By Melissa S. Cain

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

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

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

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

Vice President-elect Neitznik attributes the high voter turnout to Devereaux and O'Dair preparing their displays during the Iron Chef Cook-off at Hacklink 2K1 Friday night. Colbert competed against Executive Vice President John R. Curry.

Devereaux Elected UA President

Election Draws Largest Turnout
In Eight Years

By Brian Loux

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

"We see source code as a recipe for a process, like a cookbook recipe is a process for food, and we think that is protected" by the First Amendment, Winston said. "The MPAA would say nothing further than "we are aware of the code and"

SIPB Members’ Hack Draws Legal Controversy

Devereaux also believes that one of the main reasons they won was that there were "a lot of people behind us," and added that their friends’ “word of mouth was a great asset."

Devereaux also believes that their success is due to their accessibility to their constituency. "I think we were good about having conversations with people and answering their questions," she said.

According to Devereaux, the main issue she and Neitznik are focusing on is student input and increasing interaction between students and the UA. "We want to get more students interested and involved," said Devereaux, "so that the UA is more effective as a representative body." They are also working on expanding Safirede and getting more funding for events — especially large events — because "they add to the community by involving broad and diverse groups of students."

UA Elections, Page 20

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

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Gerrillas in Kosovo Establish Deal Implementing Temporary Cease-Fire

The commander of an ethnic Albanian guerrilla group that has been attacking government police forces signed a temporary cease-fire Monday, a key step by the Serbs toward halting a key offensive that will end the return of Yugoslav army troops to a buffer zone near the Kosovo border.

The commander signed the agreement shortly after NATO forces in Kosovo and Yugoslav officials reached final terms for Yugoslavia's reoccupation of a section of the buffer zone, created after the 1999 Kosovo war to keep NATO and Yugoslav troops apart. The Yugoslav troops have been slowed in recent weeks by strength in one area where many had expected weakness — job growth.

But chalk Monday up for trouble.

For months, the U.S. economy has been battered by the continuing trend of improvement and decline. Today, it showed strength in one area where many had expected weakness — job growth.

By wiping out more than a half trillion dollars of paper profits, the day's stock plunged a record.

That downward spiral of contracting wealth, shrinking investment and sharply slowing consumption could sweep the economy into recession.

The dollar parity of 2000.

By Peter G. Gosselin

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Los Angeles Times Weather Fronts Precipitation Symbols Other Symbols

Chlorine

Confusing Ice

The National Weather Service issued a confusing ice advisory for the region today. It said that there would be a mix of rain and snow, and that the temperature would drop below freezing at times. It also warned of possible power outages due to ice-related problems.

By Greg Lawson

The mix of snow and rain will create hazardous driving conditions. Drivers are urged to slow down and allow extra distance between vehicles.

Expanded Forecast

Today: Sleet or freezing rain changing to rain. Strong southwesterly winds. High of 38°F (3°C). Low of 30°F (–1°C).

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


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

Friday and Beyond: Potential storm on the way.

World & Nation

Stock Market Plunge Renewes Fears of Oncoming Recession

By Paul Richter

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTO

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

The F/A-18 Hornet aircraft dropped the 1,000 pound unguided munition at the Udhairi training range, about 30 miles from the Iraqi border in northwest Kuwait. The fighter was based on the carrier Harry S. Truman, which has been patrolling the Persian Gulf, and was taking part in quarterly U.S.-Kuwaiti training exercises, officials said.

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

Defense officials did not identify the U.S. victims, pending the notification of relatives. The New Zealand Ministry of Defence, acting on behalf of the New Zealand Prime Minister, John McNutt, 27, New Zealand officials said.

The accident came at an unusually difficult time for the Navy, which is still struggling to overcome the Japanese fishing boat Seamen, which has been condemned to the INTERPOL. The accident killed nine people and has strained the U.S.-Japanese relationship.

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

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

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

Weather

Confidenting Ice

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Los Angeles Times

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Extended Forecast

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

The $360 million in donations was announced Monday by the Troy, N.Y. based college and university, and is expected to bring its endowment to $1 billion. The gift is one of several large donations that have been announced within the past year, including a $350 million pledge to MIT, a $250 million gift to Stanford University, and a $300 million gift to Harvard University.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute President Jack M. Peltz said the donation would be used to create new programs in information and technology, and to expand the university's facilities.

