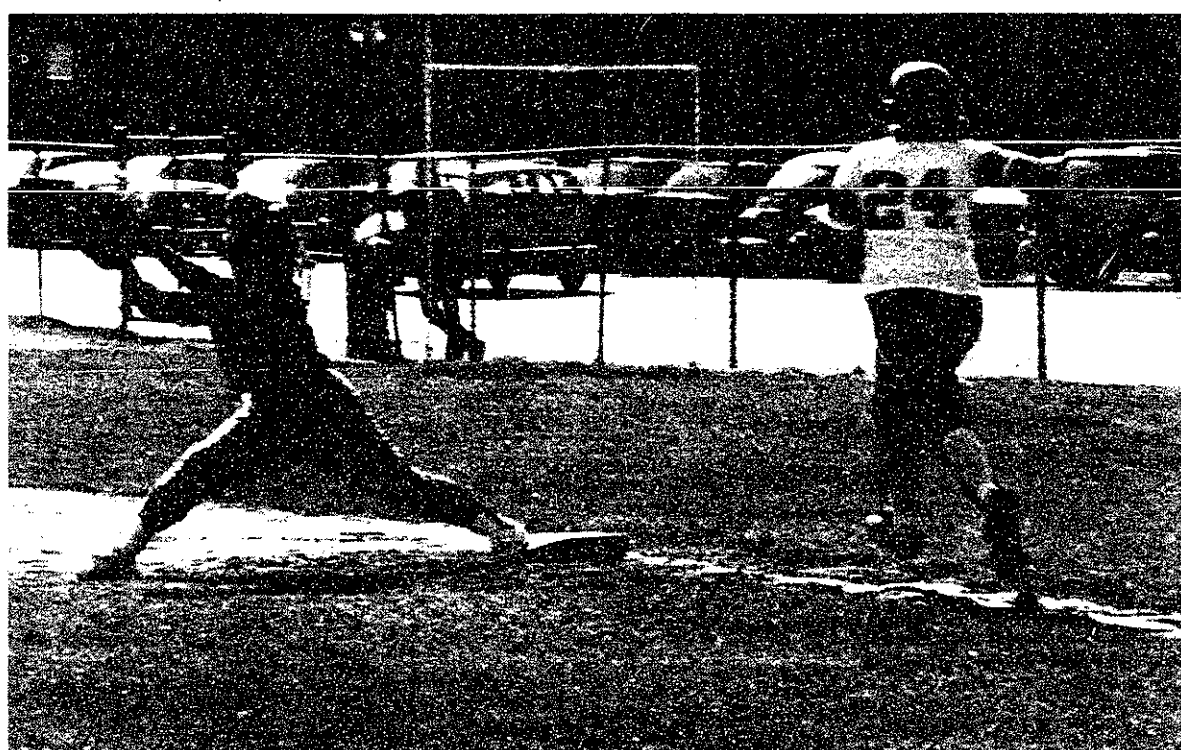




Stephanie Ragucci '90 sends another WPI player to the bench during Tuesday's game. MIT destroyed WPI 23-5.

Kyle G. Pellonen/The Tech

UA Council discusses alcohol policy

By Annabelle Boyd

The Dean's Office is considering a two-tiered alcohol registration policy which would require students holding private parties to get the signatures of both a graduate tutor and housemaster in order to obtain a party license.

Parties are considered "private" when they involve fewer than 100 dormitory members and are confined to a dormitory common area.

Associate Dean for Student Affairs James R. Tewhey revealed this draft proposal last night during a Undergraduate Association Council meeting that later included a discussion on stress and suicide at MIT.

Students hosting private parties will be required to sign a liability form stating that the party will adhere to the Massachusetts alcohol laws, Tewhey said. In addition, a graduate tutor or housemaster must be present throughout the entire party, he said.

Parties which are advertised campus-wide and have more than 100 people would still follow the current MIT alcohol policy and

would be registered with the Campus Activities Office.

Tewhey, who wrote the draft of the new alcohol policy, said that Massachusetts has passed more stringent liability insurance laws. MIT — in order to qualify for liability insurance — now has to prove that it is making a strong effort to deter illegal and excessive student drinking, he explained.

"I do not believe the current alcohol policy puts forth such needed efforts," Tewhey said. Suggesting that liability equals responsibility, Tewhey said that private parties should be held equally liable as campus-wide parties, since there is a potential for injury in both cases.

"So often students come to the Dean's Office and complain that they want their freedom and they want the Dean's Office to leave them alone. Now is the chance for them to really take responsibility for their own actions," he said.

Under the new laws, the Dean's Office can no longer afford to take legal responsibility for the dangerous drinking contests, the

injuries and the destruction of property which occasionally occur at these private parties without some commitment from the students, he said. "We [the Dean's Office] need to know that students are dealing with alcohol in an intelligent manner," he said.

Student response

Of the 37 students in attendance (Please turn to page 14)

Harsh weather delays human-powered flight

By Darrel Tarasewicz

Daedalus, MIT's human-powered airplane, remains grounded in Greece due to unfavorable wind conditions, according to the MIT News Office.

The flight team will continue to wait, as it has for the past two weeks, until winds die down to about three knots per hour, Steven R. Bussolari PhD '83, director of flight operations and assistant professor of aeronautical and astronautical engineering at MIT, said in a news release.

"We would accept a five-knot wind if it were a tail wind," Bussolari said. But if it were a head wind, it would mean the flight would last over eight hours, and the pilot would have to power the plane for an equivalent distance of over 100 miles, he explained.

The projected route that Daedalus will take from Crete to Santorini Island spans 74 miles.

Embarking on its trip to Greece, the flight team knew the odds were against it finding the necessary conditions for completing the flight across the wind-swept Aegean Sea, the news release said. Nevertheless, long-term weather studies of the area revealed that early spring would be the best time for the attempt, the release stated.

"We knew in advance we should be prepared to wait and we are only in the second week of flight readiness," Bussolari said.

The pilot/athletes are among those most taxed by the continuing delays. They must endure a rigorous training schedule, while at the same time maintaining constant flight readiness, the release said.

Because of this, there are five pilots who follow a fixed rotation schedule of flight assignments, John Langford '79, project manager, said in the release. "No single athlete could stay at peak physical readiness for such an extended period of time," he said.

"Our solution was to assign each pilot fixed days for which he must aim to be at peak levels of conditioning. If no flight is scheduled during these peak two days, then the pilot has six days to recover and prepare for the next attempt," Langford said.

Gibson will resign as director of OME in June

By Errol Grannum

Joyce Gibson has resigned from her position as director of the Office of Minority Education (OME) effective June 30.

She will join a Boston-area consulting group aimed at improving the intellectual achievement of high school minority students.

When Gibson came to MIT in the spring of 1985, she took charge of an office that had been unstable and had in the last 10 years seen five directors walk in and out the door.

But her resignation, she said, is consistent with her original intention to spend only three or four years as the director of OME — an academic support office chiefly, but not solely, geared for underrepresented minority students at MIT, including blacks, Hispanics, Mexican Americans and Native Americans.

A committee including student representatives from minority groups such as the Black Students Union and the League of United Chicanos at MIT is currently overseeing the search for a new director. Gibson said she intends to work closely with her replacement during the summer to show the inner workings of the office.

And after that, she will join EFFICACY, which advises high school students and teachers — particularly those in urban areas — on the improvement of the in-

tellectual achievement of minority students at that education level.

Looking back

It is not OME's role, Gibson said, to be the sole provider of academic and personal support for minority students throughout their MIT careers. Rather, OME acts as a resource — a source of information from which students can determine where to go when they need help academically, emotionally, and financially.

Looking back at her tenure here, Gibson said that one of OME's major achievements was convincing academic departments that their responsibilities should include addressing the needs of minorities in those departments.

Dean for Student Affairs Shirley M. McBay said that OME had encouraged more faculty involvement in minority concerns. In the past, faculty assumed that OME was entirely responsible for providing academic and emotional support to minorities, she explained.

McBay said she hopes that in the future, minority faculty members will aid the new director by acting as a liaison between the OME and individual departments.

Another accomplishment of OME in recent years was the hiring of a staff that includes blacks, Mexican Americans, and (Please turn to page 2)

Suicides leave only questions at Institute

Analysis

By Darrel Tarasewicz

When Mark R. Kordos '89 jumped from MacGregor tower last Friday evening, his suicide was the seventh in a two-and-a-half year span at MIT.

The recent spate of suicides — including four in the past six months — triggers at least one question: Is there something about the MIT environment that drives some of its students to the point of self-destruction?

A number of MIT's counselling staff say no. The MIT environment, they say, cannot be blamed for directly causing suicide, but rather, it can exacerbate weaknesses already deeply rooted in a student's personal history.

The academic rigors, emotional upheavals, and self-imposed pressures can wear down a young person's defenses, especially at a college which some find chilling and alienating. These forces tug at a student's insecurity until the student's life unravels.

At MIT, many students define self-esteem as academic achievement, said Robert M. Randolph, associate dean for student affairs and head of the Student Assistance Services. "If your intellect is your only definition of self, then a 'C' can devastate you," he explained. But he added that there is more diversity at MIT than "we give ourselves credit for."

He also cautioned that a popular misconception among the community is that MIT has an astronomical suicide rate compared to other intensely competitive colleges. "The suicide rate here is not out of bounds," he said.

(Please turn to page 14)



Whistleblowers need protection, Nader urges

By Katie Schwarz

"The whistleblowing ethic is absolutely essential for the accountability of corporations," Ralph Nader, consumer advocate, said at a forum last night on ethics in engineering.

The forum, organized by the Graduate Student Council, focused on the obstacles that lie in the way of engineers whose technical judgements conflict with their superior's interests.

Whistleblowers are often ignored, silenced or harassed, warned Sylvia Robins, a Rockwell International engineer who has accused her former company, Unisys, of inadequate testing of space shuttle software.

"Engineers have a responsibility that goes far beyond building

the machines or systems," Robins said. "We can't leave it to the technical manager to decide issues of public safety."

Yet those who raise such issues are subject to retaliation, she said. Some protections for whistleblowers — such as corporate ombudsmen — may not be enough, she added.

Robins recounted her experiences at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. As a section supervisor at Unisys — which was working as a subcontractor under Rockwell — Robins said she went to her superiors with complaints about software security breaches for military shuttle missions, and excessive billing. She was told not to pursue the matter and was re-

(Please turn to page 13)

Gibson will leave OME post in June

(Continued from page 1)

Native Americans — so that all minorities could feel at home in the office.

OME also helped strengthen Project Interphase, Gibson said. "[We] increased faculty participation, added a second one-week session, and revised the curriculum," Gibson said in a summary of her tenure here. Project Interphase is a one- or two-week preparatory, summer session in which incoming freshmen gain a brief introduction into the MIT curriculum.

Regarding the state of racism at MIT, Gibson felt that such racism was inevitable since MIT is but a microcosm of a society which is itself racist and sexist.

But she said she felt encouraged by the Institute's vision in addressing the issue by looking for solutions to this difficult problem. She thought that minority students themselves could help change prejudices and stereotypes by working hard and excelling in their academics.

Under Gibson's leadership, OME has functioned around the following objectives:

- To develop an introduction and orientation to MIT which will aid the adjustment of minority students to the academic envi-



Errol O. Grannum

Dr. Joyce Gibson, director of the Office of Minority Education, is resigning effective June 30.

ronment at MIT.

- To foster greater participation of all underrepresented students in OME and the Institute.

- To develop stronger ties and relationships with academic and other support offices in order to increase the visibility and credibility of OME.

- To determine what variables or conditions influence student attrition and channel these findings back into the MIT community in an effort to understand and address attrition. The newly hired assistant dean for research, Dr. Alberta Lipson is conducting a study of attrition and an evaluation minority programs.

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news roundup

from the associated press wire

World

Senators criticize lack of action on Panama

Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee say the Reagan Administration is running out of plans for ousting Panamanian military leader Manuel Noriega. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) says Noriega is getting stronger every day and the United States is doing nothing. Other committee members say the United States is doing little to enlist neighboring countries to turn up the pressure.

US ship hits mine in Gulf

The *USS Samuel B. Roberts* is steaming slowly under its own power toward port in Bahrain. Officials say ten crewmen were injured when an underwater explosion tore open the hull of the guided-missile frigate in the central Persian Gulf. Pentagon sources say the blast was apparently caused by a mine.

Panama ridicules US intruder claim

The US military is sticking by its story that Marine guards in Panama were shooting at uniformed intruders Tuesday evening — despite the absence of concrete evidence. Meanwhile, the state-run Panamanian media are ridiculing the Marines, claiming they were spooked into shooting at non-existent enemies.

