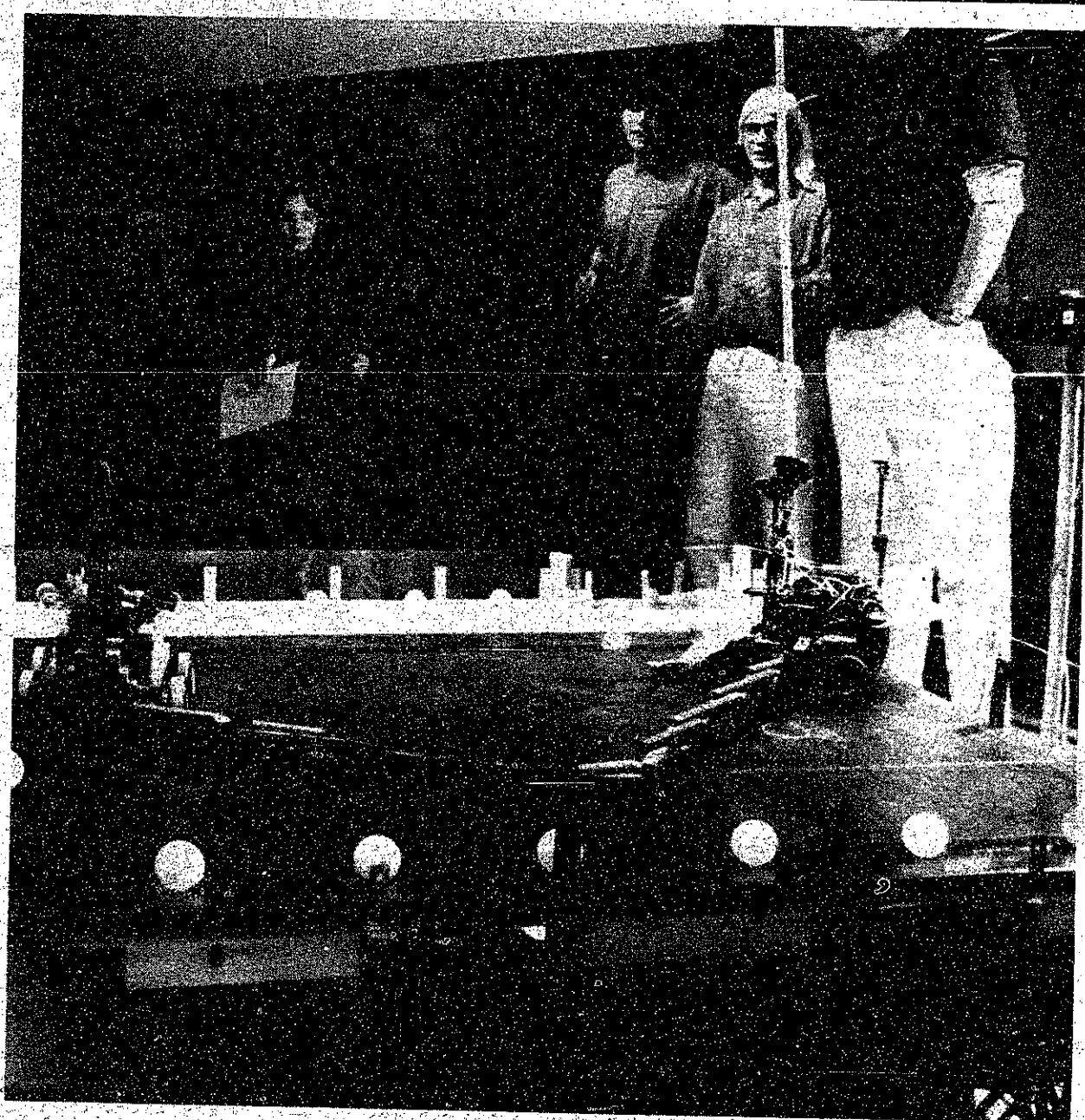




Two 6.270 machines engage in a heated battle during last Tuesday's final round of the 6.270 Robopong contest in 26-100 as the machine's builders look on.

Andy Silber/The Tech

MIT, BU plan to merge NROTC

Wellesley program may get cut

By Reuven M. Lerner

Citing "future budget limitations" and "plans for a smaller Navy and Marine Corps," the Navy Reserve Officers' Training Corps program announced last month that it will be forming a "consortium" between the Navy ROTC programs at Boston University and MIT.

The plan will affect students from Harvard University, Tufts University and Wellesley College, who participate in Navy ROTC programs at MIT, as well as students from Boston College and Northeastern University, who are enrolled in the BU Navy ROTC program.

According to Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Professor Alvin W. Drake '57, who chairs the Institute Committee on ROTC, it is also quite possible that Wellesley students will soon be excluded from the Navy ROTC program altogether.

Capt. Robert W. Sherer, the senior Navy ROTC officer at MIT, said yesterday that he gave President Charles M. Vest a letter describing the changes on Jan. 16, the same day they were announced in Washington, DC, by the Defense Department.

Sherer said he "knew there was a nationwide review" 18 months ago, because "all the units had to contribute information to our headquarters." But he added that neither he, nor any of the other heads of Navy ROTC units, were informed of the Navy's decisions until after Congress had been briefed.

(Please turn to page 10)

MIT sues RCB over Blanch St. delays

By Joanna E. Stone

MIT is filing a suit against the City of Cambridge Rent Control Board over its recent decision to delay issuing certificates of eviction for the MIT-owned houses located on Blanche Street. A hearing is being held today at Middlesex County Court to consider the suit.

The board decided two weeks ago to delay the eviction certificates "until MIT presents evidence to the [Rent Control Board's] executive director that it has secured financing of the development proposed for the subject sites."

Currently, there are two MIT-owned three-decker houses remaining on Blanche Street. These two buildings — occupied by a

total of four people — are perhaps the only thing standing in the way of MIT's completing the final piece of its plan for University Park: the building of a hotel and convention center in the so-called Simplex parcel in Cambridgeport.

On June 28, 1989, the Rent Control Board granted MIT removal permits for the Blanche Street houses, approving MIT's relocation of the buildings to a site 1000 feet away from their present location, on the condition that MIT agree to pay for interim housing for the tenants and on the conditional basis that MIT provide 12 additional rent control units to the city.

According to the attorney (Please turn to page 13)

MIT celebrates Black History Month

By Sharon G. Price

February is nationally recognized as Black History Month, and MIT is celebrating with a variety of events including films, guest speakers and theatrical presentations.

Victoria D. Boyd '91, co-chair of the Black Student Union, said non-minority turnout has been minimal, and she hopes for greater community participation in upcoming events. "We've been trying to focus on making the events really visible to the public," Boyd said.

"We're doing a lot more this year than in previous years," Boyd said. Overall turnout so far seems to have grown along with the agenda, a development which Boyd attributed to increased student participation in the planning of events.

A showing of the first and second parts of the *Eyes on the Prize* series kicked off the month and was well attended, according to Boyd. "The best test will be when we start having our larger

events, though," she said.

Last night's activity was a showing of *Talent Extravaganza*, a production featuring students, according to Shawniqua T. Williams '94.

Boyd predicted that the guest appearance of actor and director Ivan Dixon will also be popular. Dixon, well known for his role on *Hogan's Heroes*, will present his film *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* on Feb. 15.

Some of the other events of the celebration will include Cultural Awareness Day on Feb. 13, a minority career fair on Feb. 22 and the theatrical presentation *Afri-*

can American Living Museum on Feb. 27.

A complete list of the activities offered is available in Room 5-106.

Dating to the early 1900s, Black History Month is celebrated nationwide.

The idea behind the month originated with Carter G. Wilson, one of the first black historians, who saw the celebration as a way to increase understanding of and appreciation for black history.

MIT has celebrated Black History Month for well over a decade.

Asbestos in Building 20 may delay its demolition

By Dave Watt

The MIT campus may never be rid of Building 20. The eyesore historical landmark, site of the development of microwave radar during World War II, has been marked for destruction since former provost John M. Deutch '61 called for its demolition three years ago.

But in order to tear down the building, MIT will have to spend millions of dollars to isolate, remove and dispose of each piece of concrete inside it. According to sources with MIT Physical Plant, the asbestos in Building 20's walls, which was mixed into the concrete, will take months or years to remove.

Almost all MIT buildings have asbestos in them somewhere. Many of the steam pipes which run through the basements and heat the dormitories use asbestos in their insulation, several sources said. Others, like Building 20, had asbestos mixed in their concrete.

When properly sealed, asbestos

poses little hazard. The asbestos mixed in with the concrete in Building 20 poses no hazard to the building's occupants, according to the Industrial Hygiene Office, which is located there. But cracks in the paint over the insulation, or crumbling concrete, could allow asbestos fibers into the surrounding air.

A cleanup of all the walls in Building 20 would take months, according to Physical Plant, and would require quarantining whole rooms in the building for days or weeks at a time while the walls are removed.

Director of Planning O. Robert Simha suggested that it could be a decade before Building 20 is finally replaced. "We've got an awful lot of other things to digest before we're going to tackle [Building 20]," he said.

Simha noted that MIT has neither the space to relocate the people currently in Building 20, nor the money to clean up and replace the building. "Those are

(Please turn to page 11)

inside

The UA passes a proposal for new meal plans. Page 2.

Cancer center director trades places with biology department chair. Page 2.

Shear Madness is a funny murder mystery with lots of audience participation. Page 9.

UA calls for new meal plans

By Katherine Shim

Yesterday the Undergraduate Association overwhelmingly passed a proposal of the UA Food Service Committee which suggested the reduction of dormitory dining services to dinner only, a 10 percent discount meal plan system and no mandatory plans for students living in dormitories without dining facilities.

Under the terms of the proposal, dining hall facilities at Baker, MacGregor and Next House will remain open for dinner only. To accommodate the need for breakfast and lunch, convenience stores will be open in these dormitories during daytime hours.

Under the proposal's terms, residents of these three dormitories will be required to purchase a \$500-per-term declining balance meal plan. This differs from a mandatory \$1835 meal plan that

was suggested in December, according to Paul L. Antico '91, chair of the food service committee.

No mandatory meal plan would be required for MIT students not living in Baker, MacGregor or Next House.

The committee further suggested that all those who purchase meal plans receive a 10 percent discount on all food purchases.

The 10 percent discount system would give students living in Independent Living Groups an incentive to buy a meal plan. Graduate students and faculty would also find it advantageous to purchase plans, increasing the total market of the food service contractor, Antico said.

