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The Weather Today: Partly sunny, 45°F (7°C) Tonight: Cloudy, 40°F (5°C) Tomorrow: Sunny, 52°F (11°C) Details, Page 2

Volume 122, Number 57

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

Simmons Faces Dining Problems

By Jenny Zhang STAFF REPORTER

Simmons Hall Dining has encountered numerous problems over the last week, including running out of food and generally low food quality, students said.

Simmons began to have problems last week when food that was supposed to last until 8:00 ran out at 7:15, leaving many students hungry. Food quality, which Simmons students said they had been satisfied with at the beginning of the semester, has been fluctuating as well.

Simmons held a house meeting on Sunday, during which the dining issue was discussed.

"One of the solutions we came up with was to have the register at the end of the food, so that students will take less and could be charged for taking too much," said Sameera S. Ponda '03, chair of the House Committee.

Originally, diners helped themselves to meals, taking essentially as much as they wished. Servers were brought in to control the portion sizes, Ponda said.

The move to place the register after the serving area took place yesterday.

"We have a very unique situation to be addressed here, and we see the issues. I think we have corrected the problems," said Kathie Harwell, General Manager for Bon Appetit, the company that runs residential dining programs at MIT.

"It can never be as good as having the meal cooked in the building. Bon Appetit has responded aggressively to the food shortage and quality complaints," said Richard D. Berlin III, director of campus dining.

Communication strengthened

"Bon Appetit has been very responsive and quick to address our problems with food running out," said Phillip J. Walsh, Director of Campus Activities Complex. "I have met with some of their representatives from other colleges to discuss this."

"One of the difficulties had to do with communication with Next House, where the food is produced. Appropriate procedure was not followed; they recognize this. Richard [Berlin], Ward [Ganger], and I have been here at Simmons Dining to see how things are going," Walsh said.

"Our primary concern has always

Simmons Dining, Page 15

Zesiger Center Multi-Activity Court Floods

Soccer Ball Hits Sprinkler, Murky Water Falls on Court

By Tom Kilpatrick STAFF REPORTER

The Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center flooded Friday, requiring an intense cleanup effort that involved approximately thirty staff members and lasted several hours.

"A soccer ball hit the protective cage of a sprinkler head with such force that it activated a single sprinkler head," inside the Multi-Activity Court, or MAC, said Assistant Department Head for Facilities and Operations Daniel Martin.

Phillip M. Kelleher '04 made the ill-fated kick while playing a game with some friends. "We were playing soccer and I kicked the ball," probably hitting a pipe, he said.

What happened next is not certain, but a large amount of dark, foul-smelling water soon filled the MAC playing area, reaching a depth of several inches, said Zesiger Center employee Chuck Rainey. "All I know is that we had a main pipe burst on the MAC court," he said.

Kelleher said that his group



Workers remove the tiled surface of the 5,000-square foot Multi-Activity Court in the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center Friday afternoon after a damaged fire sprinkler flooded the court. A repair time has yet to be determined.

filled out a report for Zesiger managers detailing the event.

Rainey did not know whether the burst pipe was part of the sprinkler

system, but the corroded quality of the water suggests that it had been sitting in the building's lines for some time.

The MAC is about the size of a basketball court, but is walled in by

Flooding, Page 16

Dormitory Council Circulating 2003 Rush Petition

By Jennifer Krishnan EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Dormitory Council is circulating a petition for a "uninterrupted multiday" dormitory rush period during next year's Orientation.

"The goal is to show student support for a period, during Orientation, to have dorm events," said

Grace R. Kessenich '03, president of Dormcon. "It's to show that it's not just about choosing where you live, but it's also about the community that is built during that period."

"The petition is about increasing the ... prominence of dorm rush in the eyes of the freshmen," said Dormcon secretary Ryan D.

Williams '03. "We're not sure if the constituents of all the dorms are with us, since we tend to represent not all the dorms ... but we think that most people will remember that their having a decision [regarding where they would live] was important."

Kessenich said part of the goal is

to show "there is broad-based support" for an older-style rush and that it's "not just EC and Senior House complaining."

The end of the petition reads: "We feel that this campus wide community event [dormitory rush]

Dormitory Rush, Page 13

UA Ponders Science Fiction Library, ASA Group Space

By Raymund Dantes

The Undergraduate Association last night discussed a proposal by the Association of Student Activities to incorporate the MIT Science Fiction Society Library into the fifth floor reading room, renovate the rest of the reading room, and turn the old MITSFS Library into group-oriented study space.

ASA representative Andrew Menard said that the MITSFS Library currently does not have enough space in the fourth floor of the student center to house its collection. The library is the largest open science fiction library in the world.

Menard said that since the reading room has unused space and is normally at less than 60 percent of seating capacity, except during the final exam period, the reading room could serve the same number of students if it were downsized by 50

percent and renovated to more efficiently utilize its space. The MITSFS Library could then occupy the other half of this room, he said.

The proposal was met with strong resistance by many UA council members, including UA President Josiah D. Seale '03, who said that open, non-crowded space is what makes the reading room conducive to studying.

UA Councilors David M. Elihu '05 and Nadja M. Yousif '04 disapproved of removing academic space for leisure activities and having the group study space on the fourth floor, away from the reading room and Athena cluster. Councilors also said that simply renovating the reading room would attract more students looking for places to study.

"Is this [proposal] what students want?" asked UA President Josiah Seale. "It is hard to get an unbiased

MITSFS, Page 16



The MIT Lion Dance Group performs at Saturday night's Heart of the Dragon banquet. More photos, page 13.



The Festival Jazz Ensemble puts on a fun show.

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OPINION

Gretchen K. Aleks votes to bring liberals back to the Democratic Party.

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WORLD & NATION

Would-Be Hijacker Planned To Crash Plane Into Building

THE WASHINGTON POST

ISTANBUL

An Israeli Arab wrestled to the floor outside the cockpit of an El Al flight Sunday night told investigators he hoped to crash the jet into a tall building in Tel Aviv in imitation of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack against New York's World Trade Center, Turkish police said Monday.

Tawfiq Fukra, 23, told anti-terrorism agents in Istanbul, where the plane landed safely, that he planned to use a penknife to hijack the Boeing 757 and single-handedly force it to crash into a building to protest Israel's actions against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, according to a statement released by the Istanbul police's anti-terrorism unit.

Fukra said he had intended to commandeer the jetliner shortly after takeoff "in order to hit tall buildings in Tel Aviv" but lost his nerve, the police statement said. "He had been collecting information from Internet sites about how to fly a plane," it added.

Hamas Claims Responsibility For Ambush, Says More Planned

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

The radical group Hamas has vowed to continue attacks like the one that killed 12 Israelis in the West Bank last week despite calls that Palestinian groups show restraint in the run-up to Israeli elections to give more moderate politicians a chance to win.

Mousa abu Marzouk, in an interview in the group's office here over the weekend, claimed that Hamas planned the attack that took the lives of nine Israeli soldiers and border patrolmen and three armed guards from the Kiryat Arba Jewish settlement on the outskirts of the city of Hebron. It was one of the worst recent losses for Israeli forces. Sixteen other Israelis were wounded in the three-hour gun battle, and three Palestinian attackers were killed.

Rather than discouraging Jewish settlers in the overwhelmingly Arab city, the attack prompted a decision to dig in and establish a settlement to link Kiryat Arba and Hebron's small Jewish settlement near the Cave of the Patriarchs, a site holy to Muslims and Jews as the traditional burying place of Abraham. On Monday, settlers claimed a key road between the two locations.

Black Hole's Velocity Links It to Supernova

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Astronomers have spotted a black hole speeding through the Milky Way as it gobbles up the outer layers of a doomed companion star locked in a fatal gravitational embrace.

The discovery provides direct observational evidence that black holes with masses comparable to single stars can, as long theorized, form in supernova explosions, the catastrophic end result for the most massive stars in the universe.

"This is the first black hole found to be moving fast through the plane of our galaxy," Felix Mirabel, of the French Atomic Energy Commission and the Institute for Astronomy and Space Physics of Argentina, said in a statement. "This discovery is exciting because it shows the link of a black hole to a supernova."

The black hole, known as GRO J1655-40, is heading in the general direction of Earth, racing through space at about 250,000 mph in the constellation Scorpius. Lest anyone worry about some future collision, the black hole is 6,000 to 9,000 light years away, putting it more than 16 million years from Earth's vicinity in the Milky Way.

Weapons Inspectors Return To Iraq with New Authority

By Michael Slackman

LOS ANGELES TIMES

CAIRO, EGYPT

United Nations weapons inspectors returned to Iraq on Monday for the first time in nearly four years, backed by the threat of force and the authority to search anywhere, any time for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons — even in Saddam Hussein's lavish palaces.

Chief weapons inspector Hans Blix and Mohamed El Baradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, immediately sought to calm fears that their arrival in Baghdad brought the region closer to war.

"We have come here for one single reason, and that is the world wants to have assurance that there are no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq," Blix said shortly after they landed at Saddam Hussein International Airport.

Credible inspections are "in the interests of Iraq and the interests of the world," he said.

The United States has threatened to attack Iraq if it does not cooperate with the inspectors, who are operating under a tough new Security Council resolution that gives Baghdad "a final opportunity" to

disarm and warns of serious consequences if it does not.

The first test of Iraq's intentions could come as early as Nov. 27, when Blix said preliminary checks are scheduled to begin. Perhaps the more important date is Dec. 8, when Iraq is to file a list of any banned weapons programs. The second deadline appears to be a conflict waiting to happen, since Iraq insists it has no such programs.

Both the United States and Iraq have stoked the uncertainty surrounding the inspections, doing all they can to keep the other guessing.

Iraq's parliament, though relatively powerless, made a show of voting against accepting the return of weapons inspectors just one day before Saddam's foreign minister notified U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan SM '72 that Iraq would abide by the resolution.

As Blix and his crew were preparing Monday for high-tech equipment to be unloaded from their cargo jet, Iraqi ground forces and United States fighter jets were firing at each other in the so-called no-fly zone over the northern part of the country.

The Bush administration has said it will give inspections a chance, but

that firing at U.S. warplanes patrolling the no-fly zone might well be considered a "material breach" of the U.N. resolution — and if confirmed by the Security Council, could trigger an attack.

White House officials said Monday that U.S. warplanes would continue to fire back when targeted by the Iraqis, but that the Bush administration was not ready yet to take the matter to the Security Council.

"I would emphasize that this goes to showing his intention to comply and cooperate," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. "But in the meantime, our aircraft will respond when fired upon."

"Our view is zero tolerance, that Saddam Hussein does not need to be playing games at this point. No cat and mouse. It is time for him to comply and cooperate and disarm," McClellan said.

Diplomats said that the tough talk from the White House, while distressing to its Security Council allies, might be a way of keeping pressure on Baghdad while inspections begin. But retaliatory attacks on Iraqi military installations might also help U.S. and British forces destroy Baghdad's defense capabilities before an all-out war.

Senate to Consider Amendment To Bill on Homeland Security

By Nick Anderson

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

With a vote on the issue expected Tuesday, the Senate is sharply divided on a Democratic proposal to strip a handful of special-interest provisions from the bill that would create a new homeland security agency.

Approval of the amendment could trip up the bill just inches from the finish line; rejection would clear the way for the Senate to send the bill to President Bush.

In another scenario, the Republican-led House could bow to any Senate revisions and wave the bill on to the White House. Or the House could insist on further negotiations, delaying — and perhaps

jeopardizing — the measure Bush has pressed the lame duck congressional session to pass.

No matter what happens, the Democratic amendment has prompted a heated debate over legal protections for vaccine makers and other businesses at a moment when Bush stands on the verge of achieving the most significant government reorganization since the start of the Cold War.

At issue are seven provisions in a House-passed homeland security bill. They include liability protections for certain industries, a waiver of open-meeting law, a potential break for companies that move overseas to avoid U.S. taxes and a proposal for a research center that may be aimed at a lawmaker-

jeopardizing — the measure Bush has pressed the lame duck congressional session to pass.

Senate Democrats criticize most of these provisions as gifts to big business that have nothing to do with the creation of a new Cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security to defend against terrorism.

The provision that has drawn the most attention would grant liability protection to Eli Lilly & Co. and other drug companies that make a mercury-based vaccine preservative. Several lawsuits have alleged that such preservatives cause autism in children.

Several Senate Democrats, led by Majority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota and Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut, have attacked this provision.

WEATHER

Calmer, Clearer Skies Ahead

By Michael J. Ring

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Although the mercury today will only rise a few degrees higher than yesterday's maximum temperatures, it will feel significantly warmer today as yesterday's ferocious winds calm.

While the rain that afflicted our area had ceased by yesterday morning, gale-force winds continued into the afternoon. Wind strength is related to pressure gradients, so even though the precipitation had stopped, the Boston region was still in the midst of a sharp gradient from low to high pressure, and hence the winds yesterday were unusually strong. As the storm has pulled farther away, the local pressure gradient has flattened, and therefore the winds should be far less gusty today.

There is also significantly less precipitation on the horizon this week. A very weak cold front will pass over New England tonight, bringing a slight chance of a sprinkle. But most locations around greater Boston should remain dry until early Friday, when a storm expected to form around the Great Lakes slides eastward.

Extended Forecast

Today: Partly sunny and less windy but cold. High near 45°F (7°C).
Tonight: Cloudy with a chance of a sprinkle. Low near 40°F (5°C).
Wednesday: Sunny and warmer. High near 52°F (11°C).
Wednesday night: Clear and seasonably cold. Low near 37°F (3°C).
Thursday: Sunny early but clouding up in the evening. High near 52°F (11°C); low near 41°F (5°C).
Friday: Rain likely, especially in the morning. Cooler with highs near 45°F (7°C).



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	- - - Warm Front	Showers	Thunderstorm
S Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Light	Haze
	▲▲▲ Stationary Front	Moderate	
		Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

British Court Orders Algerians Held on Suspicion of Terrorism

By Sebastian Rotella
LOS ANGELES TIMES

PARIS

With police across Europe on guard against a heightened threat of attack, a British court Monday ordered three Algerians, including a alleged senior al-Qaida figure, held on suspicion of terrorist activity. French police made three more arrests in a separate case.

Authorities say their security forces have stepped up activity because of indications that al-Qaida intends to strike in Europe, where it has recruited fighters and planned operations, but has not successfully carried out an attack. Recent warnings, some concrete and others vague, have generated fear of a

major attack in Europe.

"I think the threat in Europe is the highest it has been since Sept. 11," a top French law enforcement official said Monday.

British authorities gave few details about the case against the Algerians, whom a judge ordered held for a month without bail pending investigation of suspected "preparation, instigation or commission of terrorism."

But officials denied media reports that they had been planning a poison gas attack on London's subway system.

"It doesn't appear to be that there is any evidence whatsoever there was going to be a gas attack or indeed use of bombs regarding the

three people who have been arrested," said Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott in an interview with the BBC.

One of the suspects, Rabah Kadre, is a heavyweight in Europe-wide al-Qaida networks based in London, according to French and Belgian investigators.

Kadre, 35, was a close associate of Abu Doha, the alleged leader of an Algerian-dominated network and accused mastermind of a failed attempt to bomb Los Angeles International Airport in 1999, investigators said.

Kadre also was an active recruiter sending French Muslims to Afghan training camps, according to authorities.

Supreme Court to Consider States' Rights, Aspects of Disabilities Act

By Charles Lane
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court announced Monday that it will rule on the constitutionality of a key provision of the Americans With Disabilities Act, in a case that pits the court's recent drive for states' rights against the movement to expand legal protections for the disabled.

The court will decide whether disabled people who feel that they have been discriminated against in the provision of public services can sue state governments, or whether that common method of enforcing the law is prohibited because the Constitution gives the states "sovereign immunity,"

which Congress is powerless to override.

"It is a case with potentially great impact because it implicates the entire range of actions a state takes vis-a-vis its citizens," said Chai Feldblum, a professor of law at Georgetown University and disability-rights activist.

At issue is Title II of the 12-year-old ADA, the part of the law that guarantees people with disabilities equal access to, and equal treatment by, such public entities as transportation systems, hospitals and prisons.

The case that the high court Monday agreed to hear, *Medical Board of California v. Hason*, involves a California doctor,

Michael Hason, who sued the state's medical licensing agency in 1999 for discrimination, saying that it unfairly rejected him because of his history of mental illness.

Viewed as a matter of disability law, the new case is difficult to predict. In recent ADA cases involving employment, the court has generally made it harder for those alleging discrimination to succeed.

But in cases about access to public services and accommodations, the court has sided with the disabled, most notably in a case last year in which a 7-2 majority ordered the PGA Tour to let golfer Casey Martin use a cart in its tournaments.

Study Shows Women's Position On Corporate Ladder Improved

THE WASHINGTON POST

Nancy Pelosi's ascent to the Democratic Party leadership in the House of Representatives reflects the steady progress of women in the political world. According to a new report, women also continue to climb the corporate ladder.

Women now hold 15.7 percent of corporate officer positions at large U.S. public companies, up from 8.7 percent in 1995, according to the report by Catalyst, a New York City-based research group. There are six female chief executives among the Fortune 500 firms, up from two in 1995. And women make up 5.2 percent of all top-earning executives, up from 1.2 percent seven years ago, when Catalyst began studying women's employment patterns.

"There's progress, however slow, in every dimension, year after year," said Sheila Wellington, president of Catalyst. "And this year, despite the poor economy, the number of women executives keeps going up, and that's heartening."