Nation

Senate approves \$1.1 trillion budget

After the Senate approved a \$1.1 trillion budget yesterday, one Democratic senator said "the next president and the next Congress will be left with enormous problems." The budget does not meet deficit reduction limits agreed to last year. Sen. James Exon (D-NE) says the decision to bypass the deficit-reduction plan is "a decision to coast rather than deal with the deficit" in an election year. The 1989 spending plan calls for increases in — among other things — AIDS research and the war on drugs.

After May 5, it's all free and clear

In case you're keeping track and you're an average American, you'll be working for the government until May 5 this year. According to the Tax Foundation, that is how long the "average" American will have to work this year to pay federal, state, and local income taxes. "Tax Freedom Day" falls two days later than last year.

Kuwaiti hostage says he was beaten

The latest hostage freed in the Kuwaiti airliner hijacking says he was bound at all times and beaten during the ten-day ordeal. The Kuwaiti man was released last night after negotiations between the hijackers and Algerian officials resumed. The plane is on the ground in Algiers. After the release, the hijackers renewed their demand to have 17 pro-Iranians released from jail in Kuwait.

Kuwaitis paying their last respects to the two people slain during the ordeal say they support their government's decision not to give in to the hijacker's demands. Thousands of mourners shouted: "God is great," as relatives carrying the bodies wove a path through the throng to the grave sites yesterday.

Bomb destroys USO club

No group is claiming responsibility yet for a car bomb that exploded yesterday in front of a USO club in Naples, Italy, killing five people and wounded 17. An American servicewoman was among those killed. Hospital officials say at least four Americans were among the injured.

Afghan accord meets praise and skepticism

Yesterday's signing of an accord for a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan is the target of both praise and skepticism. The agreement, signed in Geneva by representatives of the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the United States, was hailed by major Eastern and Western powers as a vital first step toward peace. But Southern Asian countries expressed concern over the continued aid to Afghan combatants.

Koch endorses Gore as Dukakis leads in polls

New York Mayor Edward I. Koch endorsed the presidential candidacy of Sen. Albert Gore (D-TN) yesterday despite new polls predicting a big win for Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis. The latest Marist College Institute for Public Opinion survey showed Dukakis the Democratic leader in Tuesday's New York primary with 46 percent. The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson followed with 34 percent while Gore trailed with seven percent. The latest Associated Press delegate count gave Dukakis 816 to 715 for Jackson and 404 for Gore.

In a related development, Jackson sharply criticized public officials who allegedly have introduced tests of race and religion into the battle for the party's presidential nomination. Koch has said that Jews would be crazy to vote for Jackson because of his positions on Israel.

Trade deficit widens

Yesterday wasn't a good day for financial news. The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged more than 100 points — this year's second worst drop and the fifth worst ever. The drop followed word from the Commerce Department that the trade deficit widened by more than eleven percent in February — soaring to nearly \$14 billion.

Local

Court upholds use of roadblocks against drunk drivers

The Massachusetts Supreme Court yesterday turned aside another legal challenge to the use of roadblocks to spot drunken drivers. The 4-2 decision held that police don't need suspicion of a particular crime as long as the stopping of motorists is reasonable. Associate Justices Paul Liacos and Neil Lynch disagreed, saying the court majority had strayed from constitutional principles which protect individual liberty from arbitrary police power. The case involved 23-year-old Thomas Shields, of Worcester, who was charged with drunken driving two years ago. His Superior Court trial was interrupted because of questions about the constitutionality of roadblocks.

Weather

Back to winter?

"Unseasonably cold" and "unsettled" will be the weather words for the next several days. A low pressure center in the Great Lakes this morning will weaken as a second low develops just south of New England this evening. With colder air moving into the area at all levels late tonight and during the day Saturday, there is a good chance that precipitation will fall as snow during the weekend. Heaviest snowfall amounts will likely be confined to northern New England as the best support for precipitation will be found in those regions. Because there is still a chance of the low developing further south than forecast, it is suggested that one listen to afternoon forecasts — as a more southward development increases the risk of a significant snowfall in the local area.

Today: Mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers.

Winds south 8-16 mph. High 48-52°F (10-11°C).

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a few more showers.

Winds becoming west 10-20 mph. Low 40°F (4°C).

Saturday: Becoming mostly cloudy with snow showers giving way to periods of snow during the afternoon. High 40-43°F (4-6°C). Low 31-34°F (-1 to 1°C).

Sunday: Partly to mostly cloudy with snow showers/flurries. High 38-42°F (3-6°C). Low 30-35°F (-1 to 2°C).

Forecast by Michael C. Morgan

Compiled by Niraj S. Desai

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opinion

Column/Mark Kantrowitz

CFYP lacks data for P/F decision

I have but one question for the Committee on the First Year Program: *Where is your data?*

The CFYP has proposed the elimination of second term pass/fail grading because they think that most students have completed their transition into MIT by their second term.

When I was a freshman, the Undergraduate Academic Support Office forced me on grades second term because they were scared that I might finish my math major on pass/fail. Like most freshmen, I took six subjects that term, because I had done well the previous semester while taking five classes. Because I overextended myself, making commitments to too many classes and extracurricular activities, that term became my worst experience while at MIT. Pass/fail might have mitigated the effects of that experience.

Despite similar anecdotal evidence for the continuation of pass/fail, members of the faculty persist in playing with the freshman year as if it were a laboratory experiment, to be fine-tuned by trial and error. They have a vague impression that upperclassmen lack preparation and suggest that freshmen don't work hard enough second term.

One of the original arguments for instituting pass/fail was that at Caltech, where detailed records of student progress had been kept, it was found that freshmen were actually better prepared for the sophomore year after a year on pass/fail.

But this is MIT, where the faculty know what an education is,

and don't need data to support their conclusions. The UASO throws out freshman hidden grades at the end of the term, and there have been no studies comparing overall achievement with and without pass/fail.

By examining the freshman year at a superficial level, the CFYP is treating a symptom of the problem and not the multiple causes. Eliminating second term freshman pass/fail will not be the panacea of the freshman year. It will most likely cause more problems than it might solve.

One of the problems with their "solution" of a one class per term credit/no-credit option is that it eliminates the main benefit of pass/fail. As with the junior-senior pass/fail option, the classes selected cannot fulfill a departmental or Institute requirement. The current system of pass/fail allows freshmen to experiment with academic alternatives without the anxiety of grades.

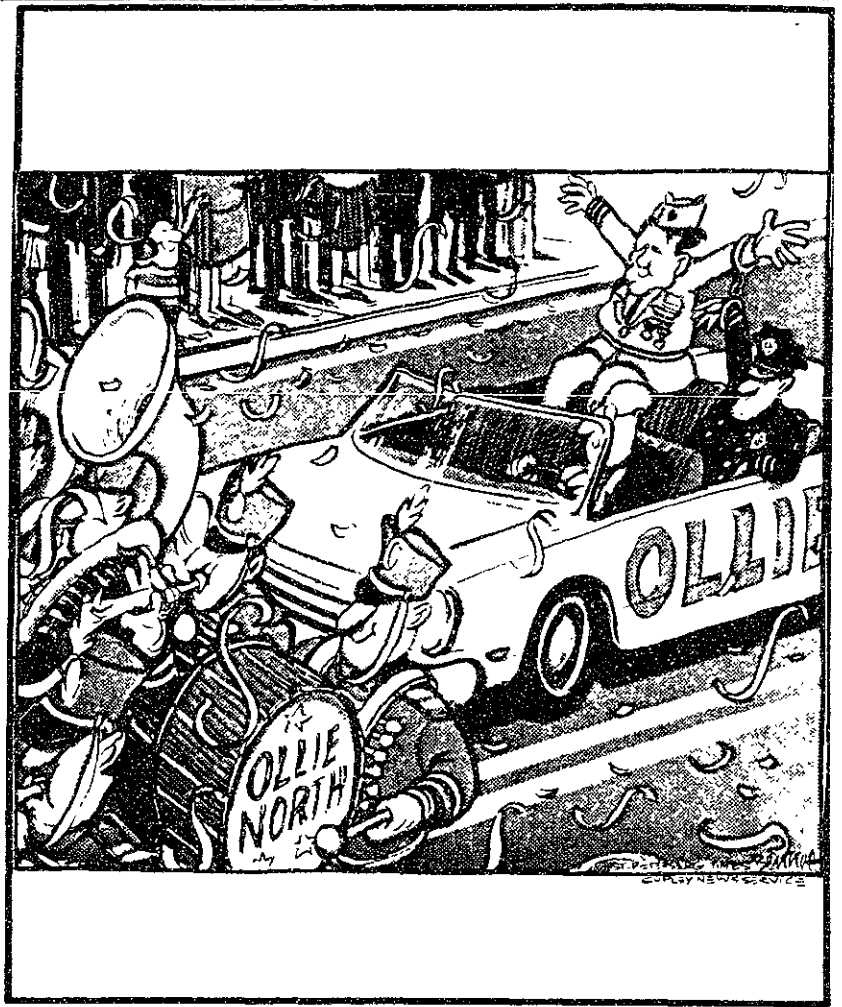
As a general rule, students do not take a course in which they are unsure of their abilities if they feel that they might receive a low grade, even if they are interested in the subject matter. As a result, freshmen will be forced to choose their majors sooner, rather than later, and on the basis of insufficient information. Eliminating pass/fail limits their freedom to pursue their interests without penalty, and will promote a narrowing of interests.

By placing such an emphasis on the traditional single-pole scale, the faculty will only increase the pressure of an MIT

education. Too much concern for grades leads to stress. The competitive pressure of grades will also undermine the effectiveness of the peer support system, which has been more successful than the freshman advising system.

Modifications to the structure of the freshman year could reshape how MIT students view their alma mater. Because of the potentially disastrous consequences, however, any such changes must be carefully thought out. But more importantly, opinions about what is good for freshmen must be supported by facts. No respected member of the MIT faculty would dare propose a new scientific theory without support from numerous references. What makes the freshman year so different?

Mark Kantrowitz, a junior in the Departments of Mathematics and Philosophy, is business manager of The Tech.



feedback

Possibilities are shattered by suicide

To the Editor:

My housemate brought home *The Tech* today. Another black bordered box on the front page. Another suicide. And the usual question — WHY?

We'll probably never be able to answer that nagging question, just as today I can't tell you WHY one night eight years ago when I was an undergraduate, I was ready to end my life.

It was August 1980, the summer between my freshman and sophomore years. I'd been depressed for several weeks and had been sizing up my windows and roofs as potential places to jump from. Then, my parents came to visit and we had yet another discussion about how my mother didn't like the way I was running my life. It was too much. I decided I was going to end it all. After I was finished working at LSC for the night, I was going to find a roof and actually jump.

Obviously, I didn't do it. By

pure accident I ran into my best friend that night. I hadn't expected her back at MIT for several weeks. We didn't do more than exchange greetings, but somehow knowing that she expected to see me the next day stopped me from going through with my plans. To this day, I have no idea if I would have killed myself or not if I hadn't bumped into her, but I am thankful that she happened to be there.

Looking back, I have no idea WHY I wanted to kill myself. I have no idea WHY I was so depressed going into that evening. Most things were actually going pretty well. Sure, I'd been feuding with my mother, and she wasn't recognizing any efforts I made to please her, but that was nothing new. We'd been fighting over my values and my lifestyle ever since I was in junior high.

In life there are always possibilities. Eight years ago, I would never have dreamed that my life

would be as it is now. My job and my Master's degree are in two different fields, neither of which I'd planned to end up in, but both of which I enjoy. Many of my closest friends are people I never would have met had I killed myself. Many situations would have turned out differently if I had not been there to lend a hand, an ear, a thought.

If you are thinking about committing suicide, don't do it. Talk to your friends. Talk to your acquaintances — some of them may turn out to be better friends than you thought. Seek out counselling services, I eventually did and it helped me put things in a more reasonable perspective.

There are ALWAYS possibilities. No matter how bad things seem, things can get better. You may have to work at it, but life can be improved. If you kill yourself, you'll never know how good things could have been.

Ellen Kranzer '83

MIT environment does not promote suicides

To the Editor:

My best friend here at MIT killed himself last weekend.

He had problems, but contrary to the arguments of Andrew L. Fish ["Lack of warmth causes pain," April 12], MIT did neither cause nor aggravate those problems. His problems stemmed from long before he entered MIT.

I do not believe that MIT is a selfish, irresponsible and unfeeling entity. Yes there have been an excess of suicides here, but if one looks further at the nationwide statistics, wouldn't one find that an excess of suicide victims were very successful academically? As such, the statistics at MIT shouldn't be viewed as so anomalous. But I confess that even in this light, the problem is certainly not rationalized.

"Lack of intimate support" is an unjustified criticism. Students who feel that they need help should hardly have any trouble finding it. If close friends or floor tutors aren't nearby or available at the moment, there's always Nightline, which I have always found very helpful whenever I used it. The problem is that many people in need of help just don't believe they need it, or are so depressed with themselves that they would rather continue the

long downward plight than attempt to improve their situation.