"This gift is a game-changer," Peltz said. "It will allow us to invest in the future of our students, our faculty, and our research. It will enable us to continue to be a leader in higher education, and to remain a vital part of the community."
Letters To The Editor

A Sexist Attack

I was disturbed by Naamia L. Ejbe's response to The Tech's endorsement of Sanjay K. Rao '02 as UA President and Jaime E. Deveraux '02 as UA Vice President. Ejbe appears to have made the unjustifiable assumption that the endorsement was motivated by the desire to assure a man, rather than a woman, held the top position. Ejbe implies that, when two equally qualified candidates of opposite sex run for a leadership position, the position should be awarded to the female candidate so as not to avoid sexism discrimination. However, in this situation and many others, no discrimination is present.

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

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

Jason T. Rolfe '03

Opinion Policy

Editors are the official policy of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor, and various other approved members. Changes in editorial policy must be approved by the chairman, editor, and various other approved members.

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

Letters to the editor 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@tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 2029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-2029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room 210WA-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. All letters must be typed or printed and submitted on standard computer paper. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense all submissions, and will not be responsible for the opinions expressed by its contributors. The Tech's Ombudsman, reachable by e-mail at ombudsman@tech.mit.edu, serves as the liaison between The Tech and its readers. From time to time, The Ombudsman writes an independent column reflecting the complaints, questions, and concerns of the readership.

To Reach Us

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

Jyoti Tiberwal

Baker House is considering implementing a residence-based advising program for freshmen this fall. The program is part of a plan by the Office of Student Life and Student Programs (SLSP) to expand the advising programs at McCormick and Random Halls into at least one residence hall per floor. Residents can opt into many different programs, but Baker House would offer a residence-based advising program where the advisor would be a resident advisor (RA) on the floor. This would broaden the opportunity for students to have more personal advising from a trained advisor.

Application and acceptance to the program take place over the summer, as Baker House intends to propose the expansion. This was by far one of the best things about it. It gave freshman an opportunity to meet people, even if only a little, before arriving for orientation. Every evening I would come home to find my mailbox full of brochures from the different programs available at MIT. Being a part of Baker House made it an even better experience. I was able to take a look at the opportunities and decide which one would be best for me.

When I first heard about the residence-based advising program, I thought it was a great idea. However, I was surprised to learn that the advisor would be a resident advisor (RA) on the floor. I knew that Baker House didn't have a RA, and I had to wonder if they were promoting this program to motivate students to move into Baker House.

If freshmen were given permanently assigned dormitory rooms, they would have to make more of an effort to get to know the upperclassmen living there. While there was a Residence-based advising program at Baker House, it was primarily assigned to the residents, and it would be difficult to make friends with them.

Veena Thomas

You might be feeling a bit down, wondering when MIT decided to turn against you by eliminating the SLSP 454 program. It's a tough decision for many students, including me. I know that it must be frustrating for you to come to terms with the new reality.

As wonderful as this policy may seem, it does have its downsides. The main reason for its implementation is to increase engagement and enthusiasm among students, which is a noble goal. However, it's important to consider the potential consequences of such a policy.

The poor administration tries very hard to pass new policies, and they wouldn't replicate RAAs; they're administrators! Plus, Simmons Hall could be used in the same way as the dorms. It would take a little work to make them suitable for real people to live in. In addition, the Media Lab shows this is a feasible solution. The Institute in the Media Lab has become increasingly important as IT infrastructure changes. Certain technologies have been involved, which creates unresponsiveness. Why volunteer to be a benchmark, when you can just turn it on and off? As for MIT being more or less inclined to contact him for advice or to contact their RA, it would be more or less the same. Its primary effect is building a tighter relationship with the student, and it would make it easier for students to contact their RA.

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Child care for graduate students is an issue that the Graduate Student Council takes very seriously. At the March 7 Sidney-Pacific Crisis Committee meeting, we clearly outlined the need for affordable child care for graduate students. Our commitment to affordable child care is nothing new. In fact, the MIT Technology Children’s Center (TCC) has been involved for many years in getting the Graduate Student Council (TCC) to establish a graduate student childcare center. However, we are still advocating for affordable graduate housing close to campus. As I am sure many of you are aware, affordable housing in the area surrounding Cambridge is practically non-existent. Graduate stipends do not reflect the cost of living in Cambridge and neighboring cities. The Graduate Student Council (TCC) successfully called for two new graduate dormitories: Sidney-Pacific and NW30. Sidney-Pacific will house 750 graduate students. Together with graduate dorm leaders, the Graduate Student Council Housing and Community Affairs Committee has worked very hard on the past 3 months and has been a key player in addressing the cost of living for graduate students. Our next General Council meeting (our meetings are always open to all graduate students) will be on Wednesday March 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the GSC office. Please attend our meetings, and voice your concern and demand that affordable child care for graduate students be included in the next Graduate Student Council meeting.