"It is our belief," said Antico, "that a 10 percent discount on food purchases to those paying with a meal card will provide the

food contractor with a significant profit, and there may even be no need for mandatory meal plans in the next two or three years."

The committee also suggests that McCormick dining hall be converted into a health food facility where health, vegetarian and kosher foods would be sold. Dining facilities would no longer be available, and a mandatory meal plan would no longer be required for McCormick residents.

The convenience store would be open to all members of the MIT community and there is a possibility that new entrances to the area will be built, according to Antico.

In those dormitories with cooking facilities, the committee asks that these facilities be "maintained at operable standards."

Under proposed plan, Lobdell
(Please turn to page 12)



Sang Hoon Park
6,270 contestants hard at work in an Athena cluster

Sharp, biology head to swap jobs

By Andrea Lamberti

The director of the Center for Cancer Research and the head of the biology department will switch positions effective July 1, allowing two prominent MIT biologists to exchange administrative duties while continuing to lead the Department of Biology.

Biology Department Head and Professor of Biology Richard O. Hynes PhD '71 will swap administrative responsibilities with Phillip A. Sharp, biology professor and director of the Center for Cancer Research.

The exchange was prompted in part by a requirement of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, said Dean of Science Gene M. Brown.

Hynes became a Hughes Institute medical investigator in 1988. The Hughes Institute has "a rule against people serving as full-time administrators of large administrative units," and considers the biology department a large unit, Brown explained.

Even though the Hughes Institute is not in favor of its researchers taking on large administrative duties, Brown appointed Hynes biology department head in 1989.

The Hughes Institute agreed to allow "Hynes to function as department head for a couple of years. . . . But they were very clear that it would be . . . temporary," Brown said.

Now, the Hughes Institute has agreed to allow Hynes to function as director of the cancer

center "because it's a smaller administrative unit than the biology department," Brown said. He presented the idea to Hynes and Sharp, who agreed to the switch.

Other factors contributed to the decision to switch, Hynes said. "We both could use a change in job . . . [and] put our energies into something different. But it's also true that Hughes was not happy about my being chairman," he said.

Brown expects that the change in administrative responsibilities "will sharpen their perspectives with respect to MIT's extensive activities in the biological sciences."

Both men will continue their research in their cancer center laboratories, and "both will have significant administrative responsibilities," Brown said. "For me that's a real plus value, because I know that as dean I can expect outstanding administrators in both of these positions."

Sharp has directed the cancer center for six years, and has been at the center since 1974. Last February, he accepted the MIT presidency, but declined the position one week later. Sharp said at the time that he was declining the presidency because he could not bear to give up his research program and teaching duties.

Traditionally, the positions of director of the cancer center and of biology department chair have five-year terms in the School of

Science, but are renewable, Brown said.

Sharp explained the differences between the two positions: "As [director of the cancer center], one looks at one research program at MIT in regard to the problem of basic biology relevant to the human disease of cancer, and tries to maintain an intellectual and physically vigorous program," he said.

As a department chair, Sharp said, "One is leading a great department forward in trying to develop its educational role as well as its research role."

"The educational role involves interacting more with the Institute and fellow faculty, while the educational [role] involves encouraging a vision of the future of biology, and how the department fits into that vision."

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news roundup

from the associated press wire

Gulf War

Mitterrand, British commander call ground war "inevitable"

Francois Mitterrand, president of France, said a ground war in the gulf will be hard, but it is inevitable and will begin this month. Mitterrand said the allied ground offensive "promises to take place in the coming days, in any case sometime this month."

In Washington, the White House said no decision on a ground war had been made, and President George Bush will be the one who finally decides. Mitterrand's comments followed an earlier briefing, during which the British commander in the gulf also said a ground war was inevitable.

With political and military leaders increasingly debating the likelihood of a ground war, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, left for Saudi Arabia yesterday. They plan to meet for the next two days with military leaders, including Desert Storm Commander General H. Norman Schwarzkopf.

US military officials in Saudi Arabia downplayed any allied disagreements over prospects for a ground war. Brigadier General Richard Neal insisted that the allies do not disagree on the issue.

Mitterrand also told a panel of French TV journalists that he does not think the ground conflict will degenerate into a third world war. He said he did not want the multinational force facing Iraq to be involved in a long-term occupation after the war. He said that would lead to widespread resistance and possible terrorism outside the region.

Scud missile intercepted over Riyadh

Iraq fired a long-range Scud missile at the Saudi capital of Riyadh last night, but the projectile was apparently destroyed by Patriot defense missiles. Minutes after air raid sirens sounds in Riyadh at 2 am local time (6 pm EST), two Patriot batteries fired their missiles. They struck the Scud in a pair of flashes; wreckage then traced a fiery trail to the ground.

The Saudi press agency said it was the first Scud attack in almost a week. Last Saturday a missile was intercepted, but pieces rained down on a residential neighborhood, injuring 29 people.

Witnesses reported that large chunks of the Scud's casing crashed into a parking lot on the city's outskirts. The site is a considerable distance from inhabited areas, and Saudi officials said there were no injuries.

Bush will not cut aid to Jordan, despite its support of Iraq

President Bush said he has a fundamental disagreement with Jordan's King Hussein about the war, but it will not mean a cut in US aid to Jordan. White House spokesman Roman Pupadiuk said the president is not considering any cut in aid, or efforts to see others end contributions.

The comments came a day after Hussein accused the United States and its allies of waging an unjust war, trying to destroy Iraq and leading a war against all Arabs and Muslims. Bush said Hussein picked the wrong side in the war, and that his accusations were untrue.

But Bush said he understands Hussein's internal situation. Jordan has a large population of Iraqi and Palestinian sympathizers. Pupadiuk said that still does not excuse Hussein's accusations or his attempt to undermine the alliance against Iraq.

Egyptians protest gulf war involvement

Violent anti-war protests took place yesterday in the Egyptian capital, Cairo. It was the first violence involving opposition to Egypt's role in the US-led effort against Iraq. Egypt has 36,000 troops serving in the allied coalition.

Police fought with a small group of about 50 demonstrators after the marchers were kept from going to President Hosni Mubarak's office. Protesters said two people suffered apparently minor head injuries. Security agents were seen dragging one man away.

Baker proposes new bank to aid postwar Middle East

Secretary of State James A. Baker III proposed a new bank to help rebuild the Middle East once the war in the Persian Gulf ends. Baker told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday that a new Middle East bank for reconstruction and development should be set up.

The purpose of the bank would be to help expand free trade and investment in the region. Baker called for a coalition of countries to assist development in Iraq and other nations hurt by the war, and to promote economic growth.

Baker made clear that aid might flow more freely if Saddam Hussein is out of power. Baker also suggested Iraq could face stiffer postwar controls if the Iraqi leadership does not change hands.

Sports

Six elected to basketball hall of fame

Indiana coach Bobby Knight and late National Basketball Association Commissioner Larry O'Brien were among six men elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame. The others, to be inducted in May, are: guard Tiny Archibald, centers Dave Cowens and Harry Gallatin and the late Larry Fleisher, who founded the NBA Players' Association.

Knight, who failed to gain election in 1988, called it a "slap in the face" and asked not to be considered for re-nomination. But upon hearing he was selected the Hoosiers coach said, "When a coach is honored, it's an honor for all the players that played for him and is a recognition of the teams he has had over the years."

World

IRA shells British prime minister

The Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility for a mortar attack on the British prime minister's residence at 10 Downing St. in London yesterday, according to the British Press Association. British officials reported that three police officers and a civil servant suffered minor injuries in the attack.

Authorities said a shell landed behind the residence. The blast shattered glass and forced Prime Minister John Major to move a war cabinet meeting to another room. Two other shells fell near the foreign office.

The press association said the mortars were mounted in a van and fired through a hole in the vehicle's roof. Police said two men were seen fleeing from the van before the mortars fired.

Haiti swears in priest as president

Haiti elected its first democratically elected president in the more than 185 years of independence. The Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a leftist Roman Catholic priest, took the oath of office yesterday in Creole, the language of Haiti's impoverished masses. People celebrated in the streets, but security was tight for the inauguration. At least three times in the past two years, loyalists of the ousted Duvalier regime have tried to kill Aristide.

Acting promptly after his inauguration, Aristide called on the army to get rid of six conservative officers. He also accused the army of perpetrating violence.

Local

RI House votes to bail out investors

After nearly five hours of debate, the Rhode Island House approved a bill bailing out depositors in the state's closed banks and credit unions. The vote in favor of the compromise legislation hammered out earlier this week was 60-30. The compromise passed intact despite a number of amendments that were proposed during the debate.

The bill now goes to the senate for debate and a vote. It is likely to be approved there, too, because senate leaders participated in the negotiations that arrived at the compromise house bill.

Under the plan, all deposits of \$100,000 or less will be returned. Above that amount, only a percentage will be refunded. The legislation also sets up a new state agency, the Depositors' Economic Protection Corporation, that will take over closed institutions and sell off their assets.

Mass. representative wants to debate the state budget in two parts

The chairman of the Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee said he wants to take up the state's fiscal issues in two parts. Rep. Thomas Finneran told the Weld administration he wants to first take up fiscal problems for the next five months. The committee will take longer to work on reorganization of education and health care. The Weld administration plan covers a 17-month period.

Lieutenant Governor Paul Cellucci and Secretary of Administration and Finance Peter Nessen testified before the committee today. Nessen said the administration welcomes suggestions for other ways to save the state money. But Nessen warned that any alternatives must meet a savings goal of \$850 million through the end of June.

Soldiers in gulf order pizza to go

An Ayer pizza operator got an order in the mail, but he couldn't deliver. The order was from eight soldiers serving in the Persian Gulf. Christopher Kepentzis of Parthenon Pizza near Fort Devens received one of his menus by mail. On it was scribbled an order for two of everything. The eight soldiers are part of the 142nd medical company in Saudi Arabia.

Kepentzis asked the Army if he could send pizza to Saudi Arabia, but was told it would not ship well. Instead he is sending the soldiers 200 pieces of Baklava, a Greek pastry.

Nation

Martin confirmed as labor secretary

The Senate voted unanimously confirmed former Congresswoman Lynn M. Martin as the new labor secretary. Martin will replace Elizabeth Dole. Dole resigned to become the head of the American Red Cross.

The 94-0 confirmation vote came after a few moments of praise and no debate. Martin faced a confirmation hearing last week, in which Democrats noted she opposed President Bush's vetoes on minimum wage and parental leave. Martin is expected to be sworn in a few days. An aide said she would probably start work next week.