The paragraph which trashed the MIT faculty was quite uncalled-for. The MIT faculty has been enormously helpful in granting extensions on problem sets and exams to all those involved in this recent incident. More than twenty members of MacGregor A-entry were able to travel to New Jersey last weekend to say goodbye to a friend and come back without the pressures of schoolwork hammering at them in the car. Faculty members have also been helpful by spending time talking with affected students about their grief.

As for the victim, I do not believe that school pressure was a major factor in his decision. He had other problems, as I'm sure did other suicide victims from MIT.

Flaming on about how MIT has failed to prevent suicide and may even have encouraged it is not going to solve the problem. I recall overhearing a suggestion during the weekend that a coffin be placed in public location with information on available counseling posted nearby. Maybe this "scare tactic" would really remind people who are suicidal about the permanence of suicide.

I admit, it may be extreme, but our record demands extreme measures. I don't feel that we should be sitting around hoping that the next incident will never occur.

Jim Rees '89

A brief note to an MIT student now departed

Dear Mark Kordos:

You've never heard of me, but I came here to meet you. I came here to meet the superkids, the geniuses, the gods. They called me that at my high school, but I knew you were better.

I came here to learn from you, because you had qualities I admired. I came here to be with you, because excellence is rare.

You always understood my jokes.

But MIT was hard. I never did as well as you. I didn't work enough. I never really knew you. I should have made more friends.

I never learned how to sing. Now you're dead, and I have failed. Maybe I should go. It would hurt me so to leave you here, but it hurts me more to see you die.

Adam Kao '89

The Tech

Volume 108, Number 19

Friday, April 15, 1988

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opinion

feedback

A little bit of caring goes a long way

To the Editor:

A little caring goes a long way.

I have worked in studios full of people where I have felt that I could disappear — and no one would notice. And I have worked in practically empty studios with one or two people who would talk through the long nights, and offer a shoulder to cry on when things looked impossible. People who care are the difference between night and day.

Too often here at MIT we don't care, or more to the point we don't notice others' problems. We sit at our computer terminals, turn up the volume on our Walk-

mans and shut out the world. We rush down the infinite corridor with tunnel-vision; concentrating on all the places we have to go and things we have to do, we don't even see the people we pass. After spending long nights in studio (or in the lab, or in the library, or at Project Athena. . .), we pass by the people in our living group without speaking on our way to sleep. And we have no sympathy; there's a constant one-upsmanship of complaints, "You stayed up all night, well I haven't slept for three days!"

I've been lucky. I have friends who care enough to force feed me jelly beans during those mid-

night crises and to drag me in to see the counselors in the Dean's Office. I live on a floor with wonderful (and observant) tutors who are always there with uncritical advice. But, sometimes it's the simple encouragement of a classmate or the passing kindness of a stranger that makes an awful day (or night) bearable.

Would it be so hard to care about the people around us? To walk across campus more slowly, and smile at that person who looks a little bit lost? To really listen when someone has a problem? It could make all the difference in the world.

Stephanie M. Keenan '88



Prefrosh need Campus Preview to get a true picture of MIT

To the Editor:

I was very disturbed after reading Darrel Tarasewicz's column concerning the Admission Office's Campus Preview ["Campus Preview gives slanted picture of MIT," April 12]. Since I am one of the Campus Preview '88 coordinators, I know that Tarasewicz's remarks regarding Campus Preview (Women's Weekend/Minority Spring Weekend,

April 7-9) were implicatively incorrect in addition to being unnecessarily cynical.

Tarasewicz claimed surprise at the fact that "the Admission Office still organizes a women's weekend." He went on to rationalize his surprise by saying that "in the past three years, the percentage of women accepted to MIT has approached figures common to other colleges" and

that "the Admissions Office has repeatedly stressed that it does not treat males and females differently in the admissions process."

It is true that the Admissions Office screens male and female applicants according to the same standards. However, Tarasewicz implied that by sponsoring Campus Preview the Admissions Office treats males and females "differently in the admissions process." In fact, the admissions process has been completed before Campus Preview occurs; all prefrosh who attend Campus Preview have already been admitted into the prospective freshman class.

In addition, Tarasewicz implied that since the percentage of undergraduate women at MIT has grown, such a program should no longer exist. It is true

that the increase in undergraduate women is due in part to Campus Preview. However, there is still great need for such a program which exists to show and not sell MIT to prospective students.

To justify the existence of Campus Preview, one must take factors other than the current enrollment of undergraduate females into account. Campus Preview exists because MIT's reputation outside MIT has not changed considerably during past years. There are many people outside MIT who still believe that the undergraduate male-female ratio at MIT is, to quote one of this year's female prefrosh, "eight to one," when in reality the ratio is almost two to one.

Many are also concerned that the academic abilities of MIT men are substantially higher than

those of MIT women. There is, however, no statistical difference between academic performances of MIT men and women. As long as such myths exist, Campus Preview is necessary to provide the prefrosh with a more accurate view of MIT. The Admissions Office will continue to sponsor Campus Preview as long as women feel inhibited to attend school here because of MIT's reputation in the outside world.

Furthermore, Campus Preview does not present "a very fraudulent, deceiving picture of what MIT is like." It is all too easy for undergraduates to vent their stress and frustration on programs such as Campus Preview. So why are there so many students who often complain about MIT but who also tell prefrosh that the hard work is "worth it"?

(Please turn to page 7)

Police provide shuttle service in emergencies

To the Editor:

In my letter ["CPs lack concern for off-campus-students," April 8] I explained that the Campus Police have denied many off-campus students transportation between their living groups and the MIT medical center. It appeared to me, and to many other people, that the Campus Police had a policy of not visiting off-campus MIT living groups.

After talking with Chief Anne P. Glavin, I am glad to say that this is not their position. Unfortunately, the official policy is not well known and is not available in printed form for students. Also, students calling the campus police or the medical department are often informed wrongly that rides across the bridge are not provided.

According to Glavin, the Campus Police will always attend to emergency situations across the bridge (e.g. life-threatening). For other situations, such as illness, the medical department must screen requests for transportation. If the medical department judges that the student does need a ride, then they will call the Campus Police and arrange it. If

the Campus Police do not have a cruiser available, the medical department will provide a taxi voucher.

It should be noted that the Campus Police will still usually deny safety escorts across the bridge. This is necessary because there are not enough cruisers to both escort students and adequately cover the campus. Glavin is trying to arrange a service that could specifically provide escorts across the bridge and might also help transport injured students, but funding for such a project is not yet available.

In both of the cases that I mentioned in my previous letter, the students followed proper procedure for requesting a ride. When it was refused, they felt they had no recourse because they were unaware of their right to transportation. To avoid future confusion, Glavin has kindly offered to send a representative who will explain the policy to any living group. She will also listen to any complaint about an officer who does not follow it. Starting next year, the information will be provided to freshmen along with other Campus Police handouts.

George Hu '89

Column on SDI was marred by misinformation

To the Editor:

The column "SDI lacks clear objectives" [April 8] by David Hamilton mixes together sound observations (largely confined to the first half of the column) and misinformation (largely confined to the second half of the column).

A more accurate column might have noted:

● Last September, the DOD approved a Phase I Strategic Defense System (SDS). While it is likely that the plan will be changed, the outline for the first steps is there to be criticized. Analysis might suggest whether the SDS is likely to provide a base for population defense or hard site defense or something else.

● The "recent deployment of the Trident D-5 SLBM" refers to

events that have not occurred. The missile is still in testing and deployment is not anticipated until late next year.

● My impression is that few of the "population defense" advocates and fewer still of the "enhanced deterrence" advocates contend that a Soviet ABM breakout is either feasible or likely. What is the evidence that singles out and links the entire class of "enhanced deterrence" advocates with the breakout fear?

● Surely you confuse intelligence groups when only the CIA is identified with "consistent bias and shoddy scholarship" and with support of the breakout theory.

● Relative survivability of MX in silos, MX in rail garrison, and Midgetman on transporters depends on so many factors (pre-

dicted Soviet capabilities in a specified future time frame, forces allowed by arms control agreements, public acceptability of land mobile ICBMs, status of defense, degree of silo hardening, mobility features, warning time, . . .) that the column's assertion of the Midgetman's survivability advantage is debatable at least. What is not debatable is the astounding assertion without qualification that "the Midgetman would be far less expensive than either SDI or the MX." I am unaware of any estimate that shows any Midgetman scheme even to approach the cost of any MX scheme, let alone be far less expensive. Only by creation of figures of merit supported by extremely speculative estimates could cost assertion be possible.

Douglas Karo

MIT police force inappropriate resource for shuttle bus service

To the Editor:

George Hu recently suggested ["CPs lack concern for off-campus students," April 8] that the Campus Police provide a shuttle bus service to and from the MIT infirmary for students with minor injuries that live off-campus. This is clearly an inappropriate use of this particular resource. The Campus Police consists of very well-trained individuals that specialize in providing the MIT campus with security, crime prevention, and educational services on such things as date rape and alcohol abuse. The suggestion that the Campus Police provide taxi service to off-campus students (of which there are 1000 undergraduate and over 3500 graduate students) only diverts the time of these officers from on-campus patrols and increases the response

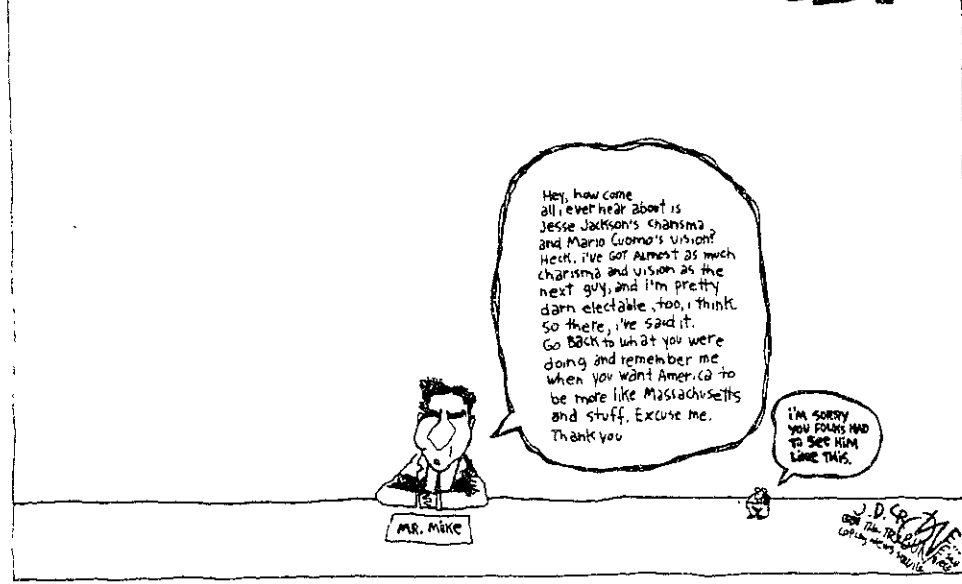
time to crimes-in-progress (concerning which I have read many complaints in this paper already).

It is clear that an on-campus shuttle-service of some kind is desirable from a crime prevention viewpoint, especially for those students that live on-campus and must work late. But it is my feeling that this particular service (if it should be provided at all), should not be provided by police officers, but by a dedicated shuttle-service that runs on a schedule after dark. The role of the Campus Police should not be diluted from its original and noble purpose of providing security to the MIT campus.

George, the next time someone has a minor injury and needs a ride home, call a taxi.

Norman M. Werely G

MICHAEL DUKAKIS IS MAD.



