its mental health services, they hired outside consultants, combining money, expertise, and high-level support.

Meanwhile, I have heard nothing from President Vest or Chancellor Bacow, except what I read in the newspaper. In addition, our group has no budget. I paid the cost of photocopying agendas and other materials out of my own pocket.

All of these concerns pervade my daily life. When a task-force meeting strays off-topic, I despair of completing our task and effecting substantive change. I'm constantly reminded of all the people I need to e-mail, the meetings yet to hold, and the work that lies ahead. I only hope that the great support I've received from fellow students and others is enough to ensure the success and utility of our efforts.

David Mellis '02 is the Co-Chair of the Undergraduate Association Committee on Student Life. The Student/Staff Mental Health Task-Force can be reached at <mh-task-force@mit.edu>.

Living Under Pressure A GRT's Perspective

Guest Column
Mitch McVey

Groggily, I emerge from my room, wiping the sleep from my eyes and pulling on my sweats for a morning jog. It's 7 a.m., and I don't expect anybody to be up yet in MacGregor House. But wait, why is Rajeem's door open?

When I pause in his doorway, he informs me that he is working on a problem set that he started at midnight. It's due at 10 a.m. "Well," I ask him, "why didn't you start on this earlier?" He tells me that he had two problem sets due the day before, along with an exam, and he was working for his UROP the previous two nights.

As I continue down the hall, I find that Andrea is leaving for her ROTC class, having slept for only four hours after staying late at the Media Lab. And as I'm leaving, I encounter Brenda, who spent all night typing at her computer after four hours of dance practice.

Does this sound familiar to anyone? After nearly four years as a graduate resident tutor, I find that I am still constantly surprised by the number of activities in which MIT students participate, while managing to maintain their GPAs, compete for prestigious summer internship positions, and still make time for fun activities that make college so memorable.

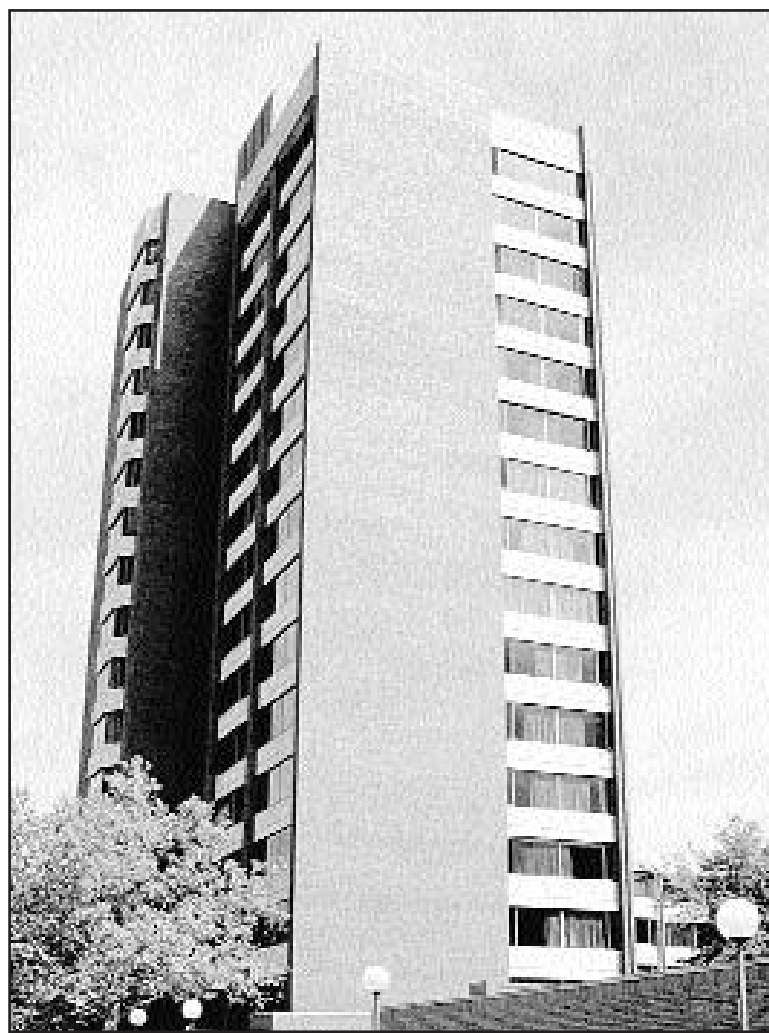
I think back to my own undergraduate experience at the University of Colorado and have trouble recalling if I ever pulled an all-nighter (well, certainly not for academic purposes). Without question, students and faculty at MIT encounter inordinate amounts of stress, and not all of it is self-imposed. This is the nature of MIT and the people who compose it.

The omnipresent undercurrent of pressure is both the biggest asset and the biggest liability of an MIT education. Due to some recent tragedies, the reasons for the extreme pressure and the institutional mechanisms for coping with it are now being scrutinized by ourselves and the media.

During my first year as a GRT, I recall wondering what function I was truly fulfilling. I interacted with the students, talked with them late at night, and occasionally stuffed them with brownies and ice cream sundaes. It wasn't difficult at all — until I dealt with my first crisis.

It occurred in late October, right after midterms, when a romantic relationship blew up at two in the morning. I was summoned to the student's room, where I helped her through the night using the listening skills that I had practiced in a training session earlier that summer.

I found that I really didn't know as much about this student as I had originally thought. She was dealing with complex issues that I had never encountered, particularly in the area of interracial relationships. That night, I felt that I was woefully underqualified for my position. So, the following morning, I went searching for resources available to woeful-



MacGregor House

ly underqualified GRTs.

I found a multitude: MIT Medical, the counseling deans, housemasters, other GRTs, the Campus Police, the staff at Nightline, the Ombudsman's Office, and hundreds of individuals who will sit down with you at a moment's notice to discuss a difficult situation. Over the years, I have taken advantage of many of these services, both for myself and for my residents. I have become adept at managing crises. I have learned that my role is to prevent the crisis from escalating and then to call for backup.

However, this is not the most difficult part of being a GRT or a resident adviser. It is relatively easy to intervene in situations that are obviously out of control. For us, the really tough cases arise when we are unsure if a problem truly exists.

For example, what should we do when a normally outgoing student becomes suddenly withdrawn, or a student who always gets straight As stops going to classes? Should we intervene? Is it appropriate to invade the student's privacy? And then, an even more difficult case: what if we are fairly certain that a problem exists, but the student denies it when approached? What then? Do we call in outside help against the student's wishes?

A careful perusal of the GRT handbook yields no straightforward answers to these questions. The proper action depends upon the context of the situation. At these times, we rely on the trust that we have built up over months and years through everyday interactions with our students. We draw upon our knowledge of their habits, idiosyncrasies, goals, and fears that we have gleaned from numerous conversations.

And, most importantly, we call upon the larger community within the living group to alert us to potential problems and to offer support to students in trouble. Using all of these resources, we try to balance the right of the student to be left alone with the emotional health of both the student and the living group. Of course, when doubt remains, we do whatever is necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of the students and their peers.

Finally, since RAs and GRTs are students too, we are subject to the same pressures and stresses that weigh upon our residents. Therefore, by seeking help when we need it, we send a powerful message.

This message, though often spoken about by administrators, is still not widely accepted here.

Simply put, there is no stigma in calling for help. Sometimes, circumstances become more than we can handle. At these times, the intelligent course of action is not to stubbornly insist that we can go it alone. Instead, we must be courageous enough to seek the support that we need and trust in the power of the community.

Mitch McVey '02 is the graduate resident tutor for D-Entry in MacGregor House.

Solving Mental Health Problems Together

A Medical Perspective

Guest Column
Dr. Peter Reich

In the eleven years I have been at MIT, I have become aware of many problems that stand in the way of students getting the most out of the Mental Health Service. I would like to share ten of them here; there are others as well. Together, we can work together to find solutions.

(1) *Ignorance.* Some students hardly know we exist. I have met students who are surprised to learn they are eligible for free mental health services 24 hours a day. They have no idea of the size and scope of our service. We have 26 providers from four disciplines. Our services include individual therapy, group therapy, family counseling and substance abuse counseling.

Students with the MIT insurance plan may not realize they have some of the best mental health coverage in town, including partial payment for 50 visits a year to an outside provider of their choice. One aim of our Task Force is to have every student in every corner of the Institute know what services are available at MIT and how to access them.

(2) *Mistrust of confidentiality.* Some students do not know that therapy will be kept absolutely private and confidential. Parents, deans, and faculty members are not permitted to find out that a student has visited our service.

We are not the "company doc." Every provider at MIT Medical is bound by the same code of professional ethics as a private doctor in the community. When a student enters MIT Medical as a patient, he or she is entering a separate world from the rest of the Institute. No one has access to any information about the care of a student without the student's consent. The only exception to this confidentiality rule is when there is a life-threatening situation or danger to the lives of others.