Airline cuts fares in half

A decision by America West Airlines to offer half-price fares has other major airlines following its lead. The airline announced it would cut fares in half in an attempt to give the industry what was called a "jump start." In response, Northwest Airlines scrapped its planned surcharge of \$15 per ticket and last night American Airlines said it would meet America West's prices.

Some industry analysts said lower fares aren't going to change the minds of people who are not flying because they are afraid of war-related terrorism. But major airlines, including United, TWA, American, Northwest, Southwest and Delta are moving to match America West's offer on routes where they compete, or devise something they claim is superior.

Atomic weapons stockpiles to be reorganized, Energy Department says

The Energy Department formally announced plans to reorganize atomic weapons facilities to make them smaller, less expensive and less environmentally hazardous. Secretary of Energy James Watkins said that it will take years to work out the exact plans.

A task force recommended closing some nuclear weapons plants. It said that by the year 2015 the military will need less than 15 percent of the number of warheads stored now.

State considers linking federal, state income tax collection

The idea of linking state income tax and federal income tax has surfaced again. The state department of revenue is reportedly working on a way to simplify tax collection. It would change the tax rate on earned and unearned income. Revenue Commissioner Mitchell Adams said any plan would aim to have the state collect no more or less than it does now.

The state constitution bans taxing the same type of income at different rates. This prevents Massachusetts from charging taxpayers a percentage of their federal taxes as other states do.

Weather

Sunny, but seasonable weather to come

The record warmth of earlier this week is history. Temperatures over the northeastern United States will slowly decrease to below normal readings over the next several days. A cold front crossing the area Saturday will usher in the first dose of reality. A series of weak frontal passages, noticeable by a shift in the winds from westerly to northwesterly and a slight drop in temperatures, will help to gradually establish the new weather regime for early next week.

Friday: Becoming mostly sunny. High around 45°F (7°C).

Friday night: Clear to partly cloudy and cold. Low 25°F (-4°F).

Saturday: Mostly sunny and mild. Winds west-southwest 10-15 mph (6-9 kph) shifting to northwest by nightfall. High 48-51°F (9-11°C). Low 22-26°F (-6 to -3°C).

Sunday: Partly cloudy and cooler. Winds northwest 10-15 mph (6-9 kph). High 37°F (3°C). Low 20°F (-7°F).

Forecast by Michael C. Morgan

Compiled by Jeremy Hylton

opinion

Soviets: nothing left to do

Column by Matthew H. Hersch

True governing, I believe, can be distilled down to two operations — doing nothing when nothing should be done, and doing something when something should be done. Both tasks are important. Some of the nation's finest presidents, like Calvin Coolidge (as Will Rogers noted), and Grover Cleveland did lots of wonderful nothing, but sadly, received no praise for their lack of resolve. History tended, at least until recently, to honor only those who built new world mechanisms, not those who were wise or sluggish enough to let history run its course without interfering.

Mikhail Gorbachev is a true master of doing nothing. In fact, Gorby probably does nothing better than any world leader today. He even received last year's Nobel Peace Prize for doing nothing in the face of great adversity. When Eastern Europe pulled from Soviet grasp last year, the Kremlin king left the angry nations alone. Sadly, Gorby doesn't do something nearly as well as he does nothing, and that's not the kind of leadership major reform requires.

Gorbachev has before him a hodgepodge of divergent nationalities, clamoring towards some sort of free-market state free of central control. Gorbachev, in order to pull his country through the turmoil, needs to do something — break down state enterprises and his antiquated central control mechanism — and do nothing — let the economic market respond to the wishes of the consumers. Gorby seems instead to be doing nothing where something is required and doing something where nothing is required. He has left state-run enterprises alone, and is instead attempting to bolster the antiquated economy and his control over the provinces that must be kept in line in order for it to work.

right as a softie and on the left as a thug.

He believes he can rework the economy in a stable manner if he has total authority — but by lashing out at those whose support he desperately needs he destroys more of his authority every day.

When Gorbachev moved to control wandering Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the world, even President Bush, turned on him. The fact that most of the USSR's nuclear capability is based in those annexed regions mattered to Gorby and the conservatives barking at his heels. However, the Western world, on which much of his currency and finance reform depends, saw him as a leader who lost his cool, and would sacrifice anything, even his own chances of success, to amass power.

Mikhail Gorbachev is a true master of doing nothing. In fact, he probably does nothing better than any world leader today.

Gorby had to pull the commandos out of their operations aimed at overthrowing local governments — for now. His actions have left the Baltics with a public relations victory. Even with his army Gorby couldn't keep order. Conservatives and liberals alike in Gorby's government are mumbling that this guy can't control the nation.

It is quite plausible that instead of being a power-mad tyrant, Gorby is just generally clueless, and has bad domestic advisors. The failure of his other domestic reforms in the past five years seem to point to this possibility. However, being dumb is not much better than being evil.

Right now, the Soviet Union is drifting dangerously close to fascism, military dictatorship, or civil war. Army spokesmen claim that they have no designs on running the country. Then again, with thousands of dissatisfied soldiers facing pay cuts and homelessness when they return from Eastern European duties, the top brass may not be able to stay so detached. The Soviet army hasn't won a war since 1945 — its advocates are bound to be less than happy with the latest failures.

What can Gorby do to survive? Nothing. If he wants to survive, he needs either a major economic success (which will never happen) or a cessation of his present programs and a dramatic show of unity with progressive, nationalist forces in the empire. Dumping central planning in the economy is a good start. He may risk some of his paper powers, but he will gain respect — the real authority in politics. And, he may be able to create something from nothing in his economically depressed country.

Attempting to do with the army what he couldn't with diplomacy, Gorby is a leader scorned on the right as a softie and on the left as a thug.

Unlike President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who, during the Great Depression had enough popular support to pass even the most bizarre reforms, Gorby is the USSR's unloved slob whose latest progressive feat was to crush nationalism in the Baltics. Attempting to do with the army what he couldn't with diplomacy, Gorby is a leader scorned on the

Matthew H. Hersch '94 is associate opinion editor of The Tech.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jackson column misreads peace effort

I am generally able to dismiss Bill Jackson '93's "column" in *The Tech* as empty drivel. However, his recent uninformed comments concerning the gulf war and the peace center were particularly nauseating and erroneous ["Students split on gulf war," Feb. 5].

Jackson's view of the peace center seems to arise from a poster in the Infinite Corridor, and his inability to recognize the peace center staffers. From this information, Jackson concludes that "people from outside MIT have invaded us just to live on Stratton third and protest the war."

He goes on to liken the center to the "hippy-trippy" 1960s. Jackson buttresses his opinion of the peace center with the assessment that MIT students are busy people and wouldn't have time for such an enterprise.

If Jackson had overcome his apparent fear of the unknown and bothered to converse with peace center staffers, he would have made several discoveries. He would have found that the peace center is operated by the MIT

Initiative for Peace in the Middle East, which was founded by a group of MIT students following an October lecture by Professor of Linguistics and Philosophy Noam A. Chomsky.

Although the Initiative is open to the general community, an overwhelming majority of the 70 active members are MIT students, while over 200 students have signed up to be on our mailing/e-mailing list. The peace center itself is staffed almost exclusively by MIT students, although we certainly appreciate the assistance of members from outside the MIT community.

If Jackson had come to the peace center tables, he would have discovered that in addition to the poster he saw at the end of the Infinite Corridor (which was donated by a homeless Vietnam veteran), the center maintains a large library of information concerning the war.

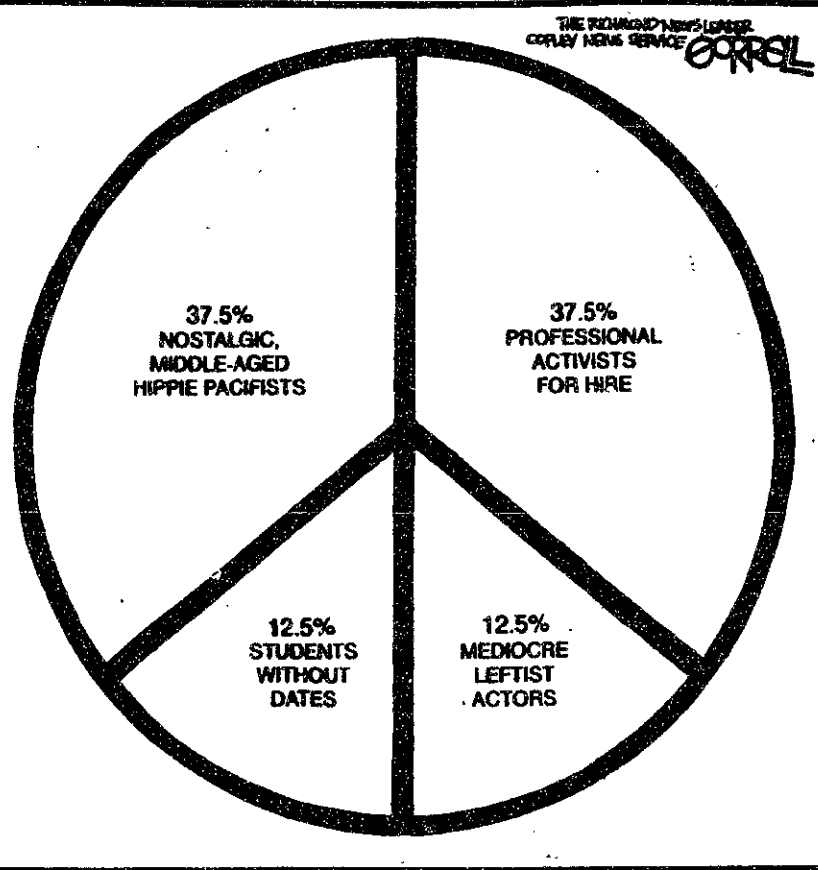
This library includes texts of speeches by local academics, politicians, foreign English-language media, alternative domestic news and analysis, student-written analysis and Amnesty International reports.

We hope that by providing information to the MIT community (information largely unavailable from the mainstream press, given the present jingoistic tone of war coverage), and by having MIT students staffing the center available to discuss thoughts and feelings about the war, we can help to educate the MIT community.

Jackson is correct in noting that there are numerous demands upon MIT students' time. However, the members of the MIT Initiative for Peace feel that the gulf war is so catastrophic that we are willing to donate large amounts of time to the MIT peace movement.

I found it disturbing that Jackson's column focused almost entirely on determining MIT student opinion, while the only invasion he refers to is that of the Student Center by peace activists. Instead of attempting to rely on some crude barometer of public opinion, I would urge Jackson to educate himself on the war, and come to his own informed conclusions.