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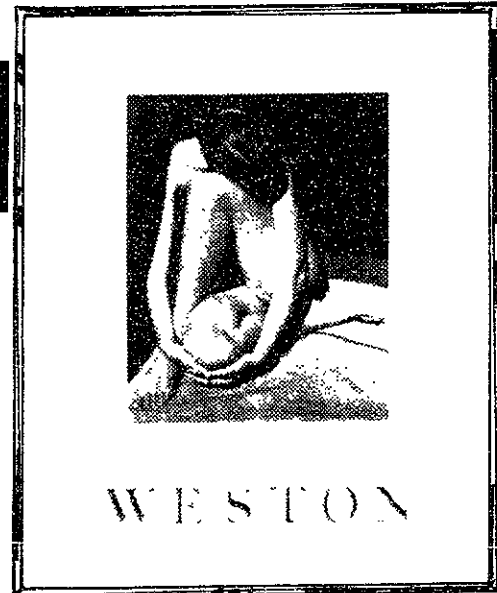
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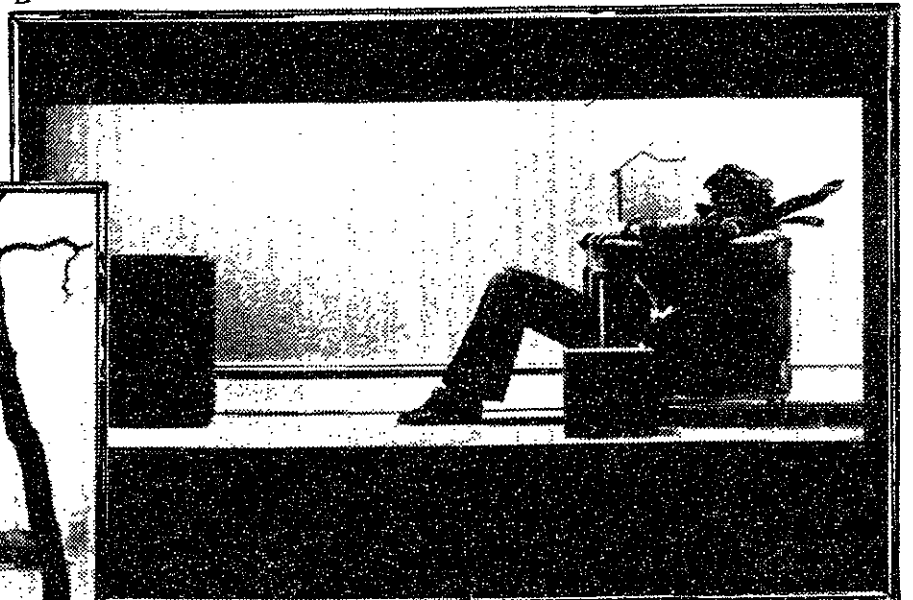
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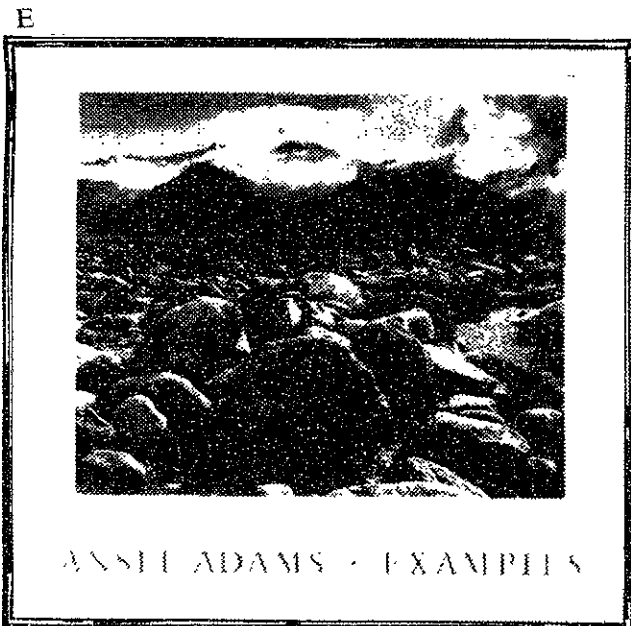
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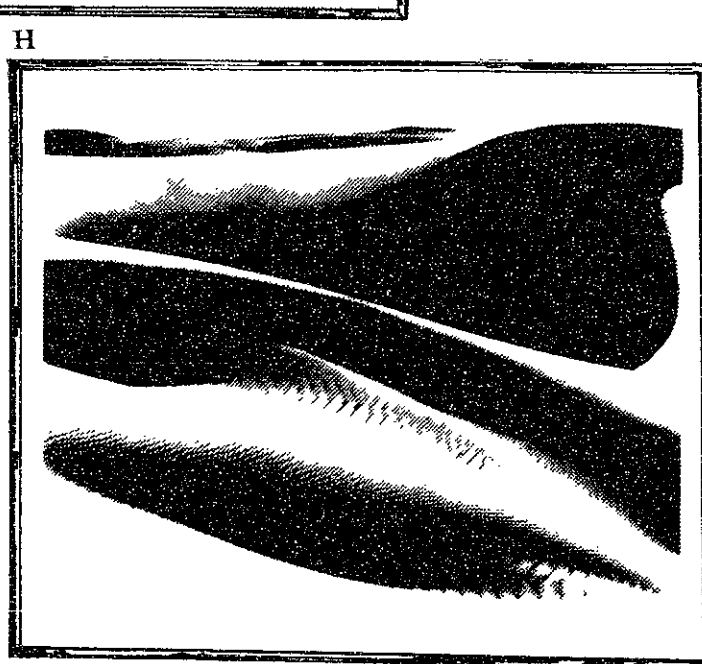
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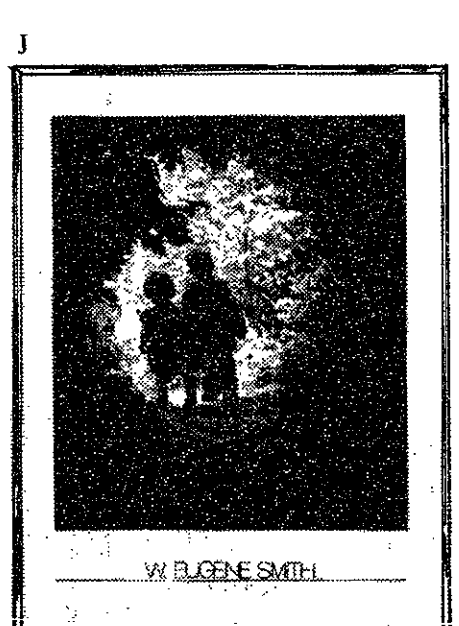
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opinion

feedback

Students: show sensitivity and compassion, not cynicism

(Continued from page 5)

Contrary to Tarasewicz's claim, prefrosh who attend Campus Preview are told that MIT is hard work. But how many will really believe that statement before they actually become students here? Who is to say that the prefrosh will not experience stress and frustration by attending another college or university, prestigious or not? Because many of us have not attended other schools, we have no personal experience on which to base such a claim.

Moreover, Tarasewicz made an unfounded statement that many escorts and other Campus Preview workers "would much rather be doing something else" than working on Campus Preview. If our workers would have rather been doing something else, why did they volunteer their time? Also, workers are not required to "explain the wonderful features

of MIT," as Tarasewicz cynically states. They are simply told by the Admissions Office to be honest.

And as for the "men looking out windows and rating them (the female prefrosh) as good-looking or bad-looking maidens," why do men make such judgments? Are these judgments atypical at other colleges and universities? Why do so many fraternities have parties during Campus Preview?

Campus Preview aside, what was even more disturbing about Tarasewicz's column was the cynical remark that "a visitor to our campus could truly believe that a caring, compassionate environment exists for students here." Important to the implication that such an environment does not exist was the death of Mark Kordos '89.

That Kordos committed suicide is extremely unsettling and unfor-

tunate. No explanation for the incident will ever comfort the reality that he is gone. I could say that the timing of the incident was unfortunate since it occurred during Campus Preview. However, this argument would be shallow. Campus Preview or no Campus Preview, prefrosh and undergraduates alike must cope with the suicide.

What is important to realize, though, is that there are many reasons why people commit suicide and that the academic workload cannot be a scapegoat. Some feel that if there were more student support, suicides would not occur. However, this hope is based on the feeling of helplessness with results from another's suicide. This is not to say that different approaches to students support should not be tried. But no matter what type of support exists, people who are depressed must have the inner strength to

confide in someone their feelings instead of isolating themselves.

The bottom line is that compassion and support do exist for students at MIT. Instead of being cynical and pessimistic, students should be sensitive and aware of those around them. Chances are there is probably a frustrated individual close by. If students sneer that support does not exist, a depressed individual will believe that the situation will become only worse.

Students must, instead, help others realize that the support does exist. This support ranges from formal to informal. For those who seek formal help, there are counseling deans in the Student Assistant Services section of the Dean's Office who do care and are compassionate with the needs of students, as are the other sections of the Dean's Office.

Other programs, such as Nightline, exist to help students.

Advisors are often overlooked as sources of support. Some students feel that advisors are only concerned with academics, but the point is that academic performance is affected by many aspects of a student's life, including the personal facet. If you need support and your advisor does not empathize, change your advisor. It is okay to ask for help. You are in control.

There are many reasons why MIT at times may seem to be a cold, unfeeling environment. This impression is only exacerbated by the negative attitudes of students. It is time to start looking at the doughnut instead of the doughnut hole. Negative attitudes which are not constructive can make others' situations worse. Only if cynicism stops will we be able to hope that another suicide will not occur.

Leanne Sterbank '89

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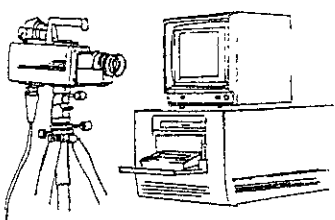
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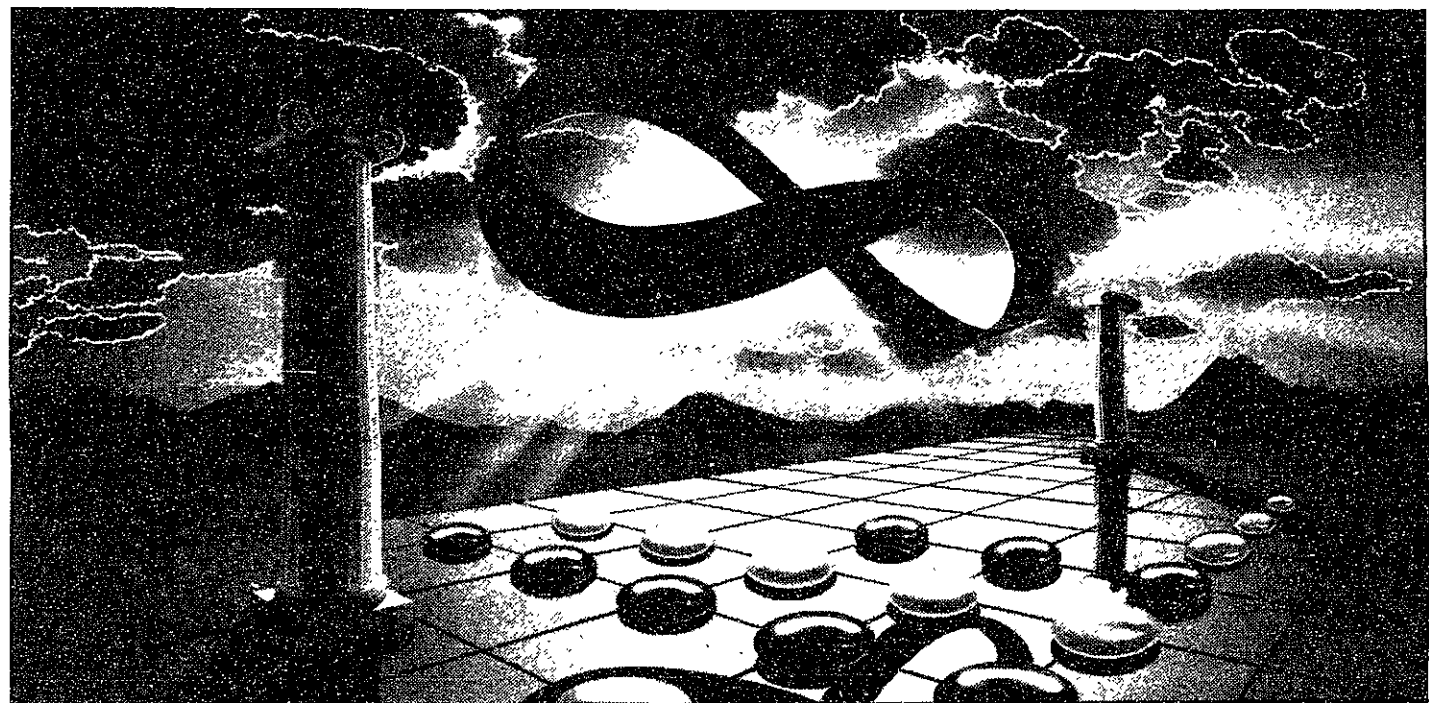
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ARTS

Ridge shows technical perfection, musical eloquence

RIDGE STRING QUARTET

Program of works by Haydn, Bartok and Dvorak. Final event in MIT Guest Artist Series. Kresge Auditorium, April 8.

By ALLON G. PERCUS

PUT QUITE SIMPLY, the Ridge Quartet has one of the most beautiful sounds I have ever heard. It has a technical perfection which, I might venture to say, is nearly unsurpassed. For an ensemble whose history goes back only a few years, it is nothing less than astounding.

The musical eloquence which characterized the entire concert was evident at the outset, in the first few measures of the *Vivace* of Haydn's *String Quartet in C Major*, Op. 50, No. 2. The sound seemed to exhibit absolutely extraordinary control, indicating that either a lot of very careful thought went into the balance of the instruments, or the group possessed an incredible natural chemistry — or, perhaps more likely, a combination of the two. Their concentration on precision, however, was not the sole evidence of virtuosity. All four musicians, and especially first violinist Krista Bennion Feeney, gave an animated performance which lent as much to the music as did their impeccable playing.