(3) *Threat to security clearances.* Some students worry about the effect of seeing a therapist on their ability to obtain a security clearance in the future. While it is true that most clearances ask whether you have seen a mental health counselor or have taken psychiatric medications, people I know in Washington who are involved in the process of clearing people for top-secret government jobs assure me that the mental health services we provide would not prevent a person from obtaining a top-secret clearance. Everyone in Washington either sees a therapist or should see a therapist. When security agents come to us, we only see them with the student's permission. Even then, the only question they ask is whether we think there is any reason to consider this person a security risk. In my years at

MIT, I have never had occasion to say "yes."

(4) *Possibility of reporting illegal behavior.* Students may also wonder whether we are required to report them if they have engaged in illegal behavior. Once again, our pledge of confidentiality applies. For example, we do not report students who tell us they are taking illegal substances, robbing banks, or doing any outrageous things other than actions that threaten the lives of others.

(5) *Stigma of seeking mental help.* A frequent problem that keeps people from using our services is the stigma some people still associate with seeing a mental health counselor. Some MIT students still feel it is a sign of weakness to ask for help. In reality, the opposite is true. Being able to get assistance from others is a sign of strength.

(6) *Fear of being labeled "mentally ill."* Another issue for some students is the thought that seeing a "shrink" means you are "mentally ill." Most of our patients are young adults struggling with stress and adjustments to life. These problems are the kind well within the range of experience we all struggled with during the tumultuous years of college and gradu-

ate training. We try not to "pathologize" students and we hope students will not "pathologize" themselves.

Counseling can be as much a part of education as any other learning experience. Our aim is to help students grow and flourish in every aspect of life, especially in the parts of life that exist outside of schoolwork. We do believe there is more to life than grades!

(7) *Fear of medication.* Students may be reluctant to see us because they fear the use of medications. We actually use medications very sparingly in treatment. Our main form of treatment is psychotherapy, commonly known as counseling. If we think someone will get relief from depression or anxiety by using medications, we may make that recommendation. Taking medicine is a voluntary matter, and medication is seldom if ever the only form of treatment a student receives on our service.

(8) *Inability to recognize a mental health problem.* Students may not understand the significance of their own symptoms and may not recognize the need for counseling. For example, depression may lead to insomnia, fatigue,

and burnout, problems that can easily be confused with the usual state of a hardworking MIT student.

We think it would make a big difference if students understood how to monitor their own emotional states and make their own diagnoses. There is no harm in stopping in to get a mental health check up if you feel you have exceeded your ability to cope with the stresses of MIT life.

(9) *Relying on friends as the only source of help.* Another roadblock to good mental health care can arise out of one of the many wonderful traits that characterize our student population — the tendency to take care of friends. In my experience, students may actually go too far in providing baby-sitting, food services and other forms of T.L.C. to friends who may be too depressed or overwhelmed to leave their rooms. We want students to take care of each other, but we also want them to ask us for help when things have gone past a reasonable limit. Students can call us in as consultants to help their friends.

(10) *Availability of mental health services.* I am also very aware of problems in the way we provide services to meet student needs. This includes our availability. One recent innovation that grew out of student input was our new walk-in program. We heard from students who had waited too long for an appointment when they were in distress. We now are thinking about evening hours and more outreach to the living groups.

We want to remind students that the Mental Health Service is not the only source of counseling on campus. We are part of an extensive network of services that begins with GRTs and advisers, extends through the living groups and departments, and includes the counseling deans and all the other health care providers in the Medical Department. Many people at MIT are trained to recognize emotional problems and provide a good measure of care. You have to give them a chance to help.

These are some of my observations. I hope they will help stimulate the ideas of members of our community. Students should send their comments to the Mental Health Task Force. This is the time to help shape the development of mental health services at MIT. Of all people, students themselves understand the problems they face in getting the help they need. The Task Force is where these problems can be translated into practical solutions. We hope to come up with recommendations by the end of the term.

Get your ideas to us as soon as possible by contacting the Task Force at <mh-task-force@mit.edu> or by contacting me at <reich@med.mit.edu>.

Dr. Peter Reich is the Chief of Mental Health Services at MIT Medical.



The waiting area for MIT Medical's Mental Health Service.

TECH FILE PHOTO

Clearing the Air on Suicide

A Reporter's Perspective

Eric J. Plosky

A few weeks into my second term at MIT, in February of 1996, a sophomore leapt from the fourteenth floor of MacGregor House to her death. I was shocked and dismayed — and even more so upon learning that this event was of no more interest to most MIT students than the annual Baker House piano drop.

It was suicide. And since then, it's happened again. And again. And again, and again, and again, and again, and again. Eight times in five years, 31 times since 1980, four times last year alone. Our classmates, hanging, suffocating, drowning, poisoning, hurling, shooting, and burning themselves, each time shattering the lives of family and friends.

Until the 1997 drinking death of Scott S. Krueger '01, suicide was a non-issue at MIT, tacitly accepted, never discussed. But once the media descended on the Institute, wanting to know how one of the world's best and brightest could get himself killed by Captain Morgan, klieg lights and microphones were thrust into every corner of campus. When Philip C. Gale '98 jumped from the Green Building in early 1998 — the first on-campus suicide since Krueger's death — the camera crews were there before the blood was dry on Eastman Court.

From then on, suicide has been out in the open, and MIT has finally woken up — has had to wake up — to its stark reality, if only in the face of continuing media interest. Only this month, on Sunday, Feb. 4 and Monday, Feb. 5, *The Boston Globe* ran two Kruegeresque front-page stories on the topic. Nothing new; media outlets here and around

the country, including *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, have now been talking about MIT suicide for three years.

The situation is unstable, the atmosphere poisoned by antagonism, the campus haunted by its history. Administrators, now presiding over the massive residence-system changes ordered after Krueger, claim they can do nothing to prevent suicides; they are condemned as hypocrites. MIT's mental health service, citing patient-privacy concerns, is rapped for being inadequate and incompetent. The family of at least one suicide victim is considering legal action against the Institute, no doubt encouraged by last year's astounding \$6 million settlement with Krueger's parents. Students rail against everyone and everything — the administration, MIT Medical, the media.

Fateful steps, however, are finally being taken. In April of last year, not long after MIT spokesman Ken Campbell announced in the *Globe* MIT's official position on student suicide — "There's a lot of evidence that the more you report it, the more they do it" — I met with Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 and mental health service chief Dr. Peter Reich to discuss a more constructive approach. We drew up plans for a mental health task force, which began meeting in the fall, chaired by David A. Mellis '02 of the Undergraduate Association and Dr. Kristine A. Girard, a psychiatrist at MIT Medical. Chancellor Bacow pledged his full support and promised to implement the task force's eventual recommendations; Mellis, Girard, Reich, and the other task-force members are working now to give him some recommendations to implement.

In the meantime, the uncomprehending and

self-interested continue to shriek, distracting us from the real points. They whine, for instance, that the media is using suicide as an excuse to continue bashing the Institute; after all, MIT's suicide rate may not be higher than the rates at some of its peer institutions, which refuse to divulge their numbers. But numbers are simply not the issue; it should not be MIT's goal merely to keep suicide to the level of its peer institutions. What we should do is seek to get help to the people who need help. The media play a useful role by ensuring that, this time, the administration doesn't become forgetful.

Getting people the mental health services they need is complicated. Therapists must be viewed as helpful, not hostile. MIT Medical's concerns about privacy are well-founded for that reason; students must be free to seek mental health treatment without fear that caregivers will, for instance, call their parents, who may have thought everything up at MIT was hunky-dory.

But concern for privacy is no reason to withhold mental health care. Therapists have to be better connected with and responsive to students in order to be of any help. Nobody who calls the mental health service in the throes of possibly suicidal depression should be made to wait days or weeks for an appointment. And once care is arranged, it should be high-quality, effective care. Surely those in charge realize that poor care does service neither to the patient nor to the medical staff.

Improved mental health treatment need not involve hard-line medical tactics. Instead, mental health should be treated, at least in part, as a characteristic of the community, not merely of the individual. The administration's

thankful muzzling of Ken Campbell is a first step toward eliminating the stigma associated with the entire issue of mental health. If conversation is encouraged, and the MIT community begins to open up and to actually function as a community, people will not be discouraged by their peers from seeking the help they may really need. Outreach and community-building activities of any sort — sponsored by MIT Medical, dorms, student groups, or even the administration itself, as in the case of the 1997 Infinite Buffet — can go a long way toward breaking down barriers.

Nearly all students need the support and encouragement of a community to succeed and thrive at MIT. That some may need help actually surviving the place is only a slight difference of degree.

Does this mean that MIT itself is partially to blame for suicides? Only in the sense that more could be done to try to help people and to energize and knit together the MIT community. Yes, the Institute can be a tough place, but it is not as a rule a pressure cooker that pushes its students over the edge. It would be tough to blame MIT in court for a student's suicide (barring, of course, outright medical negligence or malpractice).

