



A deer stands quietly in a wooded copse in Minnesota. See photo essay page 10.

David M. Watson/The Tech

Applied biology questions remain

By Darrel Tarasewicz

In the three months since the administration announced its plans to dissolve the Department of Applied Biological Sciences, people are still calling for the "real reasons" behind the decision, Chokyun Rha '62, associate professor in ABS said.

Among the "real reasons" might have been problems with the department's reputation in other parts of MIT. Various students and faculty in the Department of Biology and elsewhere felt that ABS was a weak department. It was not uncommon to hear ABS being referred to as the "fruit and nuts" department.

ABS was especially stigmatized with this reputation before 1985, when ABS was known as the Department of Nutrition and Food Science. Much of the earlier research concentrated on issues concerning food, Robert T. Sauer, professor of biology, said.

"Some of that research was pretty boring," Sauer said. "Though it may have been relevant to industrial needs, it was not the type of work that stirred the imagination."

Another possible reason for ABS's poor reputation was the fact that many faculty members did not have large teaching loads

or established teaching programs, according to Marie B. Chow, assistant professor of ABS.

Jonathan A. King, professor of biology, said that for a very long time ABS did not have an undergraduate major. Chow however pointed out that in recent years efforts were taken to develop

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Possible decline in freshman performance raises questions

Analysis

By Miguel Cantillo

Last year, failures in freshman physics and calculus classes increased compared to those of past years. This decline in performance, albeit statistically slight, has prompted questions among some professors and administrators.

Seventeen percent of freshmen

taking Physics I (8.01) received D's and F's last term, marking a slight increase in failures since the fall of 1985. Similarly, failures in Calculus I (18.01) increased compared to those occurring in the fall of 1986.

And in a recent Physics II (8.02) test this term, students averaged only 44 percent — while the professors had expected an average of 65.

Professor Walter H. G. Lewin, who is lecturing 8.02 this term, saw a growing "mismatch" between what the Institute demands and the preparation with which the freshmen come. Lewin believed that the admissions office may have contributed to this mismatch, but the mismatch does not mean that students do not belong at MIT.

Director of Admissions Michael C. Behnke believed that the Class of 1991 was just as capable as previous classes. But he also suggested that the interests of the class may lie in "less technical" areas.

Behnke noted, for example, that enrollment in bio-sciences, architecture, and management has increased and that fewer students in the Classes of 1990 and 1991 intend to major in electrical engineering. He pointed out that electrical engineering students are usually "well-invested" in mathematics and physical science.

Another reason for the poorer performance might be that some students only study enough to pass, Lewin suggested. This attitude would cause less responsibility in digesting the material.

The attitude could be rooted in the pass-fail system, which some argue to be good for students who need time to "pull out their

(Please turn to page 15)

Faculty approves Phase II changes

By Andrew L. Fish

The faculty approved the report of the Committee on the Writing Requirement which recommends transferring much of the responsibility for administering Phase II of the requirement to individual departments and implementing stricter measures to ensure the requirement is completed on time. The approval occurred at Wednesday's faculty meeting.

Phase II, which is intended to "engage upperclass students in the more specialized forms of writing that are necessary within their professional disciplines," can be satisfied by receiving a grade of B or better for the quality of writing in a cooperative subject in a student's field, receiving a grade of B or better in an advanced writing subject, or submitting a ten-page paper from any MIT subject or UROP within the general area of a student's professional studies.

Until this point, the evaluation of Phase II papers has been administered by the writing requirement coordinator. The report noted that this practice has not been "wholly satisfactory" — outside readers who were hired to evaluate papers lacked direct contact with the MIT curriculum. "Ultimately the best teachers and judges of written discourse in a particular discipline are the practitioners of that discipline," the report said.

Also, "the departmental management of Phase II will further emphasize the development of writing skills within the context of each student's professional program rather than as a separate activity outside the student's major."

The report said "the success of some departments does demonstrate the feasibility of departmental management of Phase II."

Each department will be responsible for appointing coordinators for the writing requirement

and for developing criteria and evaluation procedures for Phase II papers. The report also said departments should offer a writing cooperative subject and one or two core subjects that will generate a paper suitable for Phase II.

Procrastination a concern

The report said a major concern has been "student procrastination" (Please turn to page 15)

Departmental eliminations studied

By Michael Gojer

A faculty committee has been meeting for almost three weeks to hammer out guidelines for future departmental reorganizations or closings, according to Professor Sheila Widnall '60, chair of the committee.

The committee was formed last month following widespread disapproval over the closing of the Department of Applied Biological Sciences in January — a decision that was apparently reached without prior consultation with the ABS faculty.

Although Widnall said it was still much too early to know what kind of guidelines the committee would propose, she doubted that they would be radical or overly technical and said that increased bureaucracy was not desired. The Institute has traditionally been run through consultation, she said.

Widnall noted that there was "no right way" to close a department, observing that closures are always extremely disruptive to the careers of the faculty and students involved.

Widnall did not want to com-

(Please turn to page 15)

Scholars debate foreign policy objectives at Tufts symposium

By Paul M. Sherer

George W. Ball opened the foreign policy symposium at Tufts University this past weekend with a story from a "Peanuts" cartoon: Lucy tells Charlie Brown how some people on a cruise ship like to have their chairs facing the bow so they can see where they are going, and others like to face the stern so they can see where they have been. When she asks Charlie Brown which way he likes to face his chair, he replies that he can not seem to get his chair unfolded. That, according to Ball, sums up the current state of American foreign policy.

Ball, who served as underse-

cretary of state under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, declared that the Cold War is over. Comparing those on the right with Japanese soldiers hiding in caves unaware of the end of World War II, he said the Soviet Union "is anxious to reduce its revolutionary commitments abroad," citing the coming withdrawal from Afghanistan and a lowered profile elsewhere.

Richard N. Hass, the former foreign policy issues coordinator for Senator Robert Dole's presidential campaign, was less hopeful about a Soviet transformation. "It would be dangerous in the extreme to exaggerate the work of [Soviet leader Mikhail S.] Gorbachev," he told the symposium, which was entitled "Foreign Policy Imperatives for the Next Presidency: New Realities and New Ways of Thinking." Hass said "[Gorbachev's] ability to stay in power is doubtful," adding that "every period of Soviet withdrawal has been followed by a period of aggressiveness."

Marshall Goldman, professor

(Please turn to page 17)

Erratum

The story "UA Council discusses alcohol policy" [Apr. 15] contained an error. The ODSA's proposed revision to the alcohol policy would not require graduate residents or housemasters to be present at dormitory parties.



Kyle G. Peltonen/The Tech

Bruce Rankin and Marguerite Swain performed at the MIT skating exhibition earlier this year.

Medical Department addresses misconceptions about AIDS

By Paula Maute

Practice safer sex. The Medical Department hopes to convey this message to the MIT community during the AIDS Awareness week beginning Monday.

"There's a lot of confusion about what the AIDS epidemic is," said Janet H. Van Ness, director of the Medical Department's Health Education Program. The media's focus on "high risk" groups — gay and bisexual men and intravenous drug users — has created some of the confusion. Many people, including MIT students, think, "I'm not a member of those groups, therefore I don't have to worry," according to Van Ness.

But, AIDS is a risk for everyone because it is spread by a behavior — primarily sexual intercourse — and is not confined to the high risk groups, Van Ness warned.

Although only 4 percent of AIDS victims are heterosexual, this figure is expected to rise soon, according to the Center for Disease Control. The AIDS virus, or Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), entered the heterosexual population "relatively recently," according to the CDC, and has a long incubation

period, up to about eight years.

"Our concern is with the spread of the 'invisible' HIV virus," said Van Ness. People may not be aware they have virus and can pass it on to others. "You don't have to have AIDS to transfer the virus," she stressed. Some people think, "He looks well, he doesn't have the virus," but a healthy appearance does not guarantee a person is virus-free.

Blood, semen and vaginal secretions are the primary body fluids through which the AIDS virus is transmitted, Van Ness said. Many students are concerned about the risks of "tongue kissing" or "wet kissing" but this is a "relatively low-risk behavior." The HIV virus lives in nutrient-rich fluids such as blood, semen, and vaginal fluids and is rarely found in saliva, tears and perspiration, she said.

To prevent the spread the AIDS virus, the exchange of body fluids should be avoided. The Health Education Program staff suggest that people:

- be selective, know their partners' sexual histories;
- limit their number of sexual partners;
- get into the habit of always

using latex condoms;

- use latex condoms for oral sex as well;
- substitute mutual masturbation for intercourse;
- try not to wait until the "heat of passion" to discuss safe sex;
- delay having sex with new partners, wait to get to know them;
- avoid casual sex or "one night stands";
- avoid rough sex where skin tissues might be broken.

Students must decide "what best suits their particular needs and sexual practices," Van Ness stated. For some, celibacy is a "valid option," and the safest practice. But for others who are already sexually active, "just saying no to sex" is unrealistic. Most people will continue to have sex, but will adjust to safer sex behaviors.

Latex condoms should always be used, Van Ness stressed, because animal skin condoms are permeable to the virus. Condoms must be used properly and regularly to be effective, she noted. Condoms are even more effective when used with a spermicidal jelly or cream, sold over the counter in drug stores.

People need to learn to talk to each other about sexual practices, according to Anne Gilligan, an MIT student health educator. It is common for worried students to come to the Health Education Program "the day after having sex with someone they didn't know well," Gilligan said. She has encouraged students to "go back and talk to that partner and ask some of the questions you would have liked to ask before having sex," she added. The Health Education staff often helps students figure out ways to broach the safe sex subject in the future.

The AIDS virus is not always transmitted from an infected partner on the first sexual contact, according to AIDS studies. Sometimes, it takes several contacts with an infected partner before the virus is transmitted. So, to begin to use a condom on the second contact can "still be helpful," Gilligan said.

Latest AIDS statistics

One member of the MIT community died from AIDS during the last year, and two others died before that, according to Arnold N. Weinberg, head of the MIT Medical Department. But, these

deaths represent patients of the MIT Medical Department only, and do not reflect the entire MIT community, he stressed. Many students and staff receive health care at other health centers, he said, and MIT does not keep records of AIDS cases for the entire community.

Worldwide, between ten million and 100 million people are infected with the AIDS virus, according to the CDC statistics provided by the Medical Department. In the United States, over 33,000 people have died of AIDS since its outbreak in the late 1970s. There have been 59,000 cases of AIDS in the United States, reported to date. At present, an estimated 1 to 1.5 million Americans are infected with the HIV virus.

Gay and bisexual men comprise about 65 percent of the reported AIDS cases in the United States. Intravenous drug users represent 18 percent of AIDS victims, gay/bisexual men who are intravenous drug users comprise 7 percent, and recipients of blood transfusions represent 3 percent, according to March statistics of the CDC.

Schiller wins Big Screw "honor"

By Gaurav Rewari

Frantically running between the Baybank teller machine and the Alpha Phi Omega booth in Lobby 10, some students almost managed to pull a last-minute hack on the APO Big Screw contest last week. But, in a nail-biting finish, Jeffrey I. Schiller '79, network manager of Telecommunications Systems, achieved the dubious honor of being named this year's winner.

A person votes in the contest by donating money in the name of his candidate. The money collected goes to a charity of the winner's choice; Schiller chose the WEEL 590 Fund. The winner is awarded a 2½-foot long, left-handed aluminum helix with the names of winners from 1975 to the present engraved on it.

Schiller had about \$570 donated in his name, giving him a narrow victory over 'STBS' for the award. About \$470 were donated in STBS's name. APO had originally been told that STBS stood for "Science and Technology to Benefit Society"; but the letters actually stood for "Screw The Big Screw" — a hack engineered by Salman Akhtar '89 and his friends.

Akhtar's relationship with the Big Screw contest dates back to last year when he and Arturo M. Zacarias '89 made an abortive bid to hack last year's competition. This year, however, the hack almost succeeded.

Akhtar put in \$11 as a write-in vote for STBS on Thursday, the day before the contest ended. At that stage Schiller had about \$83. Akhtar, Zacarias, and Vivek Rastogi '90 then collected money from nearly 30 friends. By morning they had nearly \$250 ready.

According to Akhtar, there was no jar in STBS's name when he went to Lobby 10 at 4:30 pm to deposit the money. However, with 17 minutes to spare, Akhtar finally managed to get STBS into the race. His initial deposit was \$170. He believed that Schiller and STBS were neck-and-neck in the race at that point.

However, Schiller, his wife Karen, and a few other Project Athena officials were also present at the scene of the action and were putting \$10 into the jar every few minutes. Akhtar said that the STBS supporters started to panic because they had not expected Schiller to be present and making an attempt to win.

Akhtar and his friends spent the next ten minutes running from Baybank's teller machine to Lobby 10 in an effort to raise more money. According to Akhtar, two of his friends wiped out their bank accounts with three minutes to spare in the contest.

When the APO officials began their countdown, Akhtar stood next to the jar so that he could deposit \$250 at the last second and thus ensure victory for STBS. However, with one second to go, Karen Schiller also took out her wallet and put in a final \$200, clinching the contest for her husband.

Akhtar said that Schiller's wife deposited the money because her husband's birthday was the next day and she wanted to present him with the "Big Screw."

At least \$750 were deposited in the last fifteen minutes of the contest. Akhtar attributed this to "splendid team effort."

"The atmosphere out there was absolutely amazing," he said.

When questioned about his plans for next year's "Big Screw" contest, Akhtar replied that he could not reveal them at this point.

Winners of the APO Big Screw

- 1988 Jeffrey I. Schiller '79, network manager of telecommunications systems
- 1987 Emmett A. Witmer '51, professor of aeronautics and astronautics
- 1986 Arthur P. Mattuck, professor of mathematics
- 1985 *Shirley M. McBay, dean for student affairs
- 1984 James L. Kirtley, Jr. '67, professor of electrical engineering
- 1983 Gerald J. Sussman '68, professor of electrical engineering
- 1982 Fran Brister, department of chemistry secretary
- 1981 Ted Shifrin '74, lecturer of mathematics
- 1980 Timothy L. Grove, professor of earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences
- 1979 F. R. McFeely, professor of chemistry
- 1978 Luise Keohane, New House manager
- 1977 John S. Dickey Jr., professor of earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences
- 1976 Judith Bostock, professor of physics
- 1975 Thomas M. Hill, professor of management
- 1974 Arthur L. Beals '70, Office of Housing and Food Services
- 1973 Paul F. Barrett, Physical Plant superintendent
- 1972 No Award
- 1971 Kenneth Browning '66, Office of Housing and Food Services
- 1970 No Award
- 1969 Kenneth R. Wadleigh '43, dean for student affairs
- 1968 Arthur P. Mattuck, professor of mathematics
- 1967 Arthur P. Mattuck, professor of mathematics

*President Ronald Reagan received the most votes, but was not an official candidate.

Questions about applied biology dept. elimination remain

(Continued from page 1)

strong undergraduate courses. "In one of our classes we had a chemical engineer and a toxicologist working together," Chow said. She stressed that this type of collaboration was one of the strengths of the department and was being extended to the classroom.

Despite its poor reputation locally, the members of ABS were highly respected nationally, Robert S. Lees, professor of ABS said. "We had three faculty in the National Academy of Sciences and people chairing NIH study sections," he said.

ABS had very competent faculty members, believed John Kinsella, professor of food science at Cornell University. "Whatever negative reputation it may have had was a misconception of pure scientists," he said.

Daryl Lund, chairman of food science at Rutgers University, said the ABS department was unique. "It had the ability to lead and not follow," he said. He stressed that the mission of ABS

was applied science and those individuals that could not find value in that mission were "extremely myopic."

"Lack of focus" related to identity loss in ABS

In recent years, ABS wanted to separate itself from its "fruit and nuts" roots, Sauer said. Renaming the department in 1985 was one of the steps taken for this reason. "However, they were only partially successful."

Sauer felt that ABS was not sure of its new identity. "Applied biological science doesn't mean anything to me," Sauer said. "They were doing stuff that was being done in chemistry, biology, and chemical engineering."

This is part of the reason why the administration claimed that ABS "lacked focus."

Sauer explained that just because an administration official gives a department a new name doesn't mean that the direction of the research in all the groups changes dramatically.

However, Lees felt that the department is unrecognizable from

the way it was 20 years ago. "The nutritionists have either retired or moved elsewhere," Lees said. "There is much more coherence than there was ten years ago," he added.

"If the administration says we are unfocused, then how are we less focused than other departments," Chow asked.

King said that the focus argument is empty. "In mechanical engineering varying the depart-

ment's activities is quite acceptable, . . . the department is not disbanded," he noted.

Faculty relocated

The administration has argued that relocating ABS faculty members will enable other departments to do much of the research that went on before the ABS breakup.

"However, the question is not can they, but will they," Chow said.

A memorial service for Louise Mae Sedlacek '87 will be held on Tuesday, April 26, at 4:00 pm in the MIT Chapel. Sedlacek died April 7 of complications following surgery.

Sedlacek, who was a materials science student, was captain of the varsity sailing team in 1985-86 and its MVP in 1986. She worked for three years as a teaching assistant in the Concourse Program and was a founder of the Student Undergraduate Materials Society.