Violist Ah Ling Neu's long solo, introducing the *Mesto-Vivace* of Bartok's *String Quartet No. 6*, began a thoroughly enchanting piece. It is a real joy for a reviewer to be able to report favorably on a Bartok work because he actually enjoyed

the performance, and not simply because he was "impressed" by the craftsmanship of the artists. The Ridge is one of the only ensembles which pleases an audience not merely with its *effort* to make an agreeable sound out of what many in the audience find disagreeable music, but with its true success in doing so! Their Bartok was nothing short of a pleasure to the ear, a quality which some might say it does not usually have. The *Mesto-Burletta* had an unexpected lyrical side illustrated, with wonderful dynamic control illuminating the pizzicato section. It was the most delightful abuse of strings that I ever heard.

Dvorak's *String Quartet in F Major*, Op. 96, "American," further demonstrated how affably the music flowed from the artists. The changes in dynamics throughout the piece were not only pleasant but seemingly very natural as well. The sweetness of the *Lento* appeared to come without any effort whatsoever on the part of the quartet. It was technically flawless, forcing one to listen to every single note, while it was so unaffected that one had to struggle to believe that this was an ensemble performing.

The Ridge Quartet, having emerged in Alexander Schneider's prestigious New School Concert series in New York, has gone on to win both the Fischhoff and Coleman Chamber Music Competitions. In its European tour, it was honored with re-engagements everywhere it played. Let us hope for a re-engagement here too. It has got to be one of the finest chamber ensembles ever to appear on stage at MIT.

RIDGE



STRING QUARTET



Ink sketch relating to the 1907 painting *Les Femmes d'Alger*

A privileged look at Picasso's sketches

Je Suis le Cahier:
The Sketchbooks of Picasso
Institute for Contemporary Art, Boston.
Opens Friday, April 15.
Exhibit continues through June 12.

By CHRISTOPHER J. ANDREWS

"I AM THE SKETCHBOOK of Mr. Picasso, painter" appears on one of the many sketchbooks of Pablo Picasso now on exhibit at the Institute of Contemporary Art. Although the ICA generally exhibits the work of living artists, Picasso's sketchbooks serve as appointed spokesmen for the great painter, still very influential in contemporary art.

The Museum of Fine Arts has one of the series of paintings *The Rape of the Sabines* on display; an enterprising student could

easily view the finished work, take an easy stroll to the ICA, and study fifteen of Picasso's sketches leading to the finished work — fifteen sketches made over the course of two days' work which show Picasso's experiments with composition and mood.

A glimpse at even one of these jealously guarded sketchbooks was an honor bestowed upon Picasso's closest friends. MIT students can now see the same sketchbooks, at their leisure, and absolutely free of charge.

* * * * *

The Institute for Contemporary Art is located at 955 Boylston Street, next to the MBTA Auditorium Station. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 11am-5pm, Thursdays and Fridays until 8pm. Admission is \$3.50 adults, \$2 students, and free to MIT students with I.D.

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ARTS

Unvarnished Shylock reveals truth of Venetian society

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

By William Shakespeare.
The Skakespeare Ensemble at MIT.
Kresge Little Theatre, April 14-19.

By JONATHAN RICHMOND

SHAKESPEARE'S SHYLOCK is not the equal of the other characters in *The Merchant of Venice*. By Venetian law, he would have been confined to live in the *Ghetto Vecchio*, a compact area, demarcated from the rest of the city. He would have been restricted occupationally, driven into usury, one of the few functions he could lawfully serve.

Why should Shylock, despised and abused by the citizens of Venice, pour out his heart to his tormentors? Why should he annul his loan to Antonio simply because Antonio has been foolish? Antonio would certainly never grant Shylock any favor. Why, when his bond is secured by Venetian law, should Shylock not have the justice accorded Christians? The legal system does not grant Antonio mercy from completing his agreement to forfeit a pound of flesh to Shylock in default of payment, because to do so would be to jeopardize the city's trading status. Why should Shylock be more merciful than the judge who rules in his favor? Why, when Venetian citizens keep slaves to use and dispose of at their will should he not come into possession of flesh, too?

The sentimental approach pursued in many contemporary productions of *The Merchant of Venice* casts Shylock as a "human" character, who pleads passionately that he bleeds like everyone else. This portrayal is an erroneous response to perceived superficial anti-Jewish connotations. On a deeper level it is wrong, for it espouses the truly insulting assumption that Shylock should have feelings that the Venetians lack, that he should be better than they.

Kevin Coleman's insightful production presents Shylock as the only honest character on the cast, as a man demanding,

not begging, that he be accorded equal justice under Venetian law. Joseph Vanderway '89 gives a brutally graphic portrayal of a man who will not pretend to be friends with those who spit on him, who will not treat others differently from the way they treat him. His lust for money, his hatred and his chosen revenge are horrible, but show that those who pretend to higher values are the very instigators of the system under which he operates.

Vanderway's "hath not a Jew eyes" is reduced from today's frequently romantic treatment to a cold and dispassionate set of Socratic questions; this is as it should be. No Shylock of dignity would open his heart to tormentors totally lacking in souls of their own. Vanderway's deliberative flashing of the knife in the court and sadistic subsequent wiping of the blade across the sole of his shoe make the heart miss a beat. His cruelty is unvarnished; in exposing the bitterness of Shylock, it reveals the truth about everyone else.

Portia, directed to accord with this view of society, is well played by Andrea McGimsey '87, even if she did stumble on too many lines on opening night. This is a Portia who preens herself and revels in the *Shadenfreude* of those who lose out in her seemingly innocuous trials of the caskets. Her "The Quality of Mercy" is unmovingly recited with airs and graces — it is a biting portrait of Portia's inhuman, calculating ways.

The Antonio of Tom Darci '87, Bassanio of Andrew Borthwick-Leslie '87 and Lorenzo of David Poeppel '89 are well-acted to fit within Coleman's schema. There were plenty of laughs, too, especially from the Salerio of Michael Levine '87, Solanio of Brecht Isbell '89, Gobbo or Eric Ristad G and Old Gobbo of Randy Hertzman '88. The Prince of Arragon was humorously done by John Wolfe G. The set by William Fregosi was simple, but evocative and focused attention on the action. The costumes of Leslie Cocuzzo-Held were splendid.



Mark D. Virtue/The Tech

Shylock (Joe Vanderway '89) claims the penalty and forfeit of his bond from merchant Antonio (Tom Darci '87).

As Coleman's unmasking proceeds, only Shylock remains true to himself and honestly acts by the values of the society of

which he is the victim, exposing the values for the evil that they represent.

Orton's Black comedy powerful

ENTERTAINING MR. SLOANE

by Joe Orton
directed by Peter Kelley
New Ehrlich Theatre
April 5 - May 1

By PETER PARNASSA

JOE ORTON'S *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* is a powerful black comedy which explores relationships. Director Peter Kelley has probingly explored how people will deceive themselves in order to keep relationships going, resulting in a fine production.

Set in London in 1964, *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* tells the story of a young man who rents a room from an eccentric woman. In the course of the play, the woman, her brother, and their father fight over possession of the boy. The woman and her brother both want him as a lover and their father suspects that he is a criminal. It is through their struggles over the boy that Orton shows how the characters are only looking out for themselves and not really communicating with each other.

The acting for the majority of the play is quite solid. Michael Goodson as the brother, Ed, deserves particular praise. Throughout the play his character works on several levels, best depicted in his scenes with Sloane. Despite the horrible things Sloane has done to him, Ed still wants to continue their relationship. Mr. Gordon portrays Ed's actions perfectly. He shows how Ed is first disgusted and then slowly overcome by his lust for Sloane. It is in these moments when Ed goes against (Please turn to page 11)

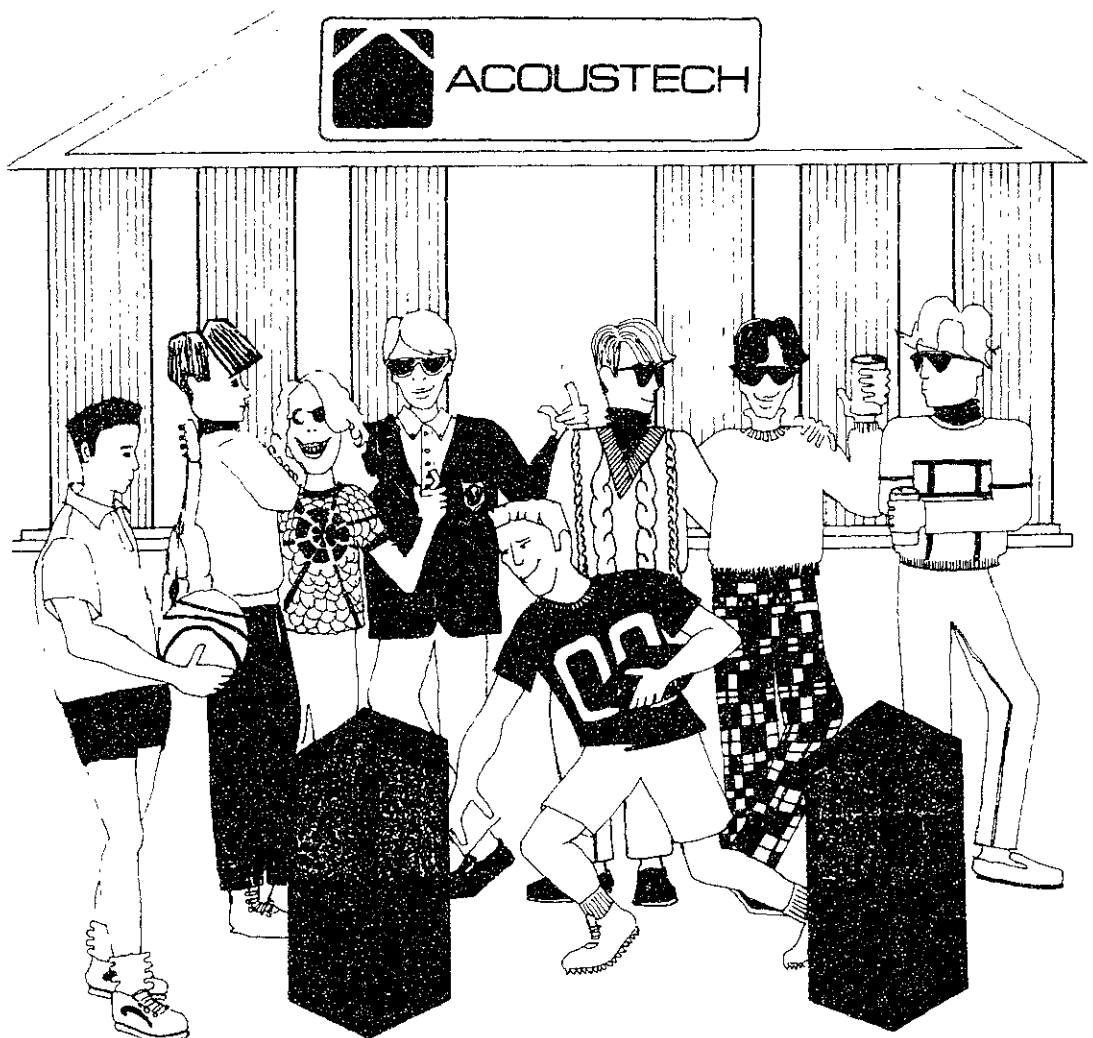
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A Sound Investment

Gangland movie not illuminating or entertaining

COLORS

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Directed by Dennis Hopper.
At the Cinema 57 and suburbs.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

THE NAME "DENNIS HOPPER" evokes images of the darker side of human existence, both in his films and personal history. His 1969 film *Easy Rider* captured the imagination through its seminal exploration of alienated youth. His star waned after the flop of *The Last Movie* in 1971, and he subsequently became heavily addicted to drugs. He burned himself out and ended up walking around nude in the Mexican desert. It was not until 1983 that he decided to clean up his act. But while making his remarkable comeback, he has remained faithful to his roots. His acting roles in films like *Apocalypse Now*, *Hooiers*, and *Blue Velvet* have explored the cult of death, drunkenness, and violent sex. Last summer's *River's Edge* again returned him to the biker generation of *Easy Rider*.

Now, eight years after he last directed a film, Hopper has made *Colors*, and it has his name written all over it. It is about the status of gang warfare in Los Angeles, where, as the opening titles point out, 250 police officers have to deal with the violence of 600 gangs with over 70,000 members. The film gets its name from the colored jackets or headbands members of one gang wear to distinguish themselves from other gangs as they roam their designated turfs with Uzi submachine guns and Soviet-made AK-47 assault rifles.

Sean Penn and Robert Duvall star as two LA Police Department officers who become partners and try to stem the flow of violence and drugs on their beat. Duvall plays Bob Hodges, an older and wiser cop who tries to foster enough good will with gang members to allay their "we vs. them" attitude. Penn's character is Danny "Pac-

man" McGavin, a young rough-and-tumble cop who wants to hit the gangs hard where it hurts most. The film explores the dynamic between these two cops as they try to trace a leader of the "Crips" gang (who wear blue) named Rocket (Don Sheeple), who at the beginning of the film guns down a man wearing the red colors of the opposing "Bloods" gang.