The task force now at work is at long last taking the community view of mental health at MIT. I am confident that the measures they ultimately recommend to Chancellor Bacow will go a long way toward not only improving the health care available to students, but also toward improving the general atmosphere on campus. Suicide is deadlier when it's a dirty secret; clearing the air will help us all breathe easier.

A Visit to the Doctor

Demystifying MIT Mental Health Services

Katie Jeffreys

Mental health issues at MIT have become important to me since I began researching the history of suicides on campus over a year ago. However, whenever I write an article on the topic for *The Tech*, I feel like a fraud. How can my articles say how people should seek help, describing how easy it is to find help if you make an effort, when I haven't ever made that effort? I see how much therapy has helped others, and yet have refrained from seeking it myself.

I have been thinking about why this is. Perhaps I am afraid to essentially admit by seeking help that I think there is something wrong. Or maybe I am more afraid to have someone else confirm my suspicions. Part of it may be that I don't want to whine about petty things when I know that there are more serious issues in the world than my problems.

I also felt that to initiate counseling, something grave must happen to me. Whether it was a pet dying or an attempted suicide, I needed a real reason to go in. I shouldn't go in if I didn't have something to say, and being "sad" wasn't enough.

Finally, there is a certain stigma attached to seeking therapy. It is assumed that you are either crazy or one of those neurotic people who calls their therapist to decide whether to wear black shoes or brown.

I recall an occasion last year when I sought help at MIT Medical. I was about to go home to deal with some family issues, and wanted to talk to a counselor about it. Unfortunately, no appointments were available in the week before I went home, and I was taking a heavy course-load, which meant that I was not free during the office hours. I left the reception desk (after

being told they were sorry they could not help me) with tears in my eyes and frustrated with the whole system. Fortunately, I had friends and family members who helped me work through what I was dealing with.

After procrastinating nearly as long as I could, I decided to find out when walk-in hours were. When I went to search for the open times, however, I couldn't find the information anywhere. While I was struck by the lack of information available on the Web, I wasn't surprised. Going to the MIT Medical website was no help. I clicked on "Services/Groups," then on "Mental Health," but was not able to find any information on their walk-in hours. Trying a search on the MIT webpage yielded several *Tech* articles which finally informed me that walk-in hours are every day from 2-4 p.m.

I signed in at the reception desk around 2:30 p.m., hoping that I would be seen quickly so I could make my class at 3:30. There were two people ahead of me, so I sat down to read *People* magazine or some other waiting room fixture. I tried not to make eye contact with the other people waiting, knowing that they would wonder why I was there as much as I would they. As I sat down, however, I heard my name and looked over to see an acquaintance sitting a few seats away. At first, we made polite conversation, but then I felt the need to explain my reason for being there. Soon he was called in, and I began reading my magazine. Around 3:30 I started debating whether to give up and go to class, but decided that I had already invested too much time to leave. Finally, the doctor finished with her patient and came to get me.

Now all my questions about what it is like to seek counseling would be answered. Where would I begin? My childhood, life at MIT, last week, today? What would the first session be

like? Obviously I couldn't explain my entire self to someone I had never met in thirty minutes.

Well, maybe I could. In this introductory meeting the doctor started with an open-ended question: essentially, "Why are you here?" I was honest and told her about this article, but I also related that I had previously (and unsuccessfully) come to the center, and had often wondered if talk therapy would benefit me.

She walked me through the various areas of the college life: family, classes, sleep, relationships, and alcohol use. She then quickly and accurately began to read certain things about me and asked some tough questions. Having previously dealt independently with any problems I encountered, I felt as though I had already thought through much of what she asked. But some questions, especially those based on conclusions she drew about me based on her experience with patients, were ones I had not considered. However, being a senior in interview mode, I was so trained to give a snappy response that I don't think I gave her questions as much thought as I should have.

After describing my life, with all its stressors, and discussing how I deal with them, the doctor came to the conclusion that I am not clinically depressed, but could probably benefit by talking through more of the issues with which I am dealing. I guess that was a relief, if nothing else, although not having a clear diagnosis was a bit disconcerting. When you break a bone, you go to the doctor, he diagnoses the problem and then fixes it. In this case, I am not "broken," so do I need to be fixed? And in my case, the cure cannot be prescribed.

The one other recommendation given to me was to sleep more. That was the least helpful advice I could have received, but maybe since it came from a doctor I can use it as an excuse to unwind. However, I don't think the excuse: "I'm

sorry I didn't do my problem set, Professor, but my therapist told me I needed eight hours of sleep a night," would go over too well. I think this solution to people's problems, while clearly necessary, does not help people cope or succeed.

It wasn't hard for me to talk about myself to a stranger, but I could see how it could be for many people. The hardest part was the doctor's reactions to my comments which ranged from pity to nearly sarcastic remarks pointing out hypocrisy in my statements (which I had recognized and accepted). I wasn't there to impress her or make her feel sorry for me, but the conversation consisted of both me describing the stresses in my life, and defending my actions.

At the end of the session, she offered me two choices: I could set up another appointment for a month down the road, or call her whenever I needed to talk. I chose the latter, simply because I couldn't guess what my schedule will be like in a month and didn't know if I wanted another appointment with that particular doctor, or at all. I would be curious to see whether I related differently to another doctor, perhaps someone younger, older, or male. One thing I am worried about is that if I decide to switch doctors, I will have to start anew, explaining everything over again.

Even though I declined the follow-up, the doctor reassured me that if I needed to talk and the receptionist said no appointments were available for a long time, I could call her directly and she would fit me in.

I don't know if I will return to seek more help; perhaps if things take a turn for the worse and I feel I have a reason to be there. But I am reassured to know that there is someone there with who I now have a relationship and who can provide sage guidance from an objective perspective.

Are you a CS or EE student?

Looking for a great job?

Would you like a slice of pizza?

ZETARI

Zetari, an Internet infrastructure start-up company located in the Boston area, is holding an informational session about **exciting career opportunities in hardware and software engineering on Tuesday February 20, 2001 at 6:00 PM in Room 4-145**. Gary Rucinski, Co-Founder and VP of Engineering, will be discussing career opportunities in the emerging Internet infrastructure market. Free pizza provided.

Zetari will also be holding on-campus interviews on **Wednesday February 28, 2001**. Interested candidates should register through Career Services.

www.zetari.com

THE ARTS

MUSIC REVIEW

State of the Airwaves

Punk, Placebo, and Powderhead

By Dan Katz

STAFF WRITER

This week is an exciting one for me when it comes to music — I recently got to hear my first recording in over a year and a half. The MIT Songwriting Club is releasing a compilation CD in the near future, and I previewed about half of the tracks a few days ago; it's exciting stuff, and it's nice to know there's so much creativity and underground talent lurking within the Institute. If you'd like a taste in advance, my song, *Badly*, is currently available on my web site, <<http://mp3.com/dankatz>>. Share and enjoy.

With Phish on indefinite hiatus from touring, what's a fan to do? Show up at the Orpheum tomorrow night, where noodling guitarist extraordinaire Trey Anastasio will bring his solo tour. Friday, Cambridge's own Mary Lou Lord makes yet another local stop at Lilli's in Somerville, while over in Worcester, Boston's Dispatch hit the Palladium. Finally, on Monday, former Mercury Music Award nominees Doves invade America, appearing at the Paradise Rock Club to support their current single, "Catch The Sun."

Albumwise, Finley Quaye, who had a really annoying single a while back called "Sunday Shining," unveils his next effort today, *Vanguard*. Flybanger skirts the line between mindless shouting and half-decent metal with their new release, *Headtrip To Nowhere*.

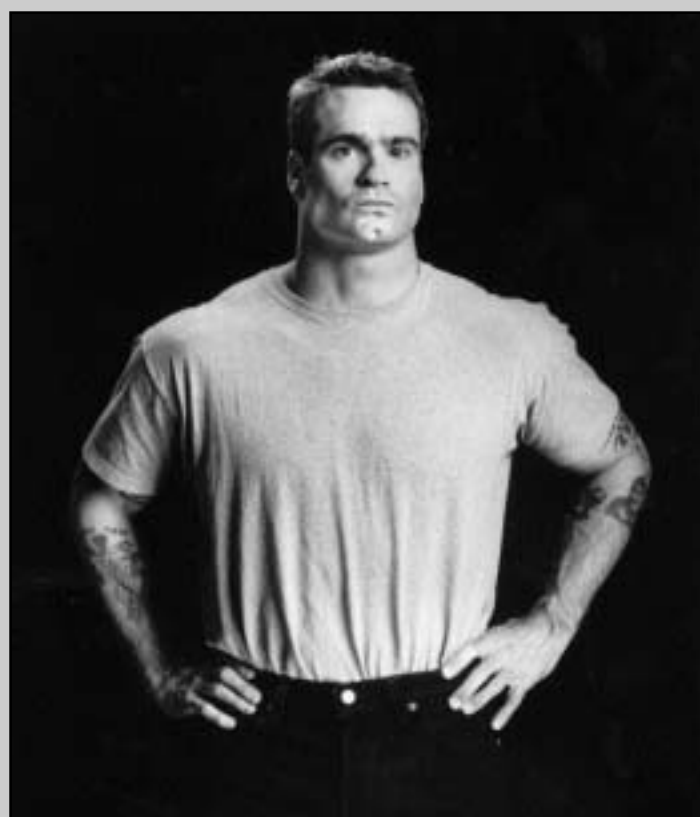
Henry Rollins presents *A Rollins In The Why*, a disc of his spoken-word performances (which are sort of a cross between standup comedy and a particularly aggressive pro wrestling interview.) And finally, most music critics love this band, but with an awkward name like Gorky's Zygotic Mynci, I wouldn't expect big album sales for their new album, *The Blue Trees*.

