Peace and The Big Gun
Column by Matthew H. Hersch

There is so much potential for shockingly contro-
versial columns on the Middle East this week that I
am having trouble deciding what to write about.
Really, the Associated Press Newswire in the Tech
office has been spewing for days: The Saudis want
the United States to build them an army, the
Kuwaiti government doesn't really care about
democracy after all, the Iranians have teamed up
with the Palestinians, their mortal enemies, to push
Israel into the sea at the peace conference in Swit-
zerland, the UN and the Israelis have been flying
into Iraq on reconnaissance missions and Saddam
has a really big gun sitting on top of a hill some-
where in Iraq that can take care of everybody.

Maybe you should just flip a coin or something.
Oh, OK — the big gun. This is one of my favorite
stories, beginning before the First World War, when
some international-types discovered that Iraq
was trying to import a few enormous metal pipes.
Well, surprise, surprise, the pipes weren't for an
Iraqi baby milk factory after all. Throughout the
gulf war, the Iranians managed to finish assembly
of the world's largest cannon — a "basket" gun capa-
able of hurling a nuclear bomb 500 miles.

Ready for something funny? The gun is still
sitting on a hill in Iraq, probably pointed at Israel.
With the peace conference coming up, Bush is
afraid to do anything about it lest he annoy the
Palestinians and Jordanians. The Israelis are about
to get bombed again for no real reason, and nobody
gives a damn. When Israel does get attacked and
overrun, however, the world -- excepting
(David Duke) will be sympathetic.

When the Israeli government announced that
warplanes should attack an Iraqi base expose a
reconnaissance mission, nobody was pleased with them. The
United States was unsettled, probably because it
hadn't detected the aircraft entering Iraqi airspace
and couldn't quite figure out how the Iranians
managed to do it. The Iraqi army force, however,
known for their advanced early warning radar tech-
nology, announced that they had miraculously
detected the Israeli aircraft but neglected to shoot
them out of the sky because UN helicopters were in
the area and making their reconnaissance runs.
An Israeli government spokesman added that
12 UFOs would now be subject to attack if the
Iraqis suspected another Israeli operation.

I love that.

Matthew H. Hersch, a sophomore in the De-
partment of Physics, is an opinion editor of the Tech.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LSC apologizes for offensive cartoon

I am writing in response to Mi-
chael J. Zimmitti’s recent letter to
The Tech ("Carding brings in-
flation," Oct. 11).

It is the policy of the MIT Lec-
ture Series Committee to show
short subjects (e.g., cartoons)
before the LSC talks, when it is
our time permit. We try to select
shorts which relate to the movies;
for example, we will be show-
ing "Rabbit Hood" before Robin
Hood, Prince of Thieves. When
we cannot find a short which re-
tains our major focus, we show
an unrelated short which

hope our audience will enjoy.
It is also our policy to select
all shorts before the show
time, so we can check for print
quality and appropriateness.
Fortunately, the shorts for the
weekend of Oct. 4 did not arrive
when we were unable to screen
them beforehand. Had we
known the content of the short
Three for Breakfast, we would
not have shown it before 6 p.m.
The only information we had on
this Disney short was a one-sentence blurb from the distributor: "The

hunger-driven chipmunks are ob-
scenely cute with pouting chipmunks
from master chef Donald Duck."

No reference was made to the
final scene.

LSC does not intend to offend
its audience with cartoon offend-

Kathleen Mahoney ’93
Chairman
Jennifer Schwartz ’93
Friday Night Director
on behalf of the Lecture Series
Committee