A collection of memories and photographs will be given to Sedlacek's parents; contributions (either written or visual) should be brought to the service or sent to the Louise Sedlacek Memorial, care of the MIT Sailing Pavilion.

Memorial fund contributions may be made to the Student Undergraduate Materials Society, which will reserve the funds for the Course III undergraduate lounge to be dedicated in her name.

Lees was uncertain whether other departments would be supportive of the research interests of their new members. "When you do research it is often your own initiative that gets it going," he said. He noted though that support and positive feedback is necessary to keep it going.

Another question that has arisen is whether ABS junior faculty members will have a much harder time getting tenure in their new departments. According to Gene M. Brown, dean of the School of Science, these individuals will get an equal chance at tenure.

"[To get tenure] you don't necessarily have to have the same research interests as the department," Brown said. He explained that in the tenure process, you must obtain letters of promotion. "Often, many of these letters come from outside MIT," Brown said.

However, to be able to ask for these outside letters, the department must first vote and determine that you are worthy of a promotion, Lees said.

news roundup

from the associated press wire

World

Kuwaiti airliner hijacking ends

The 15-day hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner ended Wednesday as the 31 remaining hostages were freed. As part of the deal to free the hostages, the Algerian government arranged safe passage for the hijackers. Secretary of State George P. Shultz PhD '49 criticized Algeria's release of the gunmen, saying they are murderers. Kuwait's official news agency says the gunmen, who killed two hostages during the ordeal, were allowed to go to either Beirut or Tehran.

Reagan pushes for ratification

The White House has begun prodding the Senate to ratify a nuclear arms treaty with the Soviet Union before President Reagan goes to Moscow for summit talks in late May. Debate on the treaty — banning all US and Soviet intermediate-range missiles — is not expected to begin until May 9 at the earliest, leaving only two and a half weeks for discussion before Reagan leaves for Moscow.

Iran begins mobilization

Iran began a full mobilization Wednesday, two days after having its defenses jolted by a confrontation with US forces in the Persian Gulf and Iraq's capture of the Faw Peninsula. All volunteers have been told to report for duty and military bases have been put on alert. Iran also fired a missile into Kuwait that reportedly fell near a US-run oilfield.

Slain PLO leader mourned

In Damascus, Syria, hundreds of thousands of mourners turned out Wednesday to mourn slain PLO military commander Khalil al-Wazir, who was gunned down last Saturday by assassins who burst into his home in Tunisia. Israel is widely suspected of being behind the attack, although the Israeli government has not made any comment. The mourners vowed to carry on Al-Wazir's struggle.

Gorbachev tops Reagan in popularity poll

A new assessment of the popularity of the superpower leaders cannot be put off as Soviet propaganda — the survey of West Europeans was conducted by the US Information Agency. It finds Mikhail Gorbachev getting a 90 percent favorable rating in West Germany and 88 percent in Britain. Ronald Reagan's popularity rating in both countries is only 44 percent.

Nation

Dukakis pledges unity

Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis, who widened his lead in the Democratic presidential race with a big win in New York, is now talking about being a "unifier" in the Democratic Party. His 51 percent of the primary vote gives him 164 more delegates, and puts him more than halfway toward the total needed to nominate. Jesse Jackson, who won more than a third of the New York vote, is well behind Dukakis in total delegates. Dukakis and Jackson face off next in Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary.

Meese choice drops out

John Shepherd announced Wednesday that he no longer wants to be considered for the job as Attorney General Edwin P. Meese's top deputy in the Justice Department. Shepherd was picked for the post after Arnold Burns announced he was leaving because of Meese's legal problems. Shepherd says he's withdrawing because of the pressure it would put on his family.

Senate votes compensation for internment victims

During World War II, the United States interned 43,000 Japanese aliens along with 77,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry. The Senate voted 69-27 on Wednesday to give former detainees who are still alive \$20,000 each, tax-free, along with an apology. The House has passed similar legislation.

Transportation Department seen mired in bureaucracy

The former head of the Federal Aviation Administration said Wednesday that the Transportation Department is mired in bureaucracy. Donald Engen criticized the department for having what he said was a plodding rule-making process that adds months to invoking new air safety regulations. He likened it to a "maddening shell-and-pea game."

Compiled by Niraj S. Desai

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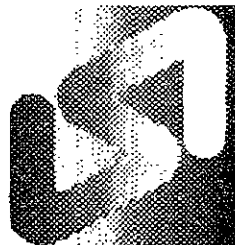
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opinion

Column/Mark Kantrowitz

Focus on feedback, not P/F

Something must be wrong. Why else would the Committee on the First Year Program want to eliminate second term pass/fail? The problem, however, lies not with pass/fail, but with a lack of student-faculty communication.

Pass/fail places an increased responsibility on both the instructor and the student to improve communication. When faculty and students neglect this responsibility, the blame is often placed on pass/fail.

Eliminating pass/fail won't solve any problems. Instead the faculty should strive to improve the quality and quantity of the feedback they give their students. Subjective evaluations, if taken seriously, can be extremely effective measures of a student's progress. But subjective evaluations require more effort than a simple letter-grade, so many instructors do not take the time to do a good job.

When I was a freshman, rather than point out my weaknesses and strengths, with suggestions for areas of future study, my instructors gave laconic replies. One even thought that a single

letter was sufficient, and refused to clarify the meaning of that symbol. Am I confused, or can a letter grade really carry as much information as a carefully prepared evaluation?

The symptoms that the CFYP is trying to treat are not caused by pass/fail itself, but by a poor implementation. The problems indicate a failing of the advisor system to provide needed guidance, and of the instructors to provide detailed feedback.

How many advisors consider the extent of their responsibilities to be limited to signing forms? The CFYP should specify what these responsibilities are, and institute mechanisms to ensure that they are fulfilled.

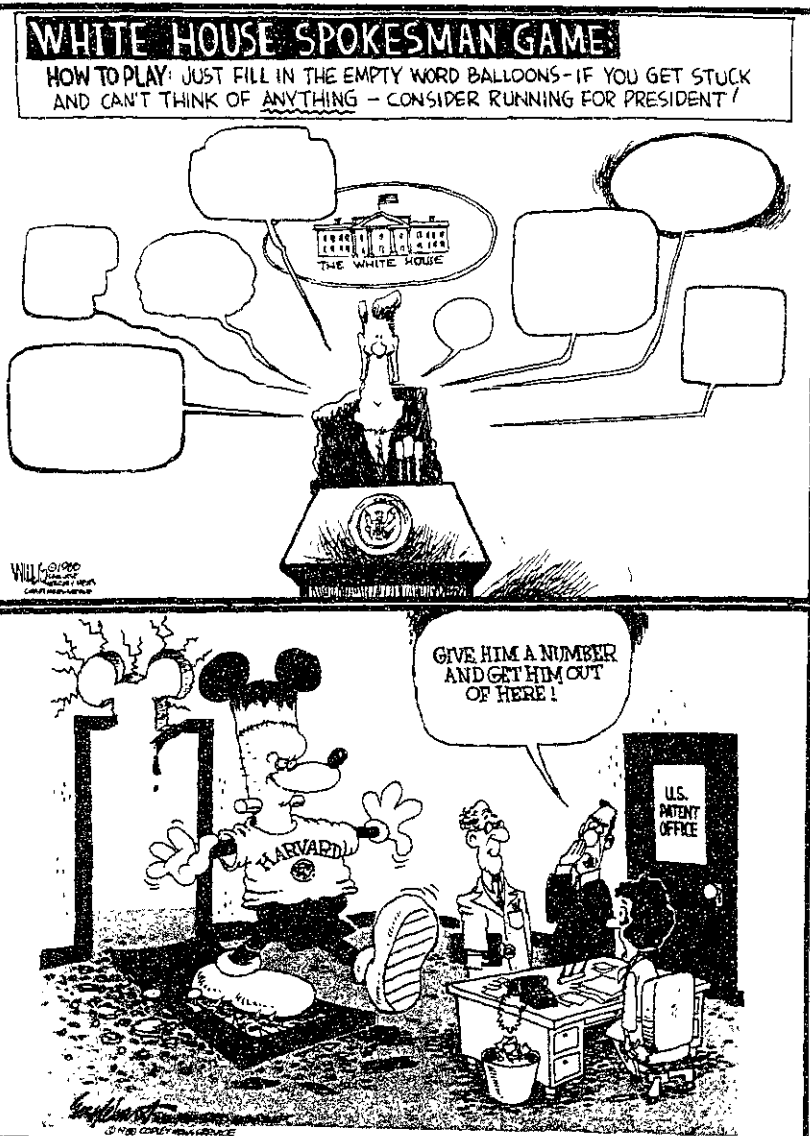
The CFYP should also consider ways of generating more academic, recreational and social interaction between students and faculty. Events which promote close contact between students, faculty and administration, such as the freshman-faculty dinner and the Johnson games, should be continued. New programs, such as monthly dinner meetings of students with their advisors

and weekend retreats, should be instituted.

The subjective evaluations of freshmen by their instructors must be strengthened, not eliminated. Some recitations are too large to permit detailed evaluation of student performance. Limiting the size of freshman recitations to 15 or fewer students per section will give the instructors the opportunity to know their students better. The written evaluations should then be discussed in a joint meeting of the student with his/her advisor and instructor.

If the CFYP insists on fine-tuning freshman pass/fail, changing it to a pass/marginal-pass/no-credit system might be an improvement. But if they continue to concentrate on grades and not on an informative flow of communication between student and teacher, then they are missing the point of an MIT education.

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



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feedback

Student claims brutality in CP arrest

To the Editor:

I could hardly pay my rent this month
and MIT is raising \$550 million
The gas, the electricity and all that stuff
and MIT is raising \$550 million
I've been working with poor kids and homeless people
and MIT is raising \$550 million
I don't get paid that much at all
and MIT is raising \$550 million

I got a letter in the mail this week
and MIT is raising \$550 million
It was from the Cambridge City Hospital
and MIT is raising \$550 million

The Campus Police injured me during the "Tent City" arrest
and MIT is raising \$550 million
The Hospital's charging me \$204
and MIT is raising \$550 million

The CP's arrested me at "Tent City"
and MIT is raising \$550 million
They woke me up with "You better start running now Fernandez"
and MIT is raising \$550 million
They jumped me from behind and threw me to the ground
and MIT is raising \$550 million
While I lay on the ground one stepped on my hand, one punched my face
and MIT is raising \$550 million

They dragged me across a field by a handcuffed hand
and MIT is raising \$550 million
The weight of my body supported by a handcuffed hand
and MIT is raising \$550 million
I was taken to the Cambridge City Hospital
and MIT is raising \$550 million
Now they're charging me \$204
and MIT is raising \$550 million
Chief Anne Glavin said, "We have no intentions of paying the bill"
and MIT is raising \$550 million
I'm taking them to court May 12

Maybe I'll see some of their \$550 million.
Stephen Fernandez '88

Anti-abortionist obscured Holocaust

To the Editor:

It is indeed a sad time when, two days before Holocaust Remembrance Day, Juan A. Latasa '91 compares abortion to the greatest of Jewish tragedies ["Legalized abortion is a modern-day Holocaust," Apr. 12]. This comparison trivializes the Holocaust, demeaning its victims and absolving its perpetrators of their heinous crimes. An understanding of the Holocaust and its origins allows us to understand its uniqueness in history.

"In Nazi ideology," wrote Lucy Dawidowicz, "the Jew was the primal adversary, the biological archenemy of the German people, whose physical presence, it was alleged, threatened the purity and even the very existence of the 'Aryan' race" [War Against the Jews].

Centuries upon centuries of German and Catholic antisemitism allowed Hitler to write the following with impunity: "By de-

fending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord," and, "If at the beginning of the War and during the War, 12-15,000 of those Hebrew corruptors of the people had been held under the poison gas ... the sacrifice of millions at the front would not have been in vain" [Mein Kampf].

The anti-Semitism represented by Hitler depicted the Jews as both the arch-capitalist and the arch-Bolshevik, as an all-powerful international organization, and as a "bacterium" on the German nation.

The Germans began the Second World War with two goals — the increase of their living space and the final solution to the "Jewish Question." The annihilation of the Jewish people was not a byproduct of the War, happening by chance — "Its death had been planned, its agony systematized, scientifically engineered

and philosophically justified," wrote Elie Wiesel. "Hundreds of communities were uprooted, thousands of family lives destroyed, millions of human beings reduced to cinders" [New York Times, Mar. 31].

Special mobile units, Einsatzgruppen, followed German troops into conquered territories. Their sole purpose was to kill Jews. One Hungarian soldier remembers a burial pit for 7000 Jews, recently shot, but not yet dead. Thinly covered with dirt, the field was "heaving like a living sea" [David Wyman, The Abandonment of the Jews]. Sobibor, Majdanek, Belzec, Chelmno, Treblinka, and Auschwitz were not designed to kill "prisoners of war," but rather to fulfill one of the primary goals of National Socialism, the destruction of their mortal, biological enemies — the Jews.

Dawidowicz notes that "some American antiabortionists ... by denying the particularity of the Jewish experiences under the German dictatorship, the enormity of Jewish losses, [and] by equating the destruction of the Jews with other events ... succeed in obscuring the role of anti-Semitism in accomplishing that murder. All atrocities are reduced to the same rubble" [The Holocaust and the Historians].

(Please turn to page 5)

Letters to the Editor are welcome. They must be typed double spaced and addressed to The Tech, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge MA 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483.

Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without express prior approval of The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters. Shorter letters will be given higher priority. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

opinion

feedback

Alcohol story had mistakes

To the Editor:

In the Friday, April 18 issue of *The Tech* an article ["UA Council discusses alcohol policy"] appeared on a meeting I had attended to discuss a draft policy relating to private parties at MIT. There were several errors that I wish to correct.

First, the first paragraph of the story implies that the proposed addition to the current policy includes a requirement for some type of license for private parties ("...to get the signatures of both a graduate tutor and housemaster in order to obtain a party license."). This is incorrect. The draft, as currently proposed, would not require any kind of license.

Second, the third paragraph implies that last Thursday evening was the first time the draft was made public ("...Tewhey revealed this draft proposal last night..."). In fact, the policy was presented to the dormitory presidents and to the IFC over a

month ago. The UA Alcohol Committee and I met to discuss the draft about two weeks ago.

Third, the fourth paragraph contains two errors. One, the paragraph refers to a liability form when no such form exists nor was one discussed at the meeting. Two, there is a statement that the graduate residents or housemasters must be present throughout the entire party. Such a requirement is not called for in the draft nor did I make this statement.

Fourth, the sixth paragraph also contains two errors. It states that I "...wrote the draft of the new alcohol policy..." That statement is incorrect. The draft was written by a member of my staff and was reviewed by Mr. Jeffrey Swope, an associate in the law firm of Palmer and Dodge. In addition, the paragraph states that the policy is necessary for MIT to "qualify for liability insurance..." To the best of my

knowledge, this is totally incorrect and I do not recall making any such statement during the meeting.

Finally, on page 14, the article attributes to me the following statement: "Tewhey claimed that over the past 18 months, MIT has enacted more alcohol programs than at any other time in its history." What I said was that in the last eighteen months, MIT has offered more education programs on alcohol than at any time in the last three years.

James R. Tewhey
Associate Dean
for Student Affairs

(Editor's Note: The draft would require that a residence hall party registration form be signed by the host, graduate resident, and housemaster. The form states that under Massachusetts law the host of a party may be held liable for the injuries suffered by others if the host allows intoxicated guests or minors to have alcoholic drinks.)

To whistleblowers: think about action's impact

(Editor's note: The Tech received a copy of the following letter. A copy was also sent to President Paul E. Gray '54.)
To the Coalition to Blow the Whistle on MIT:

I have read your poster calling upon students to "blow the whistle on MIT," and I understand that you do so to draw attention to important issues. However, please consider the following.

Had my parents, who have sacrificed immeasurably to support my education, been at last year's graduation, they would not have drawn the conclusion that the small number of people blowing whistles during commencement were doing so to raise the level of

political consciousness at MIT. Neither would they have joined the small group of parents who reacted violently towards members of your group. Rather, they would have felt that a ceremony intended to consummate the efforts and perseverance of a thousand students and their families had somehow been diminished.

I do not ask you to abandon your plans, and I do not ask you to compromise your beliefs. I do ask you to weigh fully the impact of your actions, and having done so you may proceed with the added confidence that your actions will contribute constructively towards making MIT a better community.

Ethan B. Foxman '88

Failure: it is not final, but part of being human

To the Editor:

I believe that death is not final, and that there is a kind of life that survives the bonds of mortality. I know, too, that many on our campus will disagree. But I wish to assert an even more controversial position: failure is not final.

Though this seems self-evident, the culture of our academic community denies it constantly. To fail, we are taught and we teach our students, is to be undone. Perfection is not only a goal; it is a requirement. And that means that success in all things becomes more than central — the pursuit of success eclipses all other pursuits.

Sometimes, we speak euphemistically not of perfection but of excellence. This is a deceit, for the most part. A true passion for excellence would embrace failure which ennobles and edifies. The ardor which masquerades as the pursuit of excellence is most often a refusal to traffic in imperfections.