For me, the happiest music news of the week revolves around the British band Placebo. The band's third album, *Black Market Music*, hit Europe in the fall with a rumored U.S. release in December; that month came and went without a peep from the band regarding America. Finally, Placebo has announced that the disc will cross the border this May, and that they will support it with their second American tour. With new albums coming from Depeche Mode, Radiohead, and Placebo around the same time, America may finally notice that the U.K. produces more than just generic Oasis knockoffs.

If you remember The Living End, count yourself as a rock fan who pays attention to detail. Years ago, this Australian punkabilly band made a splash with the rebellious anthem "Prisoner Of Society." "Roll On," currently making waves on the radio, has the swagger and sound of the Sex Pistols, although I find the chorus a lot less gripping than the refrain from their last big song. If given the choice between yelling "We'll roll on with our heads held high!" or "We don't need no one to tell us what to do!" I find the latter more exciting. Maybe I just have a thing for Australians with no sense of grammar.

Take one part Train vocals and one part burly U2 guitars. Mix well and get Powderfinger's "My Happiness." Listen maybe once, then throw the whole thing out and listen to something more innovative. Like, for instance, Train or U2.

Yes, the column's on the short side this week ... give me a break, I'm busy! If you really want to make it longer, you can



MICHAEL CHILDERS

Henry Rollins comes back, and will, once again, beat you up if you do not buy his new aggressive CD.

help by telling me what you want me to write about. That and any other feedback, positive, negative or neutral, may be directed toward <airwaves@the-tech.mit.edu>. Until next week, try to keep your head above water (I say as I flail my arms wildly) and keep expanding your horizons.

MUSIC REVIEW

Kerith Ravine: The Streams of Jettison

An Instant Classic

By Fred Choi

ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Because musical aesthetics are so subjective, attempting to compile a comprehensive list of "great" albums is an intrinsically futile task. However, some albums are so strong that there would be little controversy in including them in such a list. Albums such as Smashing Pumpkins' *Siamese Dream*, The Pixies' *Doolittle*, Bjork's *Post*, and Radiohead's *Ok Computer* come to mind, although there will always be some naysayers who will quibble over these or any other selections.

Perhaps it is unfair to compare up-and-coming band Kerith Ravine's LP *The Streams of Jettison* to the pantheon of greats, and only time will tell how the general population responds to it.

However, the disc has been the first new album in a long time that has completely caught this jaded critic's attention and is certainly worthy of notice.

The Streams of Jettison is an all-around solid disc, bearing all the characteristics of an instant classic. Eight of its ten tracks feature a distinct and consistent sound, which generally juxtaposes quiet musings with louder, more emotional outbursts.

A quick survey of just a few of the many highlights illustrates how strong the album is: "a gentlemen's strange dream" has a rock-out intro which segues into a beautiful pulsing verse with cello solo; "markline the yellow fields" is soothingly serene; "tranquil robotics and the problem of rusting" floats meditatively; and "a lament for the snowtunnel" broods uneasily. The list goes on. Of the remaining two tracks, the short instrumental epilogue, "cast iron rubies," forms a nice contrast to the rest of the album. The second

to last track, "Fenton," is one of the only slight misses on the album, somehow lacking the polish and originality of the other tracks, especially in its first section.

The strength of Kerith Ravine's music is difficult to pinpoint. The members of the group combine to form an ensemble with an amazing musical and emotional range. Although their music recalls such bands as the Smashing Pumpkins, Sunny Day Real Estate, and Radiohead (especially due to Michael Shepard's expressive tenor), they create a sound that is quite unique. Their music is wonderfully catchy but never trite, and their creative structures feel effortless.

Kerith Ravine considers themselves to be a Christian band, and their lyrics reflect issues of faith and redemption with an honesty and sincerity that avoids preachiness or self-righteousness. Occasionally the obscurity of the lyrics prevents a song's thought from fully coalescing, but in general the lyrics are well in tune with the music. The music is often skillfully combined with the lyrics to powerful effect, such as in the line, "Will the angels catch me when I fall?" in "Markline" and "It's free and warm inside / a womb of grace," in the opening lines of "tranquil robotics."

With the future of alternative rock in such an unstable state, it's reassuring to find that there are still bands which demonstrate that the genre isn't dead and that great alternative music is still being made. Kerith Ravine's *The Streams of Jettison* is easily my favorite album of 2000, and hopefully word of mouth will spread and this band will get the attention it deserves.

The Streams of Jettison is available at <www.kerithravine.com>.



CONCERT REVIEW

Child's Play

'Recent Music of Peter Child' Brings Delights of Modern Chamber Music

By Bogdan Fedeles

STAFF WRITER

An unusual presentation of modern chamber music took over Killian Hall last Saturday. Featuring recent music of Peter Child, member of the music faculty at MIT, the program included pieces for piano, violin, viola, and also vocal music. The audience received with enthusiasm the new music, creating an intimate, yet exclusive, atmosphere. Given the high-caliber performances of the pieces, the concert was a very enjoyable experience.

The first piece presented, *Doubles*, is a set of seventeen character pieces for piano. The name comes from the peculiar tonal premise that the composer employs for each piece. According to Child, "most of the movements are in two keys at once, one for each hand."

The set is divided in three sections, each dedicated to a different musician. *Doubles I* contains three capricious movements dedicated to the composer's daughter Maddie. The pieces are very concise, utilizing simple ideas to create a playful atmosphere.

Doubles II contains five pieces, dedicated to David Deveau, a senior lecturer at MIT. The pieces are more elaborate, requiring more extensive technical skills, yet resounding with very playful and detached themes. David Deveau performed both *Doubles I* and *II* with a very careful touch and with a lot of determination, proving himself to be a pianistic virtuoso.

Doubles III is dedicated to pianist Elaine Chew, who also performed Saturday night. These pieces are inspired by Chinese and Malay folk songs, which Elaine Chew shared with Child. These pieces feature very specific melodic lines, yet they are technically demanding.

Chew's performance was very clean, with impeccable phrasing and dynamics. She also performed the *Prologue* and the *Epilogue*, two pieces that framed the *Doubles* set which are homages to Messiaen and to William Albright, a former teacher of Child. The *Prologue* tries to invoke the character of Messiaen music with heavy chords and high register wild scales and thrills, suggestive of Messiaen's beloved birds. The *Epilogue* features almost pure ragtime music, reminiscent of Albright's works and performances.

Another piece in the program was *Variations* for solo violin, performed by Daniel Stepner. This is a set of variations, that, according to the composer, are developed after a Hungarian operetta tune, a

"frank, cheerful and diatonic melody." However, after the theme is heard, the variations quickly add complexity to the harmony, yielding a technically demanding piece, admirably performed by violinist Daniel Stepner.

Emily Dickinson's Songs followed, a set based upon seven miniature poems by Dickinson. The lyrics refer to small details of our surroundings (a butterfly, a caterpillar, a rock, a hummingbird) — details that gain unexpected metaphysical meanings. The music comes to parallel the poetic intent, creating an exquisite atmosphere, full of strange yet suggestive chords.

A very good performance of these songs was given by soprano Jane Bryden and pianist Sally Pinkas.

The high point of the concert was marked by the world premiere of the *Sonata for Viola and Piano*, a powerful piece that uses the archetype of a sonata for novel musical images and ideas. The first movement, *Revel*, exuberantly unravels a fast-paced dialogue between the viola and the piano. The material is not developed because the composer tries more to describe a mysterious atmosphere rather than to construct a pre-programmed movement.

The second movement *Pause* features introspective moments where the viola plays long low notes, which alternate with soft lyrical passages on the piano. *Lilt*, the third movement, brings back the character of the first, with a tumult of unusual rhythmic patterns and complicated harmonic tapestries. This last movement also features elements of classical wit, especially in the beginning and in the end. Marcus Thompson (viola) and Judith Gordon (piano) rendered with a lot of passion this piece. Their performance was particularly expressive and enjoyable.

Overall, the music of Peter Child presented in this concert was unusual, bearing a distinct elegance and an originality very hard to achieve nowadays in classical music. Interesting, innovative elements were mixed with the traditional ones to yield a complex sonority, often pleasing and enjoyable.

Given the complicated, subtle schemes that are used to originally transform the sonorous material, this music is rather exclusive, requiring a good deal of musical knowledge, interest and ... why not ... goodwill, to understand it. Nevertheless, this concert was a delight and I encourage the MIT community to take advantage of these special musical events.