During their search for Rocket, Hodges recognizes his own early hotheadedness in the brash McGavin and tries to channel McGavin's energy in more constructive directions. Although Duvall is a far more accomplished actor than Penn — whose acting also paled next to Timothy Hutton in *The Falcon and the Snowman* — Duvall and Penn manage to somehow create a defiant chemistry. The dynamic between them comes full circle at the end of the film as McGavin becomes the one with a new and overzealous partner who needs some experienced advice. Unfortunately, this is as deep the characterization gets, which is all too typical of films as wrapped in violence as this one.

The supporting characters include Maria Conchita Alonso (last seen in *The Running Man*) in the throw-away role of having to choose between loving McGavin or being loyal to her fellow Chicanos and gang friends. Her character is never developed to any degree, and she and Penn do not seem able to create any sparks on the screen.

Far more interesting than Alonso's melodrama is Frog (Trinidad Silva), who calls everybody by the name "Holmes." He has developed a cautious but firm understanding with Hodges over the years and tries to protect his little brother from the ravages of the ghetto. Frog does eventually succumb to the unwritten rules of gang warfare, but he retains more human dignity than any other character in the film.

The film itself is loaded with car chases, shootings, gory deaths, and numerous oth-



er acts of violence. Hopper teeters just to the edge of exploiting the violence, but he steps back from the brink of gratuity enough times to maintain a hold on reality in his recreation of current Los Angeles.

Haskell Wexler's cinematography is excellent as ever, especially when his remote-controlled camera becomes an intimate participant rather than a mere observer in a crowded jail scene where Frog overhears a conversation about gang members plotting to kill McGavin. The music by Herbie Hancock is strong and forceful as it needs to be during the chase scenes. But it falters during the love scenes between McGavin and Alonso, although this may be due to their trite relationship. Aside from some bright lighting that detracts from the ominous mood of graffiti-covered rooms, the production values are topnotch.

The LA gang members trusted Hopper implicitly and developed a remarkably strong rapport with him — so much so that Hopper actually cast a few of them in

the film. But it all eventually is pointless because Hopper does not seem to know where he wants to lead the film. If Hopper's primary goal were to call attention to the urban warfare being waged in LA, his friendship with the gangs put him in a unique position to portray gang life from the inside. He would have reached a more limited audience by making a documentary or a television special, but at least it could have resulted in some new attention to the issue.

As it stands, Hopper's unique persona and choices have led him to a film that is too fictional to be particularly illuminating and too close to the reality of violence to be entertaining. Perhaps Hopper felt that he had to solidly demonstrate his directing talents again before tackling bolder and newer cinematic vistas. Making *Colors* has clearly confirmed the rejuvenation of Hopper's creative juices, but it is disappointing that the film's most notable success is limited to this accomplishment.



Peter Kelly's direction superb; makes good use of stage space

(Continued from page 10)

his common sense and rationalizes the actions of Mr. Sloane that the drama is at its best.

The sister, Kath, played by Terry Stoeker, is also a well-developed character. While, at first, the character seems too offbeat, she ends up having great depth. Ms. Stoeker stresses certain contradictions in Kath. She tells Sloane, for example that she wants to be his "mamma," but she cannot help but try to seduce him.

As the father, Kemp, Christopher Targan is also effective. He is the one character who is rational throughout the entire play. While his son and daughter find ways of excusing Sloane's behavior, he will not betray his morals to do so. It is for these reasons that it is so painful to see him abused by the others.

John Sharian's Sloane, is unfortunately, one-dimensional. While the character is ef-

fective in some scenes, particularly when talking his way out of trouble, we do not see him develop throughout the course of the play.

Peter Kelley's direction was superb. He made good use of the stage space and kept the play moving along with good pace. The play is filled with powerful moments where the viewer wishes the characters would scream at each other, yet they are quite calm and rational. Kelly makes use of this technique repeatedly and the results are dark, unnerving moments on stage.

Joe Orton's script is without a doubt the most dazzling aspect of the play. He shows how people will betray themselves and each other to get what they want, and how hard it is to communicate with one another. Orton died in 1967 at the age of 34 and it is only recently that he has been more widely recognized. He has a voice that should be heard.



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First and Second Church, Boston, April 22 at 8 pm. MIT price: \$3.

Tickets are on sale at the Technology Community Association, W20-450 in the Student Center. Office hours posted on the door.
Call x3-4885 for further information.

The Tech Performing Arts Series, a service for the entire MIT community, from The Tech, MIT's student newspaper, in conjunction with the Technology Community Association, MIT's student community service organization.

notices

Friday, Apr. 15

Triptych, an evening of new work will be presented by the Joy of Movement Center, 536 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge on April 15 and 16 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$6-\$8. For more information, call 492-4680 or 776-0954.

* * * *

"A Symposium on Women's Education" featuring a panel discussion with area educators and a keynote address by Dr. Elizabeth Tidball will be held at Simmons College on Friday, April 15 in

Room C103 of Simmons' Main College Building at 300 The Fenway, Boston. The panel discussion will begin at 3 pm and Dr. Tidball's speech will start at 7:30 pm. For further information, call 738-2124.

* * * *

Simmons College will host a lecture entitled "To Use All Their Talents: The Many Dimensions of Educating Women." Dr. Elizabeth Tidball, professor of physiology at the George Washington University Medical Center will be the main speaker. The lecture will begin at 7:30 pm on Friday, April

15 in Room C103 of Simmons' Main College Building at 300 The Fenway, Boston. For more information, call 738-2124.

Monday, Apr. 18

Professor Michael Reich, Associate Professor in International Health at the Harvard School of Health, the Takemi Program, will speak on "Japanese Pharmaceutical Policy: Business and Government conflicts in the Japanese Pharmaceutical Field" at 5:30 pm in MIT Room 4-153 on Monday, April 18. For more in-

formation, call 253-3142.

Tuesday, April 19

"A Psychological Analysis of the Sympathetic Magical Law of Contagion" will be the topic of discussion at a seminar in the Cognitive Science Seminar Series. Paul Rozin, Department of Psychology, University of Pennsylvania will be the main speaker. The event is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, April 19 at 7:30 pm in the Grier Conference Room, 34-40 at MIT. For more information, call 253-7358.

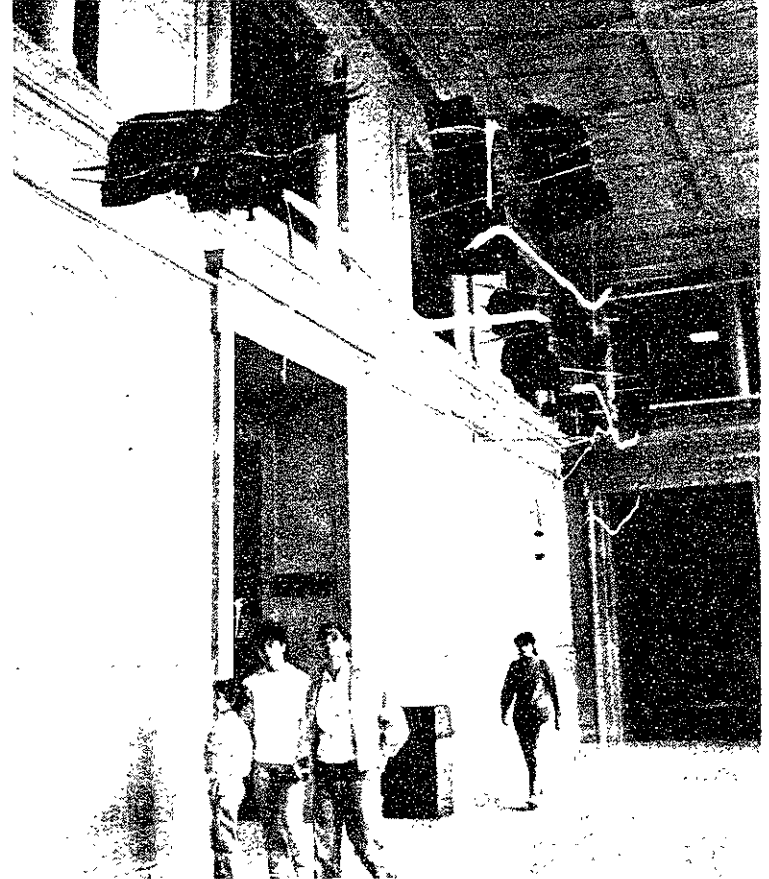
"Comparing the Theory of Natural Selection with the Kinetic Theory of Gases" will be the topic of discussion at a lecture sponsored by the Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy of Science. The lecture will begin at 8 pm in the George Sherman Union Terrace Lounge, 775 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston on Tuesday, April 19. For more information, call 353-2604.

* * * *



Christopher J. Andrews/The Tech

The Wellesley College Experimental Theater's production of *Godspell* opens tonight, under the direction of Susan Elia W '91 (bottom right) and Michael Larochelle '90 (top center). Performances are April 15, 16, and 17 at 8pm, with a 2pm matinee on the 16th. Tickets are free to Wellesley students, \$3 for MIT students, and \$5 to the general public. Call 239-2254 for reserved seating.



Michael D. Grossberg/The Tech

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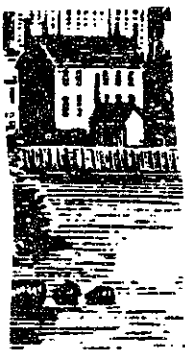
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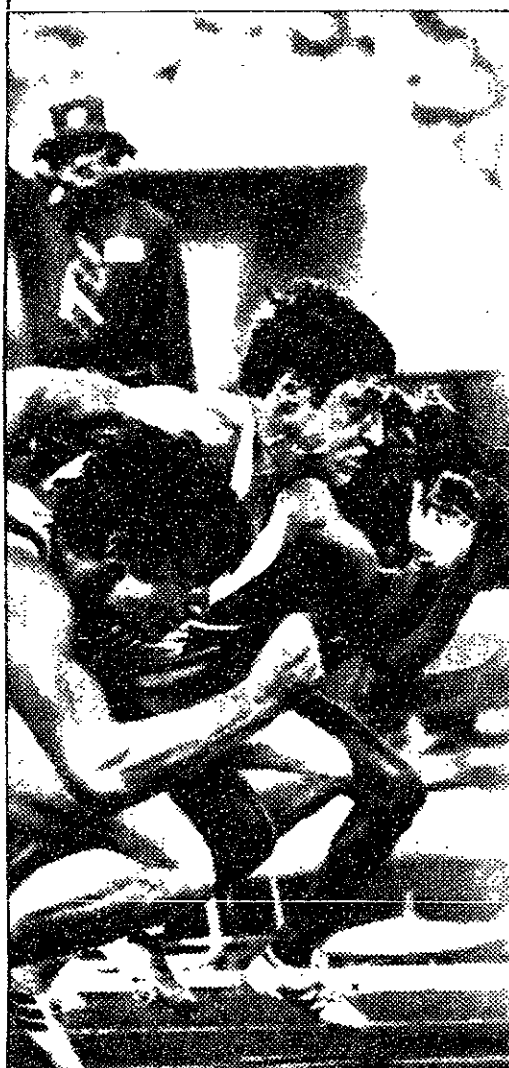
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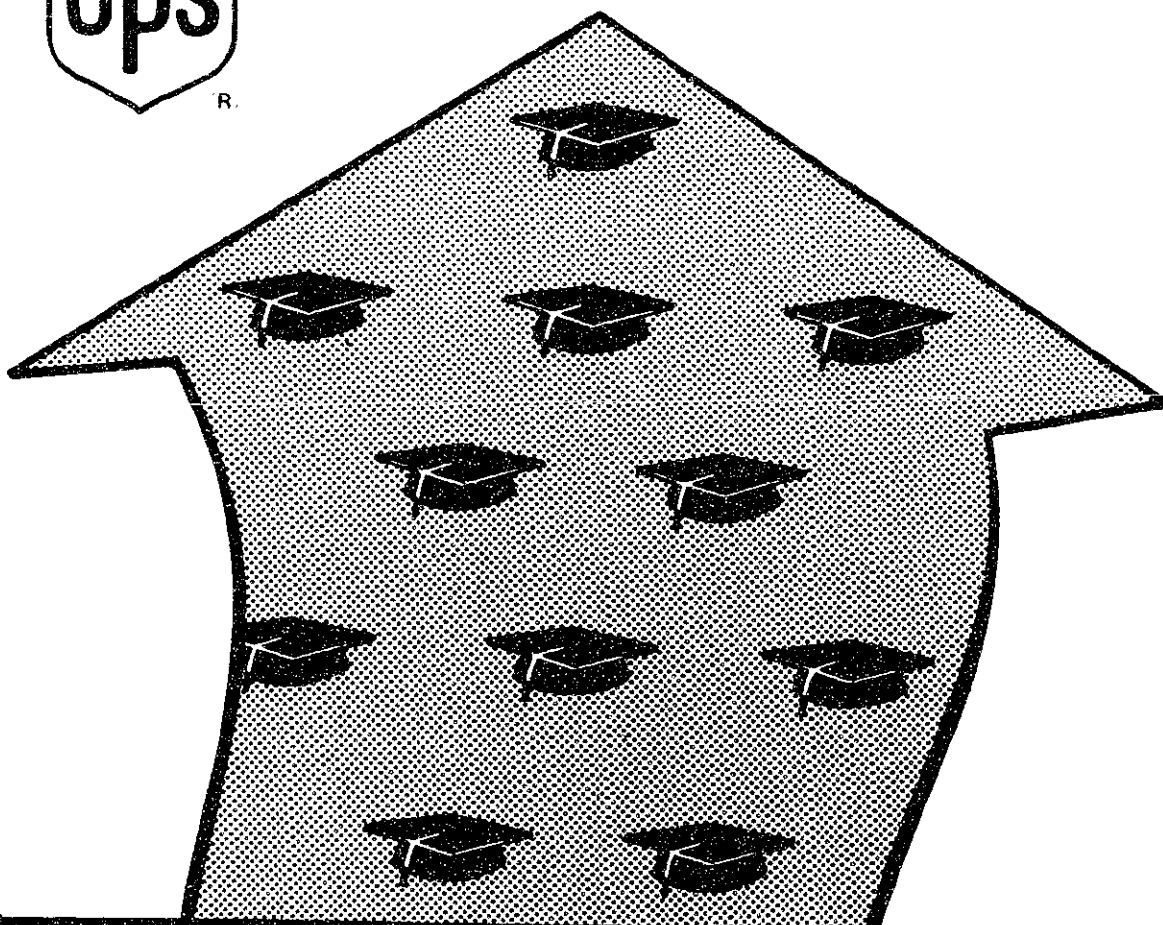
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Nader studies engineering ethics