Jory Bell '91
MIT Initiative for Peace



The Tech

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opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Athena working to kill bugs

(Editor's note: The Tech received a copy of this letter addressed to Kenneth A. Ellis '93.)

I would like to respond to the concerns raised in your recent letter to *The Tech* ["Unnecessary functions slow Athena operations," Feb. 5].

First, in your letter, you note the unusually long time it took you to log in, and add, "I don't mean to imply that [new Project Athena releases and updates] are the sole cause of this stressful login delay; some of it was the heavy user load." In fact, heavy user load is not what caused the delay; it was caused by *light* user load.

Unfortunately, Project Athena allowed a bug to slip into the spring software release. This bug did not manifest itself during extensive pre-release testing, because the conditions during testing do not completely simulate the conditions in the public clusters (the differences are unavoidable).

The bug, which was detected soon after the release, manifests itself when many of the workstations in a cluster are idle. Project Athena is feverishly working on a fix, which will be released some time in the next week.

When the fix is released, I believe you will find that the new software release is significantly faster than the previous release.

The new release adds many features, and at the same time speeds up log-in time and makes more memory available to the workstation user.

These changes are documented in the user release notes, which are available in printed form in every cluster, in the Athena consulting office and in Graphic Arts. They are also available in the on-line help system.

If you do not find that performance improves considerably after the fix is released, Project Athena would like to hear from you about it. You can talk to Athena through its consultants, in person in the consulting office or by running *olc*.

Indeed, if you had asked the consultants about the delays you were experiencing, you would have been told about the bug in the release and about the work being done to fix it.

Second, you point out that help is too slow. You're right, it is. Project Athena did not anticipate the speed problems when designing it, and now that the mistake has been realized, a new, faster *olh* is being developed.

In the meantime, the text-based version of *olh*, which is quite fast, is available. In any case, either version is superior to what users used to get when they ran help — an out-of-date help message that didn't do much

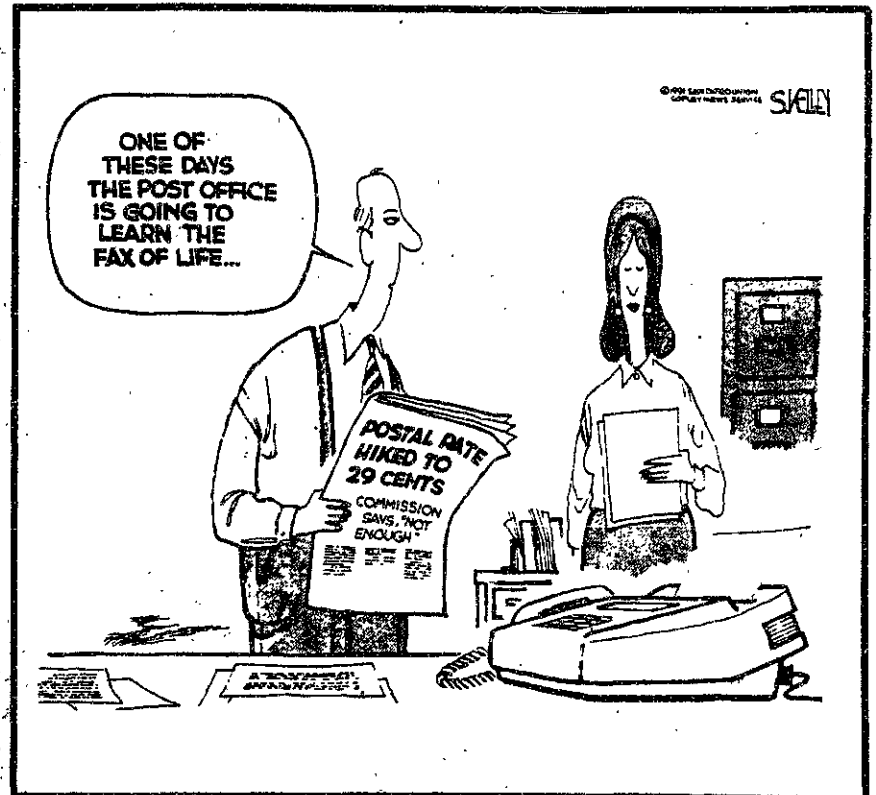
good at all. *Olh* is an improvement over what help used to do, not a degradation.

Finally, you express your dislike of the *xmh* mail interface. It should be obvious that if you don't like *xmh*, you don't have to use it; it's there for the people who like it, and there are people who like it.

There are at least five different interfaces to mail available on Project Athena. *Olh* and the printed help available in Graphic Arts discuss some of those interfaces, and other documents, such as *An Inessential Guide to Athena* published by the Student Information Processing Board, discuss others. Furthermore, Athena's consultants are available to answer any questions you may have about mail (or any other subject) on Athena.

I hope I have adequately addressed the points you made in your letter. Furthermore, I would like to apologize for the trouble with Athena you have experienced. Project Athena values input from the user community, and I therefore hope you will not refrain from continuing to let Athena know how you feel in the future.

Jonathan I. Kamens '91
Treasurer
Student Information
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Call Antonia Burke at 349-6794.

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Volunteers are needed to assist the Youth Outreach Worker from Boston Community Services to coordinate activities with the Hyde Park Youth Council. The Council will plan events such as dances, talent shows, and field trips. College students preferred. Donations and in-kind contributions are welcome. Contact Al Futterman 325-6700, Ext. 383.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston

Creative volunteers are needed to help with their Discovery Room, AKA, the arts and crafts room. Business times are from 2:30-6:00, Tuesday - Friday. Help is also needed in organizing a SCIENCE FAIR during February. Call Francine Diksa at 242-1775.

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Lots of on-going volunteer opportunities in many specialized fields. Minimum commitment of three to four hours per week is preferred. Applications available for summer and fall '91 positions. Great experience for pre-med students. To apply or just get more info, call Miss Lois E. Ball at 956-5544.

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A Better Chance
ABC, a national not-for-profit organization which identifies talented minority students and facilitates entrance into college preparatory schools and outstanding public schools, needs volunteers to help reach prospective students across the country. For more information, call Ted Bittenhelm at 421-0950.

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The Office of Admissions is now accepting applications for the position of Admissions Counselor. This is a one year full-time position beginning in July, 1991 (some flexibility is possible). Duties will include:

- * conducting question and answer sessions
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- * visiting secondary schools
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- * participating in admissions committee decisions

Applications for this position are available from Greg Pierson in the Admissions Office (3-108) and should be returned no later than March 1, 1991.

Note- This is for 1991 (January or June) MIT graduates.

Tech Catholic Community



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To receive an application package please call Mr. Antonio Rocha at (212) 263-5798 or write:

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Various career entry paths from MIT to GE will be discussed. These include Development Programs as the:

- Edison Engineering Program
- Manufacturing Management Program
- Chemical-Metallurgical Management Program
- Software Technology Program
- Information Systems Management Program
- Research Technology Program

When and Where?

Tuesday, February 12
Building 4
Room 163

What else?

Light refreshments and handouts.

The future is working
at General Electric



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opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Campus harassment legal but hurtful

During the last three weeks of the fall semester three "free speech" incidents were brought to my attention. Someone late at night used an Athena printer to reproduce digitally a large cropped photo of female breasts and left it in a prominent place next to the printer.

One of our faculty, Professor of Literature David M. Halperin, received telephoned death threats because of his visibility in the political movement for gay rights on campus. Then someone mailed to a Project Athena Indian American mailing list several pages of jokes belittling and degrading to women.

In our present legalized and litigious climate, such acts, with the obvious exception of the telephoned death threats, will in all probability be upheld as legitimate exercise of the right of free speech.

But these incidents have hurt people. The women who either saw the picture or read the jokes came to see me not to pursue

"rights." They came to tell me they felt hurt, ashamed or threatened by these incidents.

It is difficult for people who do these things to realize the effect they have on others, and they often react with ridicule or even outrage when they are asked about why they did it, saying something like, "Can't you take a joke?"

There is no better reply than the Golden Rule: How would you feel if these things had been directed not at women but at your own group? We can expect over the next few years to be steadily engaged in an extended discussion about conflicts of rights.

Whatever the outcome of those discussions, I hope that we will all agree that to live in a community successfully requires understanding of the other person's point of view, respect for the other person, even when points of view differ sharply, and, finally, a large measure of forbearance.

As a contribution to the discussion, I would like to say that I

do not believe people have a moral right to hurt others and that legitimacy for such acts as I have described above is often achieved through community silence. I am writing because, as a member of this community, I do not wish to remain silent in the face of such acts.

Samuel Jay Keyser
Associate Provost for
Educational Policy and Programs



Attack on unions inspired by hate

I read a number of opinion pieces in *The Tech* that I do not agree with, but they rarely upset me. However, I found Shawn Mastrian '91's column very disturbing ["Unions rub this working man the wrong way," Feb. 5].

I understand that many people do not support the unions in this country. I even think that there are some good arguments that can be used against them, but Mastrian's diatribe against organized labor seemed to be inspired by some kind of hate rather than any serious thought.

I would like to take some time to refute his arguments, but that would miss the point of my objection to the article. Mastrian appeals to blatant untruths to win over our sympathy. Without any kind of support, he describes union workers as "lazy, apathetic."

He claims that a union placed a bomb in Building 8. What is he talking about? Which union has been tried and convicted for that crime?

He says that as a result of unionization, there are "a few men getting fat off the workers." Evidently, Mastrian is unaware of pre-union labor in the Western world. Miners, for example often worked 60-hour weeks under intolerable conditions, and they hardly had enough to eat. The people who hired them were getting fat off of their labor.

Now, in America, every worker owns a car, a telephone, has medical insurance, and certainly he

or she has enough to eat. Even if the smallest fraction of this improvement was due to union activity then I would support it.

Some feel that most of this improvement was due to the organization of labor. Should these changes be abandoned because an inefficiency has been introduced into the market? Mastrian says that unions have served their purpose now and they should be disbanded, but the primary reason that the improved standard of living has been maintained is the continuing activity of unions.

But, as I said earlier, I am missing the point. I cannot argue with Mastrian. He is not presenting arguments against organized labor, because in arguments there are no uses for words like "un-American," "pinko" and "commie."

I would very much like to see a reasonable discussion of organized labor, even one that concludes that unions are bad. I would like to see an article that is not inspired by hatred. I invite Mastrian to write it.

Soon Mastrian will graduate from MIT, and he will be in charge of a big company, getting paid a lot to hire people and fire people. For him, organized labor is the enemy, and since he has trouble convincing himself that they are the bad guys, he is reduced to calling them names and spewing out lies.