Female top dogs in corporate America include Carleton Fiorina of Hewlett-Packard Co., S. Marce Fuller of Mirant Corp., Patricia Russo of Lucent Technologies, Anne Mulcahy of Xerox Corp., Andrea Jung of Avon Products Inc., and Marion Sandler of Golden West Financial Corp.

Report: States' Corporate Child-Care Tax Credit System a Failure

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The tax-credit system launched by two dozen states during the past 20 years to boost corporate investment in child care has been a failure, and in some cases public money was diverted from child-care programs, according to a new report by the National Women's Law Center.

In the report, "The Little Engine That Hasn't: The Poor Performance of Employer Tax Credits for Child Care," researchers analyzed employer tax credit use in 20 states and found that in 16 of them five or fewer corporations had ever applied for the credit. In five states — Arkansas, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia — not a single corporation claimed the credits, according to the center.

"The states that have enacted these credits need to take a hard look at how ineffective they have been," said Nancy Duff Campbell, the study's co-author and co-president of the center.

The report found the main reason the tax credits have not been used much is that 57 percent of state corporate tax filers have no tax liability, and therefore, nothing against which to apply a credit. About 93 percent have such low tax liability that the credits aren't useful, the report said.

But the states had earmarked money for the programs, and it has often gone unused, according to the report.



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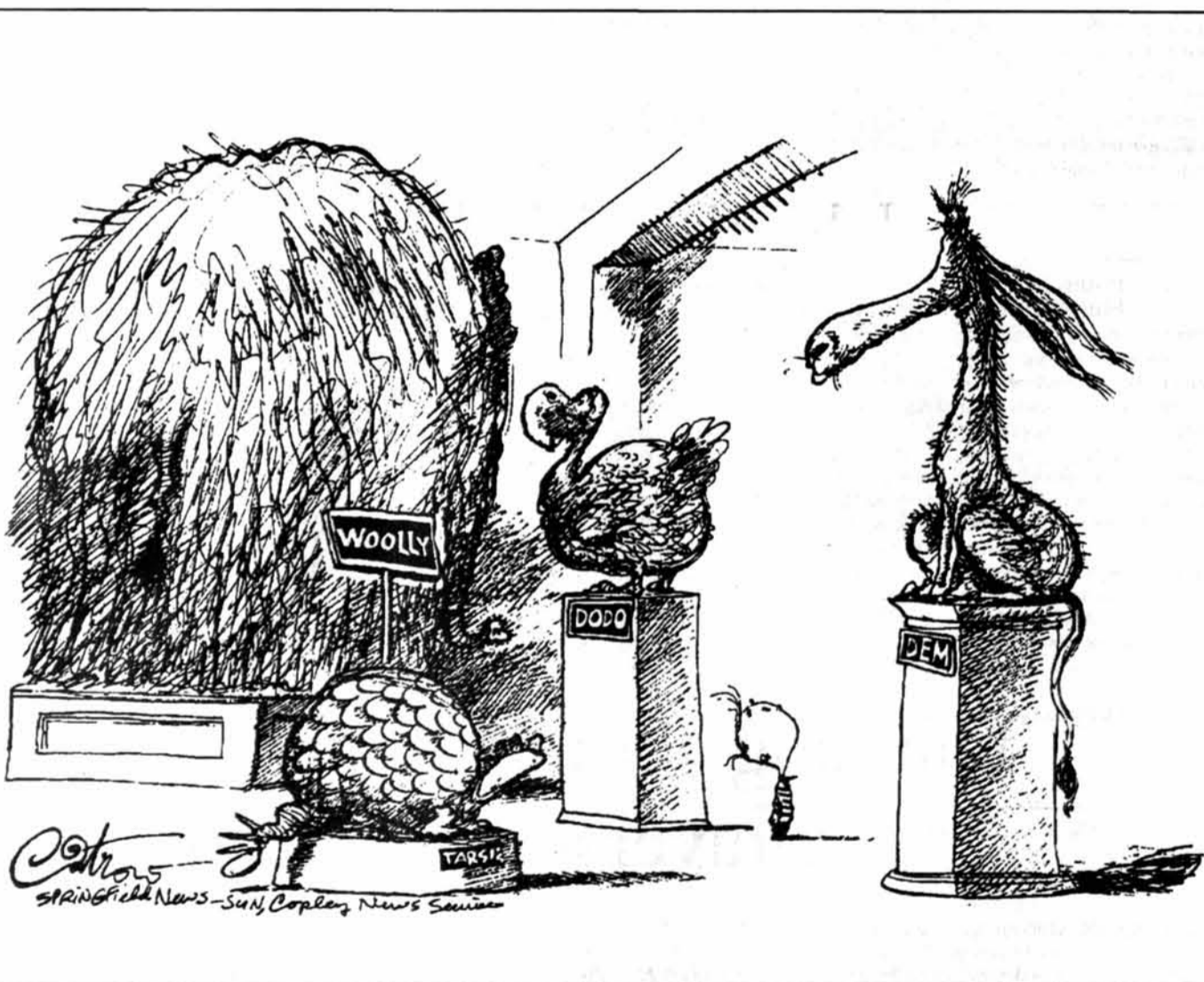
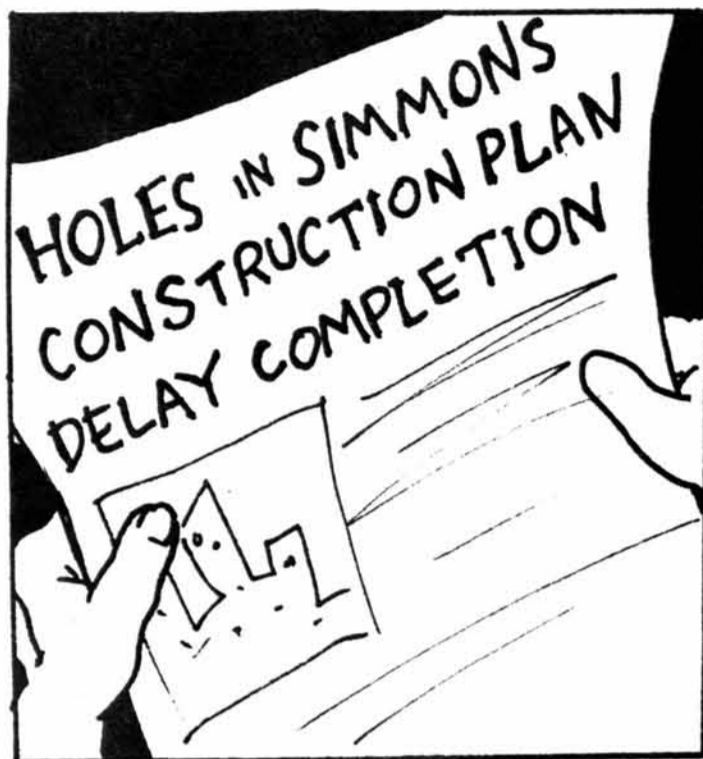
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Erratum

An article Tuesday ["Ex-Assistant Professor Sues MIT Over Tenure"] mistakenly referred to Maurice Van Putten as a former assistant professor of applied mathematics. Van Putten is still an assistant professor at MIT.

Discrimination

Andrew C. Thomas

The club directors still refuse to allow women to join and play on the links of Augusta National. How about that.

It's fair to say that gender discrimination has been one of the hotter buttons to push in the past century about an issue that some people believe should be changed. It's also one of many issues that has made significant progress in being remedied. But there are several high-profile situations in our society which reflect the gender disparity.

Augusta has proven to be a particularly hot button, as is the game of golf in general. While the name did not originate from the acronym "Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden," it was certainly an attitude that propagated throughout time. Certainly it is consistent with human nature that people wish to spend time with similar people — pure and simple conformism in action. And gender discrimination is a method used for millions of years, even within division of labor in animal species. So it's only natural that this game would spark a drive on behalf of men to band together and keep women out.

Recently, a situation arose when Martha Burk, chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations, began to fight Augusta National over their membership policy. Jesse Jackson has since adopted the cause, claiming that gender discrimination is tantamount to apartheid. On the other hand, many believe that, as a private club, Augusta should be free to set its own membership policies.

MIT has also seen its share of controversy over this subject. Three years ago a report was published in the MIT Faculty Newsletter about the situation. The following sentiment led to the creation of a committee: "We believe that discriminatory attitudes operate at the time of hiring junior faculty and influence the experiences of the women who are hired." The percentage of female faculty in the School of Science (the first department to analyze the problem) had been holding at about eight percent over a 20 year period. One might suggest that this low trend is due to a historic trend of a minimum of women entering the sciences, a

trend that is itself changing (to which I would credit the admissions office under the tenure of Marilee Jones).

But change seems to be coming slowly at the upper echelon. Though there has been a marked increase in the number of female faculty in the last ten years, it is unlikely we will see a balance develop within 20 years due to the slow turnover rate of tenured faculty.

So why not embrace the departure of this celebrated tradition? Women have the Margaret Cheney room, after all. So I propose: Let's turn the Stratton Game Room into a Gentlemen Only club. What could be better? A private space where men could relax, shoot a little pool, and have a drink or two with fellow men. It wouldn't be out of line with the standards set by our forbears, after all.

Better yet, we could outfit the room with velvet drapes, all sorts of mahogany constructions, and soft leather couches. We could even hire a bartender and a jazz trio to set the mood just right. And the only thing that would make it perfect? No uninvited and unwelcome guests.

The point still remains that clubs are rarely meant for the inclusion of similar people, but rather for the exclusion of the dissimilar. Few feelings are greater than the smug satisfaction of knowing you have been accepted into an elite group, when someone else — typically, someone you might hold a grudge against — has been denied. These are not the noblest of sentiments upon which to base the ideals of membership.

In this light, how can one justify the rights of private organizations to discriminate against its potential members? There seem to be two possibilities for amelioration.

One is that the evolution of democratic thought will eventually sweep aside this kind

of thought. Augusta will evolve, in time, to realize that the inclusion of women would represent a completely new and fresh direction that would ensure the health of the club for many years to come. I don't believe that the current management at Augusta, combined with the amazing American schism between being at the forefront of progress and simultaneously clinging to failed tradition, will provide a climate of change. No less would the rich membership of Augusta like that change. While commercial endorsement advertising is often crucial for sporting events, the Masters tournament has one of the lowest amounts of advertising during its broadcasts. And even with the pullout of several major sponsors from the next Masters, Augusta is not worried about the fallout.

The other possibility for change would be the outright outlawing of any qualifications of membership that discriminate against gender

(among others). But as much as I support this kind of change, I doubt forced political moves would change the underlying feelings of the situation.

What is at the heart of those feelings? I believe that it represents the insecurity of the people in control, and the need to use the power available to them. It gives people a boost of security if they believe they control the destinies of others, and even if this

analogy seems hyperbolic, it is these attitudes that might in fact be reflected in the hiring policies of MIT faculty.

To say that all of these problems result from a fundamental lack of maturity is too much of a simplification of the underlying problems that we face. But I'm glad to see at least a little change is being made along the way, thanks to the courage of those people who fight the status quo and stand up for their beliefs.

Few feelings are greater than the smug satisfaction of knowing you have been accepted into an elite group, when someone else — typically, someone you might hold a grudge against — has been denied. But these are not the noblest of sentiments upon which to base the ideals of membership.

Member Madness

Philip Burrowes

WERS-FM (88.9) is holding its semiannual membership drive through Nov. 24. For those of you not acquainted with WERS, it's Emerson College's student-run radio station, boasting a ludicrously eclectic and decidedly non-mainstream programming schedule. If you're not acquainted with membership drives, you'll be even more lost in this column than usual, so by way of introduction: membership drives are periods where media outlets request money of patrons so that they can have access to said outlet, whether it be through a subscription-only basis or merely to offset production costs of public institutions. Usually in the latter case, most people will not opt to give a donation, which would seem to designate them as free-riders. However, there are many other explanations that may be more appropriate, especially as we compare membership drives across media. Masses may not just be uncoordinated; they can be deliberate jerks.

Listening to WERS during a membership drive can be a maddening experience. Breaks between song sets are full of, essentially, alternating between begging that listeners donate and repetition of the donation hotline's number. It's a lot like televangelism in many respects. One can make a rational choice not to donate, believing that enough others will lend support that the service will be provided for free. Equally often, (if not more so,) listeners can be irritated to the point where they would refuse to give a donation, perhaps not even listening to DJs during a drive week.

Of course, WERS provides music that you by and large won't hear on other stations on a regular basis. Moreover, the aggregate num-

ber of advertisements on for-profit radio is far greater than the babbling within two weeks. Pricing, too, is little compared to what one might expect from a subscription-based system. XM digital satellite radio membership, for example, costs three times as WERS membership, not to mention the sunk cost of hardware.

Another, more classic, example is the contrast between PBS and HBO. "Premium" cable channels often offer preview weekends to potential subscribers. HBO, which reaches about a third of all American homes with televisions, reaches a sizable chunk of the cable market. (Cable in general reaches a little over 80 percent.)

In comparison, around 4.7 million "individuals and families" pledged PBS affiliates in 2001, which is around 4.7 percent of "television homes." Viewers have long believed

that PBS would survive with other people pledging, and now ads litter the network for more than just Kellogg's or the Helena Rubenstein Foundation (a long-time supporter of outstanding children's television). Shows themselves have increasingly become ads for ancillary products, from the Children's Television Workshop to the next Ken Burns miniseries. These products then somehow manage to sell well.

Free-riders shouldn't be expected to spend hundreds on merchandise for shows they refuse to support. How can this be explained? This is more like collective ignorance than collective action. What better place to see collective ignorance than on the Internet, right? Indeed, online subscription services invariably seem doomed. People resent online advertising, especially pop-up ads, yet expect Web sites to be free. Of the millions that venture to

the Internet Gaming Network's many entertainment-analysis (read: geekiness) sites, for example, only 68,000 had subscribed to its "premium" Insider service as of September. Mere registration seems to much a hassle for some visitors in the first place. Snowball — IGN's parent company — claims that 14 million people visit its sites, but also claims around only ten million register. Clearly many are willing to register, but significant numbers aren't, even when not paying for anything. A similar, albeit anecdotal, situation may be seen in the people that will visit a Xanga blog but never reply because it necessitates registration.

IGN's content is hardly unique, however, and some can be accessed without subscribing or paying (although that amount seems to be decreasing every day). What of subscription-exclusive services? ModernTales.com, a site dedicated to allowing comic artists to make a profession out of Web comics, boasts "\$20,000" revenue from its initial months, which translates to anywhere between 668 and 13,600 subscribers because of the dual pricing plans. This may seem like a pittance, but consider that *nobody* actually reads print comic books anymore, and that ModernTales apparently warranted the spawning of an "alternative" site, Serializer.net. Or maybe they're in denial and proceeding in the face of financial failure. After all, they're trying to make a living on the internet.

Denial probably doesn't fully explain the behavior of producers any more than free-ridership describe the bulk of consumers. Some people not lazy or unwilling, just uneasy with all the work that goes into registering and pledging. Others don't trust the institutions that they're asked to support, whether it be the self-righteous PBS or overtly commercial Snowball. Kingdom Hearts trailers aren't exactly public goods anyway. Emerson radio, however, very may well be; radio has a fixed transmission cost (within a given geography) and can't block listeners. On which side of the collective action problem are you?

Free-riders shouldn't be expected to spend hundreds on merchandise for shows they refuse to support.

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Bringing Liberals Back to Politics

Gretchen K. Aleks

Much has been made of the Democrats' losses in the recent midterm elections. Although the occasional crackpot has blamed the party's losses on the its far left-wing agenda, most people claim that the party leadership's lackluster opposition to President Bush's agenda made it difficult for the American public to differentiate between Republican and Democratic policies. With discrimination between the two parties nearly impossible, many voters chose the party of the popular (God knows why) president.

This past week, the Democrats have made efforts to differentiate themselves from Bush and to clarify the party line. The Democratic leader in the Senate, Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), lambasted Bush for his plans for Iraq and questioned whether the United States was making progress in its war on terror. More significantly, House Democrats elected Representative Nancy Pelosi, a liberal from San Francisco, as their new minority leader. Given Ms. Pelosi's record, her colleagues expect that she will be an active opponent of the Republican agenda. Ms. Pelosi's ascent to the top of her party in the House will enable the Democrats to articulately and consistently express an alternative view for policy to the American public, a view that was sorely missing before the midterm elections. The hope among Democrats is that when the American public is actually presented with a cogent voice against the harebrained policies of the Bush administration, they will realize the flaws in these policies and support the vision of the Democrats, a vision that was not presented prior to the 2002 midterms.

Although we can expect increasingly vocal opposition to the Republican-dominated government in the next two years, the Democrats need to go further if they hope to gain control of Congress and the presidency in the near future: they need to nominate a liberal sacrificial lamb for president in 2004. Realistically, the Democrats have a very small chance of having their nominee elected president, so they should think instead of what type of nominee would be best for the party's long-term interests. Bill Clinton won in 1992 in part because he moved the Democrats "toward the center." Since then, however, the two major parties have views that are strikingly similar, implying that they have moved towards each other.

Unfortunately, the parties have not, in fact, moved towards each other. The Republicans have stayed in place — yes, they still think women aren't capable of making their own decisions, homosexuals shouldn't share the same rights as the rest of America, and African-Americans should be subject to the death penalty while whites should not — while the Democrats have done all the moving. The fact that the Democrats have moved closer to the Republicans has meant that the majority of political debate has been over whether Congress should pass a really conservative bill or a kind of conservative bill. The fact that all we hear about is conservative policies means that the "center" has been redefined to be a conservative one. Politicians have the ability to define what the center will be; today, the center is to the right of where it was ten years ago. This isn't because the Republican party is necessarily stronger than it was; it's because the Democrats aren't pulling their weight in moving the center to the left.

