Clinton Plans Energy Tax, Page 2

MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

The Tech
Established 1881

The Weather
Today: Snow and rain, 37°F (3°C)
Tonight: Rain, windy, 30°F (-1°C)
Tomorrow: Rain, clearing, 45°F (6°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 113, Number 6 | Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 | Tuesday, February 16, 1993

DOUGLAS D. KELLER—THE TECH

James Curran, assistant surgeon general, lectures about "The HIV Epidemic: From Condoms to Cloning" in 54-100 Thursday.

City Counters CASPAR Plan

Proposal Would Lease, not Sell Four Streets to MIT

By Sarah Y. Keightley
NEWS EDITOR

MIT officials and the city of Cambridge moved a step closer to resolving the future of a rehabilitation shelter for homeless alcoholics and drug addicts near Central Square last week.

Cambridge officials made a counterproposal to MIT's recent offer to provide a permanent shelter for the Cambridge and Somerville Program for Alcoholic Rehabilitation at its current location on Institute property last week.

Instead of giving MIT four on-campus city streets in exchange for the building, city officials proposed giving MIT one street and leasing the other three streets.

Last Tuesday, the city's negotiating team on CASPAR sent a letter to President Charles M. Vest thanking him for MIT's current offer. In the letter, the negotiating team also supported a proposal to sell the section of Amherst Street to MIT, and to lease Carleton Street, Hayward Street, and the sidewalks of Vassar Street west of Massachusetts Avenue for 20 years, on a renewable contract.

"We're getting close to the point of having reasonable discussions and seeing we can wrap this up," explained Councilor Jonathan S. Myers, who heads a nine-member city committee examining the CASPAR problem.

Because of MIT's latest offer and the counterproposal, a significant amount of progress has been made, he noted.

"The intention of the negotiating team is, that for all practical purposes, the use of the streets under leasing will be equivalent to the ownership of said streets," the letter said.

Street sale stirs trouble

One reason MIT's original proposal was attacked was because it asked for public streets in return for funding the CASPAR shelter. "I profoundly disfavor this notion of selling streets," said Cambridge Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves at a city council meeting on Jan. 25.

With MIT's new offer, the Institute would keep ownership of the building, leasing it to CASPAR for $1 a year for 20 years, with an option to renew. In the original proposal, the city would retain ownership of the building.

MIT would spend $1.8 to $2 million to construct the building.

CASPAR, Page 12

Four Members of UA Finance Board Up for Election in March

By Trudy Liu
STAFF REPORTER

Students will now be able to elect some of the members of the Undergraduate Association Finance Board during the UA general election in March.

Fin Board allocates funding from the Institute to more than 100 student activities. In the past only the UA nomination committee was involved in selecting the members.

A Fin Board review group made this change in the bylaws "to allow for more diversity and a wider selection of people," said Chairman Matthew S. Warren '93.

"This change reflects an attitude of openness. Anyone can apply for a position on the Finance Board and get elected. Both the UA general election and the selection by nomination committee are well-established procedures," said UA Council Floor Leader Raajnish A. Chitaley '95. "I'm pretty confident that this will work out well."

Although the member selection process has changed to increase student involvement, the allocation procedure will remain the same, Warren said. "We will keep our basic philosophy and policy," he added.

Four out of the 16 board members will be chosen through the general election, and four will be chosen by the UA nomination committee. Three current Fin Board members automatically continue to serve on the board: the elected chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary.

The remaining five positions are *ex officio* and are filled by the Association of Student Activities treasurer, the Dormitory Council treasurer, the InterFraternity Council treasurer, the UA treasurer, and one UA council member.

"The biggest issue facing the Finance Board now is the student life fee. There are many activities worthy of funding that could be supported by the fee. Students should really give thought to it and consider it as a way of starting to see better things happen on campus," Warren added.

"Opening up some Finance Board positions in the general election will greatly increase general student awareness of the Finance Board and what it does. It will bring in fresh perspectives," Warren said.

Chitaley said that increasing student involvement on Fin Board will help deal with issues such as the student life fee.

"We didn't think we could implement the fee without improving the board member selection process first. We need to have student input and confidence in the Finance Board to make this work," he said.

Russian Lecturer Let Go As Part of Budget Cuts

By Hyun Soo Kim
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

As a result of MIT's effort to reduce its deficit, the Russian program will lose a popular lecturer next term. The cut will eliminate six advanced Russian language and literature courses next year and limit the options for completing a Russian concentration, minor, or major.

The Foreign Languages and Literatures Section decided not to renew Elena Semeka-Pankratova's contract because of low enrollments in the Russian program. Semeka-Pankratova taught advanced courses in Russian language and literature at MIT for the past 12 years.

Higher level French classes will also have fewer sections, and one part-time French instructor will be eliminated next year, according to Section Head Isabelle de Courtivron.

President Charles M. Vest appointed a task force to examine academic activities and budgets in late January. The task force directed each school to trim its budget by 6 percent over the next four years.

Most other schools have not made concrete decisions abouting staffing because their budget proposals are still under review.

