THE BEANPOUT PLAYOFFS

Nick's Comedy Stop
Wednesday, March 4, 8:30 p.m.

By Joanna Stone

The first annual "Beanpot Playoffs," Nick's Comedy Stop has held a series of competitions over the past several weeks to choose the funniest student from each of eight colleges in the Boston area. Students from a single college competed on one of several designated college nights, and the winner from each was awarded a trophy, $100, and an invitation to the playoffs.

Judging by the size of the crowds that gathered and the news coverage that ensued, the competition was clearly a public relations agency's dream come true. It was also a highly enjoyable evening filled with a wealth of young talent and a lot of laughs.

My own bias duly noted, I thought MIT's contestant, Glen Weinstein '92, should have won the competition. Weinstein received the most consistently positive response from the audience. The audience did not stop laughing from his introduction — "I'm the funniest man at MIT, which is a dubious honor at best." After the sing-along ended, Caito expressed his common experience of his audience. "When you go back home, people say, 'Oh, you go to college in Boston, you must go to Cheers all the time.' Yeah, we do, and when we fall down drunk there, they rush us over to St. Elizabeth for treatment.

The evening's featured guest stars, stand-up comedians Caito & Moran, performed during the judges' deliberation. The team capitalized on the college audience theme, singing songs that were dear to the collective memory of the audience, such as "Conjunction-Function, What's Your Function?" and the theme from The Monkees' television show. After the sing-along ended, Caito expressed his gratuitous self-pity and the unique nature of his group's humor. He talked about his obesity, her mixture of shock and pity which her act inspired. She talked about her obesity, her lack of sex life, her poor relationship with her grandmother. Her speech was peppered with curses and accompanied by obscene gestures.

As another arts writer, Leslie Ilament '92, put it, "She played on her weight and the fact that she was a woman and could man-bash." I put it, "She played on her weight and the facts that she was a woman and could man-bash." I didn't particularly like Goldman's act. I thought it was deadpan and demure, Goldman screamed and grated into the microphone, damned male mutilation on stage, and told the audience that the reason she's become a stand-up comic was because it was the only occupation in which you hold a phallic up to your mouth for five minutes. I didn't really know what to make of it. I thought I'd 'heard all the Jeffrey Dahmner jokes possible, but the contest was about to be revealed, Caito and Moran brought their act to a climactic close with a rap version of "The Brady Bunch" theme song.

MIT may not have won the competition, but we are all indebted to Weinstein for raising the image of MIT students in the minds of others. Waiting for the T after the show, one unidentified audience member could be heard saying, "She shouldn't have won, that guy from MIT should have won." Imagine that! A mutant from another school designing to admit that we at MIT aren't only unat, hard working, and ultimately successful (all taken as commonly acknowledged truths), but that some of us even have a sense of humor.