This passion is nothing less than an idolatry. I use this term not metaphorically. We do not need to pray or offer libations to worship something — we worship that which is central to our lives, the absence of which deprives our existence of meaning, of value, of hope. In this passion, failure is heretical, even demonic, and therefore intolerable.

It has always been the folly of students to define success in

terms of grades. Most of us (though, unfortunately, not all of us) who have lived through the unnatural demands of academic and professional preparation know that success is to be defined in broader strokes. But this is not my complaint.

It does not matter how one defines success: if its absence is intolerable, it is an idolatry. To be a good student, professional, academic, or whatever, one must know success. To be human, one must experience failure, perhaps even savor it. It is surely no coincidence that all the major religious traditions have heroes whose lives were marked by failures. Without failure, we would not know humility or compassion, we would not learn how to hope. Without failure, we would not appreciate how dependant we are on others, especially those close to us. Without failure, we would not be reminded that the world is yet unredeemed.

I do not advocate the demise of noble aspirations, or blunting the joy of successful completion of an important mission. Yet I would exhort us all to consider, in a quiet and reflective moment, what is our ultimate felicity.

A teacher of mine taught me that hope often lies on the other side of despair. I would add that joy can be found on the other side of failure.

Rabbi Daniel Shevitz
MIT Hillel

Anti-abortion piece obscured anti-Semitism and Holocaust

(Continued from page 4)

It is quite obvious that proponents of abortion do not practice fetus-hatred, having as their sole purpose in life the destruction of all fetuses. It would be surprising indeed if the US government had as its sole reason for existence the abortion of all fetuses. The Army has not, nor will it ever, round up all pregnant women to abort their fetuses. The populations of cities do not spontaneously break

into people's houses, destroy their places of worship and vandalize work places to force women to abort. And since when has the government exhorted us to abort fetuses so that our national race may become pure?

Polish Jewry numbered 3.5 million before the war. The Germans reduced this population to 500,000. Two thirds of Europe's Jews were wiped out, their culture demolished. There can be no

comparison with abortion. Furthermore Latasa's argument rests on the proposition, which I will not discuss here, that abortion is the unequivocal death of a person, distinct from the mother. Even if this assumption is made, the isolated choices of women to have abortions, for whatever reasons, can in no way compare with the systematic destruction of the Jews solely because they were Jewish.

On this, eight days past Holocaust Remembrance Day, let us remember the hatred, the anti-Semitism, the persecution of the Jews, their agony, and their death. Remember that the Nazis intended to destroy all Jews, whose anguished cries for help went mostly unheeded. Above all, remember the Holocaust for the nightmare it is, rather than what we might like it to be.

Michael Franklin '88

Preview can provide candid picture

To the Editor:

I cannot help but wonder about the points made by Darrel Tarasewicz in his column concerning the Campus Preview for prospective students ["Campus Preview gives slanted picture of MIT," Apr. 12]. He is skeptical of the weekend program that allows women and minorities who have been accepted to MIT the chance to experience MIT for themselves.

Tarasewicz insults the intelligence of the visiting women by saying that they do not "suspect the men ... rating them as good-looking or bad-looking 'maidens.'" Surely *The Tech* will receive letters from irate men on campus who feel they've been unjustly accused, and I refute the notion that these women do not sense (and resent) the fact that they are being watched closely for much of the time they are here. It must be said, however, that most undergraduates here

are nothing but helpful to visitors on campus.

More important, however, is the perception that these visitors get of life as an undergraduate of MIT. Tarasewicz claims that many women and minority students choose to come to MIT "because Campus Preview gave them a favorable impression of [MIT]." He asks that MIT take off its "false mask" and show its "true colors."

His point is well taken in that the weekend of Campus Preview has a few more parties than usual and the students who host these prospective students have learned to make the most of a less-than-Utopian place. However, it has been my experience that these visitors get a taste of the worst of MIT in many ways.

When I visited MIT in April, 1986, I learned more than I wanted to know about the pace most people keep. My host pulled an all-nighter the first night in order

to finish a Unified problem set that was due the next morning at 9. She attended class all morning, napped that afternoon, ate supper with me in Lobdell, and took me to a couple of parties that evening. Needless to say, I was exhausted and overwhelmed by the end of the weekend ... and I loved it! I have kept prospective students during two Campus Previews and they have had similar experiences during their stays.

The challenge to MIT to present a fair picture of itself during Campus Preview can hardly be taken seriously. That is like asking a breakfast cereal manufacturer to advertise its product by only telling consumers how many calories and artificial ingredients are in each bowl. That information is printed on the side of the box, but it is left up to consumers to investigate the real implications of the numbers presented.

In the same way, the MIT Admissions Office could control what visitors to the campus see and experience by locking them in Kresge for their entire stay. Instead, they risk losing some of their prospects by trusting students who are tired and cynical (but still hanging in there!) to present a candid picture of problem sets, student activities, late night (early morning) flame sessions, controversial headlines, potential for suicidal thoughts (and attempts), and the fun that most of us manage to incorporate into our "nerdy" schedules of study and work.

There are problems with the Campus Preview (non-minority males are not invited to participate, for one), but it is MIT's best attempt so far to show people who consider coming here what it can be like. Not every visitor will have the same experience, but isn't that due to the non-conformity that every MIT student is so proud of? Tarasewicz has probably not ever hosted a prospective student during Campus Preview, or he would realize that the visitors do not spend all of their 48 plus hours partying or being ogled. Much of that time is spent examining, absorbing, learning, and considering all that MIT is — and that is the goal of the Campus Preview.

Katie H. Hays '90

Anti-abortion letter was diatribe, not discussion

To the Editor:

I found the letter written by Juan A. Latasa '91 ["Legalized abortion is a modern-day Holocaust," Apr. 12] to be a diatribe rather than an honest discussion of the morality of abortion. While Latasa raises the important issue of the morality of killing, the assumption that fetuses are human beings is just that, an assumption.

What is a human being? What is a living being? When does life begin? Is a skin cell a living being? Is it a human being? Does it become a human being if placed in a cow and stimulated to enter into embryogenetic differentiation? And if so, then aren't we committing murder by not immediately running out in search of the nearest cow? Attempts to obviate these questions by labelling a fetus as a "preborn human being" is to commit the very same crime that Latasa accuses others of committing; that is, of course, to confuse (via initial definitions) conclusions with assumptions.

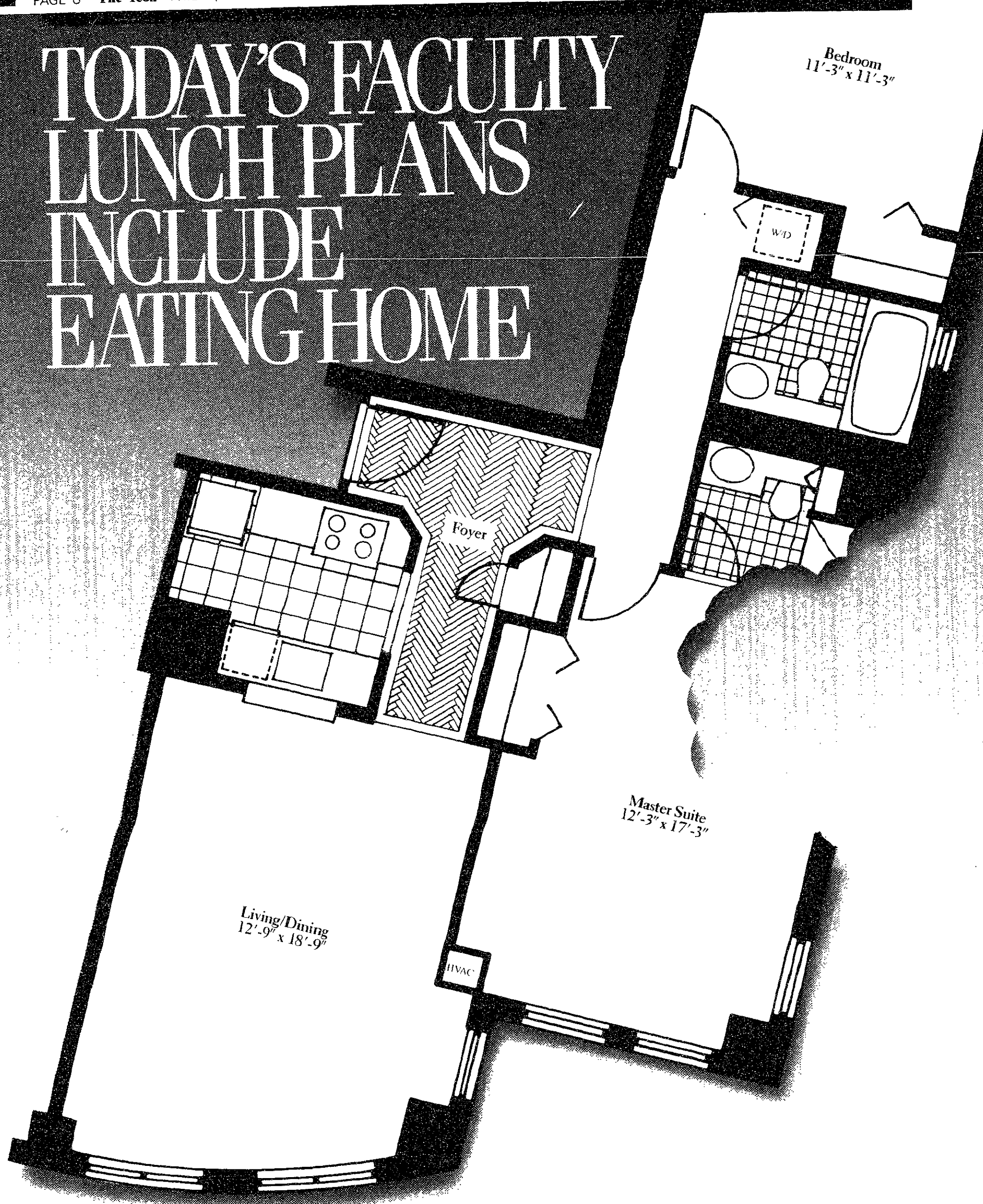
Furthermore, if we agree for the sake of argument that fetuses are indeed human beings, then the conclusion that they therefore have some absolute right to life overlooks one of the most basic of all rights — the right of self defense. If a woman feels her life to be endangered by a pregnancy then doesn't she have to right to kill the "preborn human?"

Shall Latasa usurp God's role as final judge of all human behavior and sit in judgment of these women for fear that God won't make the correct judgment? And as to who will speak for the "preborn," what love exceeds that of a mother for her child? (Or shall Latasa speak for Humanity as well as God?)

While murder is wrong, killing is not, and I do not think that abortion falls in the former category and may not fall into the latter either. In either case, we all must exercise free will and live with the consequences if we are to claim to be moral beings.

Robert Boldi G

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Movie shows inspiration dedicated teachers can bring

STAND AND DELIVER

Starring Edward James Olmos, Lou Diamond Phillips, and Carmen Argenziano.
Directed by Ramon Menendez.
At the Nickelodeon and Harvard Square Theaters.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

THE STATE OF OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM has received much attention recently, most of it negative. *Stand and Deliver*, in contrast, paints a positive picture of the hope and inspiration that dedicated teachers can bring. The film brings to the screen the story of Jaime Escalante, a high school teacher in East Los Angeles who taught the intricacies of calculus to students who hardly understood remedial arithmetic.

When Escalante first arrived at Garfield High, he found gym instructors teaching remedial math and the halls overrun by gangs and drug runners. The situation was so bad that the predominantly Latino school was in danger of losing its accreditation. But Escalante stayed and began to make a difference.

The film version, according to the publicity material, has toned down some downbeat aspects but is otherwise quite faithful to the actual events. Edward James Almos (Lt. Castillo in "Miami Vice"), who plays Escalante, spent 18 hours a day for a month with the real Escalante to observe his teaching methods and personal habits.

Almos' hard work pays off as he gives a rousing performance, but the film's weak first half limits somewhat the immediate appeal of Almos' Escalante. Fortunately, the film recovers in time.

Americans love a success story, and the first half goes overboard trying to oblige. It introduces the unorthodox teaching methods of Escalante, such as bringing a machete to class, in an attempt to impart the magic that the real life Escalante worked in his class. The film's effort fails, because of choppy editing and faulty construction.

In depicting the positive influence Escalante began to exert, the film glosses over how Escalante managed to calm the students down enough to listen to him in the first place. It seems that one day Escalante

walked into chaos and by the next day has students all lined up ready to learn. It may have happened that way in real life, but the film fails to touch the audience with the same magic that Escalante worked on his students.

For example, one gifted young girl named Ana (Vanessa Marquez) has to leave school because her father wants her to help in their restaurant. Escalante visits the father to try to convince him to let Ana stay in school. Far from succeeding, however, Escalante ends up arguing loudly with the father. The father eventually decides to throw Escalante — and any hope for Ana's continued education — out of the restaurant. But lo and behold, the next day, there she is back in school, ready to learn with no sign of what caused her father's remarkable change of heart.

This is quite typical of how the first half of the film does little more than present the end result of Escalante's efforts. By only superficially recognizing the large barriers that the students overcome, the

film fails to humanize its characters and comes dangerously close to robbing their triumph of its meaning and value. As it stands, Escalante and his students seem to be working virtual miracles, and that leaves little room for the audience to identify or cheer for the characters. For a film that wants to be inspirational, this can be quite fatal.

The real value of this film lies in its second half. This concerns the students' efforts to prepare for and take the advanced placement calculus exam, which was unprecedented at Garfield High. The Educational Testing Service, however, discovers that a number of the students made the same mistake on the test and accuses the students of cheating. This setback, in addition to upsetting the students' plans to attend college, thoroughly demoralizes both students and teacher.

At this point, the film begins to examine some of the deeper issues that so badly need to be brought to light. In one tremendously evocative scene, Escalante confronts the ETS investigators who have

been trying to convince the students to "confess" how they cheated. Escalante points out that the students made the same mistake because they all had the same teacher, and he angrily adds that the students' scores would never have been questioned had the school been located in an upper-class suburb and had the students' names been non-Hispanic.

Later on, Escalante finds himself re-examining the wisdom of his decision to push the students to learn calculus as hard as he did. These are the scenes that display the soul-searching and human weaknesses that ground the film's story in reality and carry the students' eventual triumph to inspiring heights.

The real importance of Escalante's story lies in its effort to change people's attitudes enough so they would cheer for a schoolteacher who cares and beats the odds. The filmmakers manage to bring the story to the screen — although clumsily — and that in of itself is remarkably commendable in the final analysis.

Almos self-assured, grounded in tough, down-to-earth practicality

AN INTERVIEW WITH EDWARD JAMES ALMOS

Producer and Star of *Stand and Deliver*.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

EDWARD JAMES ALMOS looks remarkably different in person than Jaime Escalante, the character he portrays in *Stand and Deliver*. He gained more than forty pounds for the role, and his great head of hair was covered with a balding hair piece.

Almos was born and raised in East Los Angeles, where he attended Montebello High. He received degrees in sociology and criminal law from the California State College, Los Angeles. He started in the entertainment world as a young singer in 1961, and quickly moved on to amateur theater. He began acting professionally at the age of 18, continuing his acting lessons while supporting himself by delivering furniture.

Almos broke into theater in 1978 when he won the part of El Pachuco in *Zoot Suit*. He went on to play other roles, including a Native American and a black, because there were no leads for Hispanics,

who he says were usually relegated to "secondary" and "subservient" roles. In 1984 he was cast as Lt. Martin Castillo on "Miami Vice," and he's been with the show since.

Asked whether the success of last summer's *La Bamba* was helpful in launching *Stand and Deliver*, he shook his head and pointed out that the subject matters of the two films are quite different. He also says that he is not trying to send a message with his film. Echoing the famous Samuel Goldwyn's saying, he says that "Messages should be sent by Western Union." He wants the film's success story "to wash over" viewers much as *Rocky* and *Breaking Away* did.

Almos also discusses his visits over the past 15 years to schools, prisons, juvenile homes, and charity affairs. He goes there to talk to people about anything and everything that they're willing to discuss. He says that his talks "completely remove all possibility of excuse after I'm done talking." He inspires people to discipline and motivate themselves, telling them that "You got a choice" and that no matter how bad things are, "you can still make it into a positive experience."

Aside from his political and personal views, Almos seems quite self-assured and grounded in a tough and down-to-earth practicality. His acting as Escalante in *Stand and Deliver* propels the film through its weaknesses, and it seems at least partly attributable to the pool of his own experiences. Given his uncanny similarity to Escalante's personality, it seems quite appropriate that he was the one who ended up in the role.



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Sorceress whets appetite but needs more refinement

SORCERESS

Starring Tcheky Karyo, Christine Boisson and Jean Carmet.
Story by Pamela Berger.
Directed by Suzanne Schiffman.
At the Copley Place.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

SORCERESS MARKS THE DIRECTING DEBUT of Suzanne Schiffman, who worked for more than two decades with Francois Truffaut and other French film directors like Jacques Rivette and Jean-Luc Godard. Based on historical records, the film tells the story of Etienne de Bourbon (Tcheky Karyo), a 13th century Dominican friar searching for heresy in a small French village.