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

Eastgate and Westgate’s childcare facilities are being renovated (their capacity will increase) and a new child care center of 100+ children capacity will be available at the Stata Center. Will this help married graduate students? The answer is no; here are the reasons. Only 10 percent of the children in Eastgate and Westgate day care centers are children of graduate students. This limitation is an unacceptable administrative decision that the GSC is ready to advocate reversing, with the input of graduate students. Further, child care centers at MIT are not affordable for graduate students given the current stipends. The GSC has successfully demanded increased in stipends: an 8 percent raise in engineering and a 16 percent raise in science. The GSC is further working with the provost for a total subsidy of the medical costs for all graduate students including spouses, partners and children, and will continue advocating additional quality-of-life improvements. It is not the role of the GSC to call for additional day care for faculty and staff as the expense of graduate students.

Our meetings are advertised in The Tech and posted weekly around campus. Please attend our meetings, and voice your concerns and criticism. We welcome your suggestions on how to improve communication between the Council and graduate students. Our next Housing and Community Affairs Committee meeting will be on Wednesday March 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the GSC office. We hope to see you all at these meetings.

Soulaymane Kachani GSC is the President of the Graduate Student Council.

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**Free Trade Area of the Americas: The Next Item on the Corporate Globalization Agenda**

**Wednesday, March 14, 2001**

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

4-145

[Food and refreshments served]

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

For more information, contact Payal Parekh at parekh@pimms.mit.edu, 253-7967.

Sponsored by AID-Boston and Boston FTAA Taskforce.
the crass rat

TA DA! RUBIK'S CUBE IS SOLVED!

WOW - YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON THAT FOR DAYS! HOW'D YOU DO IT?

WELL, FIRST I MEMORIZED PATTERNS AND SEQUENCES, THINKING ABOUT MATRICES ETC...

THEN I REALIZED I COULD JUST PEEL THE STICKERS OFF...

OK, let's just get this straight: I think we've all heard the story about the crass rat. The crass rat is a creature that lives in the city of New York. The crass rat is known for its love of spaghetti and its hatred of cats.

WHERE ARE THE LAYAGNA NOODLES WHEN YOU NEED 'EM?

WHERE: ARP

WHERE: SAAL

WHERE: LOK

WHERE: PEN

WHERE: NOEB

WHERE: DITTO!!

WHERE: I'M NOT TALKING ANYMORE.

WHERE: NO, I'M SURE.

WHERE: NOT NOW.

WHERE: NO, I DON'T THINK.

WHERE: BUT, I'M SURE.

WHERE: DO YOU THINK THE NEXT SEMESTER WE SHOULD BE BACK?

WHERE: NECH, I THINK IT'S BEST.

WHERE: I'M NOT TALKING ANYMORE.

WHERE: OF COURSE.

WHERE: VISIT MY OFFICE, AND YOU WILL KNOW WHY MAXIMUM ENTROPY IS!

WHERE: AT MAXIMUM ENTROPY, NO SPONTANEOUS CHANGES CAN OCCUR.

WHERE: 30, WHAT IS MAXIMUM ENTROPY?
Thank You for your Interest

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

by Dave, Kara, and Raj

WHY DON'T YOU WAIT A FEW YEARS FOR BETTER SELF-CLONING TECHNOLOGY?

I GUESS I'M JUST AN OLD-FASHIONED KIND OF GUY.

by Bill Amend

FoxTrot

DON'T BE AFRAID OF CHANGE.

I'M A BIT SUSPICIOUS ABOUT YOU CALLING IN.

BY THE HONEST VENDOR.

YOU DIDN'T BUY ENOUGH; I'LL PROBABLY SPANK MY HAMSTER FOR NO REASON.

REPEAT BUSINESS IS OVER-RATED.

by Scott Adams

Dilbert®

YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M GOING TO GET A GENDER CHANGING OPERATION AND MOVE TO CHINA.

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SOMEONE LISTENED TO YOU.

LUCKILY I HAD LOTS OF OPTIONAL CUTS.

Fun With Clip Art

Aaron Isaksen

"Please God keep my Mac from crashing."