(Continued from page 1)
moved from her position.

After going to Rockwell's upper management and complaining about the rubber-stamping of improperly performed software tests, Robins said her telephone was tapped and her family threatened. "I was demoted, transferred, given impossible tasks with unrealistic deadlines."

Robins felt most whistleblowers fare similarly. She cited a study which found that whistleblowers' superiors usually get angry at them instead of doing something about the concerns the employee has raised.

"In most companies there is a tendency to kill the messenger" who brings bad news, she said, and some whistleblowers "pay for their integrity with their careers." She stressed that employees must listen to their individual consciences when deciding whether or not to make public accusations against their companies.

She recommended that an engineer who wishes to file a complaint find allies and report the problem as a group. Nader felt companies should have a committee of engineers to serve as unbiased mediators in policy disputes.

Robins and Nader also urged students looking for jobs to ask how the individual company deals with whistleblowers.

Companies don't want to listen to anyone who challenges the way they work, Nader said, simply because there is a strong desire not to change a routine. Nader had heard from a Los Alamos National Laboratory scientist who was ostracized and forced out after trying to develop a simpler alternative to underground nuclear testing.

Whole towns in Nevada are based on underground nuclear testing, Nader said, and "there's a vested interest against even trying to find another way, because it's destabilizing. Every industry is that way."

Nader agreed with Robins that the penalty for whistleblowing is often severe, but he pointed out improved protection in the last two decades. Federal laws protect whistleblowers in any industry regulated by the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Clean Air Act, and other such acts, he said, and hotlines to report waste,

fraud and abuse have been established.

Twenty-six states have laws against malicious discharge, providing recourse to those who lose a job after challenging the legality of a company's actions, Nader added.

Nevertheless, there is a long way to go, Nader said. "Professional societies are very timid" and their standards committees "are on company missions." Students must go to society meetings and force them to confront ethical questions, he said. "Students must become the prime agita-

tors," he noted.

Nader hoped that laws which prosecute witnesses who do not report crimes, could be applied to engineering situations.

Doug Ross, founder of Softech, Inc. of Waltham, observed that accountability cannot be delegated, and everyone in a chain of command is accountable. He felt that managers would be more responsive to ethical concerns raised by their engineers if they had a better background in the humanities and social sciences — a greater "awareness of the bigger picture."



Michael D. Grossberg/The Tech
Ralph Nader speaks at last night's GSC forum on ethics in engineering.

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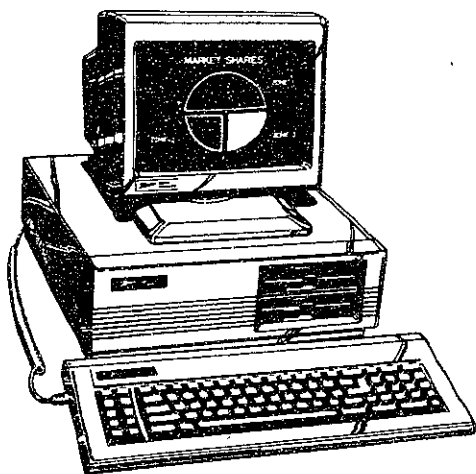
MIT Medical's AIDS-AWARE project is planning information tables, special programming on MIT Cable, computer updates on AIDS, fund-raising for AIDS research and services, and more throughout the week of April 25.

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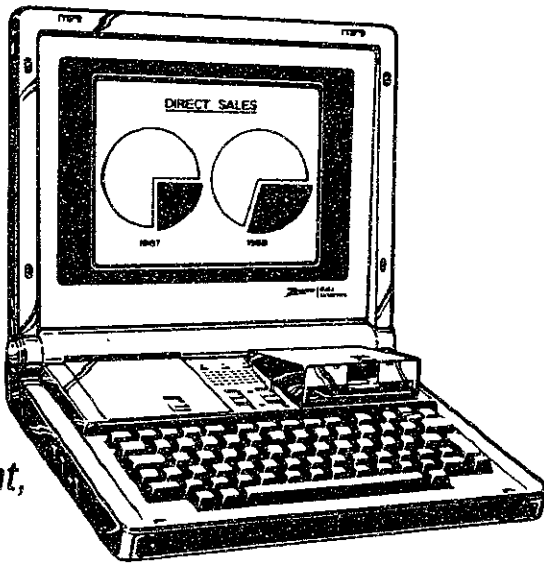
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MIT support staff examines stressful student environment

(Continued from page 1)

Suicides seem to occur in clusters. Ten to 12 years ago, a similar rash of suicides beset MIT, Randolph said. But that was followed by a five-year period that saw no student take his or her own life.

The figures give us very hollow comfort, Randolph said. "One suicide is too many," he stressed. "We can take no comfort in the fact that rates at Caltech or Michigan are similar."

Randolph said that what is unique about MIT's environment is a rugged individualism that can be found among its students. "Individualism is one of the great curses and highpoints of this place," he said. Because of this, failures are keener and not shared with other people.

Another problem that confounds many MIT students is that many have postponed the development of good social skills, according to Alfred Koumans, a psychiatrist at the MIT Medical Department. The feeling of being the only person in the world with a particular problem is a burdensome one, he added.

"Many students in high school weren't actively involved in a social group," said Marilyn Braithwaite, assistant dean for student affairs. On top of dealing with a new academic environment, they

have to deal with first relationships, she added.

"When people begin to run into problems at MIT, they can't comprehend that things are going wrong," she said. "People cannot accept the reality that they need to find help. For them, the situation is odd, because they have always been the counselor."

When suicides occur, those students that play the role of the counselor, and care about others, begin to need help, Braithwaite explained.

"We have seen so many people since Monday, and they're all very much affected by the suicide," Braithwaite said. When a suicide occurs, it affects not only those who knew the victim, but the entire community, as well, she said.

Braithwaite described how some students deliberately sabotage their MIT experience. "They clearly overload themselves freshman year, in the hopes of proving something to people. [When the semester ends], they feel stupid, and wonder how they'll be able to do it all over again sophomore year."

Braithwaite said that MIT does not create these problems; rather, students bring them from their different home environments. But regardless, "MIT is not a compassionate place," Braithwaite

added. "Spending 40 hours a week on a class and having three more that expect the same is ridiculous."

Identity problems at a changing MIT

Part of what makes a person psychologically normal is how much satisfaction he or she can find in love, work, and play, said Douglas H. Powell, clinical psychologist at Harvard University. People must also learn how to manage stress in living from day to day. When these two activities — the finding of satisfaction and the management of stress — are neglected, emotional problems such as depression emerge.

The Admissions Office has taken credit for admitting increasing numbers of diverse, well-rounded individuals in recent years. But what happens when a student must put his or her outside interests on hold as academic concerns gain priority?

"It's a real tragedy when a student says to me that he stopped doing a high school activity when he arrived here so that he could pay more attention to academics," Randolph said.

People's sense of themselves is highly undermined at MIT,

Braithwaite said. "Oftentimes people question 'what does this place want from me,'" she said. "They cannot realize that they are running into problems."

People do not want to acknowledge they have problems, because here, seeking help is a sign of weakness, Randolph said. "A lot of people say 'if I'm weak, then I'm no good.'"

This should surprise no one at a school in which students thrive on self-abuse and put-downs. Along the Infinite Corridor, one can observe Big Screw and Ugliest Man on Campus contests, and students donned in "IHFP" and "Visit Hell" and "Masochistic Institute of Technology" T-shirts.

There is a tremendous love/hate relationship between students and this college, Braithwaite acknowledged.

Christopher S. Linn '87, an admissions counselor, added that students group together in response to the high-stress environment here. "Students take pride in accomplishing something difficult. It's a matter of the students coming together and competing against MIT," Linn said.

But Randolph said that taking pride in the "MIT-is-hell-and-I-

made-it-through" mentality is "perverse." He stressed that this attitude is changing. "MIT is like a ship. It does not turn on the dime, but rather undergoes changes slowly," he said.

In many ways MIT itself is undergoing a reevaluation of its identity. "You run into two conflicting views of the university," said Randolph. "One view is that it should train individuals and be on the cutting edge. The other view is that a university should generate whole human beings to be intelligent and competent." It is possible for MIT to take on both views, he said.

"There is no doubt that changes at MIT are really happening as evidenced by all the educational reform movements," Braithwaite said. But a large schism between the projected image and the reality of MIT still remains. "I still have students who tell me that the projected image that they received of MIT as prospective students is very different from the reality they see now," she recalled.

Braithwaite said that as long as MIT seeks to train individuals rather than educate them, the Institute will in the future face the same problems it faces today.

Alcohol policy would include liability form

(Continued from page 1)

dance at the meeting, many voiced disagreement with Tewhey's view on the MIT alcohol policy. Katie Hays '90 claimed that the proposed policy was impossible to enforce. "It is like the seat belt law. We won't know it has been broken until something awful happens," she said.

The proposed alcohol policy will just "get the Dean's Office off the hook" in the event of an accident, Brain Schaefer '89 said.

"What students need is for the Dean's Office to address responsible student use of alcohol through educational and student services," Sarita Gandhi '90 said. "They [Dean's Office] need to put money into programs like TIPS. Making students sign a piece of paper will change nothing."

Tewhey did not feel the liability release was impotent. "I have spent a year-and-a-half discussing the issue of alcohol at MIT with little success. It is only now that the liability release has generated discussion."

Tewhey claimed that over the past 18 months, MIT has enacted more alcohol programs than at any other time in its history. Tewhey also said that he felt his new draft policy was "on the right track" to controlling MIT's alcohol problem.

Stress and suicide also discussed

The UA Council also addressed the issue of stress at MIT. In light of the recent suicide, many students felt that the MIT administration and faculty were not doing enough to make MIT a positive environment.

"MIT never stops," Hays said. "At some schools, they close for an entire day to mourn a student who took his life, to let the stu-

dents reflect on the suicide and deal with it. However, at MIT it is business as usual all the time. There is always another problem set and the next test. MIT never stops to acknowledge its losses."

Howard Eisen '89 said that the only words of counsel his advisor gave to him were "don't forget, you need a 4.3 to get into graduate school."

Luisa Contreiras '90 said that the Undergraduate Association should take a more active role in encouraging troubled students to seek the resources MIT has to offer. Other students suggested that faculty advisors monitor a student's progress more carefully, and that faculty members try to generate a more encouraging learning environment in their classes.

The UA approved a resolution to create a joint committee with the Dean's Office to investigate the effects that the stressful MIT environment places upon students and to also offer solutions.