There he finds a woman named Elda (Christine Boisson) who lives in the forest and uses her intuitive understanding of nature's secrets to prepare remedies from flowers and leaves. Etienne investigates the rites he witnesses and sets the stage for the conflict in the film.

The film begins to recreate the day-to-day life of the villagers from the moment Etienne arrives in the village. He walks past villagers tilling in the fields and watches them carry out their household chores. Schiffman and her cinematographer, Patrick Blossier, have shot these scenes in subdued autumnal hues that are quite beautiful, especially in forest scenes.

Except for some overly bright lighting during nighttime shots, the film captures the ambience of peasant life in a manner that rivals the opening scenes of *Fiddler on the Roof*. And just as that film celebrates the spirit of good-hearted peasant life, so too the villagers in this film live a refreshingly simple and intuitive lifestyle.

The film takes a decidedly positive view of peasants compared to Bertrand Tavernier's recent *La Passion Beatrice* or John Boorman's *Excalibur*, where they are little more than chattel for the nobility to play with as they please.

But their life is not all peaches and

cream. After the local landlord floods the farmland allocated to the villagers by building a dike, the peasants demonstrate their bravado — Martin (Mathieu Schiffman) destroys the dam to clear the peasants' land. As the vengeful landlord tries to starve Martin to death by locking him in a tower, Martin's wife Cecile (Catherine Frot) outwits the guards by nursing Martin at her breast.

It is against this backdrop that Etienne carries out his inquisition. He seems to be the epitome of unrelenting discipline, especially when compared to the easy-going Curé (the local village priest). Etienne walks stiffly, fasts often, and demands the cooperation of the villagers. The Curé regularly assures him that there is no heresy in the village, but Etienne is not satisfied until he looks for himself.

Etienne does not find any sign of heresy until late one night when he witnesses a strange rite that Elda conducts involving the worship of a certain St. Guinefort at the base of an elder tree while a wolf visits the proceedings. His suspicions strongly aroused, Etienne becomes firmly convinced of Elda's guilt when he later discovers that St. Guinefort is not a man but a greyhound venerated by the peasants as a protector of babies. Etienne has the elder tree destroyed, and he sentences Elda to death for her sins.

By portraying Etienne so heavy-handedly the film paints its narrative into a corner. Etienne is so single-minded that it becomes easy to dismiss his search for heresy as the work of a fanatical inquisitor that has no relevance to the present. What's worse, the viewer's realization that the elder tree does in fact have medicinal chemicals in it completely undermines what little validity Etienne's case had to begin with. It therefore comes as no great surprise to modern audiences that Etienne rescinds Elda's death sentence (although he does so for a different reason than one would expect).

This narrative fault can be excused since the film is based on the writings of the real

(Please turn to page 12)



Elda the forest woman (Christine Boisson) is visited by Etienne de Bourbon (Tcheky Karyo) in a scene from *Sorceress*

Berger's book is base of Sorceress

AN INTERVIEW WITH PAMELA BERGER

Co-Writer and Co-Producer of *Sorceress*.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

ONE DAY IN 1984, Pamela Berger was sitting in Widener Library at Harvard adding footnotes to her scholarly book *The Goddess Obscured*. The professor of art history at Boston College decided then and there to make a film as her next project, despite the fact that she did not know anything about the process.

Berger was inspired by how the "continuity of the healer was passed down through unlettered people," and she went to great pains to understand what she considered the simplicity of the life that the villages led.

She researched the lifestyles of 13th century villagers, poring over their folklore. She kept finding references to the elder tree (*sambucus*); villagers in France continued to venerate St. Guinefort and made pilgrimages to the elder tree grove until 1919. She asked for help from Frank Solo-

mon, a professor of biology here at MIT, who told her the elder tree was a virtual "drug store." Its leaves had arsenic and antibiotics that would be helpful in curing sick babies of marsh fever.

Berger also found records of an unmarried woman named Fracoise Gadin who gave birth to a still-born baby boy at the age of 29. Gadin died in 1930, the last of the continuous line of rural healers in the region. Berger decided to base much of Elda's character on what she knew about Gadin.

A parallel plotline developed when she came across a fable of a forest woman who would lead people to worship anthills. Folklore said that ants would bring threads to men imprisoned in towers, allowing them to build a rope for escape. She considered this too implausible to put in the film, so she imagined an alternative way for a wife to save her imprisoned husband.

That allowed her to create the subplot of the landlord's flooding of the peasants' fields — which fit in quite nicely because the ponds would naturally be infested with

(Please turn to page 12)

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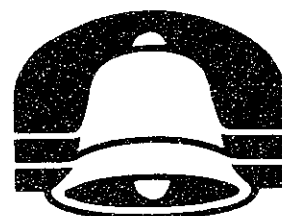
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MIT Media Lab offers multisensual melange

SIGHT, SOUND, SUBOTNICK!

The Experimental Music Studio Visual and Musical Works by Davidovsky, Subotnick, and others At the Bartos Theatre and the Cube Thursday, April 14, and Friday, April 15

By DAVID M. J. SASLAV

IN AN EXCITING MULTISENSUAL MELANGE, the MIT Media Lab's Music and Cognition Group presented a display of recent works by some of the world's foremost modern artists. Overall, the quality varied widely. In general, the evening was far too long (over two hours from start to finish, with an intermission). Stimuli that worked well did so impressively; others failed miserably.

Offered in two parts, entitled "Fractal Prelude" and "Binary Convergence," the evening began with a series of video segments set to music in the Bartos Theatre. Accompanied by a fascinating set of program notes outlining the graphical and mathematical rudiments of each segment, the three works delved into the mysteries and wonders of fractal graphics.

Particularly impressive were the 1987 productions "Marie Sets" (Brian Evans) and "A Close Encounter in the Fourth Dimension" (Pressing, Norton, and Melton).

The "Encounter" began with a statement of the quadratic polynomial which served as generator of the animation, then proceeded on a detailed voyage of a four-dimensional "quaternion" (which never moved).

Larry Austin's "Ludus Fractal," however, was a boring, mindless waste of time involving a mime and an overdrubbing of technobabble in the voice of the great

Benoit Mandelbrot.

The second part involved moving the entire audience to the huge Cube, an annoying wrinkle. Three works followed, then an intermission, then two closing pieces. One almost felt as though the concert arrangers were trying to cram all of the music written for digital media in the last four years into one two and a half hour space. However, the fatiguing length could not detract from the fascinating concepts explored in these works.

Javier Alvarez's 1987 "Papalotl," while not a great piece of music in any way, addressed the issue of synchronization between performer and computer. Mario Davidovsky's 1988 "Synchronisms No. 9" featured a virtuoso violin performance by Rolf Schulte, and Jonathan Harvey's "ricercare una melodia..." (1984) highlighted the art of quadrophonic echo and the use of tape to create fugual textures.

Rounding out the evening was the 1988 solo version of Morton Subotnick's "In Two Worlds." Featuring the new Yamaha WX7 wind controller instrument, this work suggested without ever stating, implicated without convincing, but fascinated nonetheless.

A nice background soundscape texture highlighted the usage of the WX7, which takes velocity samples of the performer's breath strength, and converts these readings into digital information. In this piece, these bits were used to control decay time and envelope — strong breaths lingered for up to five seconds, while light puffs were converted into staccato notes.

Subotnick used the WX7 to simulate the droning of bagpipes and other yet-to-be-named futuristic sounds. Kenneth Radnofsky's performance was polished, and sent everyone home smiling, even if tired.

The Tech Performing Arts Series presents... AMORPHOUS CONSORT

The unusual Amorphous Consort has two guitarists, a flautist, a cellist and a keyboardist. In their Boston premiere, augmented by guest artists, they will perform a *Guitar Quartet* by Edward Green, *Stichomythia for Guitar Solo* by Theodore Antoniou, *Summer Music for Cello, Flute and Two Amplified Guitars* by Meyer Kupferman and works by Marti Epstein and Alexander Jemnitz.

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

SINFONOVA

It's Johann Strauss like you've never heard it! Aram Gharabekian will lead Sinfonova in a concert to include arrangements of Strauss waltzes by Berg and Schoenberg, together with Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 2* and Haydn's *Symphony No. 49*.

Jordan Hall, April 29 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.

Simon Rattle energetic; program spectacular

City of Birmingham Orchestra
Simon Rattle, conductor.

Symphony Hall, Boston.

Event in The Tech Performing Arts Series.
April 17.

By JULIE CHANG

IN THEIR FIRST AMERICAN TOUR, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra offered a spectacular and unusual program featuring the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Symphonies of Jean Sibelius. Led by young, energetic conductor Simon Rattle, the orchestra demonstrated that they are among the world's finest symphonic ensembles.

Despite a somewhat hesitant beginning, the *Symphony no. 5 in E-flat Major* was a triumphant success. Thanks to an outstanding string section, the orchestra was able to achieve a remarkable span of musical characters ranging from a subdued, tranquil string passage to a climactic, grand *largamente assai* coda.

Simon Rattle clearly deserves his high acclaim as a conductor. Without the aid of a musical score, he was able to make the

delicate, intricate passages of the music just as exciting as the more jubilant, intense sections.

The second half of the program tributing Sibelius opened with the *Symphony no. 6 in D minor, Opus 104*, in four movements. The orchestration of this particular symphony is unusual in that it includes a harp, which added a pleasant texture throughout the work. As is typical of the music of Sibelius, the piece is epic, and has many contrasting moods, which the group was able to capture effectively. The final movement *Allegro molto* was especially well done; the introduction was rich and captivating, the conclusion solemn and quiet.

The final work of the program, the *Symphony no. 7 in C major, Opus 105*, represents one of the most unusual and challenging of Sibelius' orchestra works. The piece is unique in that it is presented in one continuous movement and is extremely complex in its composition. However, the orchestra managed to interpret the piece extremely well, capturing its subtleties and establishing a good balance between instruments.