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 15

ACROSS
1 Quillon
4 One meaning of toe
10 Omer
12 Deserved
14 Half and half?
15 Golf standard
16 Food expert
17 Trailblazed
18 Period
19 Mother of Perephone
20 Aussie beef
21 Repair with paste
22 More of "Ghost"
24 Gray-and-yellow pants
26 Cover
27 Against
28 Meadow youngster
30 Coat per unit
31 Sampdred
33 Smurfette
35 Fez ragtag
39 Soup Rotors
43 Tree with a huge trunk
47 Hodgepodge
48 Oz dog
50 Perry's penner
51 Fuss
52 Hyphen's close relative?
55 Punts
57 Riles of "West

DOWN
1 Skirt
2 Power or sea polo
3 Takes away
4 "The Cloak" or "The Bat," e.g.
5 Insertion indicator
6 Dalmatian
7 Olf part of the brain
8 Dueling sword
9 Tire support
10 Child
11 11 of guildsmanhip
12 Religious residue
13 Fiddledad
22 Table extension
25 Art in bad taste
39 Mapley
30 Makes over
32 "Black Spades"
33 Weight reduction plan
35 Olomou or Earl Grey, e.g.
37 Advocate
39 Snake harder
40 Jumps in waves
41 Very self-

sored
42 Be up and about
44 Columbia, Canada
45 Neighbor of Libya
46 Under
49 "Strange Interlude"
52 Playwright
53 Dork
54 Did some Cobbler's work
56 Russian
57 Additional
60 Nei-judge's call
Thursday, March 15

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Windows 2000 Quick Start. This session demonstrates the new features and functionalities of Windows 2000 for the desktop user. Tour Start menu enhancements; compare differences between the new My Network Places and previous Network Neighborhood; meet the new My Computer; learn how to access and manage different levels of your hard drive and other drives; find out what many Control Panel functions have been consolidated, where NT profiles and Administrative Services, and investments between the 34 nations. This participatory teach-in will focus on what how the FTAA is expected to affect various issues and communities including, the environment, labor, women, people of color, and elections of services. This seminar will be followed by refreshments in E40-106. free. Room: E56-270. Sponsor: Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

5:00 p.m. - "Gender and Human Rights in Africa through the Arts." Panel featuring Monique Ilboudo, novelist from Burkina Faso involved in the Rwanda project, Veronique Tadjo, Ivory Coast author, painter, and poet on recent work in Rwanda, Anne-Laure Folly, Togolese documentary filmmaker on her experience there, moderated by Odile Cazenave. free. Room: 2-105. Sponsor: Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics.


6:00 p.m. - authors/MIT: Rachel Rosenfeld Lafort Photo: Photography in Boston 1955-1985. Rosenfeld Lafort, a renowned photographer, will discuss her work in Boston with several photos, while speaking about her experience as a woman working in this medium. If you are new to MIT or just looking for a way to get to know MIT students in a different way, this is the class for you. free. Room: 66-110. Sponsor: Chemical Engineering.

7:00 p.m. - "From Dinosaurs to Down a Country Lane." 50 minute lecture, 7p.m. The MIT Wind Ensemble pays tribute to John Corley, conductor of the MIT Wind Ensemble since 1984. on his 50th birthday. The concert features; Copland's Appalachian Spring, commissioned by the MIT Wind Ensemble in memory of John Corley; Grainger's Odes, commissioned by the MIT Wind Ensemble in memory of John Corley; Grainger's Songs, commissioned by the MIT Wind Ensemble in memory of John Corley; and a special arrangement of Down a Country Lane, written for the MIT Wind Ensemble.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - International Film Club Film Seminar Series. free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, International Film Club.
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Keynote Speaker
Ian Eslick
'95, ME '96, Co-founder of Silicon Spice
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Wednesday
March 14th
2001
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7:00 pm
LOCATION:
Wong Auditorium
E51, MIT

MIT $50K Entrepreneurship Competition™
http://50k.mit.edu/
Movie Review • 15 Minutes

That's Right, One Star!
By J. F. Graham

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

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

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

Upon arriving at the scene of a double homicide Eddie meets arson investigator Jordy Warler, a young idealist who professes no love for the media and follows a strict ethical code, with lusty exceptions. Jordy (played zealously by Edward Burns) teams up with Eddie and they begin to pursue Emil (Karl Roden) and Oleg (Oleg Taktarov), two violent, clumsy, and completely inept ex-cons that have unleashed a plan to videotape their various murders and sell the footage to Eddie and they begin to pursue Emil (Karl Roden) and Oleg (Oleg Taktarov), two vio-

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

15 Minutes has the makings of a very powerful, thought-provoking film, with a recognizable cast and an accomplished director. But as Fleming, De Niro appears to be just going through the motions. He even manages to refresh the famous mirror scene from Taxi Driver, with a twist of course.

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

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

Music Review • State of the Airwaves

Rock, Rammstein, and Represent
By Dan Katz

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

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

Eye Glances play Club Passion.