C A R E E R O P P O R T U N I T I E S

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At OPNET, we'll **Optimize** Your **Challenge**

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Information Session

March 8, 2001
7:00pm - 8:00pm
MIT Bldg 34 Rm 401
50 Vassar St, EECS Dept.
Refreshments Served

On-Campus Interviews

March 9, 2001
9:00am - 5:00pm
Career Services - Bldg 12- Rm 170
Resume Deadline: 2/23/01
Interview Sign Up: 3/3/01 - 3/7/01

OPNET wishes to meet Course 6 graduates and other students with solid computing backgrounds and interest in communication networks.

www.opnet.com/careers

Lander Explains Genome Discoveries

Human Genome, from Page 1

project to a tossed genome salad which was just the result of rearranging the sentences in "our paragraph."

Lander was quick to point out that although the Whitehead Institute was the largest single contributor to the project, responsible for investigating about one-third of the genes, institutions from the Sanger Lab in Great Britain to a lab in Beijing, China were all integral members to the team that declared victory.

Lander said that from May 1999 to May 2000, the project had an astounding jump in its completion rate from 10 percent to 90 percent, mostly because of the groundwork that scientists had meticulously laid out.

Project yields many surprises

While admitting that the project is still a year-and-a-half from final completion, Lander said that the Human Genome Project has yielded many revelations.

For example, humans only have 30,000 to 40,000 genes, instead of the previously accepted number of 100,000, Lander said.

Also, only 1.5 percent of the genome are actually genes, while the rest are simply repeat elements, Lander said. Observed transposition rates have plummeted in hominids, and the inferred male to female mutation rate ratio is two, added the speaker. Many other discoveries have also come out of the project's work.

Lander also discussed what he foresees to be the future of genome research and the far-reaching effects of such a momentous event in not just biology, but all of science. He outlined plans to map the mouse genome and to produce a dense SNP map that is enough to comprehensively test common haplotypes.

Lander believes that the human genome map can be to biology what the periodic table is to chemistry. Although refusing to discuss cancer genomics, Lander expressed hopes of characterizing genes in the next decade.

Henry Also Known As Accomplished Pianist

Henry, from Page 1

as a senior scientist, and from 1954 to 1969, he was the manager of reactor theory and methods at Bettis.

Born in Philadelphia on Jan. 12, 1925, Professor Henry was an accomplished classical pianist as a child, and he received several awards for his artistry, including the

Pressor Award and the Chopin Award.

He is survived by his two brothers, E. James Jr. of Dallas and Thomas H. of Huntington, W.Va. A memorial service at MIT will be scheduled for the spring. His family suggests donations in his honor be made for a worthy student in the Department of Nuclear Engineering.

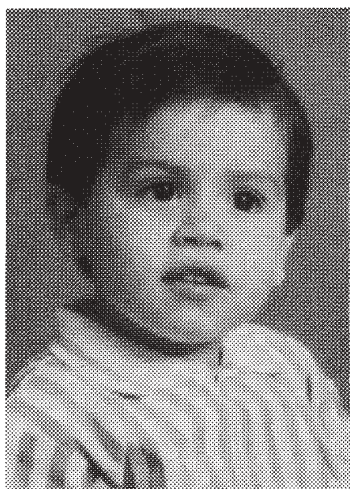


MIGUEL CALLES—THE TECH

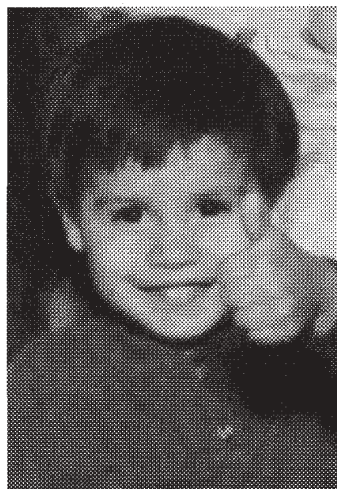
A small group of protesters gathered yesterday near the Park Street T station to voice their opinions about President Bush.



2 weeks old, 1989



1 year old, 1991



2 years old, 1992

Stevie Ace Flores.

Killed by a drunk driver on March 23, 1993, on Pacific Coast Highway in Wilmington, Calif.

If you don't stop your friend from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.



U.S. Department of Transportation

This space donated by *The Tech*

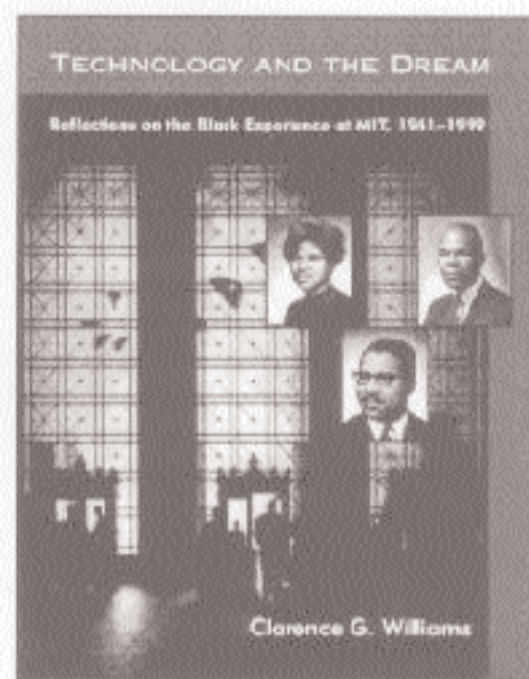
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Technology and the Dream

Reflections on the Black Experience at MIT, 1941-1999

This book grew out of the Blacks at MIT History Project, whose mission is to document the black presence at MIT. The text consists of transcripts of more than seventy-five oral history interviews, in which the interviewees assess their MIT experience and reflect on the role of blacks at MIT and beyond. Although most of the subjects are present or former students, faculty, administrators, and staff are also represented. The contributions were selected to illustrate the broadest possible range of issues, personalities, and time periods spanning the last half century at MIT.

Clarence G. Williams is Special Assistant to the President, Ombudsman, and Adjunct Professor of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT. His previous book 'Reflections of the Dream, 1975-1994: Twenty Years Celebrating the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology' was published by the MIT Press in 1996.

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New Paper Attacks MIT Gender Report

By Jennifer Krishnan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

On the heels of President Charles M. Vest's recent gender equity pact, a new report is dissecting the report that inspired that agreement.

In a report released this month, Patricia Hausman, member of the National Advisory Board of the Independent Women's Forum, and James H. Steiger, Professor of Psychology at the University of British Columbia, question the validity of MIT's March 1999 study.

"[The original MIT report] is not a report on gender discrimination at all," Steiger said. "It's a political manifesto masquerading as a scientific report."

The Hausman-Steiger report "Confession Without Guilt?" focuses on and explores the politics behind the original MIT report, "A Study on the Status of Women Faculty in Science at MIT," and proposes an alternative explanation for discrepancies in salaries of men and women.

Differences found in performance

Among tenured professors in the Department of Biology, which was the focus of the original complaint, Hausman and Steiger found that men and women who earned their doctorates in the same time frame differed greatly in rates of publication and citation. According to the report, this difference in performance could explain the discrepancy in allocation of resources among senior Biology faculty.

"The report suggests that the reason senior women faculty feel they are marginalized is that they're not in the same scientific league as their male counterparts," said Judith S. Kleinfeld, Professor of Psychology at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

In her own report, "MIT Tarnishes Its Reputation with Gender Junk Science," published in December 1999, Kleinfeld criticized the MIT study for its omission of data and its lack of scientific integrity. "They've broken every scientific code in the book, and they've also made Nancy Hopkins the judge of her own trial," she explained. Professor of Biology Nancy H. Hopkins was the primary complainant who spurred MIT's re-evaluation of its

treatment of female faculty.

Skeptics blame Birgeneau

"The villain in this affair is [Robert J. Birgeneau, former Dean of Science]," said Kleinfeld. "He had a responsibility on the part of MIT to conduct a fair and scientific investigation" of the complaint in question. Instead, according to Kleinfeld, he "garnered political points" and "tarnished the reputation of the senior men in the department." Steiger concurred, citing the selective use of statistics and the "self-congratulatory nature" of the wording in the MIT report.

Steiger explained that since Birgeneau was a well-known dean with his eyes on a presidential position at the University of Toronto, "the last thing [he wanted] was a gender discrimination scandal under his jurisdiction." Thus, according to Steiger, when Hopkins and several other women came to him with a complaint about gender equity, he was quick to reallocate his resources to appease the complainants without undertaking a thorough investigation. He even allowed Hopkins to head up the committee looking into her own complaint.

In doing this, Kleinfeld feels Birgeneau and Hopkins have done a great disservice to MIT's female faculty. "They have created an affirmative action world in which the genuine accomplishments of females will always be suspect," she said.