This is why the Democrats should nominate a liberal in 2004. Someone like Howard Dean, the Democratic governor of Vermont, would be ideal. Dean has embraced progressive taxation in his state while still managing to lower the average income tax, supports universal health care, and has managed to implement a plan in Vermont that ensures that 90 percent of the state's population has health coverage. A presidential campaign will allow the Democrats to vocalize to millions of voters why we need more left-leaning policies at the national level, and hopefully the entire process will get Americans to realize that there is an entire other side to the political spectrum. This will serve to make the voters more hospitable to a liberal perspective, and while it will take a miracle to elect the Democrat, the voting public will no longer hold the misconception that liberals have no place in American politics. The center will thus be redefined for future elections, not by waiting around for the American public to turn more liberal on its own, but by politicians dragging it their through a liberal example.



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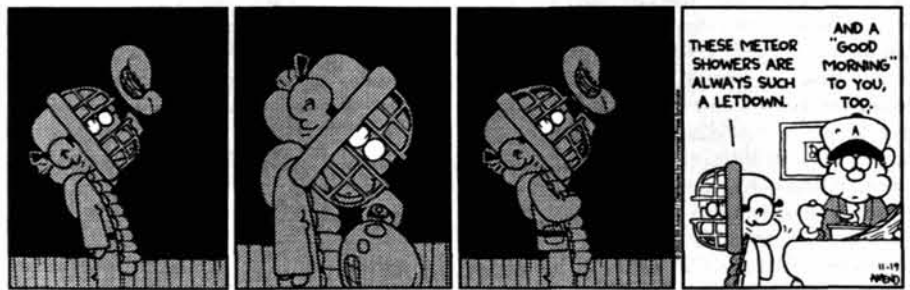
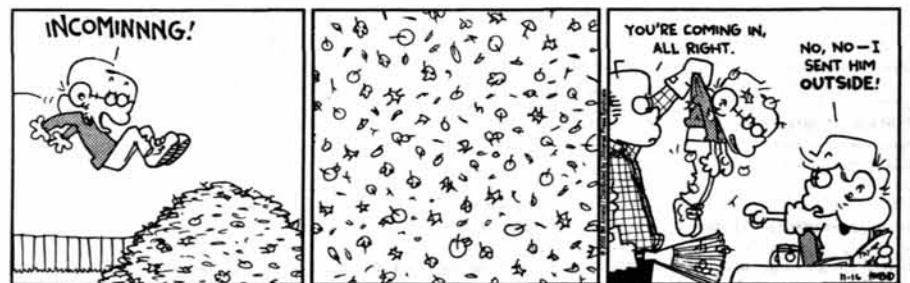
Recycled Clip Art

By Katie, Kailas, Karen and Jason



If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times, it's oral, not aural..

FoxTrot by Bill Amend



Crossword Puzzle

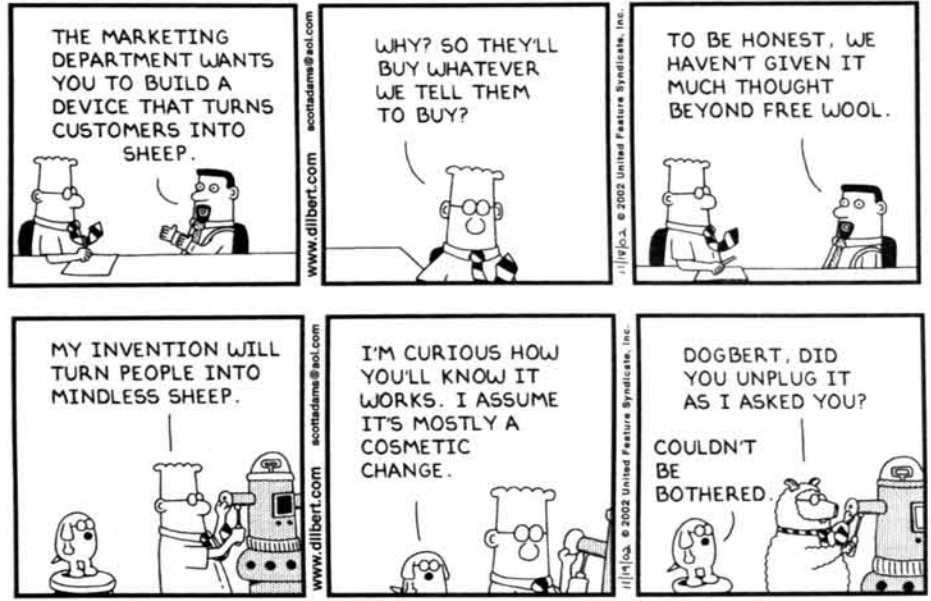
Solution, page 16

- ACROSS**
- 1 Curling or bowling, e.g.
 - 6 Part of USDA
 - 10 Bill topper
 - 14 Horatio of fiction
 - 15 Stern section
 - 16 Timbuktu land
 - 17 Italian sausage
 - 19 Blue flag
 - 20 Ram's dam
 - 21 "The ___ Wolf"
 - 22 Put in bondage
 - 24 Moe's brother
 - 26 Bergman's "___ from a Marriage"
 - 27 Bane of dogs
 - 30 To the max
 - 32 Arctic to Kazakhstan range
 - 33 Ledger entry
 - 34 Ambassador's off.
 - 37 Despotic ruler
 - 38 Gem weight
 - 39 Appeal
 - 40 Keyboard key
 - 41 Low point
 - 42 Add up
 - 43 Unmelodic
 - 45 Way around
 - 46 Mason's Della
 - 48 Satellite of Jupiter
 - 50 Latticework structure
 - 52 Parseghian of football
 - 53 CIA predecessor
 - 56 Rivulet
 - 57 Brooklyn catcher, 1948-57
 - 60 Up to the task
 - 61 Whoppers
 - 62 Hose material
 - 63 Have on
 - 64 Border
 - 65 "Easter 1916" poet
- DOWN**
- 1 Ditto
 - 2 Farm implement
 - 3 Fairy-tale beast
 - 4 Not active: abbr.
 - 5 Vandalizes
 - 6 Reverie
 - 7 Elongated fish
 - 8 Wan
 - 9 Send
 - 10 Grins
 - 11 Whirling dance
 - 12 ___ and kicking
 - 13 Gets out of bed
 - 18 Disappointing grades
 - 23 Mary Stuart, e.g.
 - 24 Grain depository
 - 25 Childish
 - 27 Litter's littlest
 - 28 Realm
 - 29 1968 Jane Fonda movie
 - 31 Ski lift
 - 33 Arp's art movement
 - 35 Tillis and Torne
 - 36 Bengal and Biscay, e.g.
 - 38 Chant
 - 39 Head Smurf
 - 41 December refrain
 - 42 Despot's reign
 - 44 Penn and ___
 - 45 Actress Theda
 - 46 Woven hat fiber
 - 47 Group with a common ancestry
 - 49 Concentration gap
 - 51 Stated
 - 53 Spicy stew
 - 54 Assigned time
 - 55 Without: Fr.
 - 58 Tilly or Ryan
 - 59 Give the once-over

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Events Calendar

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

Tuesday, November 19

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Childrens' Skating Registration. Skating instruction is available for 6-12 year old children of the MIT community. A series of eight lessons for both beginner and intermediate level skaters will begin Saturday, December 7. Class sizes are limited, and registration is available on a first-come basis. Deadline for enrollment is Dec. 7, 2002. Course will be held on Saturdays: 12N-Beginners; 1p - Intermediates. Adult lessons are also available providing there is sufficient interest by parents. Students registered prior to Nov. 26 will receive a \$5 reduction in fee. \$65 with MIT Athletics Card; 75 w/o. Room: W35-297X. Sponsor: Physical Education.

10:00 a.m. - Admissions Information Session. Admissions Office Information Session gathers at the Admissions Reception Center (10-100). Enter MIT at the main entrance, Lobby 7, 77 Massachusetts Ave (dormed building with tall pillars). Proceed down the center corridor to Room 10-100 on the right. Following the Admissions Information Session is a Student Led Campus Tour which begins in Lobby 7 (main entrance lobby) Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

10:45 a.m. - Campus Tour. Student Led Campus Tours are approximately 90 minutes long and provide a general overview of the main campus. Please note that campus tours do not visit laboratories, living groups or buildings under construction. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Campus tours start at the conclusion of the Admissions Information Session. The Campus Tour begins in Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

11:55 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - VCPIA Lunch Meeting. Weekly lunch meeting sponsored by the MIT Venture Capital & Principal Investment Association. free. Room: Tang Center. Sponsor: MIT Venture Capital and Principal Investment (VCPI) Association, MIT Entrepreneurship Center.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Plant Matter and Natural Perception: A Bacon Forgotten. Dibner Institute Lunchtime Colloquium. free. Room: E56-100. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Kevin Kennedy, OpenWave COO. Kevin Kennedy is responsible for day-to-day business operations at Openwave. Openwave Systems provides Communication Service Providers with the software and services they need to build boundary-free, multi-network communications services. A highly-accomplished business and technology executive, Kennedy has 25 years of experience in the networking and telecommunications industries. Prior to joining Openwave, Kennedy spent seven years at Cisco Systems driving Cisco into new billion dollar markets. During his 17 years at Bell Laboratories, Kevin was responsible for establishing technical vision, shaping strategy, and driving the product delivery of communications software and hardware programs. free. Room: TBD. Sponsor: MIT Entrepreneurship Center. MediaTech Club.

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Web Publishing Overview. A prerequisite for the Web Publishing: Basics course, this three-hour lecture/demonstration session gives an overview of the electronic publishing process as it works at MIT, focusing on: how to code files using HTML tags (HTML, the HyperText Markup Language, is the standard for publishing on the web) how to upload files to the Athena system for delivery through MIT's primary web server, web.mit.edu. Special attention is paid to issues affecting web sites at MIT (MITnet rules of use, Athena file conventions, special services available on web.mit.edu, etc). Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

2:00 p.m. - Admissions Information Session. free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

2:45 p.m. - Campus Tour. free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

4:00 p.m. - MIT Astrophysics Colloquium: AMY BARGER. "Supernovae Black Holes in the Distant Universe." free. Room: MIT Center for Space Research, 70 Vassar Street, Room 37-252, Cambridge, MA. Sponsor: Astrophysics.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - MechSeminar: Transalpine Tunnels and the Decision Aids for Tunneling (DAT). Many new railroad tunnels through the Alps are under construction or in the advanced planning and design stage. Their length (up to 57 km), the overburden (2000 m and more) and often unfavorable ground conditions make these tunnels highly challenging civil engineering projects. This seminar will provide general background on these projects and highlight some problematic geologic/geotechnical aspects. The emphasis will be placed on the application of the DAT with which the tunneling process can be simulated and which allow one to estimate cost, time and resources considering the associated uncertainties. The DAT have been and are being developed at MIT involving several faculty and many students as well as collaboration with other universities and engineering firms. This application will also show that tunnel construction can only be successful if planning, exploration, design and construction are fully integrated. free. Room: 1-350. Sponsor: Engineering & Environmental Mechanics Group.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - MTL VLSI Seminar Series. Sub 100 nm Process Development for System-on-Chip Devices. free. Room: 34-101. Sponsor: MTL VLSI Seminar.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - A. D. Little Lecture in Physical Chemistry. Nanoscience and the pathway towards nanocomputing. Buffet Reception in the Moore Room (6-321) at 5:30PM. For more information call 617-253-1905. free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: chemistry headquarters.

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - GTL Seminar Series. Recent Advances in Bladed Disk Mistuning Research. free. Room: 31-161. Sponsor: Gas Turbine Laboratory, AeroAstr.

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - "New Trends in European Migration Policy Cooperation." A session of the Inter-University Seminar on International Migration. Co-sponsored by the Center for European Studies at Harvard University. free. Room: E38-615. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - "My Father's Nation: Reflections on Biography, Memory, and Family." Part of History/Literature Workshop series. free. Room: E51-095. Sponsor: History Office.

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Freshmen and Sophomore Health Professions Information Session (repeat session). These sessions will be held to discuss FAQ's about the process of applying to health related professional schools, inform students about services offered by OCSPA, and to distribute timelines, premed advisor assignment forms, and information on resources within and outside of MIT. free. Room: 4-231. Sponsor: OCSPA.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Toastmasters@MIT Evening Meetings. 77 Mass. Avenue, Cambridge, Building 2, Room 2-131. free. Sponsor: Toastmasters.

Wednesday, November 20

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Childrens' Skating Registration. Room: W35-297X. Sponsor: Physical Education.

10:00 a.m. - Admissions Information Session. free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

10:45 a.m. - Campus Tour. free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Optics & Quantum Electronics Seminar. Quantum Imaging, Quantum Lithography and the Uncertainty Principle. free. Room: Grier Room B, 34-401B. Sponsor: Optics.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Biomedical Imaging Seminar Series. The Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging, a joint collaboration of Mass General Hospital, MIT, and Harvard Medical School through the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, presents this talk by James S. Duncan, PhD, Professor of Diagnostic Radiology and Electrical Engineering, Yale University. Professor Duncan is also director of Yale's Program in Biomedical Engineering. free. Room: 37-252 (Marlar Lounge). Sponsor: HST.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - "Pleasures of Poetry" Seminar. Discussion of Chinese poetry including "The Book of Odes," several translations, Wang Wei's "Farewell" led by Peter Perdue. Packets containing all of the poems are available from the Literature Office (Rm 14N-407). free. Room: Rm 14N-304. Sponsor: Literature Section.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - PowerPoint Quick Start. PowerPoint makes it easy to jazz up your presentations. Get an introduction to what PowerPoint can do. Find out how to create slide shows. The session includes demonstrations of how to use drawing tools, graphics, and create handouts. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Gallery Talk: Bill Arning. Bill Arning, List Visual Arts Center's curator, will give a gallery tour of the exhibition, "After the Beginning and Before the End." free. Room: E15 List Visual Arts Center. Sponsor: List Visual Arts Center.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Sustainable Transportation: Working toward a useful definition. Our presentation will discuss what are believed to be the core issues of the sustainable transportation debate. Of particular interest is the sustainability of the transportation sector itself, the relative sustainability of all sectors, and the connection between sustainable transportation and sustainable development. free. Sponsor: Laboratory for Energy and the Environment.

1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Rainbow Lounge Open. MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgendered members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours. free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbgt@MIT.

2:00 p.m. - Admissions Information Session. free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

2:45 p.m. - Campus Tour. free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - spouses&partners@mit: Anne Copeland. Anne Copeland, PhD, the Director of the Interchange Institute, an organization for people and organizations in intercultural transition, will return to our group to discuss cultural myths and legends and how they affect our every day lives. She will begin by exploring American cultural values and how they are passed from parent to child. Please begin thinking about the family and national stories you know well. Childcare provided. free. Room: W20-400. Sponsor: spouses&partners@mit, MIT Medical.

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Faculty Meeting. free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Faculty Chair.

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Finding an atmospheric vacuum cleaner in the whole earth catalog. Joint EAPS Departmental Lecture

Events Calendar 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 Events Calendar web page.

Series Seminar. free. Room: 54-915. Sponsor: MIT Atmospheric Science Seminars.

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Noise in Genetic Networks. The Harvard-MIT Computational Biology Journal Club, sponsored by HST's Bioinformatics and Integrative Genomics Program, is offered in conjunction with a seminar as part of HST.588 (Special Subjects in Medical Engineering and Medical Physics). For a reading list of today's topic and more information on upcoming seminars and journal club meetings, please visit <<http://insilico.mit.edu/>>. free. Room: E25-119. Sponsor: HST.

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Open Problems concerning Diagonal Harmonics. Refreshments will be served at 3:30PM in Room 2-349. free. Room: Room 2-338. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Industry Leaders in Technology and Management. The Pharmaceutical Industry in the Global Economy. free. Room: Tang Center, Wong Auditorium (Bldg. E51). Sponsor: Office of Corporate Relations/JLP, Center for Technology, Policy, and Industrial Development (CTPID).

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Aga Khan lecture. The Poetics of Concealment: Al-Nabulsi's Encounter with the Dome of the Rock. free. Room: 3-390. Sponsor: Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture.

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Buddhist Meditation: Guide to Bodhisattvas Way of Life. Meditation, Lecture, and Discussion on Shantideva's monumental philosophical treatise. free. Sponsor: Buddhist Community at MIT.

7:00 p.m. - Dramashop Auditions Workshop. Learn and practice auditioning skills; get feedback and advice from Profs, and professional actors. Special guests: MIT Prof. Tommy Defrantz, Elizabeth Jochum, Boston actor and Holy Cross Prof. Wanda Strukus. No preparation is necessary, but prepared monologues are welcomed. free. Room: Student Ctr Rm 400. Sponsor: Dramashop.

7:30 p.m. - Ham Radio Exams. The MIT Radio Society's Radio Exam Team offers amateur radio exams on the penultimate Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in Room 1-150 (there are usually signs posted). This is the place to earn a new license or upgrade your existing license. Technician through Extra Class tests are offered. \$10. Room: TBD - See Signs @ 1-150. Sponsor: MIT Radio Society.