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

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

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

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

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

Looks like I’m going to squeeze this through to my editor in time; next week, however, I’ve got a date with crossword and music. If anything catches your ear music-

naturally for their actions.

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

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THEATER REVIEW

**Mother Courage and Her Children**

By Vladimir Zeleznik

Directed by James Sands
Written by Bertolt Brecht
With Karen McDonald, Mykolas Jokivis, Tim Kang, Jonathon Roberts, Thomas Derrah, John Douglas Thompson, Paula Plum
At American Repertory Theater

There is one disquieting conclusion that can be made from watching a lot of productions at American Repertory Theatre. If, as everyone agrees, A.R.T. is at the cutting edge of modern theatre — well, then, this cutting edge is a very, very small place, not as much of an edge as a spot, really.

To put this simply, most A.R.T. productions look exactly the same, whether the play produced is Shakespearean or modern, whether it is Russian or German, 19th century or 1940s. There are sets, hugely impressive sets, dwarving the actors. There will be impressive special effects, most likely snow machines running for half an hour at a time. There will be complex music and sound effects. There will be the general feeling that the production team thought more about themselves than about the play.

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

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

As long as the production is about Brecht's play, it is wonderful. As soon it stops being about that, it stops dead in its tracks. Mother Courage is so closely intended as a critique of war that the decision to stage it with modern costumes and props (another A.R.T. staple) is crushingly obvious. In this aspect, the production clearly wants to make a grand statement about war, and it does so by mixing in second century B.C. Chinese terra-cotta warriors, machine guns, landsknecht costumes and props, most likely snow machines running for half an hour at a time. There will be complex music and sound effects. There will be the general feeling that the production team thought more about themselves than about the play.

For a Second Chance

Written by Nan-Yuh Hsaio
At A.R.T.

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

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**Fraunhofer USA**

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March 13, 2001

**THE TECH**

Page 12
EXHIBIT REVIEW

Mammoths Migrate
To Museum of Science

By Erik Blankenship

The Museum of Science
Science Park Stop on MBTA Green Line
Exhibit Open until June 2001
Museum Admission Free with MIT Stu-
dent ID

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

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

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

The exhibit does jazz up the kid in you, eager to learn about and explore the world. Visitors sense that ancient history is all around them, and that they just might find it. Astonishingly enough, it reminded me of fossils I prepared as a kid by burying bones between two rocks and then pounding them with a hammer.

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

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

BOOK REVIEW

Angles of Reflection
Intersecting Worlds Collide

By Jane Maduram

There are a few books that investigate the intellectual and emotional underpinning of researchers. While the images of the nerd and the geek have been sanctioned in popular culture, their appearances in literature have remained rare and, quite frankly, largely unfavorable. Even if they are featured in a novel, the emphasis of the book will probably rest on an unsavory professor's brutality or sexual advances. This autobiographical work admits to a tenure battle, but will probably rest on an unsavory professor's personality of a researcher conflict and are upsetting sections are those in which she applies the subject of her book to her life. Richards is a science historian and, at one point, writes about why she felt called to this topic. "Newton was beginning to become psyched ... at times Newton and De Morgan believed in absolutes: time, space, and probabilities were things that they regarded as absolute. Leibniz, on the other hand, held things to be "purely relative." While Newton and De Morgan believed relative time and space to be reflections of human frailty, Leibniz believed relative to be the foundation of life.

Richards argues at first with De Morgan's application of mathematical philosophy to life, but her experience with her son's illnesses forces her to reevaluate her position. Her intellectual, mathematical philosophy is forced to bend to an emotional, personal tragedy. While digging through archives to find out how De Morgan coped with the dozens of his children, she realizes that the position that De Morgan holds can only be achieved by trivializing life itself. "The more I pondered ... the more I saw my [Victorian] mathematicians trying to grab the truth, to control by knowing it. . . . Their mathematical work was magnificent, but they had only been able to sustain it by disguising the relative and convincing it to their servants and their wives." The way in which Richards' personal problems affect her professional work and vice versa is written beautifully. There is a very real interplay between the research she carries out, her conflicts with the medical system, and the way in which she views the world. At times, Richards is susceptible to over-analytic; the conclusion in particular is disorienting in that it resolves the themes of personal identity, professional identity, and the Victorian mindset in pieces, not as a whole. These are minor quibbles, however — this is definitely one of the more intellectually satisfying memoirs I have read, and I look forward to reading Richards' next book.