Recent pact also questioned

Kleinfeld also said that the gender equity statement signed last month by Vest and the leaders of several other major universities was "misguided" because "it creates the belief that women who are hired were hired only because they are women. They will be under a constant cloud of suspicion," she said.

"Its discussion about equity in compensation says nothing about performance," Steiger said. "I'm concerned with the maintenance of a meritocracy."

Steiger added, "The pertinent question is, are they trading in one kind of discrimination for another? It's easy to throw platitudes around, but fair implementation is another issue."

The original MIT report can be viewed online at <http://web.mit.edu/fnl/women/women.html>. Both the Kleinfeld report and the Hausman-Steiger report are available at <http://www.iwf.org>.



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MIT Department of FACILITIES

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

SPORTS & FITNESS CENTER

Pile installation and the pouring of concrete foundations during the next few weeks will cause noise and disruption to the surrounding area. The excavation of soil continues causing a great deal of truck traffic in and near the Kresge parking lot.

70 PACIFIC STREET (GRADUATE HOUSING)

Construction activity including the installation of sheet piling and removal of land fill may cause noise, dust and disruption to vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

DREYFUS CHEMISTRY BUILDING

Interior demolition may cause dust, noise and vibration to the surrounding area.

STATA CENTER

Installation of the first of nine sections for the foundation has begun. Interim odors may continue during the marshaling process. Anyone wishing some temporary relief from the odor may obtain a freshener from the MIT Stata Center project trailer located near the pool entrance between Buildings 56 and 16.

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

The MBTA Bus Stop located across from 77 Mass. Ave. has been relocated to the corner of Mass. Ave. and Memorial Drive. Snow fencing also has been put up for pedestrian safety.

ALBANY STREET GARAGE

The shuttle service to parking facilities along Albany Street will continue until mid February while the walkway between Buildings 42 and 44 at the railroad crossing remains closed. Commuters seeking a shuttle after 6:00 PM may use the Institute's Safe Ride van.

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

Deutch Draws Fire from Supporters of Wen Ho Lee



Institute Professor John M. Deutch '61

TECH FILE PHOTO

Deutch, from Page 1

Others have protested the treatment Deutch received in comparison to Wen Ho Lee, an Asian-American scientist initially charged with providing nuclear secrets to China; most charges against him were eventually dropped in a plea bargain agreement.

"Many people were hoping for Wen Ho Lee to be pardoned himself, yet some who supported him felt that was one step too far," said Roger J. Hu G, who organized a forum on the Wen Ho Lee case last September. "Then the John

Deutch pardon came as a complete shock to the Wen Ho Lee community If Wen Ho Lee didn't deserve a pardon, then why John Deutch?"

"I think this story showed Asian-Americans how little say they have in [today's] political system," Hu said.

Deutch was not available for comment on the issue.

Deutch made director in 1995

Deutch served as CIA director from May 1995 to December 1996. Hired to restore public confidence in the agency's intelligence security following the discovery of spy

Aldrich Ames, Deutch was accused of storing crucial national security documents on his home computers. Deutch also was charged by the Pentagon for storing 47 classified references in personal journals while serving as Deputy Secretary of Defense. The organizations did not confirm that any of the secure documents were compromised. Deutch's security privileges had been suspended since August of 1999, but were officially revoked by CIA director George Tenet in the last two weeks.

Rima Arnaout contributed to the reporting of this story.

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Solution to Crossword Puzzle

from page 8

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APPALL	BEABIRDS	
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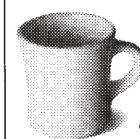
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Set up a recycling bin for aluminum cans and one for bottles. And when you're in the bathroom brushing



your teeth or washing your face, don't let the faucet

run. Remember, if we use fewer resources today, we'll save more for tomorrow.

electricity is being used to run computers that are left on. Look at how much water is being wasted in the restrooms. And

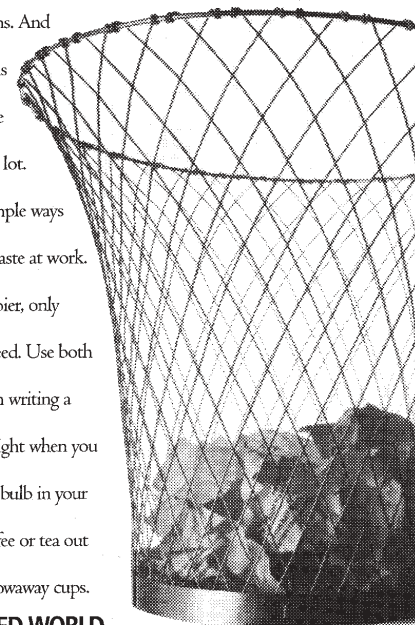
how much solid waste is being thrown out in the trash cans. We bet it's a lot.

Now, here are some simple ways you can produce less waste at work. When you're at the copier, only make the copies you need. Use both sides of the paper when writing a memo. Turn off your light when you leave. Use a lower watt bulb in your lamps. Drink your coffee or tea out of mugs instead of throwaway cups.

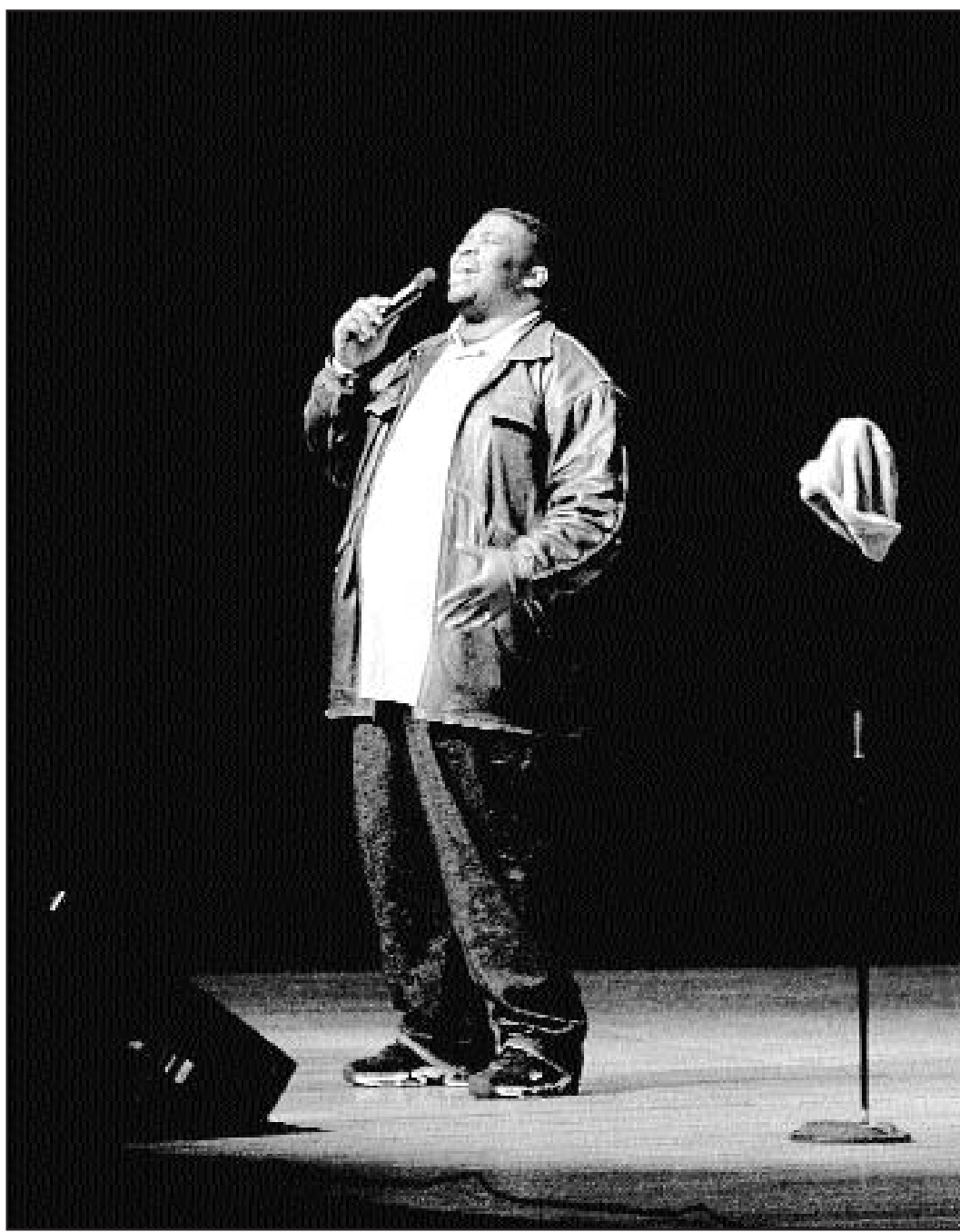
Which would truly be a job well done.

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BRIAN HEMOND-THE TECH

Comedian Patrice O'Neill laughs with his raucous crowd at Friday night's Comedy Collage in Kresge. The event was sponsored by MIT's Chocolate City and a number of other student groups.