David Hogg '92

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Loading Zone offers adventurous food, artful decor

LOADING ZONE

150 Kneeland St., Boston.

By DAVID HOGG
and ROBIN KULLBERG

EVERYONE WHO LOOKS IN on Loading Zone is impressed. Each of the tables is actually a shallow glass-topped box, the contents of which were designed and created by a different artist. The chairs are tall and beautiful, with casters in unexpected places. The entire service is glass except for the cutlery, which is unusual but elegant. Lights hang from exposed steel conduits that are bent and twisted into knots. The napkins are actually huge industrial dishcloths. Loading Zone may be pretentious, but in our book, that is often a good thing.

The menu lists traditional American dishes such as spareribs and pulled pork, as well as the out-of-the-ordinary, such as Baha shrimp and scallops in fresh tomatillo sauce.

Loading Zone likes to provide extreme flavors and surprising combinations of different ingredients. We began with the smoked chicken salad in cilantro vinaigrette (\$5.95). It consisted of pieces of tender smoked chicken on a bed of romaine lettuce with tomato, mushroom and red onion. The dressing was excellent. David thought that the chicken had just the right flavor, but Robin would have pre-

ferred it if it had actually tasted smoked.

The very strong vinaigrette included not only lemon juice, but orange juice as well, which made it almost sweet. On the other hand, the smoked chicken had a very subtle flavor and was quite savory. The combination was just the tiniest bit reminiscent of Palmolive, although others might disagree.

Before we go overboard, however, we should say that the dish was good, particularly if the dressing was used sparingly. It was large, too, and would have filled either of us up as a main course.

As a main course, David ordered the grilled vegetables and polenta (\$9.95). For the benefit of those less *sophisticated* than ourselves: polenta is a very stiff, solid porridge made from cornmeal, and in this case contained small pieces of tomato and herbs. Polenta has a simple corn flavor, and Loading Zone's rendition was perfect. It had been briefly grilled with the vegetables, giving it an occasional bite. The vegetables, being very lightly cooked, were strongly flavored. The onions were pungent — though in a good way — but the eggplant was less than tender. The fairly mild polenta meshed with the loud vegetables beautifully. It was an excellent dish.

Robin ordered the grilled chicken with peanut sauce (\$10.95). It came on a bed of rice with three additional vegetables: a red bean, corn and onion salad; squash; and greens. The delicate peanut sauce went

well with the grilled flavor of the chicken, but the side dishes were the most interesting. The bean salad was awash in an unexpectedly powerful liquid that we thought was flavored with jalapeño peppers. The squash and the greens were also very spicy and very different.

Some might be scared off by Loading Zone's prices, but if what we ordered was any indication, the size of the courses makes up for at least some of the price. The only thing we finished was the appetizer, and that only because it came first.

Of course, this did not stop us from ordering some carrot cake (\$3.50) with our coffee. The cake was a pleasant surprise: it

was neither the dry, crumbly stuff purchased in cafeterias, nor the wet, thick stuff obtained in cafés. Rather, it was light and fresh. There was also a selection of pies which we are sure are good, because we have tasted them in Loading Zone's sibling (and neighboring) restaurant, The Blue Diner.

Loading Zone gets a good recommendation because it is adventurous, if not always perfect. The biggest danger is getting a set of strong flavors that don't go well together, but at least the individual components will be enjoyable. One should go at least once if only to check out the exceptional décor.

The Tech Performing Arts Series announces

BEAUX ARTS TRIO

The world's most beloved piano trio returns to Boston with a program of classics, including: Mozart, *Trio in G* (K. 496); Zemlinsky, *Trio in D minor*, *Opus 3*; Schubert, *Trio in E-flat*, *Opus 100*. A Bank of Boston Celebrity Series event.

Jordan Hall, February 15 at 8 pm.

MIT price: \$6.

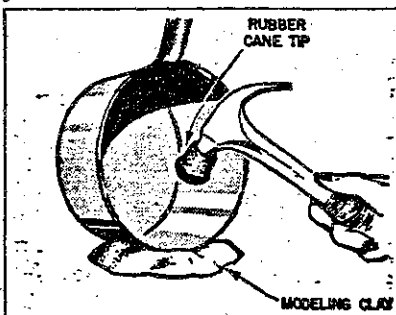
Tickets are on sale at the Technology Community Association, W20-450 in the Student Center. Office hours posted on the door. Call x3-4885 for further information.

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.

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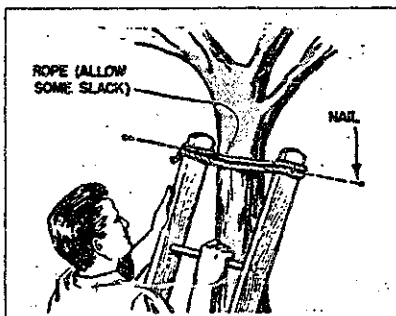
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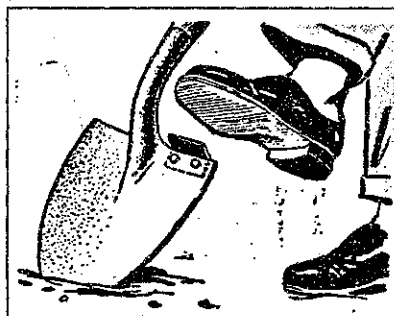
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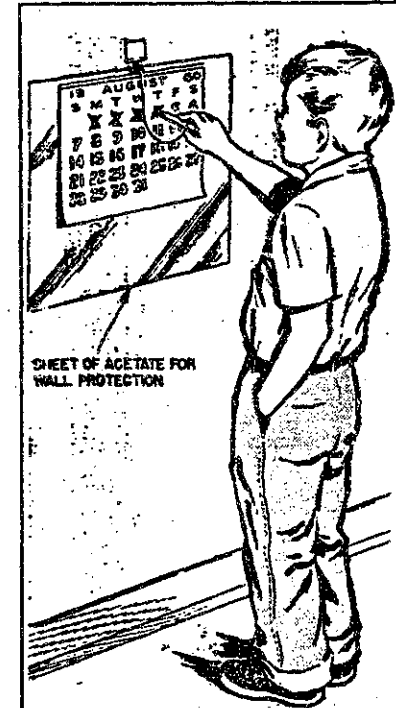


DANCE



SCULPTURE

The Grants Program of the Council for the Arts at MIT is now accepting applications for arts project funding. All members of the MIT community are encouraged to apply. Deadline for applications: February 13, 1991. For application forms and Grants Program guidelines, visit the MIT Office of the Arts, E15-205 (x3-4003).



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- Controls

For more information on these programs and the major business areas available, refer to the General Electric file located in your placement office.

When and Where?

Wednesday, February 13th and Thursday, February 14th at the Placement Office.

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ARTS

Shear Madness asks "Whodunit?" with humor

SHEAR MADNESS

Written by Paul Portner.

Directed by Bruce Jordan.

Starring Bette Cloud

and Thomas Ouellette.

Reviewed Feb. 5, 8 pm.

Plays indefinitely at
Charles Playhouse, Boston.

By BRIAN ROSENBERG

A TRIP TO THE THEATER DISTRICT is one of those things that makes living in Boston worthwhile, despite all the car theft and miserable weather. Brightly-lit marquees and warm restaurants beckon as you walk down Stuart Street. Round the corner onto Warrenton, and you will behold the Charles Playhouse. It's not much to behold, actually, and you may have some trouble finding the door. Your trip downstairs will be well worth it, though, if you catch *Shear Madness*, a delightful interactive "comedy whodunit."

There's no real hurry, though. *Madness*, which is the longest-running non-musical play in US history, just began its 12th year at the Charles with an all-new cast. Don't go expecting sophisticated humor and subtlety, because *Madness* is funny like Mel Brooks, funny like stand-up comedy. This is not the kind of play you go to with your parents, because they might look at you suspiciously if you laugh at all the jokes.

Shear Madness takes place in a unisex hair salon of the same name on Newbury Street in Boston. The set is cheerfully disgusting, decorated just like that barber

shop your mother made you go to when you were six. The wallpaper is a garish pink and green floral print, matched only by the putrescent green of the chairs and the flamboyance of the characters. They're caricatures, but they're not ashamed of it. In fact, the characters' one-dimensionality gives the actors freedom to develop the parts themselves, particularly during the ad-libbed parts of the play. These improvisations, along with the unique (except for the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*) element of audience participation, make the play.

Madness' plot centers around the murder of a famed concert pianist, Isabel Czerny, who lives in an apartment above the salon. Before her untimely death, the slightly eccentric Ms. Czerny had become involved in some curious dealings with a few people, all of whom, coincidentally, happen to be getting their hair done when she is killed. The police burst in, and that's when the fun begins. As they attempt to reconstruct the events immediately preceding Czerny's death, the audience points out things the actors (each of whom has a motive, of course) are trying to hide.

Eleanor Bradford Shubert, played by Bette Cloud, is a wealthy socialite from Beacon Hill. She seems to be cheating on her husband, and is something of a kleptomaniac, but her possible connection with Czerny's death is unclear. Cloud's performance is adequate, and her looks of shocked indignation are extremely convincing, but she was not particularly entertaining.

Eddie Lawrence (Ed Peed) is an antiques dealer with a history of shady deal-

ings, including the sale of waterfront property in Worcester. He had a meeting with Czerny scheduled at about her time of death, ostensibly to work out a deal for her piano. The police, however, believe he was also going to blackmail her about her affair with the shop's assistant. Peed's character is reserved and remains silent for much of the play, but pleads his innocence with a cool head and admirable intensity.

Barbara DeMarco (Paula Langton), who managed to put Mrs. Shubert's hair into curlers during the short time when she wasn't both chewing her gum and painting her nails, was perfect as a ditzzy shop assistant. I have a lot of respect for Langton, who (as far as I could tell) chewed the same piece of gum for the entire duration of the play. DeMarco's motives for the murder were the most complicated, including her status as chief beneficiary of Czerny's will, her possible sexual involvement with Czerny, and her possible sexual involvement with Lawrence.

Tony Whitcomb (Thomas Ouellette), the shop's flagrantly homosexual proprietor, is always annoyed by Czerny's incessant work at the piano, and fears that he is losing customers because of it. Wearing a pink shirt, pink belt and pink-trimmed sneakers, Ouellette struts across the stage beautifully, often twirling himself into the unsuspecting arms of one male or the other.

The police officers, played by Nick Rossetti and Richard Snee, are both very good in their own way. Rossetti serves well as a dumb, swaggering Boston cop, though he's too Italian to be as Irish as he needs to be. He misspells words like "vote" and

"scissors" and runs his mouth a lot. Snee, as Rossetti's partner, affected a dazed, slow manner that was quietly funny.