Published by W. H. Freeman -r
ere are few books that investigate the

problematic on the way the inherently multiple

ments and tenure battles. This autobiographical

will probably rest on an unsavory professor's

featured in a novel, the emphasis of the book

her second fellowship, in Germany, the same

While she is on her first fellowship, however, she

get two fellowships so she can have time to write.

While Richards' encounters with doctors

things to be "purely relative." While Newton and De Morgan believed relative time and space to be reflections of human frailty, Leibniz believed relative to be the foundation of life.

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

For all of the inspiration it provides to young paleontologists, the exhibit doesn’t offer any "learning by doing" opportunities as I would have expected from a contemporary science exhibit. Hopefully, the excitement of hands-on learning is reserved for kids who get home and start digging — but even then, the chances are not too high that they’re going to make any finds of their own. The "interactives" are limited to web pages on touch screen monitors, which are pushed to the side of the exhibit, dull, and just wait to navigate. The exhibit does not have the grandeur of a permanent exhibit. For example, the aforementioned "ice cave" is constructed of plastic walks with the museum ceiling exposed. But it is by no means a shoddy collection of experiences. There are many skeletal remains on display, including a Bamburghian discovered by a 14-year-old, alongside an artistic recreation of what the beast probably looked like.

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You Can Count On Me

A Cannes Winner Uneartns the Slithe and Bitter In Daily Life

By Erik Blankenship and Pilapa Esara

Written and Directed by Ken Loach
Starring Marking Brodneck, Jeremy Rysne, Michael Countryman, Rory Caullins, Adam LeFevre, Halley Felliger, and Whitney Vance Rated R

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

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

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

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

We fear we might be overstating the omnipresent reechiness of the character's lives so as to lead the reader into believing that the minutiae of these character's lives will leave one numb. Rather, the characters eat, drink, go to work, do household repairs, and, despite the everyday, a convincing story and a rich familial theme illuminates their lives. This authenticity drives the emotional arc of the film. The editing of this film is unlike anything we have seen in a theater for a long while. Dialogue scenes, regularly shot with the creativity of a WB sitcom, here are amazingly refreshing. Moments of familial intimacy in public places are filmed and edited so as to jar you.

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

Although Sammy and Rory were orphaned in childhood, the death of their parents acts as a mere backdrop for characters whose complexity doesn't derive completely from one tragic source. Unlike with Parry of Five, the viewer is not annoyingly pestered with dialogue that rants of self-pity and contrived angst. This film does not preach and it doesn't overload its themes. It grants the audience intellect and patience. This film is certainly a story worth paying for. The cast of virtual unknowns deliver performances of siblings you feel are your own, or have existed in other families. At times we found ourselves staring into Linney's character's eyes looking for answers to her refreshing. Moments of familial intimacy in public places are filmed and edited so as to jar you. The camera is momentarily removed from the tripod and slides ever so slightly from emotional framed closeup as character's drift. It is subtle, unnerving, and intimate. Martin Scorsese is the film's executioner, and we imagine he had his hand in the cutting. Film editor Anne McCabe is one to be watched.

The pacing is sometimes confusing elements, like the conflation of the United Methodist church and pastor with a markedly Catholic facade. Despite denominational issues, the presence of the church in the film and the message it delivers, are not cluttered with spiritual issues which could all too easily offend those not inclined for pedantic preaching (ourselves included), strikes true. Screened at the nearby Kendall Cinema, this film should not be missed.

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To schedule an interview for March 16, please email your resume to kevin@syndeio.com

BOOK REVIEW

More Stories From My Father's Court

Concentrated, Curled Life of a Nobel Laureate

By John Madaraz

This story of Isaac Bashevis Singer reads like the twisted forefront of life, our autobiographical tales are bluntly hammer together and often fragmented, but they carry a heart and power rarely seen in literature. From the father who works himself to death to the rabbi that rebels against God, Singer treats his characters with respect and dignity.

Few explanations are made; for the most part, Singer refuses to interpret or psychoanalyse his characters, and therefore in his strength - the people that he meets speaks for them selves.

More Stories From My Father's Court is a retelling of Singer's childhood in the town of Father's Court, near Warsaw, in a rabbi's son, Singer was an observer to the multiple worlds that intersected in his father's study at the dawn of the century. Singer, the traditional Jewish community, and the world. War Poland. While and the world he has known long since disappeared, the voices that Singer calls upon seem as current as today. Much of this cross-generational appeal rests on the universality of relationships - father to child, community, to his father, to his rabbi. Singer's skill as a writer brings these relationships to life.