8:00 p.m. - Weekly Wednesdays @ the Muddy Charles Pub. Meet your fellow social graduate students at the Muddy Charles Pub located in the Walker Memorial Building. What will be there for you? \$1 drafts, a variety of beers, wines and sodas, lots of free wings, Sox on the screen. Bring IDs. free. Room: Muddy Charles Pub. Sponsor: Edgerton House Residents' Association, MIT EntrepreneurshipCenter. TechLink, Wing It.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - IFILM Film Seminar. Screening of a movie followed by a discussion. free. Sponsor: International Film Club.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Weekly Wednesdays - 30K Lemelson-MIT Student Prize. Learn more about the \$30 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize for invention & innovation. Meet former winners and Lemelson-MIT staff. free. Room: The Muddy Charles Pub. Sponsor: Lemelson-MIT Program.

8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. - Swing Dancing. No partner required. Beginners welcome. free. Room: Student Center 2nd floor. Sponsor: Lindy Hop Society.

11:59 p.m. - Alternative Spring Break Application Deadline. Sign up now for one of our volunteer trips over spring break. free. Room: Online Application!. Sponsor: Alternative Spring Break.

Thursday, November 21

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Childrens' Skating Registration. Room: W35-297X. Sponsor: Physical Education.

10:00 a.m. - Admissions Information Session. free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

10:45 a.m. - Campus Tour. free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

11:00 a.m. - 12:25 p.m. - PSFC Seminar. "Turbulence in Wendelstein-7AS Plasmas." free. Room: NW17-218. Sponsor: Plasma Science and Fusion Center.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - SAPweb: Purchasing on the Web. (formerly Overview of Purchasing on the Web Quick Start) This course covers all aspects of using SAPweb for purchasing, including requisitioning from external vendors and internal providers, as well as ordering from Partner Vendors' online catalogs. Topics include: business rules governing requisitions creating and displaying requisitions in SAPweb accessing Partner Vendors' online catalogs." Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Rainbow Lounge Open. MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgendered members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours. free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbgt@MIT.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Myths about Promotion. free. Room: 1-214. Sponsor: Working Group on Support Staff Issues.

12:05 p.m. - MIT Chapel Concert. Clarice Jensen, cello. Bach's Cello Suite No. 2 and Elliot Carter's Fingert for Cello. free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Conversational English Class. Join us for a free conversational English class for international students and spouses at MIT. Most attendees are women able to speak freely who desire to increase their English skills. Class covers a variety of topics including American culture and holiday descriptions. Free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

2:00 p.m. - Admissions Information Session. free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Space Based Interceptor. Technical Seminar with MIT Security Studies Program's Research Fellow, Qiu Yong. free. Room: E38-615. Sponsor: Center for International Studies, Security Studies Program.

2:45 p.m. - Campus Tour. free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Physics Colloquium. "The Enigmatic Gamma-ray Bursts." free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Physics Department.

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - A. D. Little Lecture in Physical Chemistry. Nanowires as building blocks for nanoscale science and technology. For more information call 617-253-1905. free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: chemistry headquarters.

5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Deshpande Center Open House. Grant recipients from the first round of the Deshpande Center Grant Program show off their wares. By invitation only. Room: Cambridge. Sponsor: Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation.

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Cambridge-MIT Institute (CMI) Undergraduate Exchange Information Session. Thinking about spending a year at the University of Cambridge? Find out about the Cambridge-MIT Institute (CMI) Undergraduate Student Exchange! As a result of the alliance between MIT and the University of Cambridge, the CMI undergraduate student exchange program is well into its third full year of operation. Eleven MIT departments have sent and received students for 2002-2003; 44 from MIT and 49 from Cambridge. Learn more about this year-long exchange for MIT Juniors and their University of Cambridge counterparts including how to apply. Alumni of the exchange will be available to answer questions. free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Cambridge-MIT Institute (CMI) Undergraduate Exchange Office.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Biostrategy Seminar Series: Heidi Wyle. Sloan Biostrategy Seminar Series, featuring a lecture by Heidi Wyle, Chairman Ardaix Corporation. free. Room: E51-315. Sponsor: MIT EntrepreneurshipCenter. Sloan Biostrategy Seminar Series.

7:00 p.m. - poetry@MIT: The Return of Del Ray Cross. Cross is former administrative assistant in the MIT Office of the Secretary of the Corporation (1998-2000). He is the editor of a new on-line poetry magazine called Shampoo. He has been a member of the Jamaica Pond Poets for over two years. Cross has a bachelor's and a master's degree in Theatre Arts. He has been published in numerous publications and has occasionally read poems for WBUR's nighttime news program "Here and Now." His first chap-book, a "two-fer" published by Pressed Wafer (poems by Mike County and Del Ray Cross) was recently released. free. Room: Bartos Auditorium. Sponsor: Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies.

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - "Secrets, Riddles and Mysteries." Readings from "The Secret." Eva Hoffman will read from her new novel, "The Secret," and will talk about genes and selves, family relationships in the 21st century, and the impact of contemporary science on our notions of human nature. A book signing will follow the event. free. Room: 4-163. Sponsor: Foreign Languages & Literatures.

7:00 p.m. - Where Does Nature Begin? Navajo Culture and Ecology in the Balance. It's Thanksgiving season. With poetry, Churro wool, traditional Navajo weavings, and a business plan, we celebrate new opportunities for fair trade and sustainable development in Northern Arizona. Please join us. Free. Room: MIT 3-133. Sponsor: MIT Western Hemisphere Project. American Indian Science and Engineering Society; Women's Studies Program; Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies.

8:00 p.m. - Pirates of Penzance. Nov 21-23 at 8pm, Nov 23-24 at 2pm. \$10; \$8 MIT community, seniors, other students & children; \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Gilbert and Sullivan Players, MIT.

8:00 p.m. - "The Merchant of Venice." Faculty Workshop production directed by Michael Ouellette. free. Room: Kresge Rehearsal Rm B. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

8:00 p.m. - FREE SNEAK: The Friday After Next. In this sequel to Friday (1995) and Next Friday (2000), the cousins have moved out of their parents houses and into their own crib. After having Christmas present and rent money stolen by someone posing as Santa, Craig (Ice Cube) and Day Day (Mike Epps) get jobs working as unarmed security guards in the local mall, and team up to catch the thief. MIT or Wellesley ID required. Tickets available at 6pm in lobby 16. Rated R for language, sexual content and drug use. free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. - IFILM Film Seminar. Screening of a movie followed by a discussion. free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: International Film Club.

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - SAVE Meeting. Join us when we discuss environmentalism at MIT in all its aspects, including: assisting the MIT administration to improve environmental conditions; taking a boat along the Charles to clean it; trips to local nature reserves; and plants for the MIT community. free. Room: 1-246. Sponsor: SAVE.

11:59 p.m. - Campus Disc Golf. Do you like tossing a disc? Do you enjoy friendly competition? Or if you're just up for midnight antics, then come on out! Meet outside the Student Center on the front steps, and don't forget to bring a disc! Don't hesitate to come, newcomers are always welcomed - We meet every Thursday at midnight. Questions, contact Daniel Turek, macgyver@mit.edu. bring your own disc! Room: Student Center steps. Sponsor: Campus Disc Golf.

THE ARTS

CD REVIEW

Bjork: Greatest Hits + Family Tree

Reinspiring Awe and Devotion

By Fred Choi

STAFF WRITER

Greatest Hits, Family Tree

Bjork

Elektra

November 5, 2002

Bjork, Iceland's most popular export, is a master of seamlessly combining "serious" art with a catchy pop sensibility. Or perhaps she combines catchy pop music with a more "serious" sensibility. Either way, Bjork continues to successfully straddle the all too often disjunct worlds of pop and high art, and to please fans and critics alike in her lat-

est project, a collection of greatest hits. Never one to do the expected, Bjork's greatest hits take the form of two releases: a single disc (with the characteristically simple appellation *Greatest Hits*), and a 6 CD boxed set (comprised of 1 LP and 5 3-inch EPs) which can only be described as "lavish," entitled *Family Tree*.

Accompanying the two releases is an attractive and elaborate section on <http://bjork.com>, with a page devoted to each song on the Greatest Hits CD, including quotes and interviews with Bjork and others about the songs, stills from the videos, a discography of the EPs released for the song, and miscellaneous extras, such as concept drawings for the memorable "All Is Full of Love" music video and the story from the "Bachelorette" video.

"Greatest Hits," obviously the more marketable of the two releases, is geared towards newcomers, although the track-listing was based on a vote by fans at bjork.com. Culled from the songs officially released as "singles," the 15 tracks will immediately captivate newbies, although the songs will hold few surprises for fans, as most of the tracks have long received the attention they are due. Included are songs from Bjork's

three first releases, among them "Hyperballad," "Joga," "Isobel," "Bachelorette," and "Big Time Sensuality," (the latter presented here in the video remix version, as is the gorgeous "All Is Full of Love,") in addition to "Pagan Poetry" and "Hidden Place" from *Vespertine*, Bjork's most recent release. It is slightly surprising that the purposefully detached "Army of Me," the dreamy "Possibly Maybe," and the compelling but lesser-known "Play Dead" edged out such upbeat and poppy tunes as "Violently Happy," "I Miss You," and the almost saccharine international hit "It's Oh So Quiet." Obviously, Bjork's fans fully appreciate both the poppy and the artsy sides of their idol.

Greatest Hits as a whole affords two distinct pleasures. First, a fantastic new track, "It's In Our Hands," which Bjork has performed at the close of her shows during the last tour and which will soon make its appearance as a set of singles, but is released here for the first time. (Some fans may bristle at the fact that the song is only available on *Greatest Hits* and not on *Family Tree*, but the possible reasons have been left to speculation.)

Greatest Hits also allows long-time fans to re-examine a unique artist's output over a span of almost 10 years, and the awe that it reinvigorates is tremendous. In addition to possessing one of the most distinctive and unforgettable voices of the century, she does what few other artists do: combine such truly poetic lyrics with such highly crafted music, whose range includes playful jingles as in "Venus As A Boy," lush ballads like "Joga," almost avant-garde sounds, as in "Pagan Poetry," and many tracks, like "Hunter" and "Isobel," which skip blithely away from any obvious categories.

Family Tree is geared towards devoted fans, although in reality less than half of the music will be really new to the thoroughly rabid Bjork disciple. The familiar items include a full-length Greatest Hits CD compiled by Bjork herself and

a booklet featuring 16 lyrics that Bjork found representative of her oeuvre. The CD includes seven of the same songs featured on the fan-based release, and in general the disc leans towards slower, more atmospheric songs such as "You've Been Flirting Again" and "I've Seen It All" from Bjork's Cannes Award-winning role in *Dancer in the Dark*.

Among the semi-familiar tracks are some readily available b-sides, including "Sidasta Eg," a serene Debut b-side; a few tracks from Bjork's years with the Sugarcubes, the wonderfully manic Icelandic pop group Bjork sang in before going solo; and alternate versions of songs, including two EPs worth of the 1995 collaboration with the Brodsky Quartet (the pair had previously presented a colorful arrangement of "Hyperballad" on the remix CD *Telegram* and they gave two concerts in December 1999). The latter is the saving grace of the set for die-hard fans, as the tracks have not previously been available, and, with the exception of a glaringly trite quote from Bach's "Tocatta and Fugue," the arrangements are generally proficient; the Brodsky Quartet successfully retains the essence of the songs while providing a slightly different viewpoint.

Outside of the alternate versions of the songs, an obscure track from Bjork's much lesser-known second band Kukl, and some elaborate packaging, truly die-hard fans will already be familiar with the rest of the set. This includes some obscure b-sides, all worth owning, including the joyfully catchy "I Go Humble." The packaging itself might justify the set for some, however; the elaborately designed set comes in a plastic pink box in a white paper sleeve and the CD sleeves and booklets include 28 pictures of nicely complementary works by fellow Icelandic native, Gabriela Fridriksdottir, a sculptor.

Some may wonder why no songs from Bjork's other projects, including Tappi Tikarass (Bjork's first band) or any of the many successfully remixed which have been so central to Bjork's output, appear in the set. Although the set generally takes itself a little too seriously, for the most part avoiding the spontaneous fun and humour of Bjork's stage presence, the care taken in its design and its contents will be sure to reinvigorate devotion in fans, although newcomers should pick up the single disc first.



RICHARD FIBBS

Bjork's newest two CDs reexamine her musical career and release many previously unofficial B-side tracks.

EVENT REVIEW

A Glimpse of the Afterlife

Museum of Science Exhibit Features Treasures from Ancient Egypt

By Sonja A. Sharpe

STAFF WRITER

Museum of Science

The Quest for Immortality

Nov. 20, 2002–Mar. 30, 2003, Sat–Wed 9 a.m.

–5 p.m., Thu–Fri 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

\$20

Starting this Wednesday, the Museum of Science in Boston will host a major international exhibition of ancient Egyptian artifacts, called *The Quest for Immortality*. Sponsored by Eastern Bank, this exhibition features the largest selection of ancient Egyptian artifacts ever lent by Egypt for display in North America. Some of the objects in *The Quest for Immortality* have never been on public display or shown outside of Egypt. The exhibit presents a fascinating journey to ancient Egypt, and should definitely not be missed.

The Quest for Immortality offers over 100 treasures from ancient Egypt, with a focus on ancient Egyptian religious beliefs and their vision of the afterlife. The artifacts are therefore dedicated to showing not how the Egyptians lived their daily lives, but instead to what they believed happened to them after death. This exhibit of ancient Egyptian artifacts is different from one that might be seen in an art museum, as there is an emphasis not just on the objects themselves, but also on the science behind the archeology.

The exhibit includes statues of varying sizes, masks, coffins, furniture, relief sculptures, and wonderful gold jewelry, which is displayed towards the end of the exhibit. Many of the objects on display in the museum are not hidden behind glass, but are openly displayed so that patrons can inspect them up close. The exhibit is also not overly crowded with objects, and everything is displayed with adequate space and detailed descriptions, so patrons can clearly understand the importance of each object without becoming overwhelmed with information.

Artifacts not to be missed in *The Quest for Immortality* are the boat from the tomb of Amenhotep II, an eight-foot wooden model of the pharaoh's river ship, the canopic chest of Queen Nedjmet, which once held her internal

organs, the granite lid of the massive sarcophagus of Nitocris, the sculpture of the god Osiris, wrapped as a mummy with a gold and electrum headdress and shown with his head lifted in the process of resurrecting, and the many beautiful gold and jeweled items discovered in the royal tombs at Tanis, including the gold funerary mask of the courtier Wenudjebauendjed, which is exquisite.

The highlight of the exhibit, though, is a full-scale walk-through reconstruction of a pharaoh's burial chamber. This above all is the reason to visit *The Quest for Immortality*. The chamber was reconstructed based on the burial chamber in the tomb of the New Kingdom pharaoh Thutmose III. The room allows visitors to understand firsthand the ancient Egyptians beliefs and rituals of the afterlife, based on the journey that a deceased pharaoh takes from death to immortality.

The walls of the burial chamber display a facsimile of the earliest known complete painting of a sacred funerary text called the *Amduat*. The *Amduat* was an illustrated guide to the afterlife, containing spells and instructions, all intended to direct the deceased pharaoh toward the sunrise, which symbolized immortal rebirth to the ancient Egyptians. Thutmose was the first pharaoh to be buried with the *Amduat*.

The mural covers the walls in the burial chamber, effectively transporting the visitor back to ancient Egypt at the time of the pharaoh's death. The *Amduat* is written in hieroglyphics and accompanied by images of deities, demons, and the blessed dead of the afterlife. The text is divided

into the twelve hours of the night, symbolizing the journey of the sun from dusk until dawn, and visitors are able to experience the perils and triumphs that the sun encounters along the way. The sun's journey from dusk until dawn symbolizes the journey toward eternal life sought by all Egyptians, and it ends at sunrise with the deceased pharaoh's resurrection as the sun god Re.

The audio tour available for the exhibit, although narrated a bit pompously by Jeremy Irons, is extraordinarily informative and adds a more detailed understanding of the burial chamber beyond the descriptions posted on the plaques. The audio tour is less useful for the

rest of the exhibit, as all of the artifacts on display are well documented and their importance to the ancient Egyptians is described in detail with plaques.

There are other fascinating parts of the exhibit, aside from the artifacts and the burial chamber. There is a museum staff member on hand to describe how the ancient Egyptians made paper from the papyrus plant, including examples of the plant and pieces of papyrus paper made both by the museum and by specialty companies in Egypt today. There is also a continuously running 10-minute documentary, *The Quest for Immortality in Ancient Egypt*, which depicts the insights of the archaeologists involved in unlocking ancient Egypt's treasures.

Also extremely interesting is the mummy on display in the Mummification section of the exhibit. The mummy was transported to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in September 2002, where a CAT scan was performed on the body. The results of the scan are on display and help to demonstrate just one of the areas where state-of-the-art science is used to uncover the mysteries of ancient cultures.

Aside from the exhibit itself, the museum also offers an Omni movie and a new planetarium show to compliment the exhibit. Skip the pretentiously acted and uninspired Omni movie, *Mysteries of Egypt*, and instead watch the planetarium show, *Stars of the Pharaohs*, where the planetarium excels at replicating the Egyptian sky as it looked 4,000 years ago. If visitors would rather not shell out extra cash for either of these special shows, then the video inside the exhibit itself, *The Quest for Immortality in Ancient Egypt*, is a must. It is certainly more informative than the Omni movie.

The Museum of Science is celebrating the opening of *The Quest for Immortality* by offering a free sunrise tour of the exhibit on opening day, to highlight the exhibit's theme of the pharaohs' preparation for the afterlife and their rebirth with the sun god at dawn. The museum will open at 6:42 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 20, and the first 1,000 patrons will be able to see the exhibit free of charge until 8:45 a.m.