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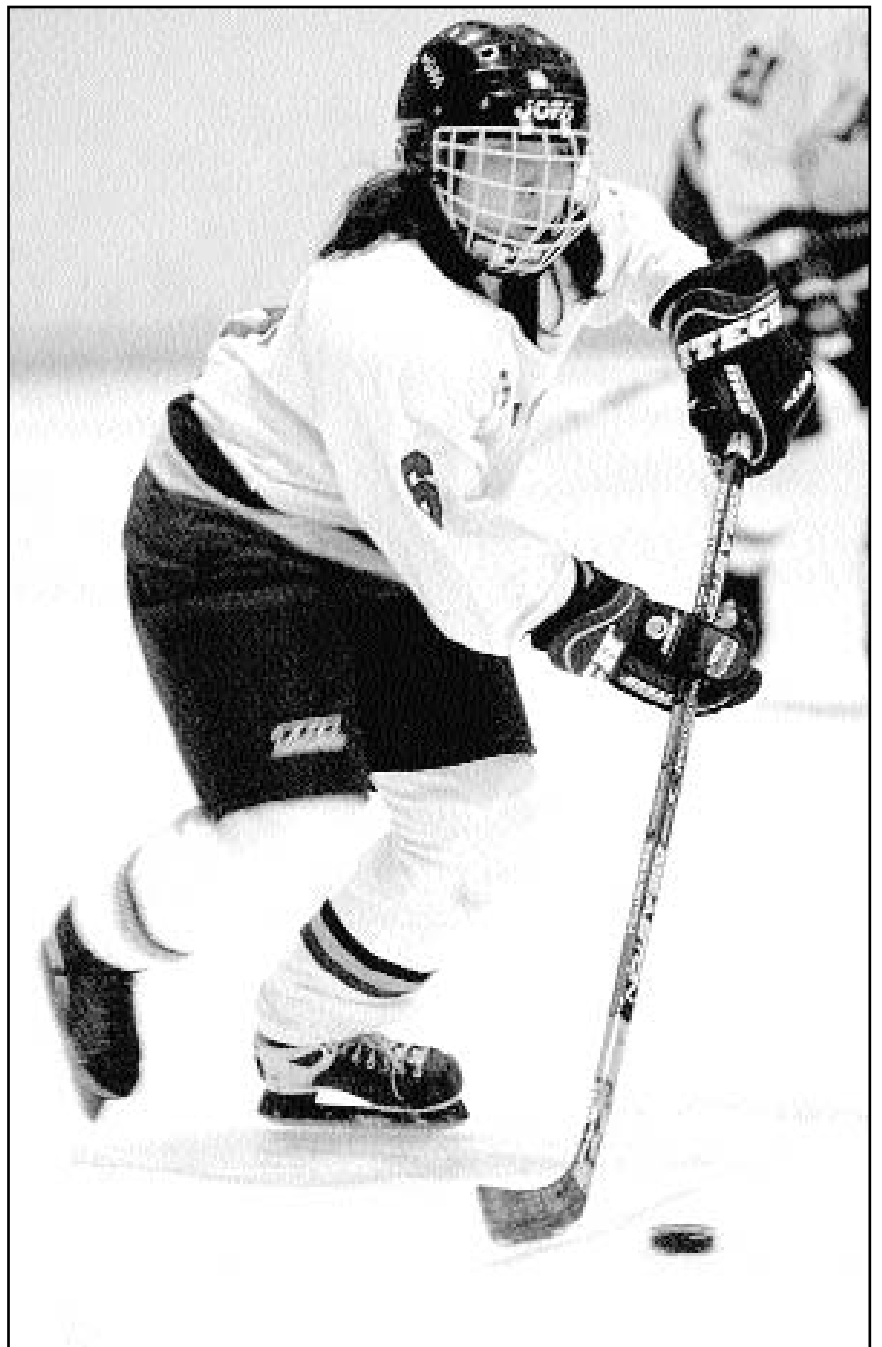
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PEDRO L. ARRECHEA—THE TECH

Daniel M. Goodman '01 pulls down the rebound in Saturday's scrimmage. The regularly scheduled game versus WPI was canceled so MIT played an intra-squad game.



KAILAS NARENDRAN—THE TECH

Audrey M. Roy '04 drives the puck down the ice during Saturday's game versus Union College. The Engineers lost the game 11-0.

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Women Take Ninth At Championships

Team Places as Expected; Individuals Excel

By Helen Huang
TEAM MEMBER

The women's track team traveled to Brandeis for the New England Division III Championships this past Saturday. The squad, the majority of whom are freshmen, had a good showing for this championship meet despite the inexperience of most members. MIT, the ninth seed, finished in the same place.

Because of the fierce competition and large number of participants, finishing in the top eight to score points was a challenge. Centimeters and hundredths of seconds were often the difference between one place and another, scoring or not scoring.

Martha W. Buckley '04 proved that despite being a freshman, she could edge out her competitors for those precious scoring places. As she has done throughout the season, Buckley has run strong races in the slower heats, only to sneak in to score. In the 1000, she ran a 3:07.99 to steal seventh place and score valuable points for the team. Her time was also a personal record as well as a varsity record.

Buckley was the only MIT woman to prevail on the track that day, but she along with teammates Sarah E. Cotton '04, Kimberly J. Seluga '02, and Chi-An Wang '01 ran a season team best 4x800. They finished in 10:07.09, which is only three seconds off the varsity record. The distance medley relay team, Cotton, Seluga, Kathleen R. Huffman '04, and Melanie L. Harris '01, also ran a season team best of 13:39.97.

Catherine A. Tweedie '04 also had a notable performance in the pentathlon. The pentathlon consists of the 55-meter hurdles, shot

put, long jump, high jump, and 800-meter run. Tweedie broke 2200 points to set a personal record. She also cleared nine feet in the pole vault, tying her personal record in that event again. Also in the pole vault, teammate Vanessa Li '02 claimed second by clearing 10 feet.

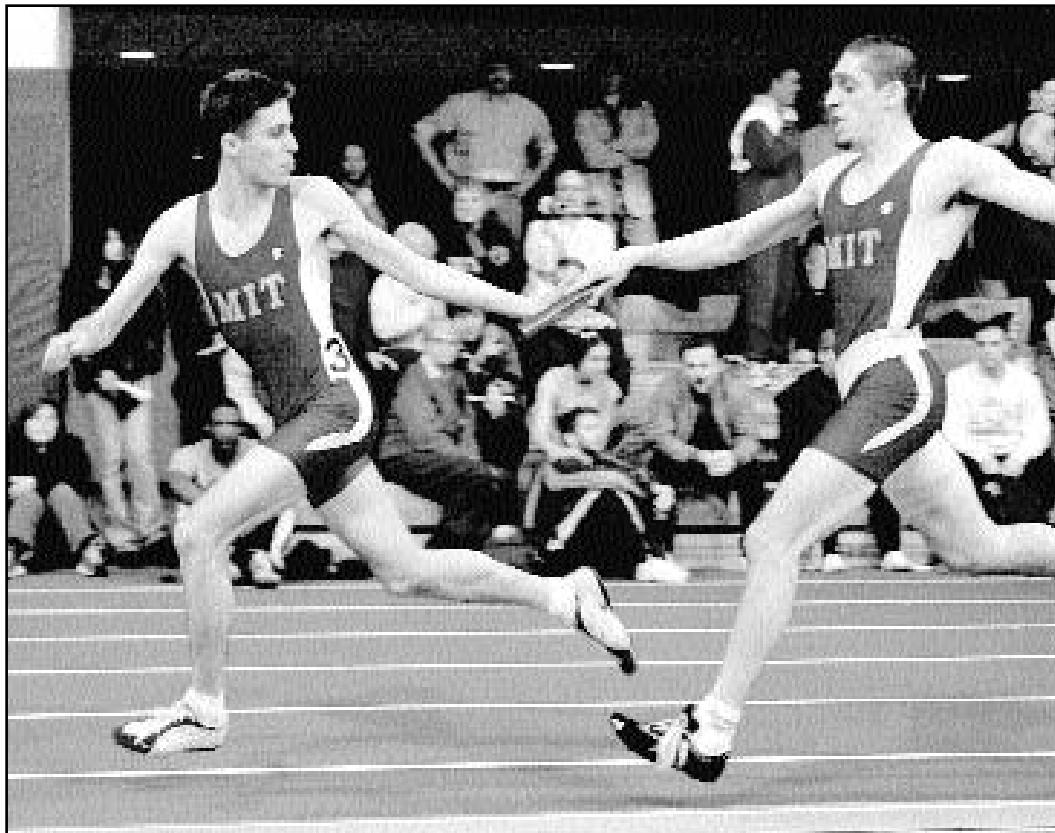
Despite nursing an injury, Nydia M. Clayton '04 was still able to score for the team, taking fourth place in the long jump. Her mark of 16'09.25" was also a personal record as well as an improvement on her own varsity record.