As the narrator, Singer is the single unifying factor in this collection of short stories, and his unobtrusive but pervasive eye for detail is what links them all to the book. Like many small children, Singer ravaged over his father's conversations, and each story is beautifully told from a child's view. Even information is supplemented with non-verbal cues, gossip, and rum from the cities of生成。The rabbi's court was the center for religious discussion, stories from the streets, and law settlements. Thieves. They will end up as bats."

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

The overall quality of Singer's work triumphs over these minor mishaps. It brings together a little boy at the time, but I clearly a new one with an old expression in her web and destroyed him.

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Syndeio Corporation

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FOOD REVIEW

The Essential Vegetarian
Central Kitchen and a Light Spring Cooking Idea

By Katie Jeffreys
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Spanish-Style Veggies

1 small eggplant, cubed
2 medium green peppers, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
1 cup tomato puree
1 1/4 cup water

2 cloves crushed garlic
1 tsp. cumin
1 tsp. coriander
1/2 tsp. chili powder (or to taste)
1/4 tsp. cayenne (or to taste)

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

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

March 13, 2001
THE ARTS
THE TECH Page 15

Crossword Puzzle
Solution

from page 8

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Nominations Deadline for the 2001 Institute Awards:
FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2001

Please mail all nominations for the following Awards to:
The Awards Committee, 50-005 (Walker Memorial)

KARL TAYLOR COMPTON PRIZE
WILLIAM L. STEWART, JR. AWARD
JAMES N. MURPHY AWARD
ALBERT G. HILL PRIZE
PRISCILLA KING GRAY AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE
LAYA W. WIESNER AWARD
LAYA WIESNER COMMUNITY AWARD
EVERETT MOORE BAKER MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

FRANK E. PERKINS AWARD
ASSOCIATION OF MIT ALUMNAE (AMITA) SENIOR ACADEMIC AWARD
ARTHUR C. SMITH AWARD
IRWIN SIZER AWARD FOR THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT TO MIT EDUCATION
GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL TEACHING AWARDS
EDWARD L. HORTON FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Nomination deadlines and procedures differ for the following awards PLEASE INQUIRE:
LAYA AND JEROME B. WIESNER STUDENT ART AWARDS
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GORDON V BILLARD AWARD
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Awards descriptions are available in the Office of Community Services (50-005)
Questions? <awards@mit.edu>

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4:00 PM
Huntington Hall 10-250

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Good Speakers, Good Company
At Biotechnology Conference

By Pey-Hua Hwang

I arrived in Kresge Auditorium Saturday at 8:50 a.m. — an abnormally early hour for an MIT student — to find that the database also knew many a brain on the changing field of biotechnology at this year's release drug delivery systems and Reporter's Phillip Campbell, editor of Langer, Dr. Sheila Jasanoff, Dr. Michael Calestous Juma, Director of the Office of Science and Technology at Harvard Medical School. Alfonso M. Giglio's speech about the relationship between academic versus corporate research, I was able to have him continue further on his support of academic researchers being able to profit from their discoveries. He said, "You can have your cake and eat it too... if done properly the transfer of technology benefits all in a common benefits society, and brings value to the investigator," He did add, though, that there needed to be more stories so that there wouldn't be conflict of interest issues.

Monkeys and melodramas
Silver, Bach, Dr. Sheldon Kimsky, and Chair of the National Institutes of Health recombinant DNA Advisory Committee Claudia Mickelson inspired both laughter and debate. Silver, professor in biology, ecology, and neuroscience at Princeton University, went so far as to put a picture of his son next to a monkey up during his presentation as he spoke about his future of gene technology. Bach, professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, spoke about the need for an "informed public." Mickelson, an Under the Council for Responsible Genetics and professor at Tufts University, spoke the need to modify patent laws, while Mickelson defended those regulations that had been implemented. "We hear extremes... what we don't hear is active robust discussion by the people who are going to be living with these technologies," Mickelson said.

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

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

All weekends must end
The conference closed with Campbell's closing address entitled, "Voyages in Spandau." Campbell traced a "brief history of spin" through the subtle muddling that occurred in the race to sequence the human genome between Celera and the Human Genome Project.

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

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

We're looking for proposals with new, creative, and innovative ideas for events and activities to enhance racial and cultural relations at MIT.

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

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

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

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

March 13 - Part 1- Coolies, Sailors, Settlers 6-120 (7:00pm & 8:30pm)
March 14 - Part 2- Chinese in the Frontier West 6-120 (7:00pm & 8:30pm)
March 17 - both films will be shown in East Campus Talbot Lounge (4:00pm and 6:00pm)

For more information, please contact Dean Ayida Mihembu @ 253-48610 or mthembu@mit.edu.
UA Seeks Advising Changes

Advising, from Page 1

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

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

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

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

Each academic department separately administers its own advising program.