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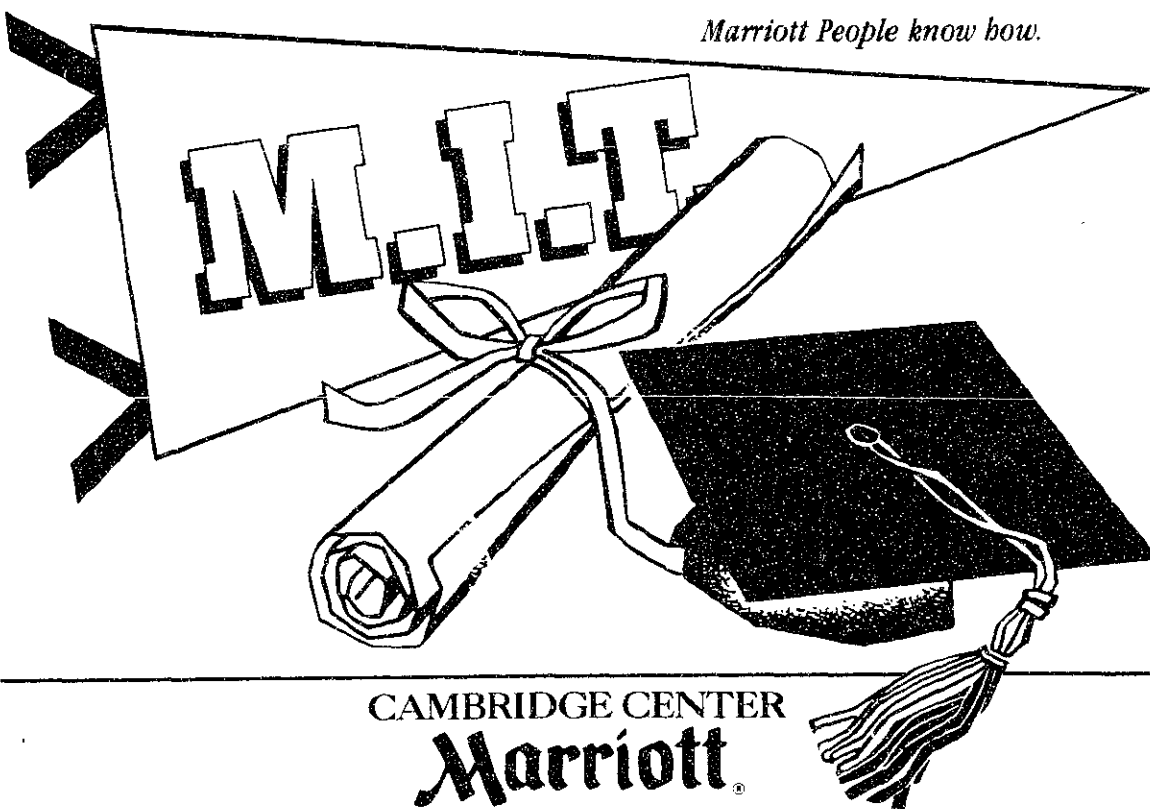
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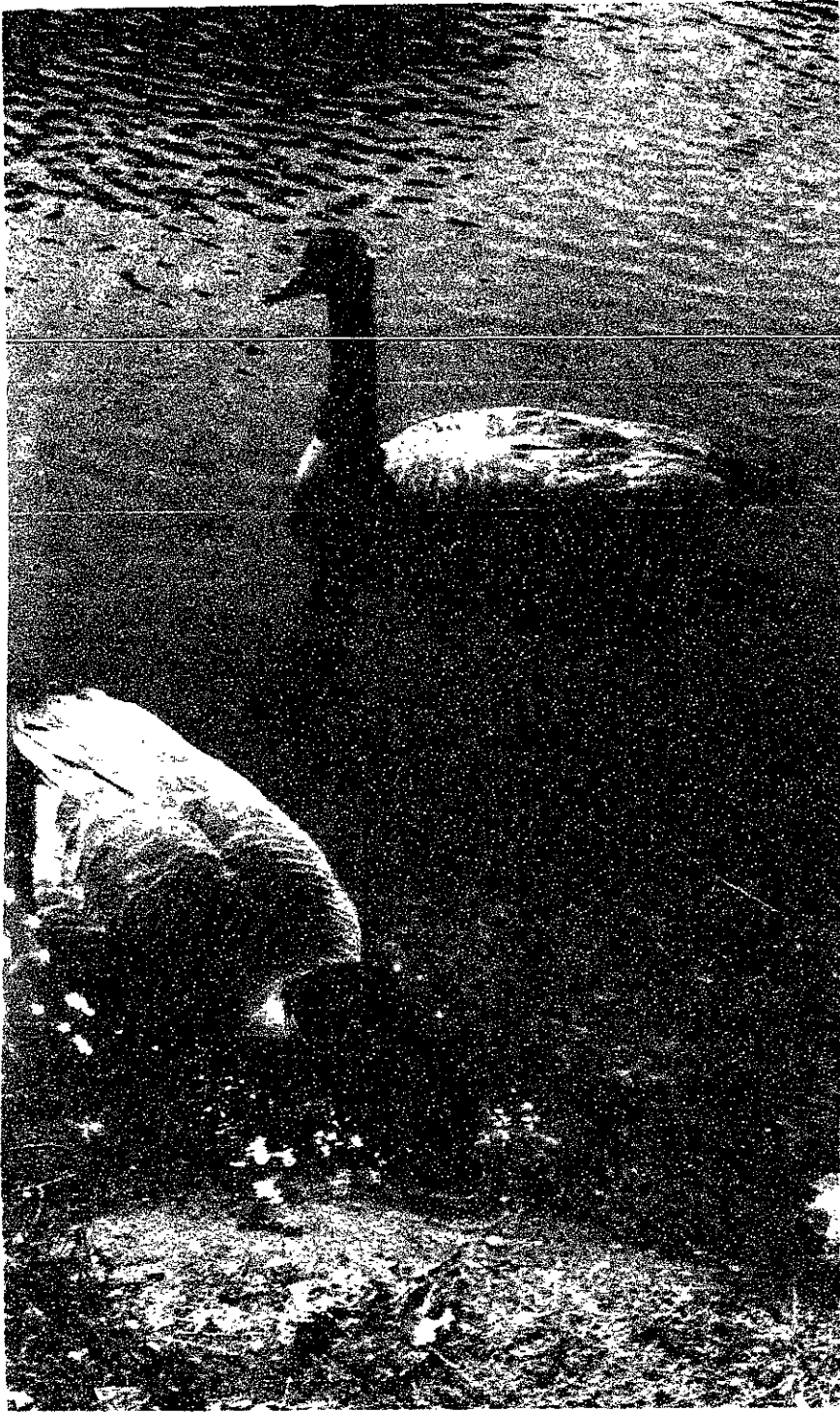
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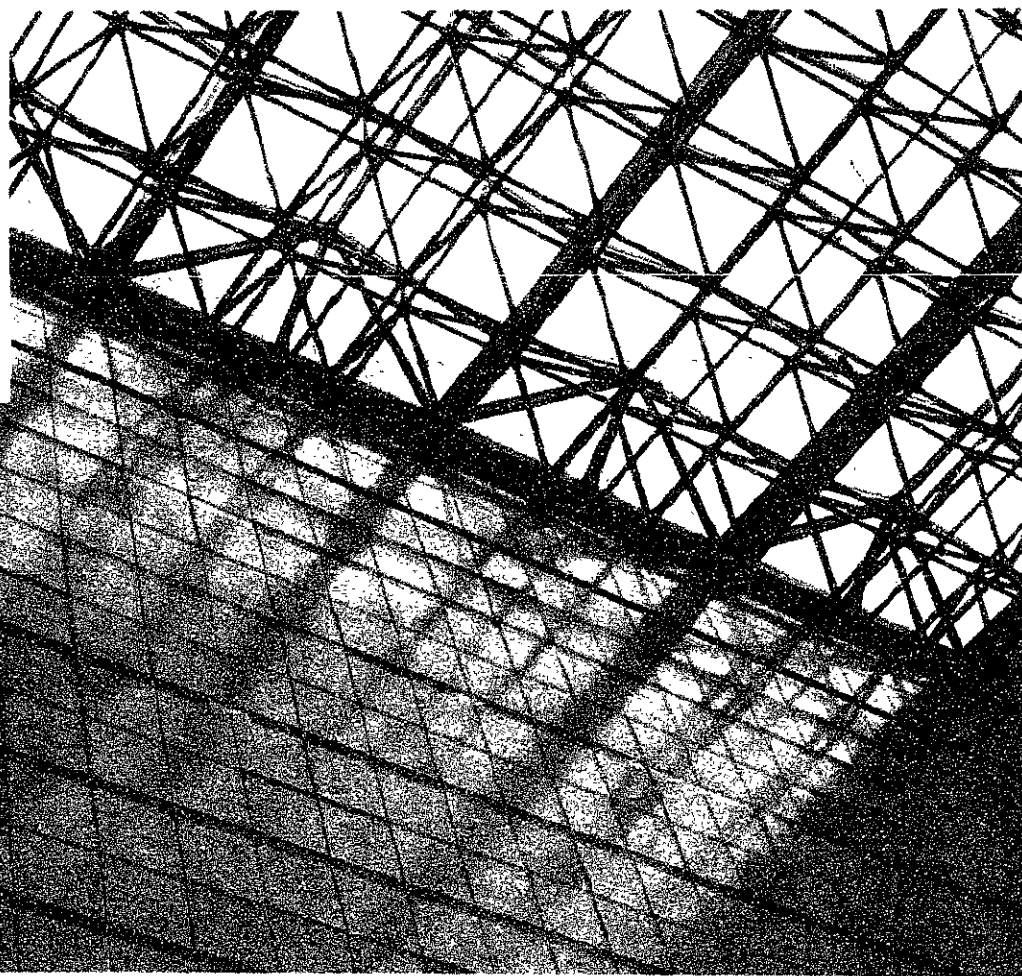
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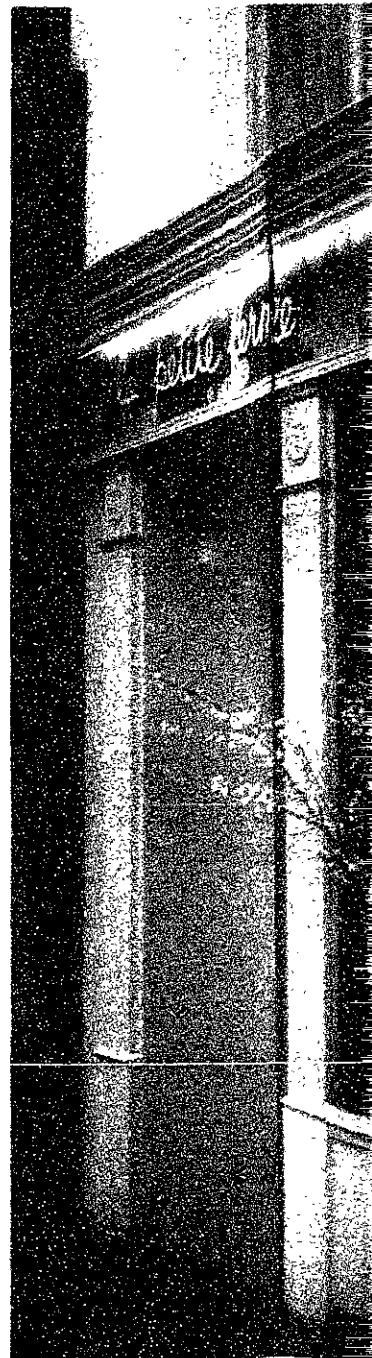
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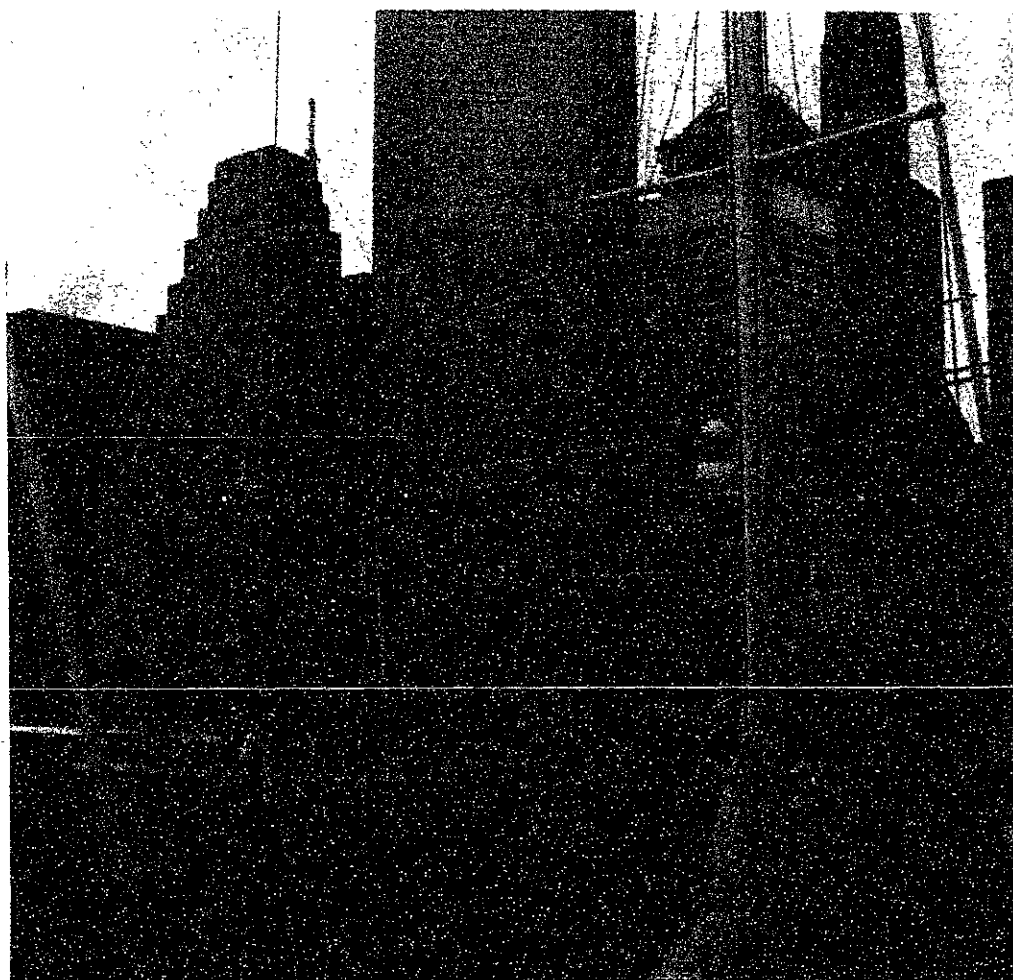


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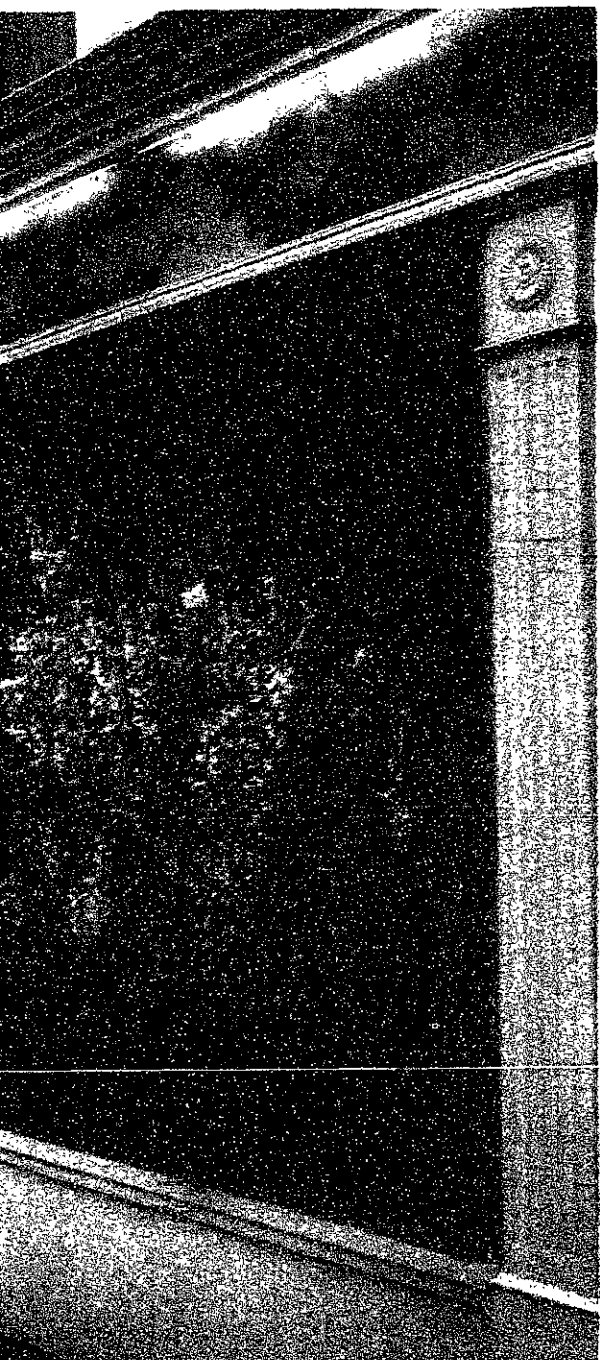
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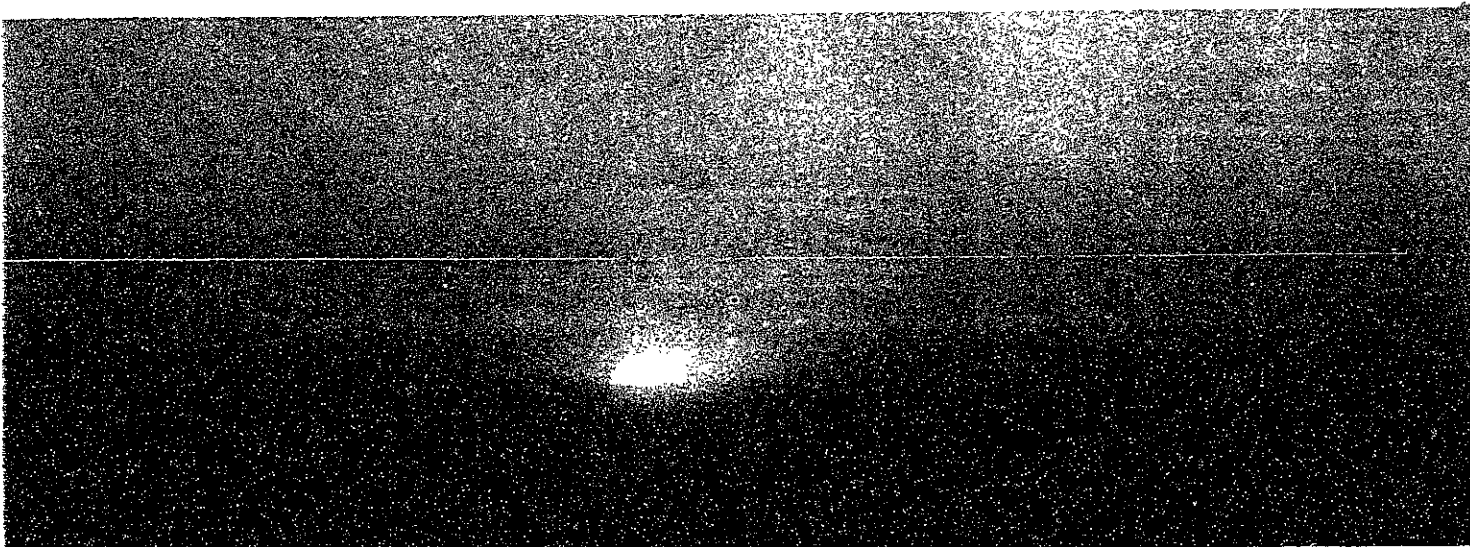
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ARTS

Disappointing world premieres, but SinfoNova still compelling

SINFONOVA

Conducted by Aram Gharabekian.
Program sponsored by Friends of Music.
Event in The Tech Performing Arts Series.
Symphony Hall, April 11.

By JONATHAN RICHMOND

SINFONOVA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA normally provides inspiring evenings of music carefully chosen by Aram Gharabekian in Jordan Hall. Attracted by an offer by Friends of Music (which exists to promote indigenous American music) to underwrite the costs of the concert, Gharabekian agreed to perform three world premieres (whose music

Berger wanted her film to be realistic

(Continued from page 8)

mosquitos that would spread marsh fever in babies. That, of course, led back to Elda and her healing lotions, which in turn filled the gaps in Etienne de Bourbon's writings about his conflict with Elda. So from the obscure and incomplete Latin writings of a long-deceased monk, a 125-page screenplay was born.

Berger sent her screenplay to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), which gave her an initial \$88,000 grant. The French Cultural Service in New York gave her a list of accomplished directors, with Suzanne Schiffman's name at the top.

Schiffman and Berger together completed the final version of the screenplay. They

he had not seem at the time he consented to play it) in Symphony Hall on a Monday evening.

The results were disappointing; all the pieces were by young composers, two of whom are still students at New England Conservatory. Two pieces were thickly and immaturely scored, the third — on the subject of dreams — was better crafted, but cliché-ridden. Symphony Hall attracted only a small crowd.

Gharabekian's knows how to make the best of a difficult situation — under his direction his orchestra has given insight into a Mozart piano concerto even when the soloist was soulless — and his band was on top form, giving at least some measure

received an additional \$850,000 from the NEH, while the remainder of the film's \$2.5 million budget came from French and Swiss producers Annie Leibovici and George Reinhart as well as France's National Cinema Center and the Ministry of Culture.

Berger was present on the set every day during the shoot. She said she wanted to make the film "as realistic as possible" while Schiffman saw it more as a "fable." Berger acknowledged that the Schiffman's *mise-en-scene* style is in conflict to some degree with the narrative content. But emphasized that her working relationship with Schiffman was a good one and that she is pleased with the film.

of vitality to music not ready to leave the conservatory classroom.

The other two works on offer helped make up for these deficiencies. David Buechner gave a stirring Boston premiere of McKinley's *Piano Concerto No. 2*, combining elements of tension and rhapsody, and charging forward with rhythmic drive. SinfoNova provided a rich accom-

paniment.

The concert ended with its highlight, the *Meditation on Orpheus* by Alan Hovhanness. This is the sort of music Gharabekian is especially good at displaying: his band managed to illuminate the work's pathos with warm but clean playing, drawing a sense of inner-drama within a framework of meditateness.

Film has single-minded inquisitor

(Continued from page 8)

Etienne de Bourbon. His texts do not reveal precisely why Etienne did not burn the forest woman or whether he continued to destroy heretics afterwards. The filmmakers, therefore, had to justifiably invoke artistic license to fill in the gaps. But the most unusual aspect of the story — which is revealed by the 13th century context — is not that Etienne accused Elda of heresy, but that he dropped the charges against her.

And it is the film's cinematic style that fails to convey this essential realization to the audience. Director Schiffman employs long takes and flowing camera movements while eschewing facial close-ups or montage. This *mise-en-scene* technique works quite well in the subplot of Martin and the dam, but it also distances the viewer from the thought processes that lead Etienne to his remarkable and probably unprecedented decision to free Elda.

These missteps can be overlooked, although with some difficulty, since this is

Schiffman's first feature as director. The film does have notable pleasures in its charming and intriguing portrayal of the peasants and their village life, and it is always thrilling to know that the filmmakers have taken the pains to make the portrayals as meticulously accurate as possible.

In the final analysis, *Sorceress* seems just good enough that it whets the appetite and makes one wish for more refinement. The film would have been quite remarkable a masterpiece had its flaws not been as notable as they are.