Whitcomb is easily the most engaging character, in large part because the role is so extreme and draws laughter easily. Ouellette's contribution is significant, however. His mannerisms were superb, and his improvisations stood out from the others. One is particularly clear in my mind: Whitcomb is defending himself from charges that he killed Czerny, saying that if he had killed her, he certainly wouldn't have done it with barber's scissors (the murder weapon). "What would you have killed her with?" asks Lieutenant Nick Rossetti. "I don't know — a knife, or a gun. Or I'd put her on the Green Line." Responding quickly to the tide of laughter, Ouellette added "I've been hit from behind on the Green Line before. I rammed into an abutment."

Sexual, and especially homosexual, jokes such as these were a staple. I suggest that you avoid this play if such jokes offend you, because you will be offended. The humor, even when not directly sexual, was certainly raw. During the audience participation, some jokes were turned outward, usually as attacks on a particular theory or its supporter. Some of the funniest jokes were specific to Boston, with a strong emphasis on jokes about the Boston Police. By far the best thing about *Shear Madness*, though, was being involved. There is nothing quite like giving an onstage performer a suggestion and having him act on it.

So who killed Isabel Czerny? I'm not going to tell you. Go find out yourself.

AMAZING SUBSCRIPTION OFFER!

The Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra has made available to the MIT community several subscriptions for its spring concerts. Join Pro Arte for their 13th season of wonderful performances. Subscriptions include tickets to their February, March, and April concerts. And best of all, you get seats worth \$45 for the special price of only \$17!

The concerts for which you will receive tickets are:

February 17: Hear the Boston premiere of Robert Starer's *Concerto for cello and orchestra* (Janos Starker, cello soloist). Other works: Mendelssohn, *Overture to "Schöne Melusine," Opus 32*; Elgar, *Elegy for string orchestra, Opus 58*; Richard Strauss, *Serenade for winds in E flat, Opus 7*; Haydn, *Symphony No. 101 in D, "The Clock."* Leon Botstein, conductor.
Concert at 3 pm in Sanders Theater.

March 17: Pro Arte continues its long association with The Back Bay Chorale as Beverly Taylor conducts Verdi's *Four Sacred Pieces*. Kodály's *Budavári Te Deum* will also be performed.
Concert at 3 pm in Sanders Theater.

April 21: Principal Guest Conductor Gunther Schuller leads the orchestra in three works by Weill, Wilder, and Mozart: *Concerto for violin and winds, Opus 12* (Tamara Smirnova-Sajfar, violin); *Serenade for winds*; and *Serenade No. 10 for 13 instruments in B flat, K. 361, "Grand Partita."*
Concert at 3 pm in Sanders Theater.

If you would like a subscription to Pro Arte's magical spring performances, or even if you would just like more information about them, please contact Deborah Levinson at *The Tech*, x3-1541. (Please pay by cash or with a check.) You may pick up tickets for all three concerts at the Sanders Theater Box Office the afternoon of Sunday, February 17. Offer closes on Tuesday, February 12, so act now to get your subscriptions!

Budget cuts, declining enrollment cause NROTC merger

(Continued from page 1)

Some units are closed

Sherer explained that there has been a decrease lately in the number of students enrolled in Navy ROTC, following a tremendous increase that peaked several years ago. He said that there were 7833 midshipmen enrolled in 1986, but only 5925 this year. Similarly, he said, there will be approximately 1400 Navy ROTC graduates this year, as opposed to 2100 in 1988.

This decrease has led staff sizes to be disproportionately large at some Navy ROTC units, Sherer said. He gave the example of schools which graduate a dozen midshipmen each year, while supporting office staffs of the same size. "It's a very inefficient way of operating," he added.

Five schools were inefficient enough to warrant being closed in 1996. According to the Navy announcement, programs at Texas Tech University, the University of Minnesota, the University of Missouri, the University of New Mexico and the University of Utah will be closed. The announcement said that "no new NROTC students will enter programs at these schools after fiscal year 1991."

Sherer also said that "a number" of Navy ROTC programs "in this vicinity" were going to be closed soon, but would not comment further.

Wellesley News Director Laurel Stazis said she had not heard that Wellesley students might not be able to participate in Navy ROTC, and thus was unable to confirm or deny Drake's report. Wellesley officials who work with students in ROTC programs were unavailable for comment.

Drake said that there had never been many Wellesley participants in ROTC programs, and estimat-

ed that there were between 10 and 40 in any given year. However, he left open the possibility of MIT filing an appeal on Wellesley's behalf, saying that "If Wellesley were unhappy about being dropped, I don't know if that would be an appropriate thing for us to take an interest in. It could be."

Drake added that "Everyone should have the choice. If Wellesley students want to explore ROTC, they might be people whom we would consider helping."

Consortia preserve units while decreasing costs

Sherer described the consortium plan as a way of cutting costs without shutting down any of the ROTC units. A consortium "looks pretty much like two ROTC units, except that there is only one commanding officer, or one professor of naval science," he said. Sherer said that at least two consortia exist already, in Virginia and San Diego, and they have worked out well so far.

Neither Sherer nor Drake thought that the consortium agreement between MIT and BU would affect the students dramatically. Sherer said there would be no changes in teaching staff or classes, and Drake speculated that the location of some drills would be the only change for MIT midshipmen.

Schools targeted for consortia are required to complete the adjustment by the end of fiscal year 1991, which will be on Sept. 30, 1992, Sherer said. He noted that since he plans to retire in June, it would be reasonable to assume that his counterpart at BU, Capt. Michael Field, would become commander of the MIT-BU consortium. However, he said, such an appointment would have to be approved by the MIT faculty.

The Navy announcement said

that the combination of closings and consortia would result in a savings of \$18.5 million annually, including 80 military and 11 civilian positions. Sherer pointed out that the entire Navy is being made smaller, which he attributed to "the reduction of tensions in Europe and reduction in tensions with the Soviet Union."

Dean for Undergraduate Education Margaret L. A. MacVicar '65, who is in charge of the ROTC programs at MIT, was unavailable for comment.

Changes not surprising

Drake said that while he had

not heard what the Navy's plans were before they were actually announced, he was neither upset nor surprised by the proposals. "All the services are looking around... to bring [their ROTC programs] down in scale," so they can be "managed more efficiently."

Drake added that he thinks the MIT ROTC programs are relatively safe, since MIT graduates can provide engineering and technical skills to the Navy and other armed forces.

He added, "I will assume that schools that have very small programs and [are] inefficient, or

have not historically been suppliers... will go away," which most probably will not include MIT.

He also stressed the differences between the branches of the armed services, saying that these changes affected the Navy only.

Sherer understood the need for the changes, but was not sure how wise they were in the context of the current war in the Persian Gulf. "It's almost paradoxical that we're reducing the size of the military and [at the same time] having the largest peacetime military buildup since World War II," he said.

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We enthusiastically solicit short papers, of about six typed single-spaced pages, or 1500 words. Please submit three copies of papers to the Conference Chairperson by March 15, 1991. Papers must not have been published or submitted elsewhere for publication. Authors of accepted and rejected papers will be notified by April 1, 1991.

Papers will be judged on technical content, cleverness, interestingness, and quality of writing.

For information, contact: Conference Chairperson, Michael de la Maza, MacGregor E124; x5-9240; mdlm@ai.mit.edu.



Asbestos was mixed in with the concrete of this painted wall in the basement of Building 20. Before the building can ever be torn down, all of the asbestos must be removed. Douglas D. Keller/The Tech

Asbestos in Bldg. 20 concrete

(Continued from page 1) not in hand, although we will work toward it," he said.

Dr. Alan M. Ducatman, director of the MIT Environmental Medical Service, offered a different suggestion. "They ought to just cut it off at the foundation, and fly the whole building out with a helicopter," he joked.

"Better still, I hope they decide that it is a historic landmark, and we really can't get rid of it," he added. Either alternative would be less work and potential risk than an entire clean-up.

Physical Plant workers, who sometimes renovate asbestos-laden buildings, run the greatest risk of exposure at MIT, Ducatman said. Before Physical Plant begins work in an old building, they ask the Industrial Hygiene Office to sample the ambient air and nearby old pipe insulation to analyze for asbestos.

The Industrial Hygiene Office handles roughly 300 requests for samples to be analyzed for asbestos each year, according to Kevin M. Coghlan, an industrial hygiene technologist in the Industrial Hygiene Office.

Of these, about 60 percent have a level of asbestos in them requiring a cleanup, Coghlan said. The Industrial Hygiene Office takes requests from Physical Plant and responds to complaints of hazards from the MIT community.

In one recent example, a repair on a steam pipe joint in the weight-lifting room in Du Pont Athletic Center left an inch-long gash in its insulation through which asbestos was leaking. After a complaint, an analysis of the

nearby air and the insulation showed the presence of asbestos.

Coghlan applied a temporary seal to the hole, and put in a request to Physical Plant to permanently seal it. The repair has not been made yet, but the room is still in use, since the temporary seal will hold for a few weeks, according to Coghlan.

The repair itself will probably take only about ten minutes to complete, Coghlan said. A worker will encircle the gash and the surrounding pipe in a glove bag, which isolates the asbestos from ambient air, and then replace the insulation.

Asbestos hazards result mainly from inhalation

Asbestos waste requires some special handling. Yet compared to other dangerous wastes, it poses relatively little hazard. "When you bury asbestos, your problem is really done," Ducatman said. Once asbestos is buried in a landfill, it poses little hazard. Asbestos only poses a problem when airborne, he added.

"Burying it is OK. Drinking it is OK," Ducatman said. Breathing it, however, is not OK.

Asbestos fibers can be as little as three micrometers wide. When inhaled, the fibers irritate the lungs, and can cause shortness of breath in very large doses. Once inhaled, asbestos can gradually degrade lung efficiency, and increases the risk of getting lung cancer at high levels of exposure. But often the cancer does not appear for decades.

Asbestos may also pose a hazard at low levels of exposure, but

there the data is much less clear. Asbestos is actually a generic name for several different minerals with similar chemical structures, some of which pose greater hazards than others.

The asbestos most common in the United States and Canada, known as chrysotile asbestos, is believed to be less carcinogenic than other varieties, according to some studies.

A controversial study published last year in *Science* suggested that the exposure children get to chrysotile asbestos in American schools causes one thousand times fewer deaths over the long term than playing high school football. But some say these results are misleading, and in fact do not even study the people most at risk to asbestos exposure such as construction workers or people who work on renovating old buildings.