Two of the best MIT performances of the day belonged to Princess Imoukhuede '02. In the shot put, Imoukhuede threw a personal best of 41'05.75, as all her teammates watched and cheered. This mark set a new varsity record and was good enough for fourth place.

However, it is Imoukhuede's domination in the weight throw that is her trademark. What she has done this season is simply astounding and Saturday's performance was definitely exclamatory. Imoukhuede set another personal and varsity record with her monster throw of 56'06.50". This mark is an improvement of 2.5 feet from her 1.5 feet improvement last week. Imoukhuede easily won the event, with the second place thrower more than 5 feet behind at a very respectable 51 feet.

Imoukhuede's throw is also the New England Division III Championships record. When asked about her huge throw, Imoukhuede commented, "I stopped thinking and just started throwing."

Imoukhuede and others will travel to Tufts next weekend for the All New England Championships.



Sean J. Montgomery '01 receives the baton from Yuval Mazor '02 to anchor MIT's victory in the 4 x 400 meter relay with a time of 3:21.75. MIT placed second overall, behind Williams, at Saturday's New England Division III Track and Field Championships. STANLEY HU

Poor Attitude Hurts Beavers

Gymnastics, from Page 20

the embarrassment with their clean "lock-arm" and tucked "yamawaki" respectively.

On parallel bars, Mammy G. Sterling '00 performed solidly, momentarily renewing the team's hope. Unfortunately, the rest of the team remained unfocused and their performance grew more and more fragmented. Griffin and Massery fell several times.

On high bar, every member of the MIT team, save Yin, fell during their difficult "toss and re-grasp" requirement.

However, the MIT men's worst error was allowing their mistakes to

hurt their attitude, which showed in their unsportsmanlike conduct. After falling on his high bar dismount, Griffin failed to rise and saluted lying face-down on the ground. Although one judge commented to another, "I wouldn't show my face either after that," Griffin's score was penalized.

Hu and Yin were so distracted by the MIT audience that they failed to salute to the judges throughout the meet, again resulting in penalties. "This guy doesn't even know we're here," said one judge to Yin's backside.

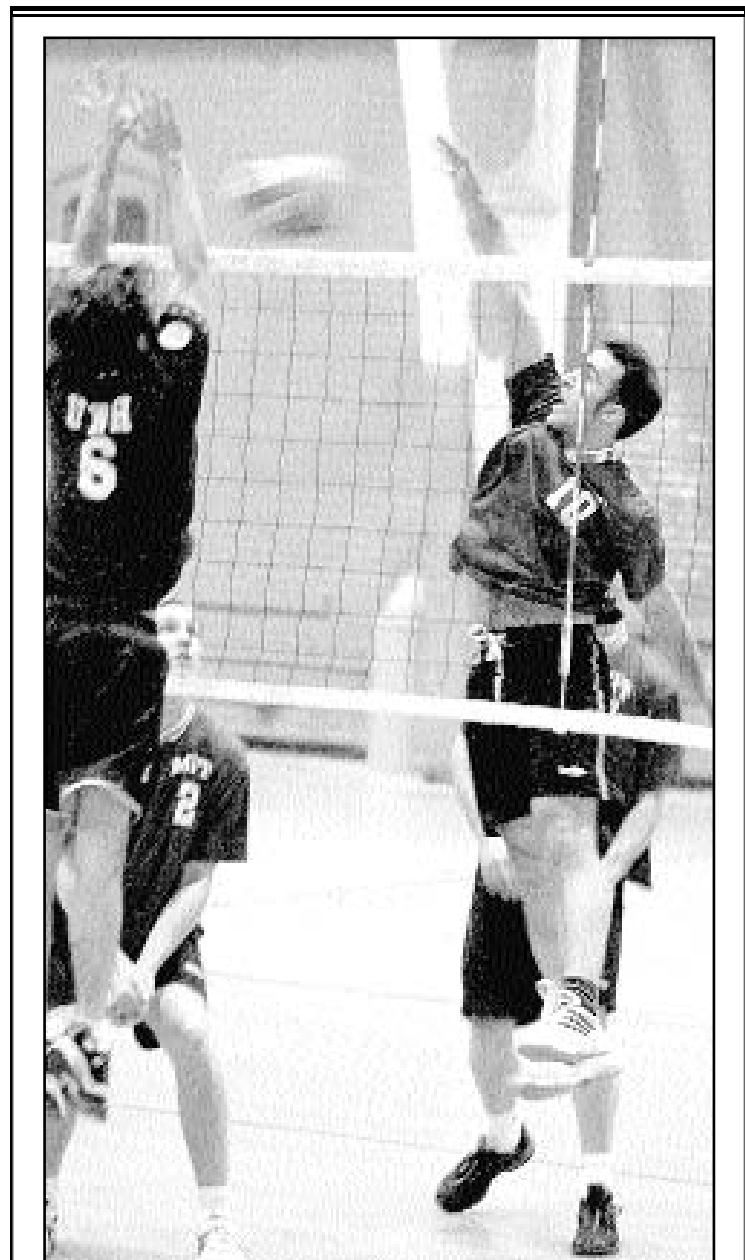
Massery said of the MIT team's performance, "we don't practice enough to have complete mental

confidence. [Our focus] just breaks down on itself sometimes and it feeds on itself."

At the end, Engen's all-around score of 45.85 was the second highest in this meet with a Division I team.

"Its about much more than your individual performances," said Riskin. "Its about the energy we develop together and apply jointly to inspire each others performances."

MIT will have to pull together as a team before next Saturday if it hopes to beat Vermont. The next few days, this team must learn to focus again, heal its wounds, and work on competing up to its potential.



Ignacio Perez de la Cruz G of the Intercollegiate Club Volleyball team spikes the ball in last Thursday's win over the University of New Hampshire. BRIAN HEMOND-THE TECH



Christen M. Gray '04 fires her rifle during Saturday's loss to VMI. PEDRO L. ARRECHEA-THE TECH

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, February 21

Squash vs. UC-Berkeley, 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 24

Men's Gymnastics vs. University of Vermont, 2:00 p.m.
Women's Gymnastics vs. Rhode Island College, 2:00 p.m.

SPORTS

Gymnastics Falls to Springfield

By David Hu
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT men's gymnastics team lost not to the opposing team, Springfield College, but to the six opponents in the mirror at Saturday's meet in Du Pont Gymnasium.

MIT's final score of 156.85 fit the team's grim estimate of scoring thirty points less than Springfield's 186.2.

More disappointing than the margin between MIT's and Springfield's scores was the margin between MIT's scores and their pre-

vious performances. MIT scored lower than they did in any meet with Vermont this year, the team they hope to again beat next week.

The Beavers' floor exercise was characterized by clean tumbling passes but inconsistent transitions. Damian M. Engen '03 drew applause by nearly landing his D-valued double front-somersault. However, harsher judging this meet gave him and other members of the floor team lower scores.

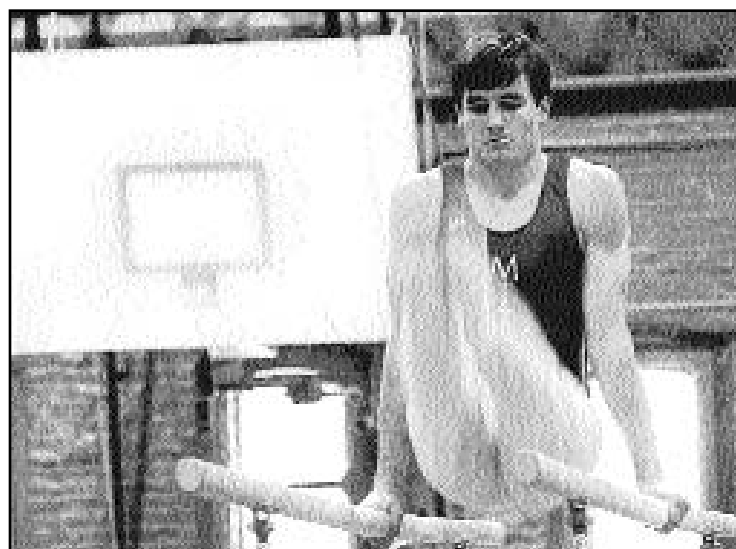
The pommel horse event, however, proved to be Beaver hunting season. Rather than staying on the horse, every member of the team flew off, save David Yin '03 and David L. Hu '01. "Did someone

grease this thing?" asked Patrick R. Griffin '04, scratching his head. Griffin fell off on his traveling "magiar" and Luke A. Massery '02 bent his legs on his full-twisting scissor.

The most notable event of the day was the fiasco on still rings that Coach Noah Riskin called "a psychedelic experience from the sixties." During Griffin's routine, he generated so much wild swing that Riskin was forced to grab his ankle to stop his momentum. "I'm tripping, man," Riskin said in action.

After the incident, Massery and Damian M. Engen '03 ameliorated

Gymnastics, Page 19



ERIC J. CHOLANKERIL—THE TECH

Patrick R. Griffin '04 performs his routine on the parallel bars Saturday. MIT lost the meet to Springfield College, 186.2 to 156.85.