Christine Boisson

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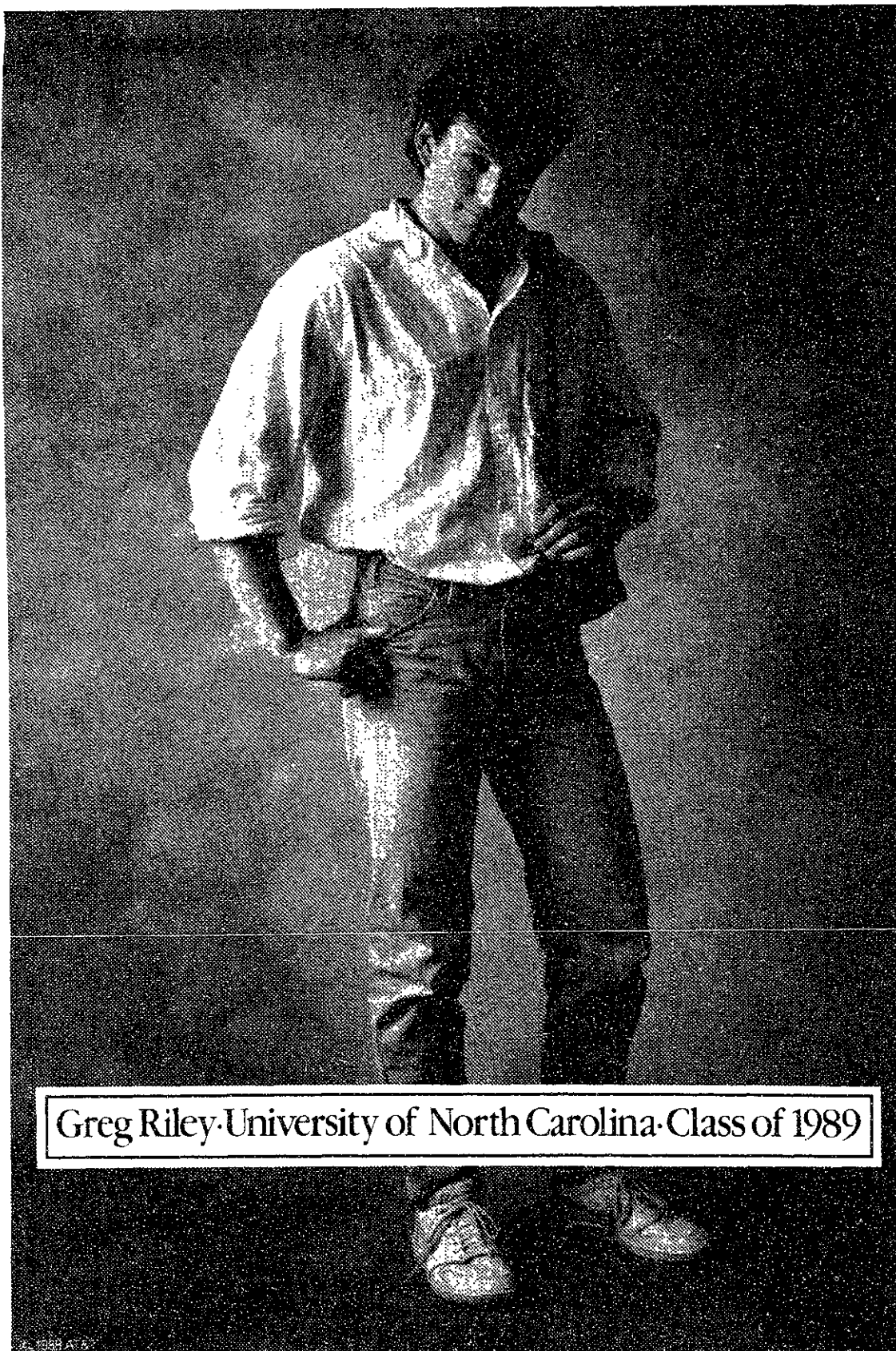
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ARTS

Friday, Apr. 22

THEATER

Guys and Dolls, is presented as a Baker House Production at 9:00 in Baker House Dining Hall. Also presented April 23 at 7:30 & 10:00 and April 24 at 8:30. Tickets: \$5 general, \$3.50 MIT students (on sale in Lobby 10).

A Chorus Line is presented at 8 pm at the Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Avenue, Dorchester, near the JFK/UMass/Columbia T-stop on the Ashmont red line. Also presented April 23 at 2 pm & 8 pm. Tickets: \$8 general, \$6 seniors. Telephone: 578-8790.

Talley's Folly, Lanford Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winner about two awkward, yearning, lonely souls, opens today at the New Repertory Theatre, 61 Washington Park, Newton. Continues through May 22 with performances Fri at 8:00, Sat at 5:00 & 8:30, and Sun at 2:00. Tel: 332-1646.

PERFORMANCE ART

Clean Break, an installation/performance with the story of Perseus and his life as the central metaphor, is presented at 8 pm at Mobius, 354 Congress Street, near the South Station T-stop on the red line. Also presented April 23. Tickets: \$8. Telephone: 542-7416.

DANCE

MIT Dance Workshop, Beth Soli, director, presents *Student Works in Progress* at 8 pm in Kilian Hall, MIT Building 14. Also presented April 23. No admission charge. Telephone: 253-0862.

Janice Margolis' Semaphore Dance-theater performs *All Flesh is Grass* — *A Diachronic Voyage* as a presentation of Dance Umbrella at 8 pm at Sargent Dance Studio/Theater, One Boston University Road, Boston. Also presented April 23 and 24. Tickets: \$8 general, \$7 Dance Umbrella members. Telephone: 492-7578.

Human Dances, choreography by Diana Kenney, Carol Schneider, and Miguel Braganza, is presented by Dance Umbrella at 8 pm at the Joy of Movement Studio Theatre, 536 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge. Also presented April 23. Tickets: \$8 general, \$7 Dance Umbrella members. Tel: 492-7578.

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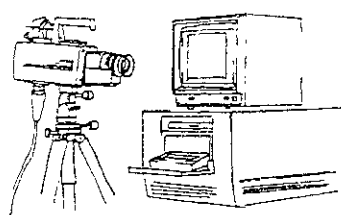
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POPULAR MUSIC

The Choralities of MIT present their "Spring Sing" at 7:30 in Room 10-250. No admission charge. Tel: 253-8973 or 494-8748.

David Lee Roth performs at the Worcester Centrum, 50 Foster Street, Worcester. Also presented April 23. Tickets: \$15 and \$17.50. Telephone: 798-8888.

Strale fur Rebellion, David Prescott, and CXEMA perform as part of the Institute of Contemporary Art's *Static and Interference: The Cultural Politics of Alternative Music* at 8 pm at the Paradise, 967 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston. Tickets: \$8 general, \$6 ICA members, seniors, and students. Telephone: 266-5151.

The Zulus, Last Stand, and **The Marleas** perform at the T.T. the Bear's, 10 Brookline Street, Cambridge. Telephone: 492-0082.

Bim Skala Bim, The Toasters, The Great Train Robbery, Sky Five, and **The New Bohemians** perform at the Channel, 25 Necco Street, near South Station in downtown Boston. Tickets: \$5.50 advance/\$6.50 at the door. Tel: 451-1905.

Blue Rodeo performs at 8 pm & 11 pm at Nightstage, 823 Main Street, Cambridge. Tickets: \$8. Telephone: 497-8200.

FILM & VIDEO

The MIT Lecture Series Committee presents **White Heat** (Raoul Walsh, 1949), starring James Cagney, at 7:30 in 54-100 and **The Big Easy**, starring Dennis Quaid and Ellen Barkin, at 7:00 & 10:00 in 26-100. Admission: \$1.50. Telephone: 225-9179.

The French Library in Boston continues its weekly series *Experiments in Film and Sound* with René Clair's *A Nous la libération* (France, 1931), the film that inspired Chaplin's *Modern Times*, at 8 pm. Also presented April 23 and 24. Located at 53 Marlborough Street, near the Arlington T-stop on the green line. Tickets: \$3.50 general, \$2.50 Library members. Telephone: 266-4351.

The Cambridge Center for Adult Education presents Michelangelo Antonioni's *L'Avventura* at 6:30 & 9:20 at the Blacksmith House, 56 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Admission: \$3.50. Telephone: 547-6789.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

★ ★ ★ CRITIC'S CHOICE ★ ★ ★
The Boston Chamber Music Society performs works by Beethoven, Schuler, and Brahms at 8 pm in Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston. Tickets: \$7 to \$15. Telephone: 536-6868.

★ ★ ★ CRITIC'S CHOICE ★ ★ ★
The Boston Symphony Orchestra, Seiji Ozawa conducting, performs Mozart's *Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter"* and Mahler's *Songs from "Des Knaben Wunderhorn"* at 8 pm in Symphony Hall, corner of Huntington and Massachusetts Avenues, Boston. Also presented April 23 and 26. Tickets: \$15.50 to \$41. Telephone: 266-1492.

★ ★ ★ CRITIC'S CHOICE ★ ★ ★
The Opera Company of Boston presents Kurt Weill/Bertolt Brecht's *The Threepenny Opera* (in English) at 8 pm in the Opera House, 539 Washington Street, Boston. Also presented April 24 at 3 pm, April 27 at 8 pm, and May 1 at 3 pm. Tickets: \$15 to \$55. Telephone: 426-2786.

★ ★ ★ CRITIC'S CHOICE ★ ★ ★
The Amorphous Consort performs works by Theodore Antoniou, Edward Green, Meyer Kupferman, Marti Epstein, and Alexander Jemnitz at 8 pm at the First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston. Tickets: \$8 general, \$5 seniors and students (see also reduced-price tickets offered through The Tech Performing Arts Series). Tel: 437-0231.

★ ★ ★ CRITIC'S CHOICE ★ ★ ★
Quadrivium presents a concert of Renaissance and American music at 8 pm at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 55 Coolidge Avenue, Lexington. Also presented April 23 at 8 pm at the St. James Episcopal Church, 1991 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge. Tickets: \$6 general, \$4 seniors and students. Telephone: 646-4134.

Saturday, Apr. 23

POPULAR MUSIC

Donovan and Buffy Sainte-Marie perform at 5 pm and 9 pm at the Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston. Tickets: \$15.50 and \$17.50. Telephone: 641-1010.

Blurt and Danielle Day perform as part of the Institute of Contemporary Art's *Static and Interference: The Cultural Politics of Alternative Music* at 8 pm at Axis, 13 Lansdowne Street, just across from the entrance to the bleachers at Fenway Park. Tickets: \$8 general, \$6 ICA members, seniors, and students. Telephone: 266-5151.

Treat Her Right, Pontiac Brothers, and **Full Fathom 5** perform at the T.T. the Bear's, 10 Brookline Street, Cambridge. Telephone: 492-0082.

Big Dipper, Tribe, Busted Statues, Nova Mob, and **Pat on the Back** perform at the Channel, 25 Necco Street, near South Station in downtown Boston. Tickets: \$4.50 advance/\$5.50 at the door. Telephone: 451-1905.

Bugloo Swamis perform at Johnny D's, 17 Holland Street, Somerville, near the Davis Square T-stop on the red line. Telephone: 776-9667.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

The MIT Chamber Players perform works by Mozart, Schubert, Mumford, and Franck at 8 pm in Kresge Auditorium. No admission charge. Telephone: 253-2906.

The John Oliver Chorale performs works by Elliott Carter and Martin Armbrin at 8 pm in Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston.

PERFORMANCE ART

The Greenhouse Effect is presented by the Cambridge Center for Adult Education at 7:30 & 10:00 at the Blacksmith House, 56 Brattle Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge. Tickets: \$5. Telephone: 547-6789.

On The Town

Compiled by Peter Dunn

Sunday, Apr. 24

POPULAR MUSIC

★ ★ ★ CRITIC'S CHOICE ★ ★ ★
The Bodeaus and **Treat Her Right** perform as part of *Wellesley College Spring Weekend* at 6 pm in Alumnae Hall, Wellesley College. Tickets: \$9 general, \$6 Wellesley College. Telephone: 239-2557 or 239-3030.

Billy Bragg performs at the Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston. Tickets: \$14.50. Telephone: 266-7455.

Bent Men, Walking Tall, and **African Head Charge** perform as part of the Institute of Contemporary Art's *Static and Interference: The Cultural Politics of Alternative Music* at 8 pm at the Paradise, 967 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston. Tickets: \$8 general, \$6 ICA members, seniors, and students. Telephone: 266-5151.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

The New England Philharmonic performs works by Brahms, Sibelius, and Hoffman at 3 pm in Paine Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge. Tickets: \$7 general, \$5 seniors and students. Telephone: 868-1222.

The University Choral of Boston College performs baroque, classical, and modern works in a concert celebrating its 25th Anniversary at 3 pm in Symphony Hall, corner of Massachusetts and Huntington Avenues, Boston. Tickets: \$8, \$10, and \$12. Telephone: 552-4306.

The Civic Symphony of Boston performs works by Berlioz, James Yannatos, Kodaly, and Tchaikovsky at 3 pm in Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston. Tickets: \$7 and \$10. Telephone: 437-0231.

FILM & VIDEO

The MIT Lecture Series Committee presents **Chariots of Fire**, Oscar winner for Best Picture of 1981, at 7 pm & 10 pm in 26-100. Admission: \$1.50. Telephone: 225-9179.

The Brattle Theatre continues its Sunday film series of *Vintage Hollywood* with **Phantom of the Opera** (Rupert Julian, 1925), starring Lon Chaney, at 2:00, 6:00, & 10:00 and **Les Misérables** (Richard Boleslawski, 1935) at 3:50 & 7:55. Located at 40 Brattle Street in Harvard Square. Admission: \$4.75 general, \$3 seniors and children (good for the double bill). Telephone: 876-6837.

The Harvard-Epworth Church presents Jean Renoir's **The Elusive Corporal** (1962, France) at 8 pm. Located at 1555 Massachusetts Avenue, just north of Harvard Square. Admission: \$3 contribution. Telephone: 354-0837.

Monday, Apr. 25

FILM & VIDEO

The Brattle Theatre continues its Monday series of *Film Noir* with **Sorry Wrong Number** (Anatole Litvak, 1948) at 4:15 & 7:40 and **Framed** (Richard Wallace, 1947) at 6:00 & 9:30. Located at 40 Brattle Street in Harvard Square. Admission: \$4.75 general, \$3 seniors and children (good for the double bill). Telephone: 876-6837.

The Harvard Film Archive presents **Forest of Bliss** (Robert Gardner, 1986) at 5:30 and continues its Monday film series *Three Directors: Hitchcock, Renoir, Godard* with Jean-Luc Godard's *2 ou 3 Choses que je sais d'elle* (2 or 3 Things I Know About Her, 1966, France) at 5:30 & 8:00. Located at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, 24 Quincy Street, in Harvard Square. Admission: \$3 general, \$2 seniors and children. Tel: 495-4700.

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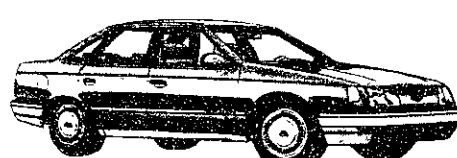
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Faculty approves Phase II changes

(Continued from page 1)

nation: a significant number of seniors have made no attempt to satisfy Phase II until the second semester of their senior year." In order to ensure that students complete the requirement promptly, the report said students who fail to complete Phase I (which is intended to demonstrate basic writing competence) by the eighth week of the first semester of their sophomore year be judged in non-compliance. They would be forced to take a writing subject unless they successfully petitioned to have a five-page paper accepted for the requirement.

Also, beginning with the Class of 1990, students must complete Phase II by Registration Day of the semester in which they are to graduate. Students who do not complete the requirement by this time will not be placed on the degree list and can only be added by petitioning their departmental writing coordinator and the

Committee on the Writing Requirement.

Killian and Edgerton Awards announced

The recipients of the James R. Killian Jr. '26 and Harold E. Edgerton '27 Faculty Achievement Awards were also announced at the faculty meeting.

The Killian Award, which was established to recognize "extraordinary professional accomplishments by MIT faculty members," was awarded to Professor John S. Waugh of the Department of Chemistry for his pioneering work in the field of nuclear magnetic resonance.

The Edgerton Award, which was established to recognize a junior faculty member for "exceptional distinction in teaching, research, and scholarship," was awarded to Professor of History Peter C. Perdue. Perdue's research interests include China and the Far East.

Committee to examine departmental changes

(Continued from page 1)

ment on the details of how and when the actual decision to disband ABS was made, saying that her committee is still investigating the decision. She did say, however, that the decision was apparently made within a short frame of time on an academic scale, probably much less than a year.

Dean of the School of Science Gene M. Brown had actually intended the ABS closure to happen on a longer time scale, but misread the desires of the faculty, Widnall added. She said Brown allocated substantial time in his plan — about a year and a half — for placing the ABS faculty in new appointments, while giving little time for making the closure decision. The ABS faculty, Widnall said, would have preferred to have had more discussion before the closure decision and a faster period of reappointment.

There are no examples of departmental closings that are recent enough to be of use to the committee, Widnall said, although the committee is examining several reorganizations that have occurred in the past few years.

Most of those reorganizations, Widnall said, were preceded by a report from each department's visiting committee, a group

chaired by a MIT Corporation member that makes recommendations to the department every two years. But the most recent ABS visiting committee report did not make any mention of closing the department, Widnall said.

But the focus and thrust of the ABS department has been under discussion since 1978, when Gerald N. Wogan was named head of the department, according to Widnall.