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UA outlines new meal plan proposal

(Continued from page 2)
dining facilities will remain open for all meals, with the recommendation that expanded seating arrangements be made for prime lunch hours. To address crowded lunch hour concerns, the committee will also explore the feasibility of reopening a Lobby 13 "lunch court" which had been open in previous years.

Walker dining hall will be open for lunch and dinner, according to the plan, and a convenience store will be open during breakfast hours.

The committee finally strongly recommended that MIT employ a food service contractor which possesses the rights to open a fast-food franchise like McDonald's, Pizza Hut or Sbarro.

Sophia Yen '93 expressed concern on the quality of food that would be offered. "I would like to see more healthy food than McDonald's or pizza being offered — a sandwich store would be better. Also, who is to say that this new food contractor would offer quality food?" she said.

Council member Jory D. Bell '91 expressed vegetarian concerns saying, "In an informal poll that I conducted, about 50 percent of Bexley residents are vegetarians, but vegetarian fare at Lobdell is sub-standard. There is a very good, ARA-run vegetarian meal plan offered by [Boston University]. I would like to see these concerns addressed as well."

The proposal passed with a vote of 32-1 and no abstentions.

Preliminary MIT plan differs

According to Antico, the preliminary ideas of the administration are that residents of Baker, MacGregor and Next House, must purchase a mandatory, split

meals-per-week and declining balance plan, of which the meals-per-week portion alone would total \$500 per term.

Under this plan, students would have to eat five dinners per week in a residence dining hall, totaling \$500 per term. If the student wished to eat breakfast or lunch at MIT dining facilities, they would have to purchase more money on their plan on a declining balance system.

Students expressed dissatisfaction with the Institute plan as described by Lawrence E. Maguire, director of housing and food services.

"The point of view of the administration," Antico said, "is that contractors would need to be ensured that some people would eat at the dormitory dining halls. If people don't, then MIT loses money."

The food service committee is expected to submit its proposal to Maguire next week. An Institute board plan should be completed within the next few weeks, at which time the process of looking for contractors will begin.

Third floor proposal considered

At yesterday's meeting, the UA Executive Board also addressed the presence of a peace activists' center on the third floor of the Julius A. Stratton Student Center

by considering a proposal which recommended that the third floor of the Student Center be used exclusively as a lounge area.

The executive board defined the war in the Middle East as a special circumstance and advocated the continued utilization of the third floor balcony of the Student Center as a temporary poster space until the war ends.

The executive board also suggested that the space provided on the east wall of the third floor balcony be divided "exclusively and evenly between recognized student activities that advocate anti-war and pro-Operation Desert Storm sentiments."

Bapna said, "Concern about the Initiative for Peace [in the Middle East]'s decision to set up on the third floor lounge brings up issues of free speech."

At the next UA meeting, members of the Initiative for Peace and representatives of those in the community who want them to vacate the third floor will debate the issue.

Also discussed at the meeting was the upcoming proposal of the UA Alcohol Policy Committee, due within the next four weeks. At the next meeting, the UA Finance Board will present its proposal dealing with the possibility of establishing a student credit union.

Please be informed:

In its Dec. 7, 1990 issue, The Tech ran a classified advertisement from an individual offering \$25 for MIT phone books. We have subsequently learned that this is not permitted under Institute policy. The following statement is taken from the 1990-91 edition of the Student Directory:

The Directory is the property of MIT and may be used only for Institute purposes. . . .

Providing this Directory or similar listings to any persons outside of MIT, or using this Directory for non-Institute purposes is a violation of Institute policy. The Institute will pursue all disciplinary and legal remedies to protect its property, rights, and the privacy of its employees and students.

According to Barrie B. Gleason of the Communications Office, MIT's legal counsel "will commence legal proceedings in order to prevent the use of the information in the [Student Directory] for any purpose. They also caution that a student who responds to such solicitation is susceptible to disciplinary procedures and/or legal action."

The Tech advises members of the MIT community not to respond to this advertisement.

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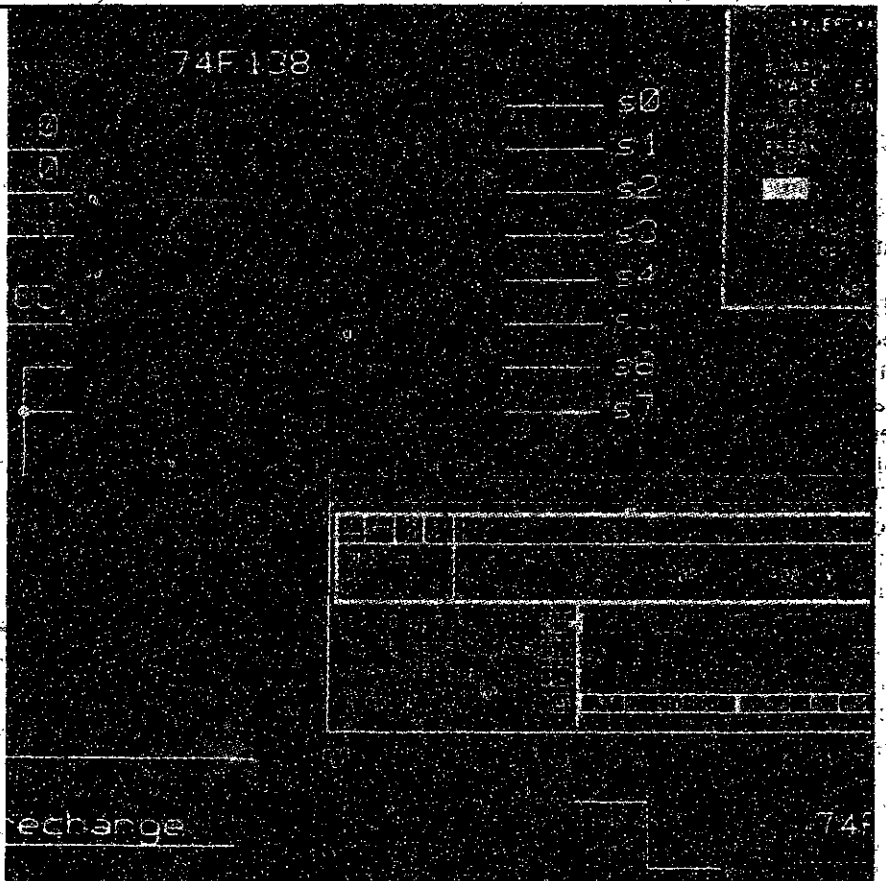
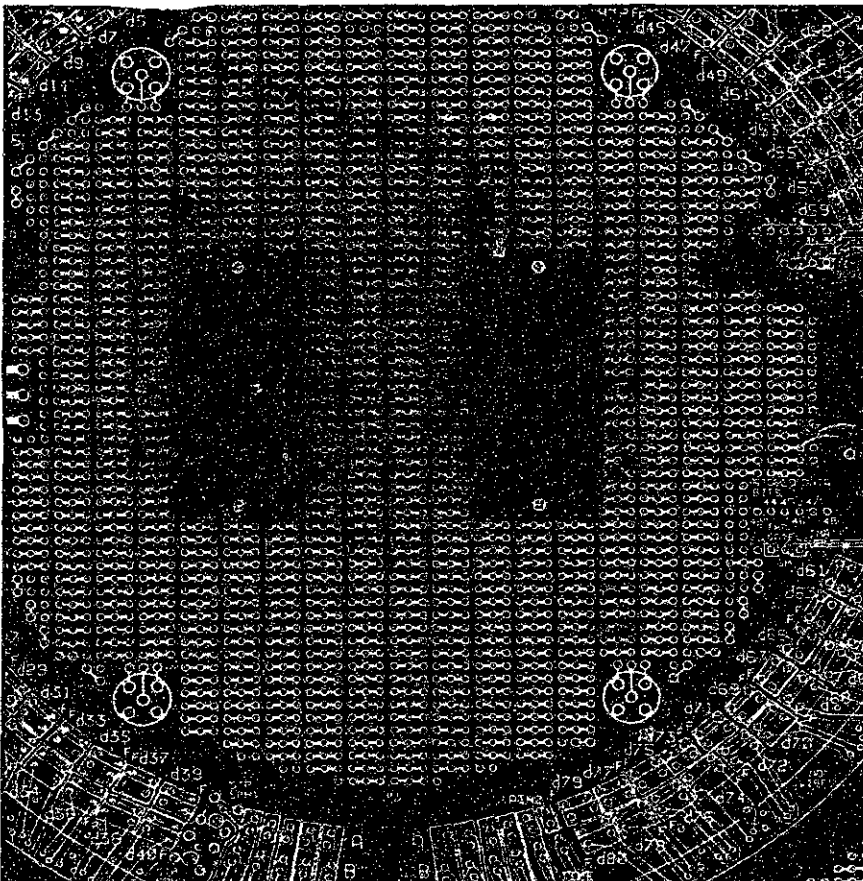
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MIT sues Rent Control Board

(Continued from page 1)
representing MIT, Scott P. Lewis of the Palmer and Dodge law firm, MIT has lived up to its side of the agreement.

A building was constructed on Brookline Street, on the perimeter of University Park, for the purpose of providing six rent controlled units. Also, six units from other MIT-owned housing were converted to rent control units.

All 12 units are now occupied by low-income tenants, who were taken from waiting lists for Cambridge public housing, according to Lewis. In addition, MIT has supplied tenants with a list of temporary relocation provisions, including several hotels to choose from, Lewis said.

"There are no cases that I'm aware of in which the Cambridge Rent Control Board extracted so much housing benefits" as they have from the development of University Park, Lewis said.

"The board made an agreement, we've lived up to our side of it, we've provided all that they requested and now they're asking for more," Lewis said.

According to Lewis, MIT's hope is that by prevailing in the suit they will force the Rent Control Board to provide the certificates of evictions according to the conditions requested in June rather than the additional conditions requested from the board's recent decision.

A decade of controversy

Today's hearing represents the latest in the series of what Lewis termed as many years of "extraordinarily torturous litigation."

The controversy over the Blanche Street houses began about a decade ago, when three three-decker buildings located on Blanche Street, owned by MIT, were left vacant and uninhabitable.

The buildings gained the public spotlight in 1988 when protesters constructed a "Tent City" on MIT-owned land and asked MIT to allow them to renovate the houses so that the homeless could live in them.

People claimed that MIT had purposely allowed these houses to deteriorate in order to remove them from the rental market and vacate the land, in an attempt to expedite the development of University Park.