The Quest for Immortality will run until March 30, 2003. The exhibit will be open Saturday – Wednesday from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. and Thursday – Friday from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. Entry into the exhibit is by timed ticket entry. Tickets can be purchased for \$20 in person at the Museum of Science, by phone at 617-723-2500, or online at <<http://www.mos.org/quest>>. The audio guide (highly recommended) is an extra \$5.



THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

Nedjmet's canopic chest, decorated with a statue of Anubis, contained her internal organs after mummification.

CD REVIEW

So Much Shouting, So Much Laughter

So Much Preaching

By Fred Choi

STAFF WRITER

So Much Shouting, So Much Laughter

Ani DiFranco

Righteous Babe

Sept. 10, 2002

Like most of her works of late, Ani DiFranco's latest release, a live two-CD set, *So Much Shouting, So Much Laughter*, is an uncomfortable mix of the "beautiful and grotesque," to quote one of her songs. Recorded in the year and a half from the end of 2000 to the beginning of 2002, the recording features the band, which included drums, bass, horns; Ani on vocals and guitars; and Julie Wolf doing a nice job on keyboards. The set includes a pair of brand new, fairly well-written songs, and quite a few songs from her previous release, *Revelling/Reckoning*. The latter was a similarly hopelessly mixed two-CD release, much of which was mediocre and an appalling amount of which was virtually unlistenable due to trite lyrics and oftentimes as trite music. This set, fortunately, also includes some successful new arrangements with prominent horn parts of long-time live favorites, some of which made an appearance on *Living in Clip*, her double live CD from 1997. Although not all of the older songs benefit from the live treatment and few are likely to be all-time favorite versions, most are worth at least a listen.

In general the disc continues the funkting musical vein that DiFranco has explored recently (as opposed to the "folk punk" sound of her most popular releases), which for the most part still continues to sound like pale imitations. Juxtaposed with the old songs, it becomes obvious that DiFranco's newer songs have lost the power, specificity, and uniqueness that were previously so pervasive. Impulsive passion has replaced crafted coherency, and bluster has replaced poetry. In "Ain't That the Way," the opening song of the second disc, DiFranco's Hallmark-style lyrics

go, "isn't it just like you/ to bring me to my knees/ in my brand new stockings?/ Love makes me feel so dumb." And in "To the Teeth," a ludicrously simplified take of the problem of gun control in America, DiFranco's intended irony goes woefully awry in lines like "open fire on hollywood ... MTV ... NBC ... CBS ... and ABC ... on the NRA ... on each weapons manufacturer/ while he's giving head/ to some Republican senator."

These songs lack the pitch-perfect combination of poignancy and politics found in older songs such as "Crime for Crime," which examined capital punishment; "'Tis of Thee," which looked at inequities in the criminal system; and the beautiful "Hello, Birmingham," which focused on abortion issues. In the newer, overtly political songs, DiFranco avoids catharsis and insight and instead offers up a viewpoint as narrow-minded as those she rails against.

In the track that will cause the most sharply divided reaction, DiFranco responds to the



Ani DiFranco spends much of her new CD preaching politics.

ALBERT SANCHEZ

events of September 11. "Self evident," an unedited and long-winded nine-minute poem, points its angry finger at the government, and at newscasters who were "struck dumb and stumbling over 'oh my god' and 'this is unbe-

lievable' and on and on" and who DiFranco suggests were part of a media conspiracy to promote "some prep school punk's plan to perpetuate retribution." DiFranco bluntly proclaims, "we hold these truths to be self evident:/ number one: George W. Bush is not president/ number two: America is not a true democracy/ number three: the media is not fooling me." Further, it becomes apparent that her proposed solution to "get off of this sauce" (i.e. oil) is to "shoo away the swarms of commuter planes/ and find that train ticket we lost" so we can "[roll] over ridges/ through valleys/ under stars." Clearly DiFranco has read Walden, but other than advocating choosing trains over planes she offers little beyond finger-pointing, preaching to the choir, and the subsequent alienation of former fans who are turned off not by her political messages, but their unartistic and unrefined presentation.

Even sadder than DiFranco's misguided although well-intentioned efforts is the knee-jerk reaction of the audience. Listen to the crowd scream whenever DiFranco makes some meaningless comment like "millions sit jeering/ collectively cheering/ at the blood-thirsty hierarchy of the patriarchal arrangement" from the long-winded but empty "tamburitzta lingua." DiFranco clearly feels comfortable stating the problems she sees around her. She has been known to play at a benefit here and there and is a vocal supporter of the Green Party, but other artists have done more. If DiFranco wants to preach from the stage, perhaps she should take her cue from others who have seen more action than just standing around and talking about problems and instead spent their time founding non-profit organizations and using their fame, time, and money to fund and promote them.

It is disappointing that the substantial quality of the majority of the tracks is overshadowed by the utter lack of quality of some of the other songs. Tracks like "Letter to a John," "Napoleon," and "Cradle and All" show DiFranco at her best; she has clearly proven she is a formidably talented figure who can write intelligent and powerful songs. However, maybe she should think about taking some time off from churning out an album every year and a half and shouting herself hoarse about problems which we already know exist, and use her fame to suggest and implement solutions instead.

EAT THIS

Kitchen Basics: Make Life Easy (and Tasty)

Stock Your Cabinets with the Essentials

By Winnie Yang

STAFF WRITER

I used to share dinner duty with my good friend Joyce (who is now basking in Santa Monica's fine sunshine, lucky girl), and I'd trek over to her suite at Bexley regularly to create our usual brand of Korean, Taiwanese, Mediterranean, and hungry-college-kid-influenced cuisine. While I envied her gas stove (my dorm had those awful, inconsistent electric ranges), I inevitably found myself griping about her suite's sad collection of dull knives and their understocked larder. We'd end up running over to LaVerde's for items that I consider essential if one does any reasonable amount of cooking. I found this to be true of many of my friends' kitchens, and I've since realized that keeping your kitchen properly stocked is just a matter of knowing what's important and what you'll always reach for. And if you do keep these staples on hand, you'll feel all that more inclined to make something yourself.

The most important part of your basic kitchen is a sharp chef's knife. This, strangely enough, is not intuitively obvious and even sounds intimidating to many. However, there is really nothing less pleasurable than using a dull knife for prep, much less a dull serrated steak knife. A chef's knife, contrary to the name, isn't designated solely for the rarefied ranks of restaurant cooks; it is the most useful tool in any kitchen. The curved tip facilitates the rocking motion for the most efficient chopping, while the wide blade can handle anything from the thinnest, finest chive leaves to unwieldy, thick-rinded melons.

A perfectly serviceable chef's knife can be had for about \$30 and is definitely worth the investment. And a good knife will last years if cared for properly. You can certainly pay much, much more (and not necessarily for better quality), but it's unnecessary for the average home cook. Regardless of price, it is very important to check out knives before making any kind of purchase, as you want a knife that feels good in the hand; one that's balanced, whether light or heavy (a

personal preference), the handle best shaped for your grip, the best length for your use (they usually come in six, eight, nine, and ten inch blades). High carbon-steel alloys are the way to go (and I could get into the hows and whys of it, but this would quickly turn into a column on just knives).

In Boston, Kitchen Arts (161 Newbury Street) offers one of the best selections, and their knowledgeable staff can help you find a suitable knife, as well as offer advice on how to take care of it. They also sell refurbished knives (I've seen my favorite Wüsthof 9-inch for \$30, a total steal). Keeping your knife sharp is critical, of course. There's no point in buying a nice knife if it's only good for spreading butter. I sharpen mine on a whetstone, but it takes some practice and patience (and Kitchen Arts will also sharpen your knife for about three dollars).

Paring knives are also essential and make short work of small tasks. You can get a great paring knife for about five dollars. Clearly, if you have knives, you'll need a cutting board. And though everyone could use a good pot and a cast iron skillet, I think it's less important to specify a particular type of cooking vessel than the right kind of knife. Most of what's available on the market will get the job done.

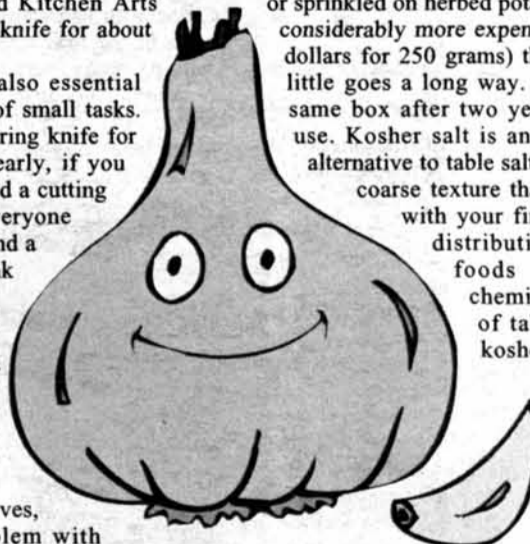
Besides the dull knives, my other major problem with Joyce's kitchen was her constant lack of garlic. I always keep a couple heads of garlic around, as well as a few yellow onions, or some scallions or shallots. The allium family of bulbous plants (which also includes leeks, chives, and ramps) serves as the best flavoring agent for just about anything. Even if all that's left in your pantry is some old bread, you can toast that, pop some unpeeled cloves into an oven at 375° sprinkled with salt and drizzled with olive oil and in 30 minutes, you'll have a lovely creamy, gar-

licky spread for your bread. This, of course, only works if you also keep salt and olive oil on hand (which most people tend to do these days).

I am very particular about my salt. While this might seem a bit obsessive, the difference in taste between all the different kinds of salts is remarkable. I grew up on the blue canister of Morton iodized table salt, but really, that stuff is only good for making biscuits. For flavoring dishes, the metallic, almost chlorine taste can prove way too harsh. I'm a big fan of Maldon sea salt, a little white box of large, flaky crystals that you can crush in your fingertips to season as you're cooking. Left uncrushed, the crystals offer a really wonderful crunchy texture to salads or crusted onto salmon or pork chops or sprinkled on herbed potatoes. While it's considerably more expensive (about five dollars for 250 grams) than table salt, a little goes a long way. I still have the same box after two years of constant use. Kosher salt is another excellent alternative to table salt. It also offers a

coarse texture that you can grab with your fingers for better distribution and flavors foods without the chemical astringency of table salt. While kosher salt does not have the excellent flaky texture of Maldon, it costs much less.

As for cooking fat, I tend to use olive oil the most. I reserve the extra virgin stuff for dipping bread or for dousing roasted peppers or fresh mozzarella balls (sprinkled with my Maldon sea salt and some rosemary, naturally). Sesame oil lends a delicious aroma to stir-fries and makes great salad dressing, but be warned that it's much too strong for dishes that don't have a particular Asian bent. I also like to cook with butter sometimes for the added richness. I definitely prefer the Land O Lakes



Ultra Creamy kind (unsalted for cooking or baking, salted for spreading). It's 83 percent butterfat, as opposed to the usual 80 percent in most commercial American brands. The higher butterfat content gives it much better cooking properties as well as really exceptional flavor and texture.

Pepper is a critical flavoring component, and I prefer to buy jars of black peppercorns which I grind fresh when I season my dishes. White pepper offers even more of a kick.

When making a dish, people often overlook a sour or acidic element, which can really balance out sweet or salty flavors and give the dish a little depth. Vinegars are great acids, and the red, white, and rice wine varieties are probably the most useful. (I don't find myself using balsamic as often as others might, but if you're a fan, you probably have a bottle anyway. And just so you know, if it ain't from Modena, it ain't balsamic vinegar.) I actually prefer limes and lemons for acid, and they prove useful for so many more dishes (especially fish or Southeast Asian dishes).

For soy sauce, I eschew the Kikkoman for a big jug of Wan Ja Shan (available in most Asian grocery stores). As my mother says, "It just tastes better." I keep a finger or two of fresh ginger around to add to meat or vegetable stir-fries. Big cans of whole peeled plum tomatoes (the San Marzano variety are best) are better than the fresh kind for making sauce from scratch. Pine nuts toasted in a hot pan with a little oil are a wonderful crunchy addition to just about any dish. Canned beans are always handy to have around (especially for soup). I always keep a big wedge of Parmigiano-Reggiano in the fridge, wrapped in wax paper to allow it to breathe without drying out. This cheese (and alternatively, Grana Padano, Pecorino Romano, Manchego, and a few others) is ideal for grating over pastas, risottos, vegetables, soups, and bread, shaved over salads, or for just nosing with a glass of wine and some fruit.

Why high carbon-steel alloy knives? What's fleur de sel, and why didn't you mention it? Why cook? Address your questions to <winyang@alum.mit.edu>.

CONCERT REVIEW

All Smiles at the FJE

Magali Souriau Leads an Inspirational Concert

By Jeremy Baskin
ARTS EDITOR

Festival Jazz Ensemble
Kresge Auditorium
Nov. 15, 8 p.m.

At some point in the middle of the Festival Jazz Ensemble's first concert of the season on Friday night, I realized jazz is just plain fun. Perhaps it was the happy-go-lucky dancing of the guest conductor Magali Souriau, or maybe the superb choice of repertoire, but — as they say — happiness was in the air.

The first of three highly acclaimed guest conductors to be brought in by the imaginative and inspired Fred Harris to direct the FJE this year, Souriau is a rising star in the jazz world. Along with a couple of other prominent jazz musicians such as Maria Schneider and Guillermo Klein (who has spent time in residence with the FJE in the past), Souriau is reviving the genre of big band music.

Based on Friday's concert, it's safe to say that she is achieving this by looking forward, not backward; it's also safe to say that she is doing it in an extremely convincing manner.

Much of the music on Friday's program was composed by Souriau in her sophisticated, yet catchy, compositional style. The sharp turns her music takes are unpredictable, yet the music is so coherently constructed that to take away even one such musical surprise would be tantamount to highway robbery.

In addition to playing their instruments, the ensemble members whistled and hummed at times during Souriau's pieces. She complemented this desire to urge the musicians to use vehicles other than their instruments to be expressive by dancing and singing along to many of the pieces on the program. Her devotion to the music was so apparent during her frolicking on stage that it made me wonder why people go to such pains to be absolutely quiet and still during a perfor-

mance. If she can have fun, why can't we?

And fun she certainly did have. She played piano during a couple of her compositions, the Keith Jarrett-like "Petite Promenade" and the heart-wrenching "Them," a world premiere written "for all the souls of the World Trade Center." This last piece featured repeated calm, yet dissonant, chords. The soothing singing of the band members, along with the dimmed lights, provided the best musical memorial I have yet heard for the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy.

There were, of course, happier moments in the concert as well. The second-to-last number on the program was titled simply "A Surprise."

Souriau turned to the audience and declared, "I like surprises," as the members of the ensemble took out of plastic bags stuffed animals, each of which played a different nursery rhyme. An homage to Souriau's two-year-old son followed, as the band members held the stuffed animals in front of microphones and let the animals do the music-making for perhaps three or four minutes.

The concert also featured musical excellence on the part of the FJE musicians. Tenor saxophonist Alexander M. Mekelburg '04 and trombonist Daniel M. Halperin '04 redefined the word "intense" after their solos in the FJE combo's rendition of Kenny Garrett's "Sing a Song of Song," and all four trombonists sounded very polished in an arrangement by Andrew C. Thomas '04 of Sonny Rollins' "Strode Rode."



Tenor saxophonist Alexander M. Mekelburg '04 solos in Kenny Garrett's "Sing a Song of Song" as trombonist Daniel M. Halperin '04 looks on.

One of the highlights of the concert for Miles Davis fans was the performance of "Autumn Leaves" exactly as it was performed on the Cannonball Adderley album *Something Else*. The players had learned every note and nuance of the recording and attempted to reproduce everything.

While perhaps it is too much to ask the FJE players to reproduce the irreverence of Miles Davis or the in-your-face cool of Cannonball, the performance was on the whole exciting and definitely made me want to pull out that album and listen to it all over again. Notable amongst the excellent solos was the sublime piano playing of Kevin T. Chen '05, who gave a heartfelt rendition of Hank Jones' timeless solo at the end of the song.

In this year of guests at the helm of the FJE, let's hope that the next two are at least half as inspiring as the forever smiling Magali Souriau.



Guest conductor Magali Souriau, guitarist Roberto C. Rangel '06, alto saxophonist Michael I. Mandel '04, and tenor saxophonist Tanya Cruz Garza '04 hold their favorite toys in a "surprise" performance for Souriau's two-year old son.



Trombonists Vanessa H. Quinlivan '06, Daniel M. Halperin '04, Andrew C. Thomas '04, and Ethan M. Fenn '04, perform Thomas' arrangement of Sonny Rollins' "Strode Rode."

CONCERT REVIEW

A Turkish Delight

Boston Lyric Opera Scores High With Mozart's 'Seraglio'

By Bence Olveczky

STAFF WRITER

The Abduction from the Seraglio

By W. A. Mozart

Boston Lyric Opera, Shubert Theatre

Nov. 6, 8, 12, 15, and 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 10 and 17 at 3 p.m.

Directed by James Robinson

Conducted by Stephen Lord

Starring Eric Cutler, Jennifer Casey Cabot,

Cyndia Sieden, Harold Gray Meers

Boston Lyric Opera's entertaining, joyous, and well-sung production of Mozart's comic opera, *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, fittingly evokes the spirit of the giggling and mischievous composer so endearingly captured in the Oscar-winning film *Amadeus*. Mozart was only 25 years old when he wrote the opera, and while it does not rank among his best works, the BLO delivers it in such a fine package that it's hard to resist its charm.