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

UA hopes to improve advising

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

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

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

"We still haven't really decided where to go from here," Wasfy said.

Several possible steps to be taken in the future by the subcommittee include surveying more students, asking broader questions, and working with problematic departments for improvement.

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

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

Survey methodology questioned

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

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

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THE TECH Page 19
Devereaux said. They are also planning to get more input from students about MIT's dining program.

Election system underwent change

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

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

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

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

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

Scott said that "when the commission received the poll on March 4 Strauss explained that the higher the voter turnout, the higher the likelihood of Rao winning. However, if the publicity was too low, that would increase the possibility of Devereaux and Neitznik winning due to the loyalty and size of their 'certain to vote' base."

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

Write-in candidates win posts

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kelly N. Zimmerman '03 is also counselor-elect for Baker and was officially on the ballot.

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

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

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

Recommendations for next year

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Coordinators, from Page 1

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

Deans address communication

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

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

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

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

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

Students prefer new proposal

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

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

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

Other students commended the administration for responding to their concerns.

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

Lederer added that residential coordinators were "not a bad idea in principle" and that her main objections to the initial proposal were the wording of the document outlines students' basic housing rights.

"It's clear that Dean Benedict cares about the well-being of the students," said Senior House resident Lederer '03. "I was glad to see communication [between students and administrators] and not just yelling and name-calling."

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Vermont Steals Spot From MIT Gymnasts
Catamounts Overtake MIT; Beavers Need A Score of 170 at Final Meet for Nationals

By David Hu

At this year’s New England Championships, the MIT men’s gymnastics team spent most of their six meets grinding moments sitting on the bench.

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

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

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

MIT had the potential to beat UVM. Coach Noah Riskin said MIT had “an excellent competition — some excellent performances and great overall spirit and focus.” The beginning of the meet proved traumatic for MIT. The shear volume of the other teams and another team’s catalysis of “Special Olympics” elevated the Beavers’ focus momentarily.

The result of the team’s distraction was a score of 20.9 on pommel horse. Every gymnast fell except Luke A. Masonary ’02 and David Yin ’03.

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

The awards ceremony afterward recognized top scores in the New England region. Damian M. Engen ’03 took sixth place on vault, parallel bars, and all-around. Masonary took sixth place for his 8.3 on floor exercise.

Patrick R. Griffin ’04 won seventh place as an all-arounder for his total score and season high of 44.2.

“Patrick’s parallel bars routine was very good; a strong mount, strong dismount, etc.,” in other words Patrick performed to his potential,” said Riskin.

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

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

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

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THE CHURCH

5:30pm 37 212
Wed., March 14

Lecture, Discussion, Refreshments

MIT Orthodox Christian Fellowship
http://web.mit.edu/ocf/
provides the Division I men's and women's brackets for the 2001 NCAA basketball tournaments for the enjoyment of its readers. If you want to write about college basketball or any sports topic, send e-mail to mihalik@mit.edu. And good luck with your Final Four selections.
Figure Skating Showcases Talent at Annual Show

By Diana Cheng

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Beverly Thurber ’91, President of the MIT Figure Skating Club, noted that the show is a “culmination of all the skaters’ hard work.” She said, “I came to the rink the first day it opened of my freshman year and haven’t left.”

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

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

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

Marris Sparks, who performed in her own program, said jokingly, “we feel that we’re as good as Professional stars.” Sparks particularly enjoyed the “comedy routines” such as Ice Wars 2001. In Ice Wars 2001, Bobby Frankian and Ray Magee pretended to challenge Sally DeFazio, Beverly A. Thuber, and Kellermann to a bubble-blowing and back-stroking competition.

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

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

Lacrosse Dominates In Exhibition Match

By L. M. Hughley

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

Head Coach Walter Alexi, who searched through the white mounds after the game for lost balls, said the score was, “around 12-6, or something like that. Once you’re already winning, the goal is to learn and work on strategy.”

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

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

The year’s new starting goalie, Timothy P. Nolan ’01, “has shown signs of brilliance … and is anxious to prove himself” said Alexi. Brent M. Schreiber ’02, who is also a starting middle linebacker on the football team, is in the single returning starting defensemen and is “one of the hardest hitters we have ever had,” said the coach.

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

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

The season should be a competitively wild one and Coach Alexi is ready. “All in all, this should be an exciting and challenging season, and I can’t wait to play the games!”

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

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

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