Those amazing MIT students ...  

By Michael McNamara

It seems to show up every week in Tech Talk: the "Gee whiz" story about the latest MIT student who is more than just a computer hacker. The Boston Globe leads the competition to find the most unusual and un-toucho-activity engaged in by an MIT student, but then they present such a multitude of cutesy angles and features that the Newsworld tries to keep up. The articles are sometimes home-grown, produced by the prolific staff of Tech Talk itself; you can only always tell the difference when departments and professors are given their correct titles (as well as by the little line that says "Staff Writer" under the by-line).

It always seems to read the same:

"When the computerized equipment that typesets the Artistic Daily Fabrication breaks down, the management doesn't panic — they call on, pretty Janet Grind, a 1976 MIT graduate who, despite her technological background, is now a staff reporter at the daily paper, circulation 360,000."

"When the computerized equipment that tallies statistics at Fenway Park breaks down, the management doesn't panic — they call on Joe Grand, a 1978 graduate of women's studies at MIT, who, despite her technological background, is now a ticket-seller at Fenway Park."  

"Joe's phenomenal memory and mathematical ability provide Fenway announcers with up-to-the-minute statistics."

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