Mozart originally set *Seraglio* in 16th century Turkey, right in the Pasha Selim's Harem. Konstanza and Blonde, kidnapped by pirates and sold to the Pasha as wife and maid respectively, are yearning for freedom and love. The Pasha, in a desperate exercise of unrequited love, showers Konstanza with gifts

and flatter, but she valiantly resists him, saving herself for Belmonte, the Spanish nobleman whom she loves.

In Boston Lyric Opera's production, the setting is more modern, and Belmonte's efforts to find and free Konstanza from her imprisonment now take place on the Orient Express, the legendary train connecting Istanbul and Paris. Instead of the *Seraglio*'s pomp and orientalism, the stage design by Allen Moyer evokes the atmosphere of a luxurious turn-of-the-century train ride, complete with mahogany interior and plush seats. The cars cleverly section and frame the stage, allowing for rapid scene shifts, while using the small Shubert stage to create a sense of intimacy. Anne R. Oliver's glamorous costume design, paired with the fact that the opera is sung in English and has a lot of spoken dialogue, calls to mind the gay spirit of the vintage Hollywood musical.

The only annoying part of James Robinson's otherwise spirited and fluid direction is his use of Islamic cultural stereotypes to get some cheap laughs. The Harem girls in the Pasha's entourage are all sour looking women covered in black chadors from top till toe, while the Pasha's servant is an alcohol-drinking hypocrite. This portrayal is particularly uncalled for and unfortunate in a time when

misunderstanding Islam has become a national obsession.

The singing in solid throughout. Tenor Eric Cutler's voice has grace, lyricism, and volume in abundance, but his mannerisms are more like those of a shy youngster than a heroic nobleman. His love interest, Konstanza, is sung by a rather pregnant Jennifer Casey Cabot, who had some trouble with the high notes in the first act, but pulled through to deliver a strong overall performance.

Another vocal treat comes from Cyndia Sieden in the role of Blonde, who covers the wide range of octaves with impressive confidence and accuracy. In an unorthodox twist of

musical history, Mozart did not give the Pasha a single note to sing, and John Douglas Thompson, an actor from the American Repertory Theatre, plays the role with much the same grandeur as he showed in last year's *Othello*.

The singing is accompanied and aided by an excellent performance from the orchestra, led by Stephen Lord, making *Seraglio* one of the best opera productions in Boston in recent years. Additional good news is that the Boston Lyric Opera has started offering student rush tickets (50 percent off), making this musical delight affordable. The bad news is that the last performance is tonight, so if you're an opera buff, you have little time to waste.



Konstanza (Soprano Jennifer Casey Cabot), Pedrillo (Tenor Harold Gray Meers), Belmonte (tenor Eric Cutler), and Blonde (soprano Cyndia Sieden) sing in the BLO's performance of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*.

FILM REVIEW ★★★1/2

Darker Harry Potter Sequel Hypnotizes

The Chamber of Secrets Has Been Opened

By Kevin Der

STAFF WRITER

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
Written by Steve Kloves

Based on the novel by J. K. Rowling

Directed by Chris Columbus

Starring Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Richard Harris, Kenneth Branagh
Rated PG

Potterphiles and casual moviegoers rejoice — the film void of the fall season is over. Finished. No longer is the highest grossing movie of the weekend *Jackass* or *I Spy*. In a flash of flame and brilliance as if sent by floo powder, Harry Potter returns in *Chamber of Secrets*, the second film to be transformed from J. K. Rowling's now legendary novels. (If you haven't read the Harry Potter books, by the way, haul ass to the nearest bookstore.)

Chamber is darker and more intense than its predecessor, and with improved acting and seamless special effects, it is far superior to *Sorcerer's Stone*. Twelve-year-old Harry Potter, spending the summer with his Muggle relatives after his first year at Hogwarts, receives a dire message from house-elf Dobby, who says that the young wizard will be in great danger if he returns to school. Indeed, those disregarded warnings begin to come true very quickly, as a series of misfortunes soon befall poor Harry, who always seems to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

It doesn't take long for Harry to be ostracized by most of the students, who think he's been attacking fellow wizards, and eventually only his faithful pals Ron and Hermione stand by him. To uncover the truth, the three engage in a round of tumultuous adventures, which

include crashing a flying car and fleeing from hundreds of giant spiders, all the while breaking countless school rules. Excellent pacing of events and smooth transitions of *Chamber's* screenplay adaptation give rise to a truly wonderful film.

It's safe to say that the three young actors who play the trio of wizards have improved their acting. Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, and Emma Watson weren't dreadful in the first film, but their performances were adequate at best. Now, they are completely convincing. Radcliffe does a splendid job interacting with CG character Dobby, and his struggles in the chamber while battling for his life are genuine. He rarely misses a moment during the entire film. Grint's performance is likewise more

compelling in *Chamber*. Watson's portrayal of Hermione is far more notable, however. Possibly her finest moment is when she faces off against Draco Malfoy after he calls her a Mudblood (the most offensive slur for a Muggle). Moments later in Hagrid's hut, she is on the verge of bursting into tears; it is without doubt a touching moment.

Returning from the first film, support characters such as Hagrid (Robbie Coltrane), McGonagall (Maggie Smith), and Dumbledore (Richard Harris) are again outstanding. We still wish that Snape (Alan Rickman) could get more screen time, though. Whether he is preying on Harry and Ron or simply present in any scene, Rickman is superb. Perhaps the finest acting must be credited to Kenneth Branagh, who plays the self-centered, incompetent Professor Lockhart with both humor and poise. Then there is Lucius Malfoy (Jason Isaacs), Draco's father, whose cruelty and contempt for practically everyone makes him a walking manifestation of evil.

Chamber has a great deal more special effects than did *Sorcerer's Stone* and implements them flawlessly into the film. The Whomping Willow



Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) faces his ultimate opponent once again in *Chamber of Secrets*.

GAME REVIEW

Potter Game Fails to Enchant

Try, But Only Potterphiles Should Buy

By Christopher Ling

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
Published by Electronic Arts
Made for Nintendo GameCube

If you don't already know, the Harry Potter series, the crazy, literary cocaine of J. K. Rowling, has been the single contributing factor in getting kids in America to read books that don't have the line, "See Spot run."

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets for the GameCube is based on the second of this four-book saga, which also shares the same name. According to several of my friends who have read the book, the second game pretty much follows most of the book's storyline: Harry and company, back for their second year at Hogwarts, are trying to uncover the mystery behind the Chamber of Secrets, which contains a great evil that, when unleashed, will rain fire and brimstone on the non-magical-born students of the school. The funny thing is, I never got far enough to see all the burning and destruction that I assumed would be there as I had begun to tear out my eyeballs from frustration fairly early on in the game.

N64 Zelda-philes will be able to pick up the

controls very easily, as they are basically carbon copies of the ones found in Shigeru Miyamoto's games: the A button is used as actions for events such as opening doors, talking to people, and accessing save points. Various spells that you learn can be assigned to the B, X, and Y buttons, while the Z button is used to open up your menu screen. There is also a Z-targeting (or in this case, L-targeting) system which allows you to lock on to the nearest enemy. I have the most gripes with this feature. For some reason, when you target enemies, your actual chances of hitting them are usually less than if you had just fired blindly into the room. Secondly, when you attempt to lock on to targets behind you, the camera never swivels around so you're able to face it, leaving you pretty much open to getting smacked upside the head by floating books (yes, I kid you not). However, all in all, the controls are very workable and shouldn't impede Potter fans from enjoying the game's atmosphere.

Chamber of Secrets' gameplay borrows heavily from a lot of commercially successful games, such as the Nintendo 64's *Legend of Zelda* titles, the *Metal Gear Solid* series, and even *Sonic the Hedgehog*. But even with all these elements in play, the structure of the

game ends up being fairly conventional. The game is pretty much an overdone action/puzzle game, which consists of Harry resigning himself (yes, the voice acting makes it clear that he hates the game events as well) to running around and doing favors for various people like finding lost belongings and buying a textbook for his class.

However, even if you like this sort of interactive masochism, you'll eventually find that at least 50 percent of the time you set aside to play the game is wasted on absurdly long loading screens. This pain is compounded during the parts of the game where Harry must sneak around a room undetected, à la Solid Snake, to obtain a particular item. The pre-set camera angles make it virtually impossible to see where in the room the person you're hiding from is. Changing the camera view with the C-stick can help alleviate this problem, but you'll still get caught often enough for you to get a migraine. The game would have been considerably better without the inclusion of these sneaking levels, to the point where I would probably have played a lot farther into the game.

The parts of the game I really enjoyed mostly consisted of flying and dueling. I have to admit that flying in the game doesn't require

is quite a thrill as it beats the flying car into submission with Harry and Ron trapped inside. Quidditch is much more realistic this time, guaranteed to immerse the audience as Harry and Draco fly beneath the stands, dodging wooden beams while trying to catch the Snitch. Fawkes the phoenix is also convincing. And while some may be expecting Dobby to be an obnoxious CG fabrication such as a certain unnamed character that we would like to see dead, that could not be further from the truth.

The finale in the Chamber is the most intense sequence of the film. The basilisk is real, and the duel between Harry and the beast is likewise excellent, yet it contains one of the few flaws in the script. There is a profound shot of the young wizard dragging himself out of the chamber, with one hand weakly holding the sword, the other clutching his wounded arm, and the twelve-year-old knows that he is dying from the basilisk's venom. Radcliffe perfectly utters the line, "You were brilliant, Fawkes. I just wasn't quick enough," and then he gives a weak smile in the face of death. All this is done so well, and then a misused cue from John Williams flares, Fawkes swoops down, in an instant curing the wound with his tears, after which Harry says, "Thanks!" Couldn't we have seen the young wizard suffer for more than an instant, as fear flickers into his eyes and he momentarily thinks about death, a theme so wonderfully developed up to this point? It is the very small number of mistakes like this one, however small, which prevent *Chamber* from being flawless.

Overall, *Chamber of Secrets* is the magical, engaging, and visually stunning continuation to *Sorcerer's Stone* that everyone wants. General opinion is that each subsequent Harry Potter book gets better exponentially, and so far, the same is true of the films. I can't even imagine how good *Prisoner of Azkaban* is going to be. *Chamber of Secrets* has nothing to worry about, not even little folk with hairy feet. With so many great films coming out, though, it surely won't be too difficult to keep busy during the next six months while we wait for *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*.

much brainwork, but it's flying, for crying out loud! The first day I played the game, I spent an entire hour trying to master the final test for the broom-flying class, in which you have to fly into as many stationary, moving, and size-changing magical rings as possible within a minute. I can now proudly say that I'm a "Distinguished" Nimbus 2000 rider. As an extension to that, I also enjoyed the Quidditch game, which was similarly simple yet oddly satisfying. Dueling is another case in which simplicity works very well. These one-on-one battles reminded me of the new Pong game made by Atari a year or two back. Basically, you and your opponent are given five life points which you deplete by firing magical Flipendo balls at each other while reflecting back your opponent's attack with your magic shield. You also have to watch out for the balls that explode just next to you, as they release energy waves that you can't block at all.

Before I had played it, I honestly expected this game to be a dismal failure; however, it seems that unlike the first batch of Harry Potter games, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* has a fairly solid gameplay base and some fun mini-games to fool around with. It's no Miyamoto title, but it incorporates enough of his games to create an experience that doesn't feel like a cheap attempt to cash in on a popular franchise. This is probably a game that should be tried out, but it should only be bought outright by true Harry Potter fans. On a scale of one to ten, surprisingly I'd have to give it a five.



I Nyoman Catra, (left) one of Bali's most renowned master artists of traditional dance, and guest artist Desak Made Suarti Laksmi, (right) one of only two internationally performed female Gamelan composers from Bali, perform with the MIT Gamelan Galak Tika on Sunday in Kresge Auditorium. The event featured traditional Balinese and Javanese music and was a benefit for the Bali Relief Fund.

LIZ ZELLNER—THE TECH

Help Rescue Our Families Persecuted in China

Bostonians speak out to rescue their loved ones



From Left to Right: **Haiying He**, **Haiyan He** (sister), **Yanyun Huang** (mother), **Anhua He** (father), **Haiou He** (brother)

"...What has become of my family? My father the music teacher was detained. My mother, the kindergarten teacher, spent one and a half years in a labor camp where she experienced daily abuse. My younger brother, a doctor, has been tortured and sentenced to ten years in jail. My sister-in-law was forced to attend brainwashing classes and deprived of her position as a medical doctor. My younger sister, a primary school teacher, was sentenced to a labor camp where she was placed in solitary confinement and subjected to continuous brainwashing. My warm, happy family, that had devoted itself to helping others through teaching and medicine, has been torn to pieces simply because they do not want to give up Falun Gong and its principles of Truth, Compassion, and Forbearance."

— Dr. Haiying He, biomedical researcher, Harvard Medical School.

For more info: contact falundafa-officers@mit.edu
<http://web.mit.edu/falundafa/www/home.html>
www.faluninfo.net | www.falundafa.org

What: An open forum to tell stories of their families persecuted in China
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2002
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Place: MIT, Building 4-231

In an effort to rescue loved ones persecuted in China, family members residing in the U.S. and around the world have initiated a Rescue Our Family Members campaign. The results of this campaign have been encouraging. In just a few months since its initiation, five Falun Gong practitioners have gained early release.

In the Boston area, four Falun Gong practitioners have family members who have been in long-term incarceration in labor camps in China: Dr. Haiying He, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School; Yufeng Liang, self-employed computer engineer; Bei Gou, Senior Analyst, I.S.O. New England; Tie Wu, computer engineer. As the holiday season approaches, their pain and worry intensify.

Your presence will help make a difference...

Fourth Family Member Gains Early Release During the Global "Rescue Our Family Members" Campaign

TORONTO, ON (Falun Dafa Information Center) -- Mr. Bo Qiu, a 27-year-old photographer whose sister and mother live in Toronto, Canada was freed by Chinese authorities on October 23rd, one year ahead of his scheduled release. Mr. Qiu is the fourth Falun Gong practitioner to be released under pressure from the global "Rescue Our Family Members" campaign...

Sponsored by:



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Dormitory Council Seeks Uninterrupted 2003 Rush

Dormitory Rush, from Page 1

should be brought back as an uninterrupted multiday event prior to the closing of the Orientation Lottery."

Planning begins early

Williams said Dormcon was already working on a potential schedule for Orientation 2003. Last December, Dormcon tried to include the rush period in the 2002 Orientation schedule, but by then it was too late, he said.

During Orientation 2002, Williams said, the time allotted for dormitory rush consisted of the residence midway and "any time that hadn't been scheduled" for something else.

"Freshmen who were studying for advanced standing exams or who actually cared about the [official] Orientation activities" did not participate in dormitory rush, he said.

Dormitory rushers "felt their time was being scheduled over without recourse," Williams added.

Julie B. Norman, associate dean of academic resources and programming, who oversees the Orientation schedule, said that her office would not start working on the schedule until the Residence System Implementation Team releases its report on this year's residence selections, scheduled for January.

However, "I don't think the Institute is going to go backwards to the way we used to do housing rush," Norman said, referring to four-day rush periods in years past. She said her goal was to "improve on last year's" housing rush.

"The challenge we have [with advanced standing exams] is that we need to have those exams" completed and graded as soon as possible "so we can get those results to the freshman advisers," she said.

Norman added that she was "not sure the conflict with advanced standing exams is as big as it appears to be on the surface," pointing out that less than 125 students took the advanced standing chemistry exam.

Dorms take varied stances

MacGregor House President Tyler J. Bronder '03 said the MacGregor House government supports the petition and signatures were "nearing about 50 percent of the dorm" yesterday evening.

Williams, who is the president of East Campus, said he was "willing to bet that a sizeable proportion of EC [residents would] sign the petition."

"People here have a very firm belief" that where one chooses to live is "one of the most important decision you make at MIT," Williams said. "People [at EC] are rabid about" preserving old-fashioned dormitory rush.

Senior House President Daniel E. Mcanulty '04 said Senior House had made "no organized endorsement."

Joel C. Corbo '04, president of Random Hall, said his house gov-

ernment "hadn't really discussed" the petition. He said between 30 and 35 of Random's 89 residents had signed the petition.

McCormick Hall President Marjan S. Bolouri '04 said McCormick had not taken any stance on the issue.