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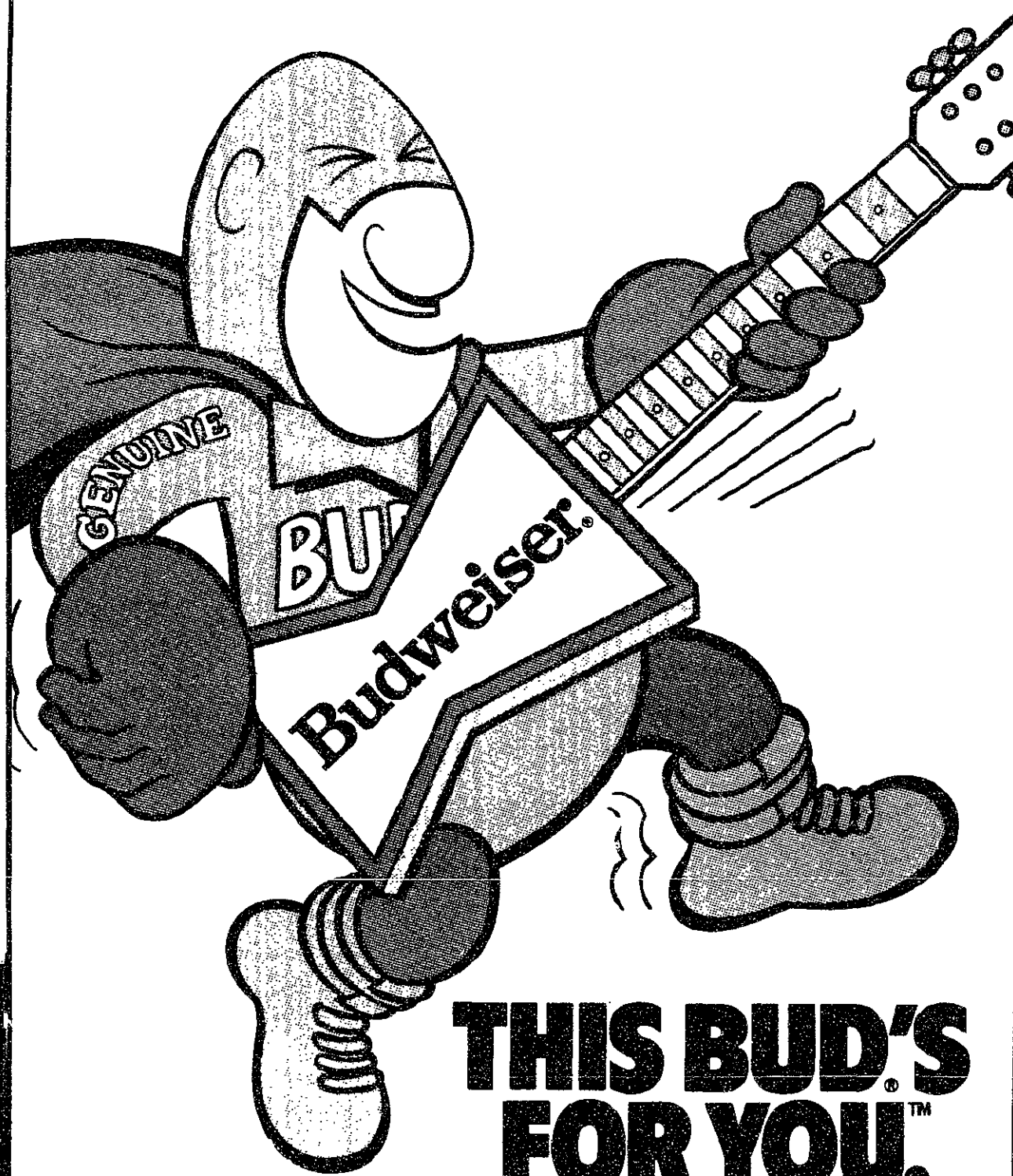
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sports

Tech sailing team grabs top trophies

By Isako Hoshino

The MIT varsity sailing team completed the weekend with a winning record. On April 9, MIT won the Geiger Trophy held at MIT. Marc Lie '88 and Isako Hoshino '89 sailed the Lark division and placed first. Dale Hinman '90 placed third in the Laser division.

In the CCT division, Drew Freides '90, John Marquardt '88, and Alan Steele '91 sailed to a first place finish. Doug Sabin '89 and Shaun Kaneshiro '91 placed second in the Tech Dinghy division.

On the same day, Kyle Welch '90, Mike Leary '91, Don Hejna '89, and Steve Barrett '89 placed third out of 14 schools at the Northern Series III held at Salem State.

On April 10, MIT placed second in the Oberg Trophy also held at MIT, losing to Tufts only by four points after being behind by over 20 points earlier in the day. The Lark A division was sailed by Marc Lie '88, Kyle Welch '90 and Barrett, who won the division. The Tech B division placed fourth, sailed by Hinman, Gayle Gilgore '91, Welch and Hoshino. The Tech C division, sailed by Freides and Leary, placed third.

The team has been showing steady improvement since the beginning of the season. The first regatta, the Owen Intersectional Trophy Regatta, took place at Brown on the weekend of March 19-20, and MIT placed eighth out of 14 schools. On the second weekend, March 26-27, MIT placed eleventh out of 16 at the Boston Dinghy Cup Intersectional Regatta held at Harvard.

Both events included nationally ranked teams from across the

country. On March 26-27, Welch, Warren Wu '90, Sabin, and Rachael Batcheler '91 placed first out of 14 schools at the Northern Series I held at MIT. They went on again to win the second Northern Series held at Harvard on April 2.

On the weekend of April 2-3, MIT placed seventh out of 16 at the Friis Intersectional Trophy Regatta held at Tufts. Lie and Hoshino placed fourth in the A division, and Hinman, Gilgore, and Leary placed tenth in the B division. Ten schools ranked top 20 in the nation sailed at this regatta. MIT should find its way

into next month's top 20 rankings.

This weekend, MIT will be sailing at the Spring Intersectional Regatta held at Coast Guard Academy, the Staake Team Race at MIT, Northern Series IV held at Tufts, and the first annual Hatch Brown Trophy which will be hosted by Boston University. This regatta is dedicated to the MIT varsity coach, Hatch Brown, who is also a graduate of BU.

(Editor's Note: Isako Hoshino '89 is captain of the varsity sailing team.)

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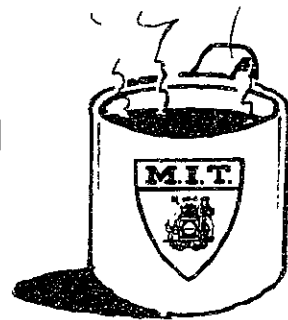
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sports

Pistol takes national championship

By Jerry L. Martin

The MIT varsity pistol team became national champions last weekend at the collegiate national championships, held in Colorado Springs. Five members of the team travelled to the US Olympic Training Center to compete in both individual and team events.

The championships consist of three events: "free pistol," fired at 50 meters with a single shot .22 caliber handgun; "air pistol," fired at 10 meters with a 4.5 mm compressed air pistol, and "standard pistol," the .22 course familiar to all of those students who have taken coach Pat Melaragno's PE pistol course.

The team faced a new challenge in firing the Olympic free and standard pistol events at 50 and 25 meters, instead of the 50 feet dictated by the MIT indoor range. However, the five men and women of the team seemed to be unfazed by the longer distances, and placed sixth in standard, ninth in air, and won the free pistol event.

The free pistol championship team included captain Mike Strange '88, managers Fred

Chong '90 and Ken DeCanio '89, and Eric Blau '91. The team was paced by Blau, a member of the US pistol team and a 1992 Olympic hopeful, whose 531 out of a possible 600 points was the best score fired at the championships.

Unfortunately, Blau had not qualified as an individual at the sectional matches, and was not eligible for the individual gold. Nonetheless, his score places him as the man to beat for the next three years. Chong's 499/600 in the same match placed him tenth overall among the individuals. Second place went to the US Naval Academy, and the bronze to the Citadel, a military college in South Carolina.

The air pistol team suffered a severe disappointment when Blau was unable to complete his last string of shots within the required time. Were it not for this unfortunate occurrence, the team's average would have placed it solidly in fourth place, with a chance at the bronze medal. The event was won by Navy, with the Air Force Academy in second and the Citadel in third.

The standard pistol team of

Strange, Chong, DeCanio, and Vickey Rowley '87 placed sixth, with Navy, Army, and the Citadel in the top three slots. Rowley, the top woman on the MIT team, turned in a fine performance to be named fourth woman overall.

The first place finish this year comes as no surprise. In the past three years, the MIT varsity pistol team has won all three events at the national championships at least once.

The 1984 team featured five All-American shooters and the standard pistol bronze medalist on its silver-medal-winning free pistol team. The 1986 team won the air and standard pistol championships on its way to a second overall finish. The 1987 team's free pistol championship helped it to fourth place overall. The team is looking ahead to a strong 1988-89 season with several key shooters returning, and some of the younger shooters going to the US Olympic Training Center summer camps.

(Editor's note: Jerry L. Martin is a former captain of the pistol team.)

MIT baseball pounds Brandeis 10-6

By Steven Stoller

Timely hitting and excellent pitching helped the MIT baseball team beat Division III powerhouse Brandeis University last Friday to notch its third straight victory. MIT took command early and never looked back as it posted its biggest win of the young season.

The upset was keyed by a seven-run explosion in the top of the third inning. With MIT already leading 1-0, the Beavers loaded the bases when Brandeis starter John McCormick walked Mike Griffin '89 and Scott "House" Williams '91; Mike Murray '90 then reached on an error. McCormick continued to struggle as he gift-wrapped two Beaver runs by walking Steven Stoller '89 and Tim "Top hand" Day '89.

Pillan Thirumalaisamy '90 then executed a perfect squeeze bunt, scoring Murray and Stoller as the Brandeis catcher threw the ball into right field. The inning was far from over as Henry Dotterer '91 stepped to the plate and promptly launched a long double down the rightfield line, scoring Day and Thirumalaisamy to push the score to 7-0. Scott McFarland '88 finished the scoring in the inning by driving in Dotterer with a single.

Meanwhile, Griffin was cruising along on the mound for MIT. He fanned three and got a number of frustrated Brandeis hitters on weak pop outs while registering all goose eggs on the scoreboard through five.

MIT stretched the lead to 9-0 in the sixth when Day cracked a double to the fence in left scoring Stoller, who was aboard with another walk, all the way from first.

Brandeis finally got on the board in the sixth. The Judges touched up Griffin for two runs, sparked by Bob Rikeman's double. In the seventh, Brandeis had another run in and two on when MIT brought in Ned Eisner to relieve Griffin from the hill. Eisner got out of the jam allowing the Judges to plate just one of the runners and maintaining a 10-4 cushion.

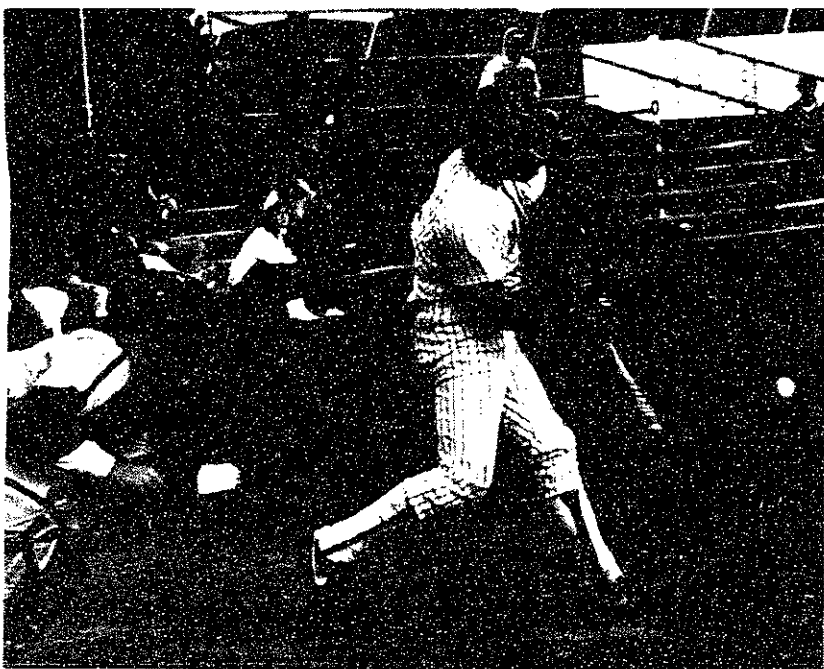
The Judges threatened again in the eighth as they put two on with two outs. Brandeis centerfielder Mike Wiseman then slammed a shot down the first base line that looked like a sure double. But Murray, the first baseman, speared it on a hop with a full

length dive and recorded the unassisted putout that left Wiseman talking to himself on his way out to center.

MIT allowed two more runs in

the ninth that just served to finish out the scoring and produce the 10-6 final.

(Editor's note: Steven Stoller '89 is a member of the MIT baseball team.)



Ken L. Church/The Tech
MIT sends another ball flying during Wednesday's game vs Suffolk. The Engineers emerged victorious, 4-2.

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