So far, Widnall said, her committee has met with ABS faculty and graduate students to assess the impact of the closing on them, as well as with the provost, Brown, and President Paul E. Gray '54, who named the committee along with Chairman of the Faculty Bernard J. Frieden PhD '57.

The committee must report to the faculty by the May 18 faculty meeting, after which the Faculty Policy Committee will seek to draw some explicit policy based on the committee's guidelines.

Other members of Widnall's committee include: Glenn A. Berchtold (Chemistry); John M. Essigmann (ABS); Morris Halle (Linguistics and Philosophy); Henry D. Jacoby (Management); Phillip A. Sharp (Biology); Arthur C. Smith (EECS).

Frosh failures prompt search for explanations

(Continued from page 1)

act." But the pass-fail system damages those overcome the handicap before coming to MIT, Lewin believed.

Professor Anthony P. French, coordinator of 8.01 for several years, argued that the quality of physics preparation in the nation's high schools has declined over the last ten years. This lower high school preparation directly affects the students that MIT accepts, French said.

French suggested one way to improve performance in 8.01 is for students who have weak math backgrounds to take it during the spring semester, after taking 18.01.

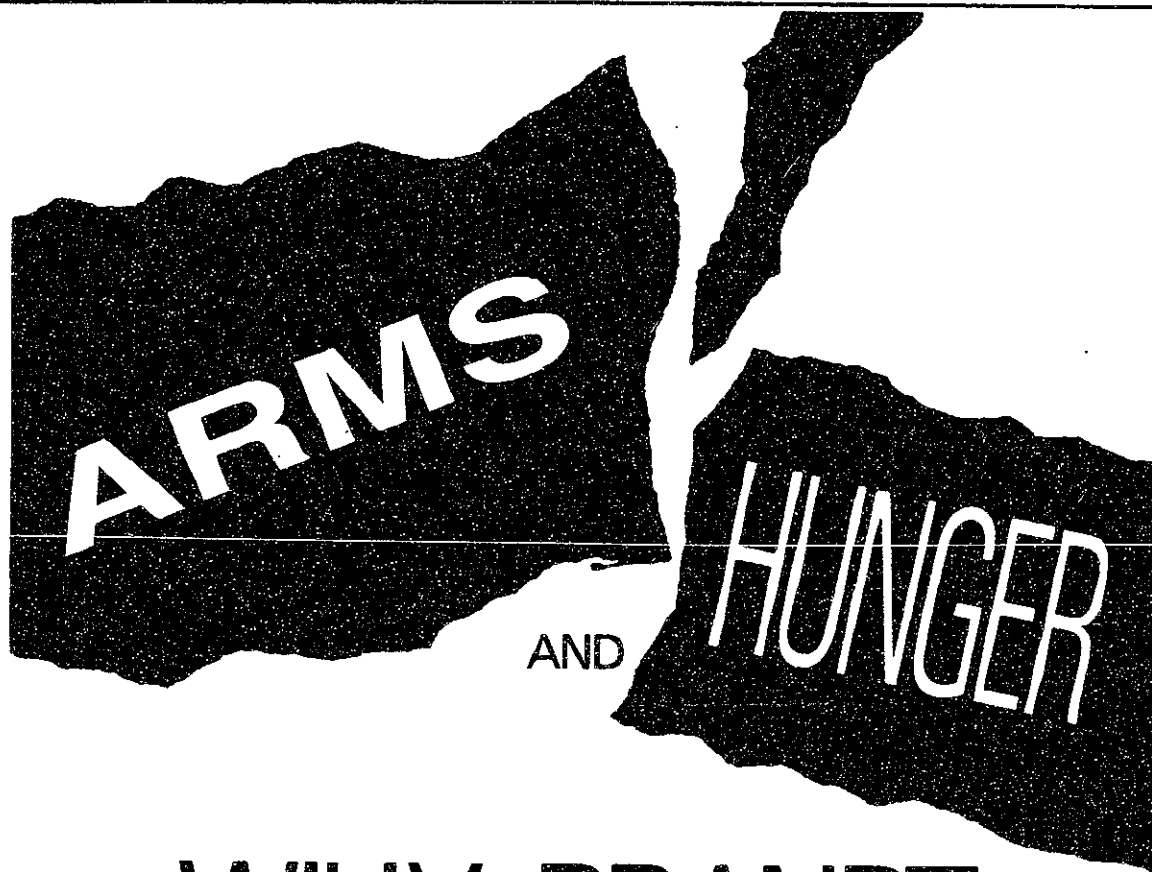
Other officials argued it was very difficult to do any comparison between the recent classes and previous ones. Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Bonnie J. Walters said that only looking at one year was not sufficient to identify a trend. In spite of that, one of the most positive traits that this class has is its diversity,

Walters added. This could help the "new breed" do better.

Professor Arthur P. Mattuck, chairman of the Department of Mathematics, who has monitored the freshman performance in 18.01, agreed that any comparison is very hard to make. Mattuck suggested that the grading procedures in calculus last term might have been more stringent, resulting in more failures.

Melinda L. Glidden, supervisor of the undergraduate office of the Department of Chemistry, said that the performance in Principles of Chemical Science (5.11) has remained about the same. There are 20 drops and about two failures each fall term.

One of the problems that the 5.11 administrators face is the wide range of exposure to chemistry with which freshmen come, Glidden added. But the subject is well liked and students find it more interesting as the years pass. This could somehow improve the performance of future classes, Glidden said.



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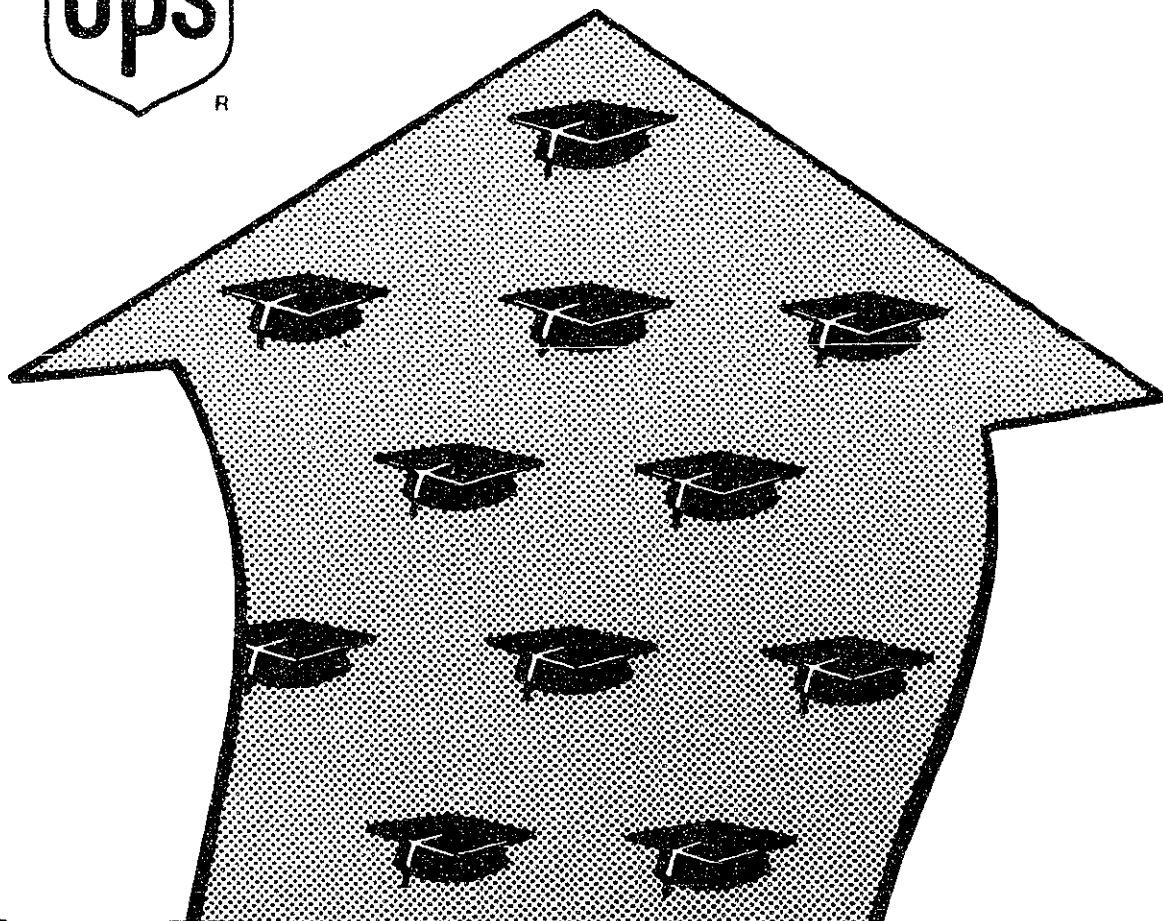
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Forum studies foreign policy

(Continued from page 1)

of economics at Wellesley College and associate director of the Russian Research Center at Harvard University, gave a riveting description of Gorbachev's political status within the USSR, backing up Hass' assertion that the Soviet leader might not last long. Gorbachev is attempting nothing less than a revolution, Goldman said, but one that is too radical. The noted Soviet expert predicted Gorbachev would not succeed in his reform efforts and would be overthrown by conservative factions.

Unlike Chinese reformists, Gorbachev has not achieved economic progress to show for his efforts, Goldman said. The Soviet people themselves are not happy with their leader, whom they blame for new restrictions on alcohol and the sudden increase in "train wrecks and mine disasters" — which were never reported before. Public opinion polls show Gorbachev "would win the New York primary," Goldman said, but would lose in the Soviet Union.

Real threat from Japan

The real threat to the future of the United States will come not from the Soviet Union but from Japan, contended Professor Ezra Vogel of Harvard University. He warned that the United States is in danger of being economically overwhelmed by Japan. The world's largest investment house, insurance company, and banks are already Japanese, he said.

In addition, trade across the Pacific surpasses trans-Atlantic trade. The Japanese are convinced that their economy is far superior to that of the United States, and that "there is little they need to buy from us," according to Vogel. He sees Japan "moving off on its own militarily, but quietly."

Professor Philip Bobbitt of the University of Texas Law School echoed Vogel's fears about Japan, asking why the United States is trying to force the Asian nation to spend more money on defense. The Japanese already have the sixth largest armed forces in the world, and in twelve years will have the third largest, he said.

The \$500 billion in additional defense spending that the Congress has called for would pay for ten aircraft carrier battle groups. "Why do we want them to have this?" he asked, expressing concern that no one at high levels of government is discussing the issue clearly.

"For our contribution, we

guarantee the safety of an entire globe," Bobbitt said. "But does anyone believe if we reduce our expenditures and other nations increase theirs, we will be safer or wealthier?"

Bobbitt also attacked the idea of withdrawing troops from Europe, claiming the Europeans would replace our troops with their own nuclear forces. "That would be the most profound catastrophe to occur in this catastrophic century," he said. "If you take a world with two nuclear [superpowers] and make it three, you have gone from our period to one that will make our period look like a golden age."

Hass termed the recent chorus of voices calling for a withdrawal of troops from Europe "an unholy alliance of left and right that threatens the whole basis of East-West relations." According to Hass, a strong NATO alliance "has resulted in unprecedented peace and prosperity."

US must not stand alone

Ball felt the United States has been continuously plagued by foreign policy troubles because it usually stands alone in its diplomatic efforts. The United States needs to cooperate more closely with the United Nations in order to reduce the "high cost, great danger, and dubious results" of unilateral action, he said.

The situation in the Persian Gulf clearly demonstrates the danger of going it alone, according to Ball. Because we failed to cooperate with the United Na-

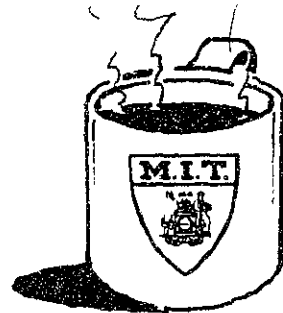
tions and the Soviet Union, "our nation is now virtually at war with Iran" and it is "open season" on all ships without military escort.

Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, a veteran Washington insider who has been mentioned as a possible Secretary of State in a Bush administration, strongly disagreed with Ball on US actions in the Persian Gulf. Maintaining a large naval force there has "restored the confidence of states in the region and of our European allies that when we make up our minds to do something we can carry it through," he said.

The United States suffers particularly for its solitary position of support for Israel, Ball said. As a result of being the only major dissenter in repeated UN measures against Israel, "our embassies have been rebuilt as fortresses to symbolize the bunker mentality to be found within their walls." Rather than being based on principle, he said, our Mideast policy is "based on pressure from Israel and its very effective lobby in this country."

Scowcroft was pessimistic about the chances of achieving a Mideast settlement in the near future. At this time the situation lacks both "an Israeli government capable of negotiating and a willing Arab interlocutor," he said. Acknowledging widespread frustration with the region, Scowcroft observed that "as Americans we operate on the idea that if there is a problem there is implied a solution."

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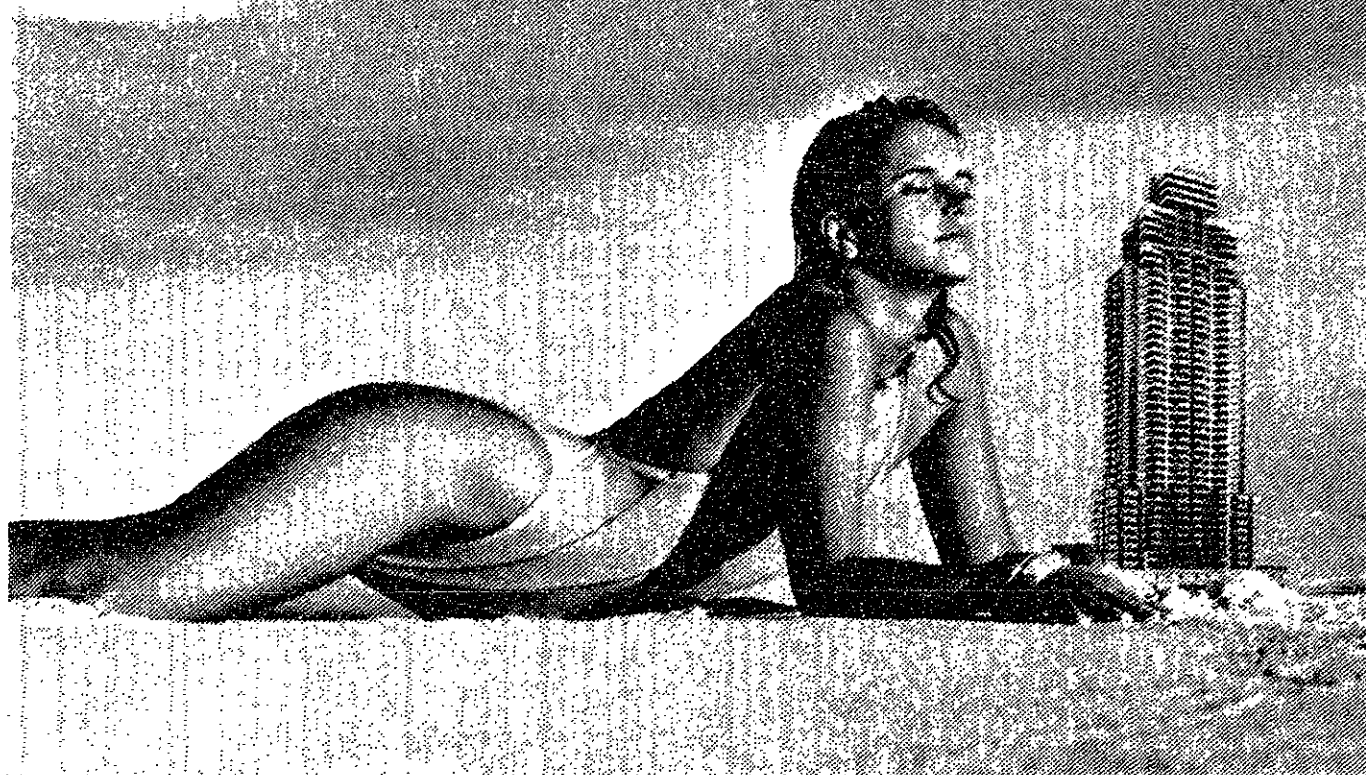
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MIT baseball smashes Wentworth, 10-4

(Continued from page 1)

"Diamond Dave" worked the count to 3-2, and with all the runners moving, drilled a single to center. McFarland and Dotterer scored easily, and Oliver raced around from first to score as the centerfielder failed to handle the ball cleanly.

Wentworth scored a run in both the sixth and the seventh, but MIT countered with two more in its half of the seventh to maintain an 8-4 lead.

In the eighth, MIT put the final nail in the coffin by scoring two more. Oliver started the inning with a single and then stole second, the ninth theft of the day for MIT. Cote moved Oliver to third with his second hit of the day, leaving men on first and third for pinch hitter Scott Williams '91. He drove a single to

left scoring Oliver and moving Cote to second. Cote later scored MIT's final run on a passed ball, leaving the score 10-4 where it would stay.