Vikash Gilja '03, president of Simmons Hall, said Simmons had not yet discussed the issue, but that

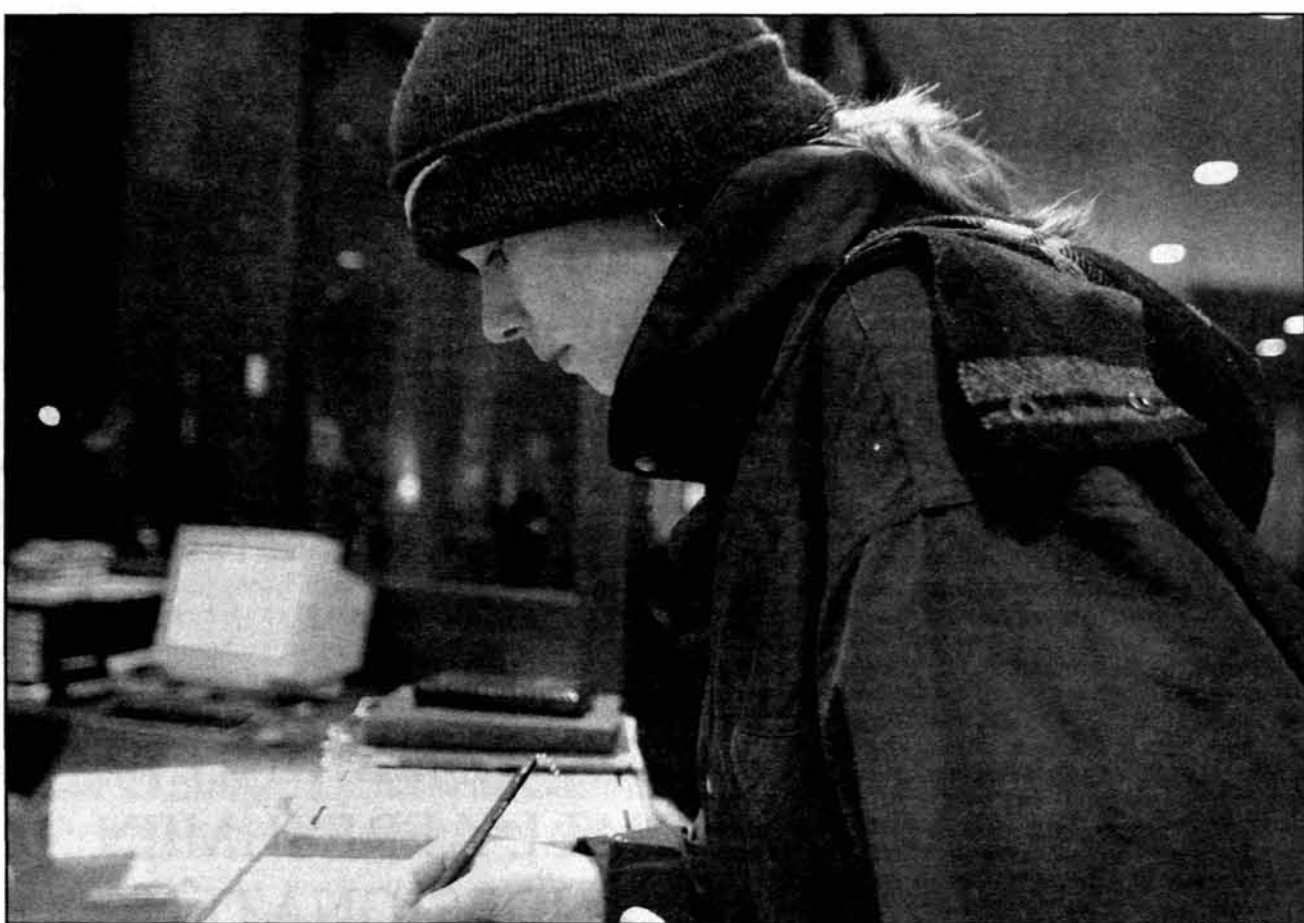
they would be doing so at their next house meeting.

The petition was circulated this past weekend and was collected last night, Kessenich said, but anyone who wants to sign the petition still can. She said she did not know if there had been enough publicity for this petition.

Kessenich said she was collecting the petition last night so she

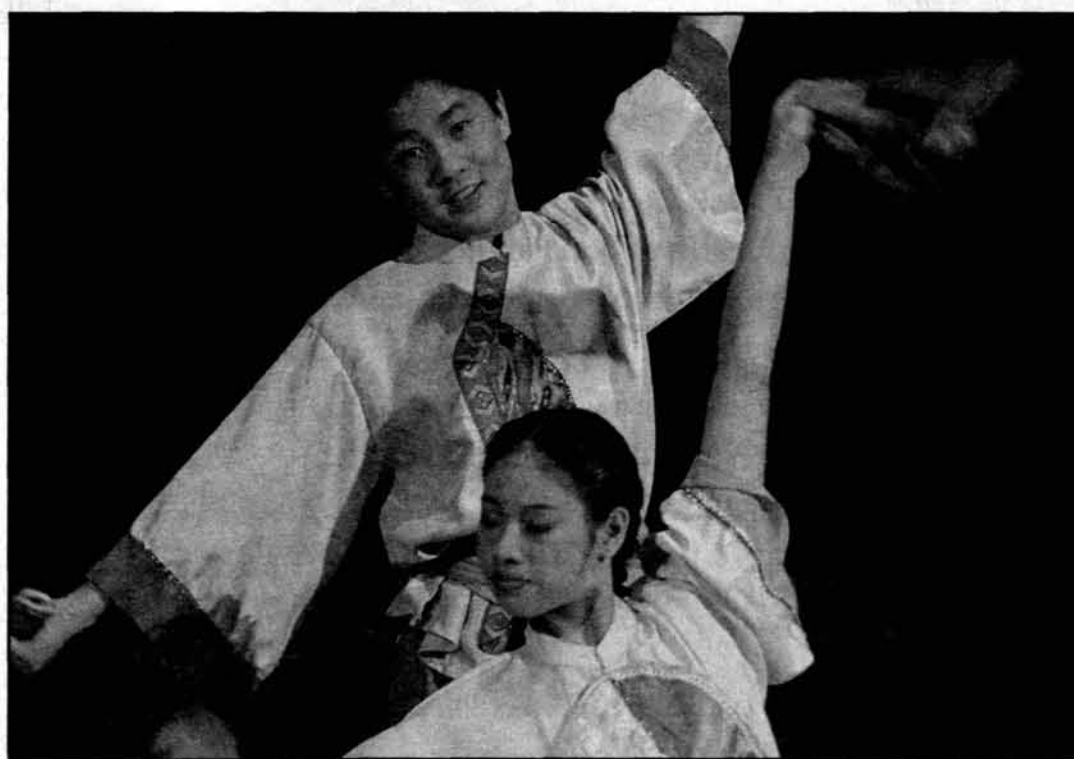
would have the numbers available for today's RSIT meeting.

So far, Kessenich said, RSIT has not taken a survey of upperclassmen, though they have interviewed teams from each dormitory. The teams include housemasters, graduate residence tutors, and members of house governments. A new survey will be released to freshmen sometime this week, she said.



NOEL DAVIS—THE TECH

Kassia L. DeVorsey '04, a resident of McCormick Hall, signs a petition seeking an "uninterrupted, multiday" period for dormitory rush next fall. The Dormitory Council, which circulated the petition, seeks to show campus-wide support for an old-fashioned rush period during Orientation 2003.



Heart of the Dragon: BITSA Brings Taiwanese Culture To MIT

Saturday's Boston Intercollegiate Taiwanese Students Association (BITSA) Conference culminated in the Heart of the Dragon banquet, featuring live entertainment by the Harvard Chinese Yo-Yo Club (above right), the MIT Lion Dance Group, the Harvard Asian Dance Troupe (right), and the American Chinese Art Society (above).

Photography by Matt T. Yourst



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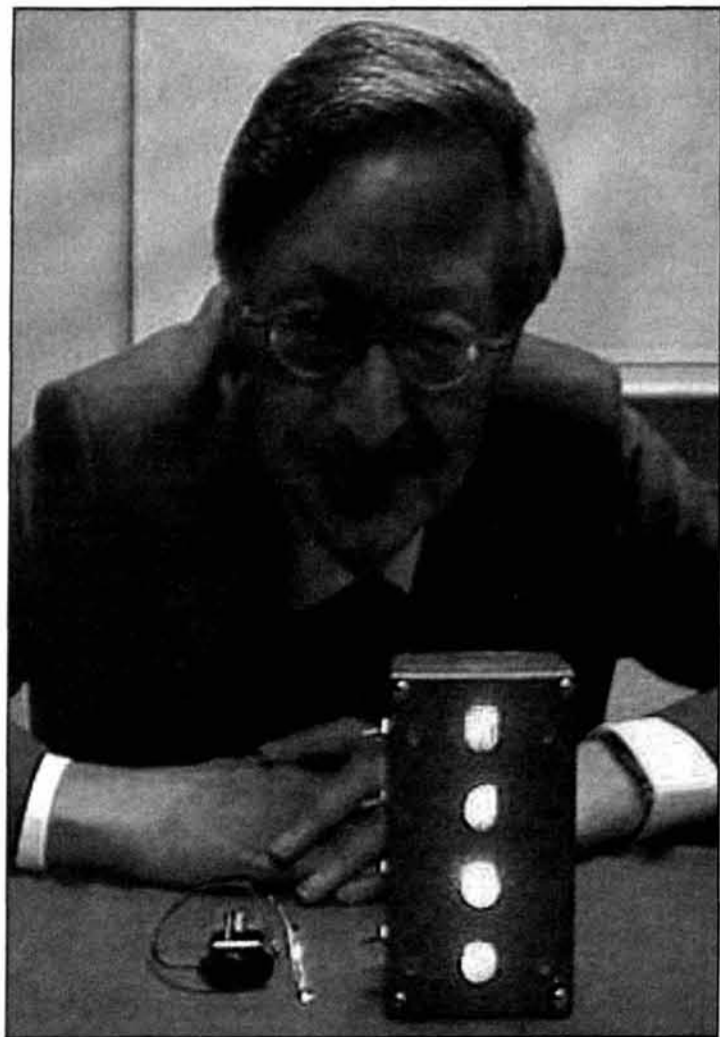
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Tue., November 26, 2002

4:30pm – 5:30pm

Room 6-120

Refreshments served at 4:00pm



Professor Colin Humphreys, FEng (Goldsmiths Professor of Materials Science at Cambridge University (UK), Head of The Cambridge Centre for Gallium Nitride, Director of the Rolls-Royce University Technology Centre, President of the UK Institute of Materials (IOM))

• **Interview for UK National Science Week:**

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/science/working/humphreys.html>

• **Presidential Address for the 2002 IOM Congress:**

http://www.instmat.co.uk/congress2002/review/pres_address.pdf

• **BBC News:**

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/specials/sheffield_99/449368.stm

• **Research Group Website:** <http://www-hrem.msm.cam.ac.uk/>

Simmons Students Concerned About Dining Staffers

Simmons Dining, from Page 1

been quality, and Bon Appetit was attractive to us because of its strength in this area," Walsh said.

Concerns about Bon Appetit staff

Many feel the staff is should not be blamed for Simmons' dining problems.

Simmons Housemaster John Essigmann said that Bon Appetit realized that it was losing money and fired much of its serving staff as a result.

"We're kind of upset about this because they've been nice and really accommodating ... Simmons wants to investigate this action, and possibly put them on paid leave," Ponda said.

"The staff was well-liked by the Simmons community in general. It made an effort to please," Essigmann said.

"It is extremely difficult to balance staffing, food quality, and costs, but we find it important to have a dining service at Simmons regardless of this. Our goal with this was to help build community, and I see that happening," Essigmann said.

Simmons has unique system

Simmons Hall does not currently have its own dining facility. As a



LIZ ZELLNER—THE TECH

Students investigate the dining options available at Simmons Hall. After a wave of complaints from residents, Bon Appetit is restructuring dining at Simmons.

temporary solution, Bon Appetit, the dormitory food service provider, brings meals from Next House and serves them in a second-floor hall-

way. The dining facilities, originally anticipated to be complete in November, are now expected to be fin-

ished next semester. All Simmons residents pay a \$200 fee to cover dining worker wages. Residents pay \$3.50 for a

meal, and nonresidents pay \$7.00. Most dormitories do not have such fees, though some house fees go toward subsidizing dining services.

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radical harmonies



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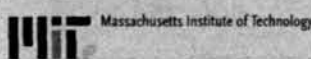
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Zesiger Center Opens, Repair Time Unknown

Flooding, from Page 1

white hockey-style boards. Dirty water filled the floor area and spilled out into the hallway, leaving stains on the wallboards.

"We had a little shock-pad and what is called a spider court on top," Martin said. Most of the spider court surface, which comes apart in pieces, was saved by Zesiger staff, who responded quickly after alarms sounded. The shockpad, used for cushioning the court, was ruined by the water.

Pieces of the floor's surface can be seen stacked next to the MAC, and the MAC floor is currently stripped down to the concrete base.

Zesiger open, repair time unknown

The Zesiger Center opened on time Saturday morning and Martin was pleased with the cleanup effort of the staff, who made the most of a bad situation, he said. The MAC remained closed.

Martin was not certain how long repairs would take. "There are a

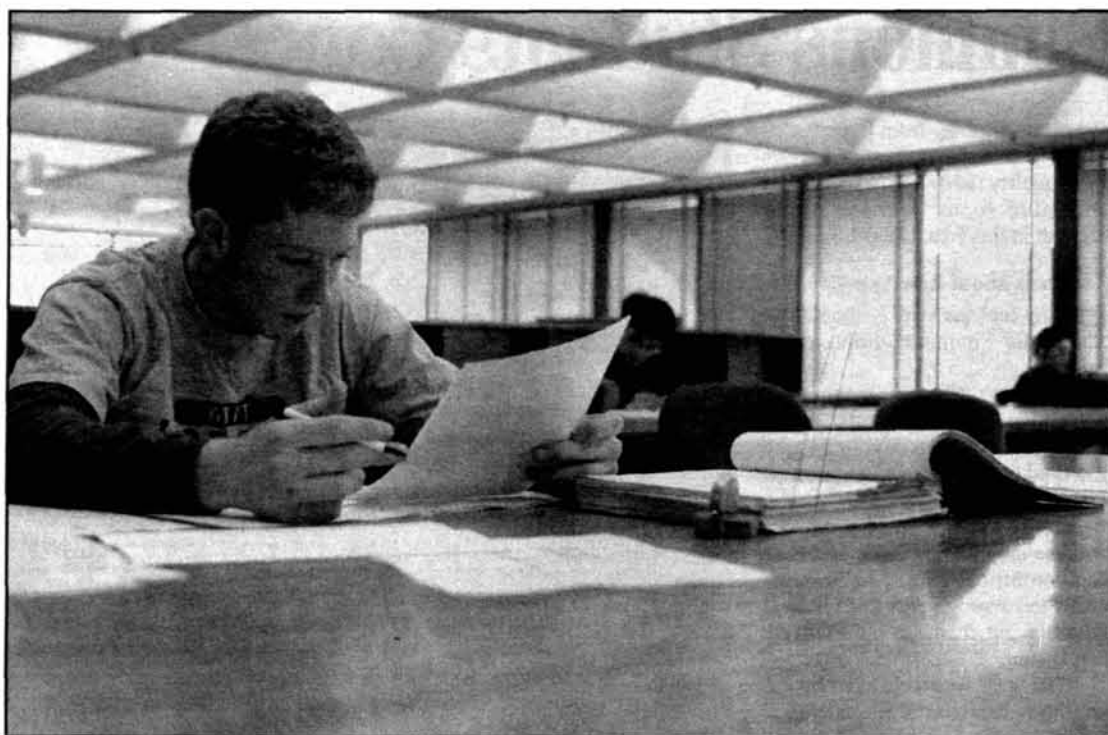
couple different scenarios," Martin said. Rainey estimated the repair time at "hopefully a few days."

Several repairs are required. Cleaning was required over the weekend to remove the water stains left along the floors and walls. An electrical socket on the floor will be replaced for safe measure, and netting may be installed beneath the ceiling to protect the fire sprinklers and lights above the MAC, Martin said.

It is unclear who will bear responsibility for the repair costs of the MAC playing surface. The soccer game taking place at the time of the incident was during drop-in hours, and within the rules of MAC.

"We're just assessing the damage and looking for insurance potentially to pay for it," Martin said.

The MAC was designed primarily for inline hockey, basketball, and indoor soccer. It is a recreational facility, so no varsity teams will be affected by its repairs.



JOHN CLOUTIER

Carter Powers '05 takes advantage of the Reading Room on the fifth floor of the Student Center. The Undergraduate Association is considering an Association of Student Activities plan to bring the MIT Science Fiction Library into the Reading Room.

Provost Discusses MIT Finances

MITSFS, from Page 1

perspective, since both MITSFS members and reading room users feel so strongly on this issue."

"The main issue is how do we make sure the space is distributed fairly," Menard said. The MITSFS has over 200 paying members and is open to anyone. While it is unknown exactly how many students use the reading room, one UA council member estimated it to be several hundred, and possibly many more would use it if it were renovated.

The UA Council resolved to conduct an online survey of undergraduates and perhaps a town meeting to determine what the student body wishes to be done. Seale

emphasized that the UA will go with whatever the students decide.

Menard noted that about half a dozen student groups are on the waiting list for available space. Due to its overcrowded library, the MITSFS has the most need for physical space, he said.

"The smaller issue here is whether this proposal is the right way to make more space. The larger issue is that there is not enough room for student activities," Seale said.

Provost Brown speaks on finance

MIT Provost Bob Brown spoke about the financial history of the Institute. He emphasized the importance of the endowment fund, which grew from \$1 billion in 1990 to \$6.6 billion in 2000, increasing the MIT budget and, as Brown mentioned, has brought MIT to the caliber of the Ivy Leagues and other top universities.

MIT President Charles M. Vest and other administrators chose to

put this money towards building an environment to better attract top students and faculty, Brown said. Recently about \$20 million per year has been spent on building renovations and construction of new facilities, including Simmons Hall, Sidney-Pacific Graduate Residence, and the Warehouse; the Zesiger Center, the Stata Center, and the new center for Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

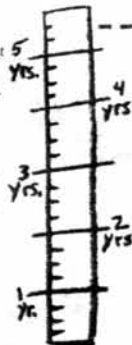
Growth has also made the Institute sensitive to fluctuations in the endowment. Since roughly a third of the annual income comes from investment returns on the endowment, the recent downturn in the economy has slightly devalued the endowment, slowed returns, and decreased the amount of money flowing into the MIT budget. While Brown emphasized that this will not dramatically affect current budgets, a continually struggling U.S. economy could cause future changes in MIT budgets and financial strategies.