Tenants' hardship is a consideration

Since the board's June 28, 1989 decision to grant MIT removal permits, there have been several hearings in which representatives for the tenants have argued for a reversal or delay of the removal permits, in light of the immeasurable hardship imposed on the relocating tenants.

In a board hearing this past fall, John Mason, a lawyer arguing for the tenants, claimed that when the permits were granted to allow MIT to relocate the houses on Blanche Street, it was with the understanding that University Park would be able to be completed.

"It was never even considered that these tenants be forced to undergo the hardship of relocation so that the land could remain vacant for an unforeseeable number of years," Mason said.

Peter Valentine, a resident of Blanche Street for over 20 years, was called to the stand to represent the intangible hardship that will be suffered by tenants due to a relocation that could, in the end, have no purpose.

Valentine began his testimony by stating that he could not be moved from his home because he was currently in karma with his energy fields and relocation

might jeopardize this karma.

This speech was accompanied by unadmitted evidence, including a bag of gray hair which Valentine claimed had been his own and a display of other hairs which he said showed he had found a way to turn grey hair back to its original color without the use of chemicals, "in other words, to reverse the aging process."

Valentine claimed that if research like his were occurring at MIT, all efforts would be made to accommodate the researcher. He believes that he must remain at his current residence, in its current location, in order to continue his research.

In their decision two weeks ago to delay the certificates of eviction, the board said, "Given the severe disruptive effects of relocation the board was genuinely concerned that that not occur, unless and until the development was going to materialize."

The Rent Control Board did note that "In voting (3-2) to delay the evictions . . . the board has not changed its original findings. . . . Based upon representations by counsel for MIT that a financial commitment was imminent and that this was the last impediment to the project, the board concluded that such a requirement was not unreasonable."

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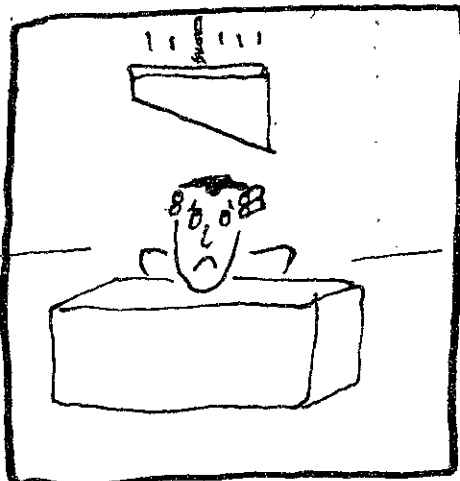
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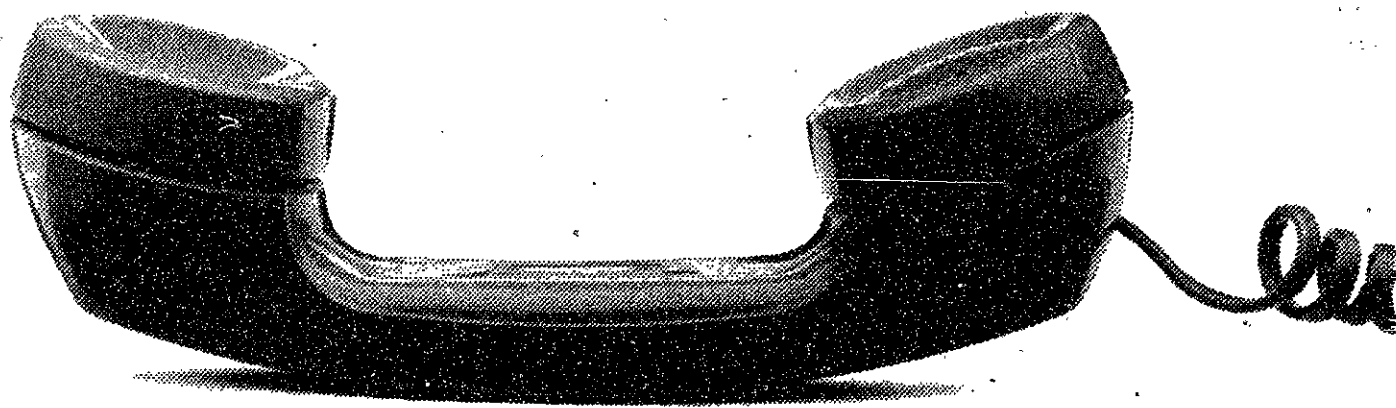


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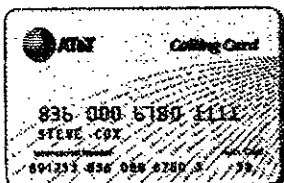
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sports



Jonathan Kossuth/The Tech
Robert J. Silva Jr. '92 brings the puck across the blue line as Michael S. Mini '93 (#4) and Nicholas J. Pearce '94 skate alongside during the game against Suffolk University on Tuesday. MIT lost 10-3.

Dunzo blazes to MIT 200 m record

By David Rothstein

Indoor track team co-captain Mark Dunzo '91 was one of the few bright spots for MIT at last weekend's Greater Boston Championships at Harvard University. Dunzo set a school record in winning the 200 meters in 22.17 seconds, and placed second in the 400, in 49.05.

Dunzo bettered a 22.23 school record in the 200, set last year by standout sprinter Boniface Makatiani '90. The 49.05 mark was Dunzo's personal best, and the third best indoor performance ever by an MIT runner.

The team's other co-captain, John-Paul Clarke '91, picked up second place in the 35-pound

weight throw (57'-5") and third in the shot put (45'-9").

In other events: Matt Robinson '94 tied for second in the pole vault (14'-0"), and James Kirtley '94 was third in the high jump (6'-3").

MIT beat out all other Division III schools at the meet, with 23½ points, while Division I Northeastern University scored 104½ points for a solid, overall win.

The Engineers had more than their share of bad luck in January, losing three top performers to injury. Leading scorer Kevin Scannell '91 (long and triple jumps, 200, 400) and Steve

Cooke '91 (long jump, 400) both suffered strained hamstrings.

Garret Moose '91 (high, long and triple jumps, pole vault, 400) suffered a serious head injury in a freakish pole vaulting accident during practice. Moose is certain not to return to competition this season and, in fact, may be forced to miss the academic term while he recovers.

MIT travels to Bowdoin College on Saturday.

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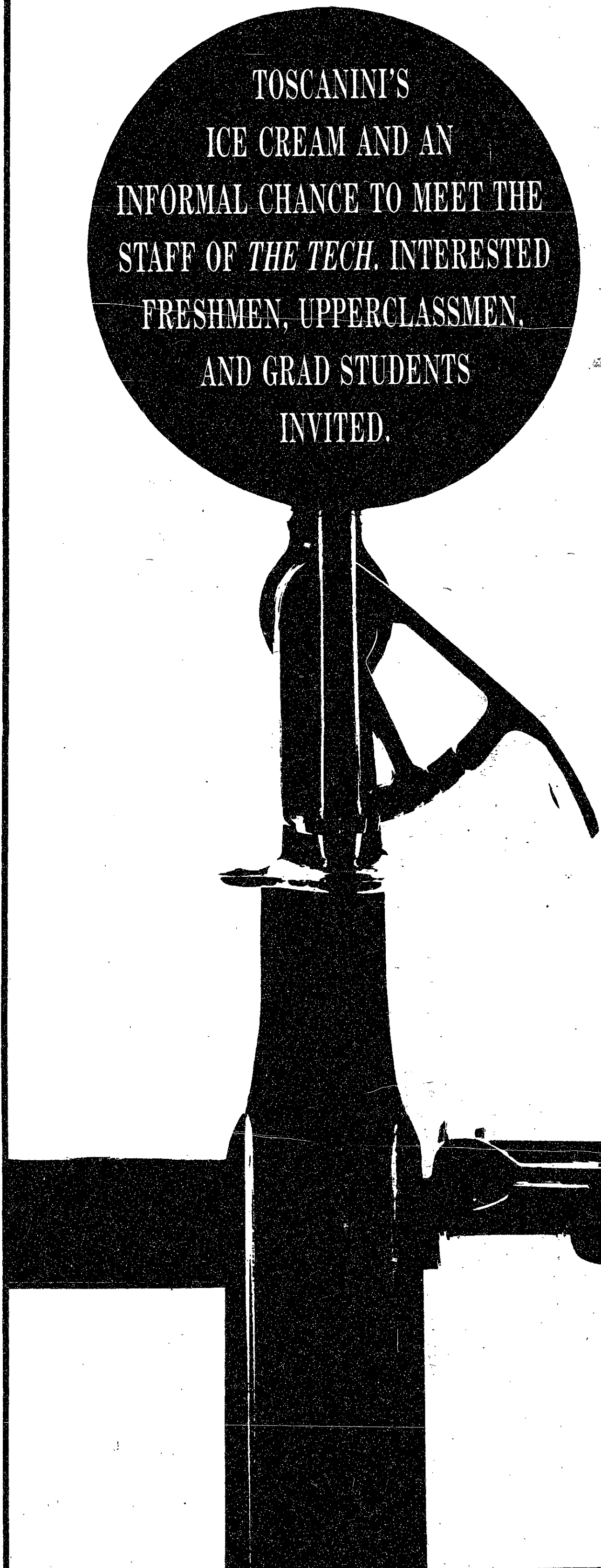
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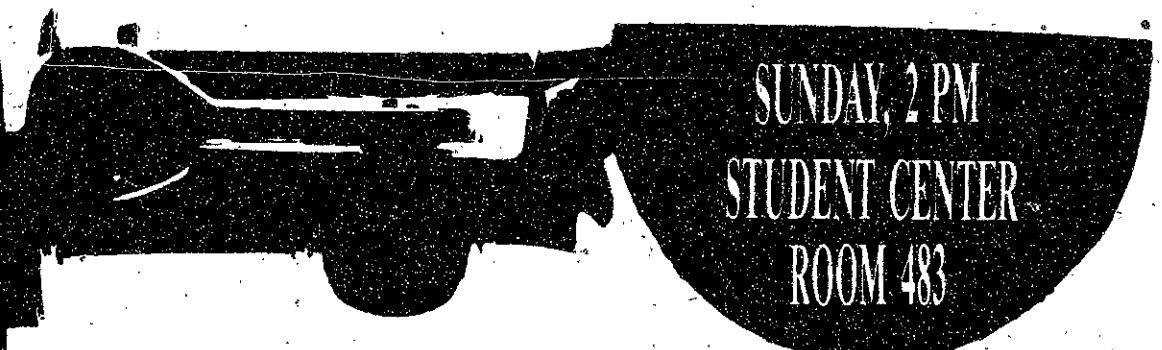
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