Patterson's win was preserved by reliever Jeff DeRosa '88, who mopped up in the final two innings by pitching scoreless ball. He got help from Tim Collins '89, who started a brilliant 4-6-3 double play in the eighth on a well hit one hopper. Other than that, it was all DeRosa in the final two.

MIT now holds an 8-10 record after also beating Curry on Wednesday. The Beavers take their show on the road for the rest of the week with away games against Clark and Bates.

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



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sports

Crew defeats Syracuse, Dartmouth

(Continued from page 20)

freshman boats raced BU and Northeastern, two of the fastest intercollegiate crews in Division I, on Saturday. The race was more of a test for MIT to see how it stood in comparison to its stronger rivals. MIT rowed well, but finished last.

The official starting the freshman race gave confusing starting commands. As a result, the BU boat started first, followed by the Engineers, leaving Northeastern behind for several seconds. The race was not restarted for unknown reasons.

The men's first varsity and the first freshmen now hold a 2-1 record.

Women competed Saturday

The women's first varsity won its race against Syracuse and Dartmouth by a close margin. The times were: MIT 8:06 minutes, Dartmouth 8:08 minutes, and Syracuse 8:16 minutes. The rowers in the boat are: stroke M. C. McCorkindale '90, Laura Grunbaum '88, Becky Dumas '90, Laura Opsasnick '90, Beth Jones '90, Shir Filler '88, Karen Cianciulli '88, Dara Norman '88, and coxswain Audra Noel '88.

The second varsity came in second to Radcliffe by a margin of 26 seconds, but beat both Syracuse and Dartmouth by substantial margins. The race times were Radcliffe 7:53, MIT 8:18, Syracuse 8:23, and Dartmouth 8:31.

The third varsity had to wait at the starting line for over a half an hour for the start of their race. Immediately after the race started, the Radcliffe B boat broke a rigger and was essentially

out of the race. MIT came in second with a time of 8:12 minutes. Radcliffe A won with a time of 8:04.

Columbia defeated

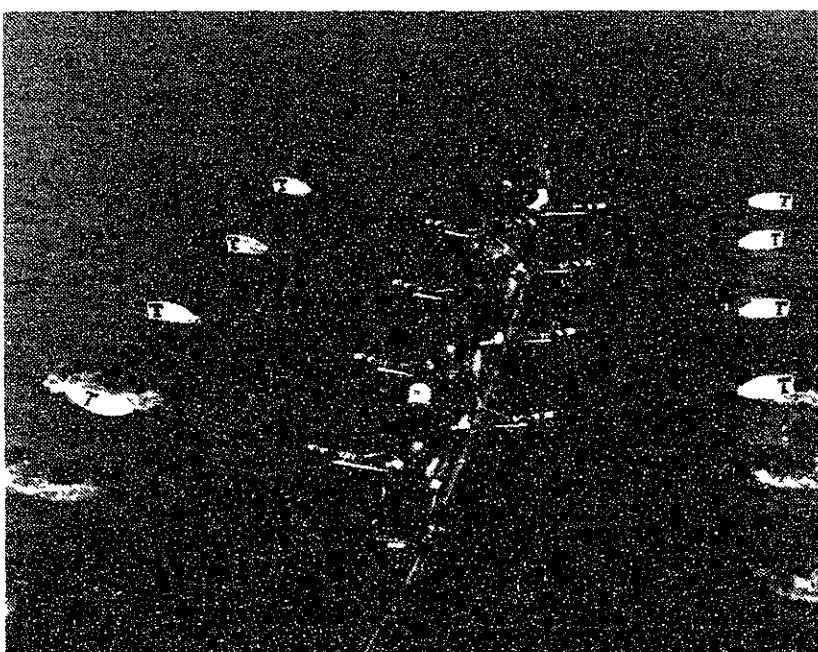
The first varsity smashed Columbia Saturday, April 9. Columbia illegally jumped the start of the race to quickly gain the lead. By the 800m mark, Columbia held 6 seats on the engineers. Both crews were rowing at 35 strokes per minute. At 1000m, Columbia made a move and their coxswain reached MIT's bow ball.

The Engineers dug in at 1100m and started to move. Swinging well past the 1500m mark, MIT was only 4 seats begin. MIT started their sprint by bring up

the rating to a 38. The finish line was coming up too quickly for the engineers to win so the MIT coxswain Elliot Douglas called the rating up to a 40 with 20 strokes to go. The Engineers crossed the finish line first, taking the victory away from Columbia only on the last stroke. MIT won the 6.02.8. Columbia 6.02.9.

The men's heavyweight crew will race at home on Saturday morning against Harvard and Princeton. The women's crew will be away racing Smith College on Saturday. The lightweights race both Columbia and Cornell at Columbia.

(Editor's Note: Jay Damask '90 is a member of the varsity heavyweight crew team.)



Jay Damask/The Tech
A men's eight rows to victory during Sunday's race against the US Coast Guard.

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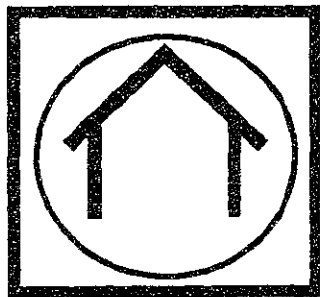
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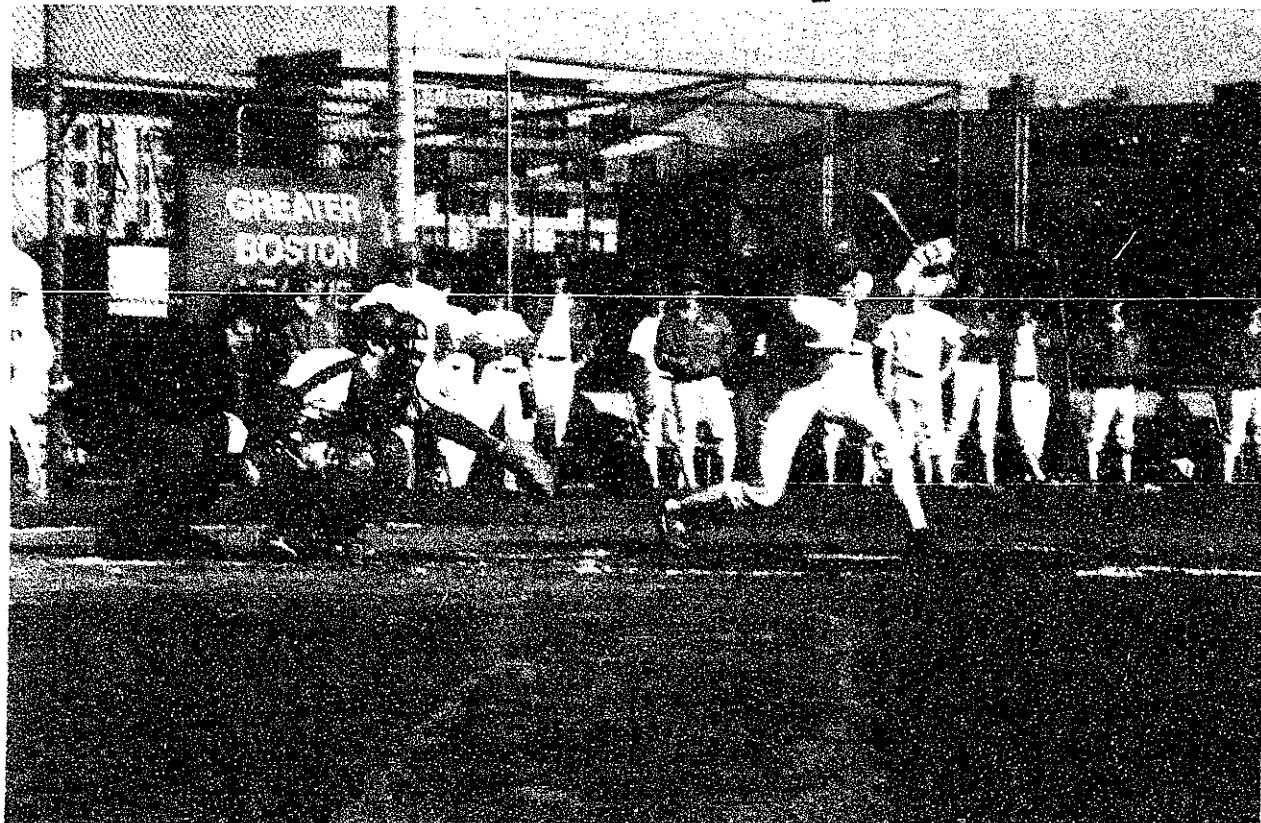
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Baseball team pounds Wentworth, 10-4



Kyle G. Peltonen/The Tech

Scott McFarland '88 swings at the ball in a game earlier this season. Saturday, the Engineers defeated Wentworth 10-4, bringing their record to 8-10.

By Steven Stoller

The MIT baseball team coasted to a 10-4 win over Wentworth Tuesday, on a strong pitching performance from starter Fran "VW" Patterson '89. The start was Patterson's first of the season and he responded by going seven solid innings, allowing just four runs while fanning seven.

The Beavers jumped out in front early, scoring three runs in the first. Pillan Thirumalaisamy '90 started the rally with a leadoff single and quickly stole second. Centerfielder Steven Stoller '89 followed with a walk, putting two aboard with nobody out. After Tim Day '89 flied to center, Mike Griffin '89 forced Stoller at second on a ground ball as Thirumalaisamy took third. Griffin then stole second, setting the table for Mike Murray '90.

Murray, who leads the team in runs batted in, promptly delivered a single to left scoring the first two runs of the game. Murray then stole second as it became obvious that the Beavers would be running on every opportunity that they got. Scott McFarland '88 then grounded one to short that was booted, allowing Murray to score the final run of the inning.

The score remained 3-0 through four as Patterson continued to rely on his fastball. But in the fifth, Wentworth finally caught up with Patterson, scoring two and loading the bases with two outs. Patterson got out of the jam without any further damage by getting the next hitter on a routine fly to center.

In the sixth, MIT added to the 3-2 lead by putting three more runs across the plate. With two out, McFarland walked and stole second, as the track meet continued at the expense of Wentworth's catcher. Henry Dotterer '91 walked and then left-fielder Tim Johnson '91 was beamed by the Wentworth pitcher. Johnson was slightly shaken up so Eric Oliver '90 came in to run at first. With the bases loaded and two out, catcher Dave Cote '89 stepped to the plate.

(Please turn to page 18)

Cricket club deals defeat to Harvard

By Gaurav Rewari

Batting first on a sticky wicket, with a strong wind cutting across the pitch, and with the ball rearing up dangerously from a good length is certainly not the most enjoyable task.

But MIT made the best of it in Sunday's cricket match against the Harvard Cricket Club.

MIT's opener Rajan Anandau '91 fell early, bowled by a sharp delivery from Harvard freshman Kevin Flusk. At that stage MIT had four runs with one wicket down. This was followed by the largest partnership of the day as skipper Nasser Ahmed '90 joined Salman Chaudhary '91 at the crease and added 91 runs for the second wicket. Ahmed scored a fluent 48 runs, punctuated with crisp hits to every part of the field and a towering six over long-on. Salman gained in momentum during his rapid-fire innings of 33 which included a huge six over the bowler's head.

Ahmed fell first, two short of what would have been a well-deserved half-century. Salman followed soon after, leg before wicket to Flusk. F. Riza G was next to go, caught off the bowling of Flusk. However, by then the Engineers had consolidated their innings.

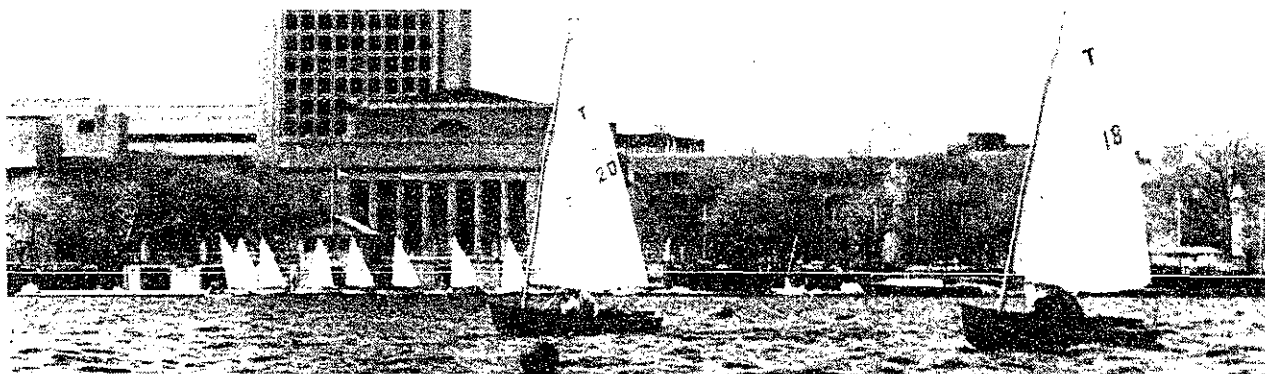
The last few overs saw some powerful hitting by A. Jaffer '91, Gaurav Rewari '91 and Vivek Rastogi '90 and by the thirtieth over, MIT had put on 155 runs at slightly over 5 runs an over.

From the moment Harvard came into bat their innings were in complete disarray. Nasser managed to keep the ball very low while Salman got a few to rise very menacingly, and the Harvard Whiteclads were skittled out for a paltry 55 runs. Ali Agha top scored for Harvard with a gritty thirty runs. No other Harvard batsman reached double figures.

The Harvard innings were highlighted by some accurate bowling and aggressive fielding by the MIT team which emerged victorious by a hundred runs with nearly ten overs to spare.

(Editor's note: Gaurav Rewari '90 is a member of the MIT cricket club.)

Sailing finishes season 13 of 21.



Lisette W. M. Lambregts/The Tech

Two MIT boats cross the finish line in first and second place during the Staake Trophy race on Saturday. MIT tied for 4th in a field of nine teams.

By Isako Hoshino

The MIT varsity sailing team finished its season by placing thirteenth out of 21 schools at a major spring intersectional regatta. The event, which took place on Saturday and Sunday and included teams from around the nation, was held at the US Coast Guard Academy.

The A division sailed by Marc Lie '88 and Isako Hoshino '89 finished sixth after placing 12th at the end of the first day. The B division sailed by Kyle Welch '90 and Warren Wu '90 on Sunday placed 15th. The Laser division sailed by Dale Hinman '90 placed

12th.

At the Staake Team Race held at home on the weekend, MIT tied for fourth out of nine. At this regatta John Marquardt '88, Shaun Kaneshiro '91, Don Hejna '89, Steve Barrett '89, Matt Katz '90 and Lissa Sabia '89 sailed. Due to high wind conditions on both days, the boats suffered some considerable damages as well as numerous capsize.

On Saturday, MIT finished second out of fourteen schools at the Northern Series held at Tufts University. Welch and Wu placed first in the A division, while Doug Sabin '89 and Rachael Bat-

chelor '91 placed second in the B division.

MIT placed a disappointing seventh out of eleven school at the Hatch Brown Trophy which took place on Sunday at Boston University.

This weekend, MIT sailors will be sailing at the Fowle Team race Trophy Eliminations at the Coast Guard Academy, MIT Invitational and Northern Series at home, and Mix & Match Invite at Harvard.

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

Crew sweeps Coast Guard, Syracuse, Dartmouth.



Kristine AuYeung/The Tech

The rowers of a women's eight relax after a race earlier this spring. Saturday, their first varsity boat beat Syracuse.

By Jay Damask

The men's heavyweight crew swept the US Coast Guard Academy on Sunday, but lost to both Northeastern and Boston University on Saturday. The women's crew raced Syracuse and Dartmouth on Saturday, and their first varsity boat won.

The first varsity of the men's heavyweight crew won all three races against Coast Guard, commanding the lead from the start in each race. With one minute to go in each race, MIT held open water on the Coast Guard to finish with the win. The first varsity oarsmen are: stroke Chris Neils '89, Rick Franklin '89, Jay Best '89, Bill Malechi '88, Alec Jessman '88, Mike Marino '89, Opher Donchin '88, Rick Wesel '88, and coxswain Elliot Douglas '88.

The second varsity also won all three races against Coast Guard. Three minutes into the first race, MIT was down by four seats, or two seconds, to the Guard. MIT took the stroke rating up for a sprint and pulled back through

the Coast Guard to win by three seats.

The first race built the second varsity's confidence. The boat had no problem winning the next two races. MIT increased the winning margin in each race to win the last one by open water. The second varsity oarsmen are: stroke Josh Duke '90, Roy Black '89, Steve Payne '89, Brian Vajda '90, Bertil Chappuis '88, Tom Urban '89, Bryce Johnson '90, Mike Petro '89, and coxswain Rachel Kaminar '89.

The first freshmen won their first and third races. In the first race, MIT caught a crab, but came back to defeat Coast Guard in the last minute. The first freshmen lost the second race, but came together and committed themselves to the final win. The freshmen oarsmen are: Terry Totemier, David Tomlinson, Roger Knapp, Jabin Bell, Tom Cole, Chuck Singilar, Greg Laboda, David Haldeman, and coxswain Alex Min.

The three varsity and two (Please turn to page 19)