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Solution to Crossword

from page 6

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JINYANG LI—THE TECH

Vocalist Vidyadar Vyas performs the Khyal form of Hindustani classical music in Friday night's concert organized by MITHAS, at Killian Hall. Khyal is one of the main forms of Hindustani classical music performed in northern India.



KAILAS NARENDRA—THE TECH

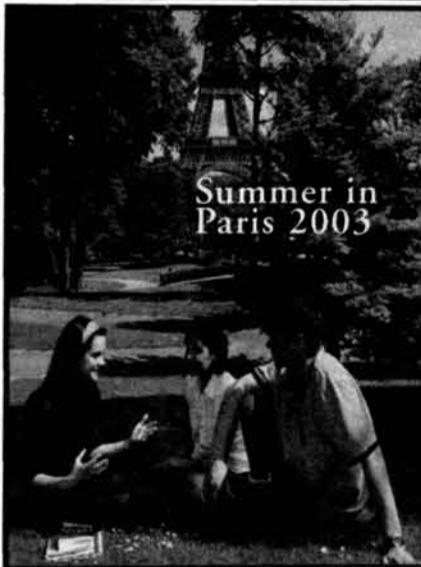
Dr. Rudasingwa, chief of staff for the President of Rwanda, met with members of the MIT community to discuss efforts on the international development front. He is interested in what projects are ongoing at MIT and their applicability to Africa in general and Rwanda in particular.

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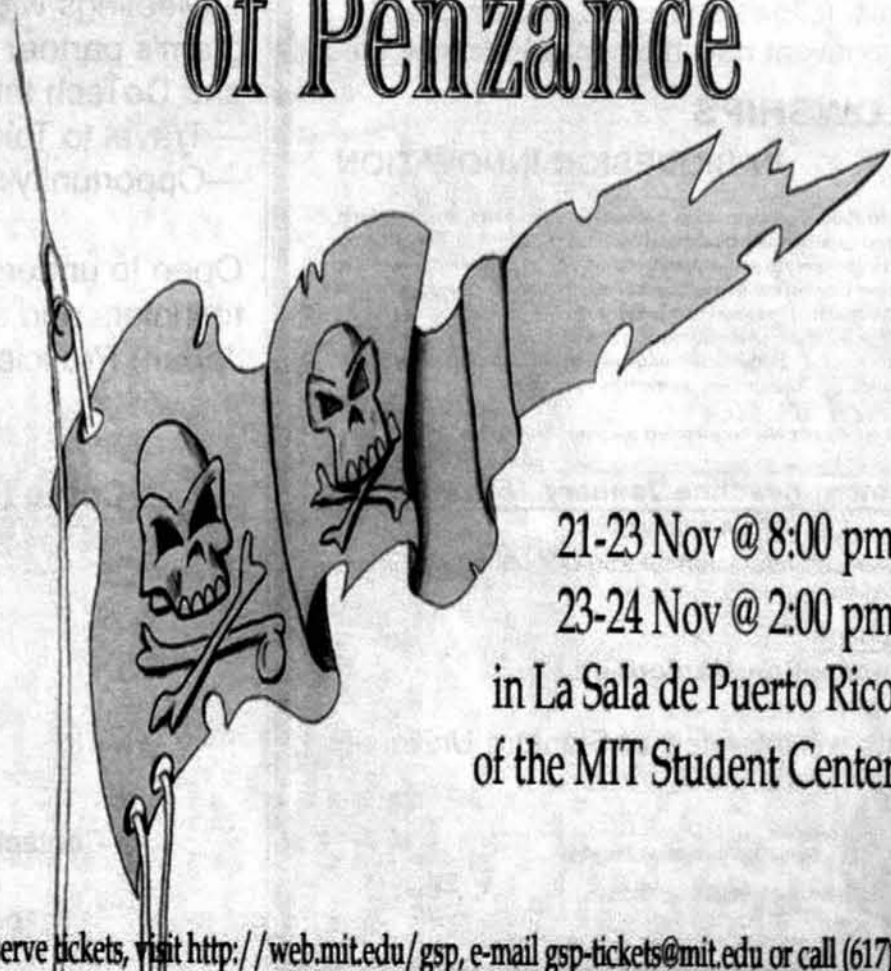
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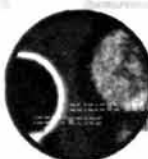
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KAILAS NARENDRA—THE TECH

Jaimie L. Sylman '05 of the Snowboarding Team catches the first air of the season as John Miyagi '03 watches from above. Trips to Loon Mountain this weekend were thwarted by lift closings due to high winds. Members of the team went sledding instead, making the best of the 130-mile drive.

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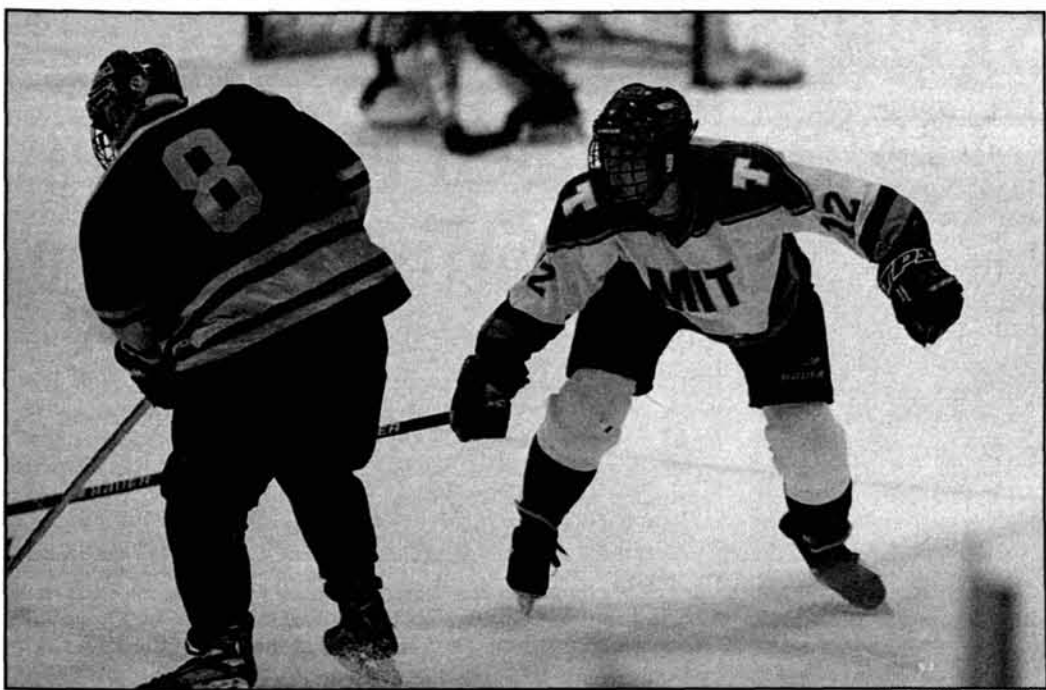
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or visit the CoTech website: www.cotech.co.jp



NOEL DAVIS—THE TECH

Nick Fahey '05 steals the puck from WPI forward Rick Adams during Wednesday's game at the Johnson Athletic Center Rink. The Engineers pulled off a close 1-0 victory to improve their record to 4-1. MIT won again Saturday to bump their record up to 5-1.



NINA KSHETRY—THE TECH

Jessica Lee '05, a member of Share a Vital Earth (SAVE), hands out free plants in Lobby 10 in order to raise awareness for environmental issues. Potted plants were distributed from Wednesday through Friday last week.

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MIT Department of FACILITIES CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Vassar Street

For several weeks, due to an underground telecommunications ductbank project, doors exiting to the rear between buildings 34 and 38 will be closed. There will still be one exit from the Building 34 lobby in the direction of Building 26. The pedestrian route from the Albany St. garage through Building 34 to the main campus will not be available. People should enter the campus using the pedestrian walkway under Building 39. Curb placement on the south side of the street is underway. Traffic to Building 39 will use the normal exit and entrance lanes once again. These lanes will stay in effect for 3 or 4 weeks until the next phase of the project. The lanes will again change to one-lane in and one-lane out from one entrance as construction sequencing dictates. North side sidewalk construction will begin in December.

Stata Center

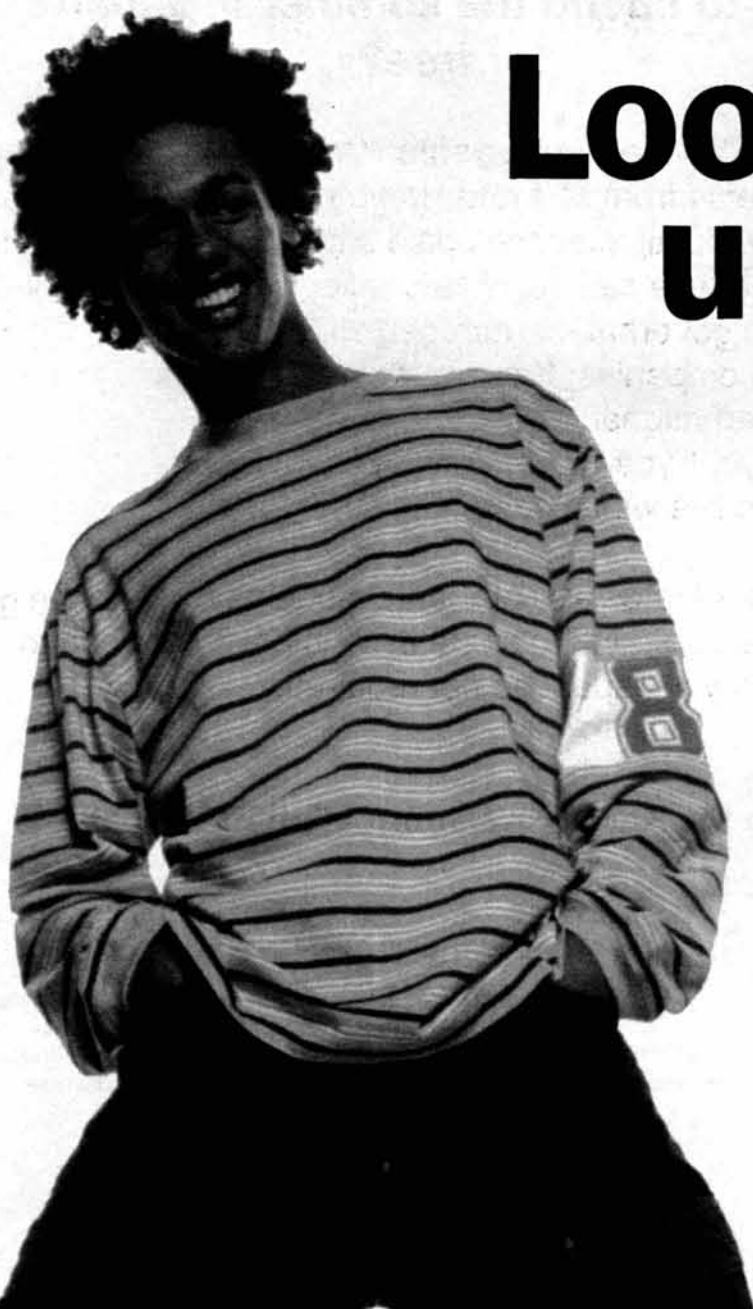
Construction of tunnel connection from Stata Center to Building 26 is underway. Some odor may result from this work; air fresheners are available for offices that experience problems. Preparation for utility work between Building 56 and the Alumni Pool has begun.

Dreyfus Chemistry Building

Chilled Water to Building 18 has been shut off temporarily and will be restored on December 13. The shutdown is required to allow for the relocation of piping in the sub basement. Repair work on the east concrete façade is nearing completion. Installation of mechanical systems continues. Installation of exterior metal panels to roof penthouse is in progress.

For information on MIT's building program, see <http://web.mit.edu/evolving>
This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities.

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SPORTS

Women Finish Hard,
Just Miss QualifyingBy Stanley Hu
STAFF REPORTER

Despite numerous injuries and sicknesses, the women's cross-country team finished almost 100 points ahead of their score last year at the NCAA Division III Regional Qualifying Meet.

Fighting the after-effects of strep throat and hamstring tightness, Martha W. Buckley '04 raced down the home stretch of the championship meet.

Coach Paul Slovenski started doing the math.

It was going to be close. Did she qualify for Nationals?

Buckley finished 31st. Slovenski knew that wasn't going to be good enough today. "I'd feel a lot better if she were 25th," Slovenski said before knowing the results. Only the first nine individuals not on the top five finishing teams advanced.

Slovenski was right on the dot. Buckley came eerily close to qualifying, but the cutoff point turned out to be exactly 25th place. Buckley clocked 22:32 over the 3.7-mile race, just seven seconds shy of the last qualifying spot.

"She knew it would be a long shot," said Slovenski. "She said she was ready to pack it in at the 3.1-mile mark, but nobody passed her, and she never slowed down. For her to come back from strep throat after taking a week off just shows her grit."

Strong team finishes

With that, the women's cross-country team season ended last Sat-

urday, but not before the team posted one of its best performances in recent memory, with a 14th place finish among 38 teams. Williams College captured the team title, and freshman Caroline Cretti from Williams won the race in 20:35.

While Williams dominated the meet, MIT held its own. Buoyed by a number of races from both freshmen and veterans, the women's cross country team improved by 96 points from last year's finish.

In her second race returning from a hip injury, Julia C. Espel '05 finished second for the team, clocking 23:28 in 64th place. That was pay-back for Espel, who last year hurt her foot during the race and finished a disappointing 137th. "She had something to prove, and she did it," Slovenski said.

MIT team shows 'guts'

Veronica A. Andrews '05 followed in 23:41, placing a consistent third for the team. Starting slowly, she hung behind the pack before charging ahead from 150th to 77th place.

Not far behind, Valerie Kuo '06 and Kathleen R. Huffman '04 both dipped under 100th place, finishing in 23:57 and 23:59, respectively. Elizabeth R. Eames '06 and Jennifer A. Gaugler '05 rounded out the team in 24:34 and 25:49.

"They raced their hearts out," Slovenski said. "Almost all of them ran through injury or illness on sheer guts," he said. "We were noticeably depleted this year, but we hung in for the championships. We'll reload and be better next year."



JINYANG LI—THE TECH

Christine A. Yee '03 (right) competes against her cousin from Brown University in Saturday's Northeast Fencing Conference Fencing Meet at Johnson. MIT finished first in a field of six teams. The women's team leads the Northeast Fencing Conference with a 6-0 record.

Ballroom Dance Team Wraps Up
Four Consecutive Winning Meets

By Miriam Sorell

TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Ballroom Dancing Team is getting a short rest after the Nov. 10 Brown Ballroom Dance Competition in Warwick, RI., which culminated four straight weekends of competition.

With four styles of competitive Ballroom in the United States (Rhythm, Latin, Smooth, and Standard) and five levels in each style (Newcomer, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Open), there were many opportunities for MIT dancers of all backgrounds to wow the crowds and bring home honors. Of these twenty total categories, MIT couples received awards in 15, often with more than one MIT couple placing in each category.

In Gold level Rhythm, Eric Nielsen G and Margaret Wong '02

placed sixth in both Rumba and Swing and fifth in Cha-Cha. Mark Herschberg '95 and Jessica Ahlers placed fourth over all in the Open level, the highest of the five levels.

The best event of the day for MIT was Standard, where Igor F. Pavlovsky G and Yanfeng Lim G took first place in Open. Chris Douglass G and Katya Dolginova also competed in Open, placing fourth. MIT Newcomers dominated the Standard Waltz, taking three of the six awards. David A. Ovadia '06 and Catia S. Verbeke '06 came in fourth, Wei An G and Susanne Wagner came in third, and Ty Harris and Nadezhda Belova '05 took first place.

Newcomers did well again in Smooth, with An and Wagner taking fourth in Waltz and third in both Tango and Foxtrot. Harris and Belova continued their winning streak with first place in all three dances. In Open, Herschberg and

Ahlers took fourth place.

Latin was the last competition of the day. In Newcomer, Harris and Belova wrapped up with yet another first place win in Rhumba. In Bronze, CMI exchange student George Henes and Lilia Wood took third place in Cha-Cha and fourth in Rumba, while Luca Daniel G and Katya Lesnaia G took first for both. In Gold, Sofya Rashkhodnikova G and Todor Stavrev took first in Cha-Cha and Rumba and second in Samba and Jive. Carlos Lopez '03 and Genevieve Cuevas '03 placed fifth over all in Open.

In the previous two weeks, MIT Ballroom Dance Team had also competed at The University of Connecticut Ballroom Dance Competition (Nov. 3) and in the Harvard Beginners Competition (Oct. 26). For full results from Brown, and from these two competitions, visit <http://mitbdt.mit.edu>.



JINA KIM—THE TECH

The lightweight women's novice eight boat docks at the MIT boathouse after their race. The foot of the Charles women's race was held on Nov. 16. The boat placed 18th out of 23 boats with a time of 15:52.8. MIT and Radcliffe women's lightweight boats are traditionally notorious rivals, and this year, Radcliffe's lightweight eight beat MIT by two places.



STANLEY HU—THE TECH

Martha W. Buckley '04 races down the home stretch of the NCAA Division III Cross Country Regional Championships. She placed 31st in 22:32 over the 3.7-mile course, barely missing a berth to Nationals.

Write Sports for The Tech!

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS



Wednesday, Nov. 20
Men's and Women's Swimming vs. Springfield, 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 22
Women's Basketball vs. Emerson College, 6 p.m.