'Obsolete' courses are cut

"In these times of budgetary crisis, we see student interest and student need and cut courses that have been obsolete and not in demand," de Courtivron said. She added that there is currently a large demand for Japanese language classes.

"I'm not speaking as much for myself. From the beginning, I told her [de Courtivron] of course I feel bad for myself, but more for my students," Semeka-Pankratova said.

"It's true that the enrollment for Russian I for the last couple of years dropped. But the [trend] could not yet affect advanced courses. Last semester, I taught contemporary prose and poetry, a very advanced course, and I had 12 students, which is for the course, a very high enrollment. I now have 23 to 24 students

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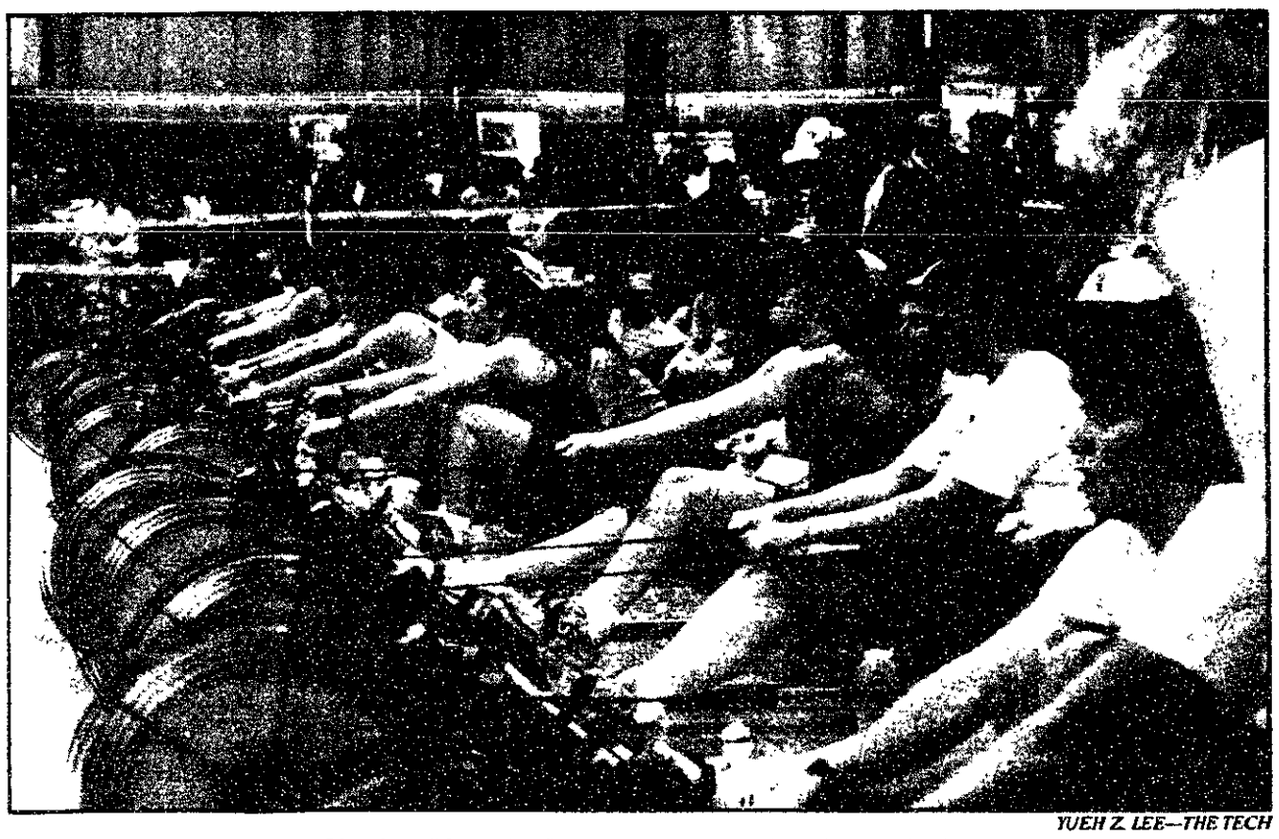

YUEH Z. LEE—THE TECH

Rowers compete in the Charles River All-Star Has-Beens (CRASH-B) Sprints, which draw approximately 1000 rowers every year. The sprints were held Sunday.

WORLD & NATION

Veteran Diplomat Named Ambassador to Argentina

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Career diplomat James R. Cheek, exiled for 12 years to Nepal, Ethiopia and Sudan after the Reagan administration's 1981 purge of Latin America specialists, is the State Department's choice to be the next ambassador to Argentina.

Cheek, a 30-year Foreign Service officer and, perhaps more importantly, an Arkansas native, had been thought by the Reaganites to be insufficiently tough in dealing with leftist inroads in Central America.

Cheek was in the process of retiring when he returned to Washington after the election to work on the Clinton transition team.

However, Cheek may face tough questioning by Capitol Hill conservatives for his input into President Jimmy Carter's Latin America policy.

The Buenos Aires job had been given by President George Bush to William Walker, a career official and former ambassador to El Salvador, but that nomination, along with several others, lapsed as Election Day approached. President Clinton's folks offered Walker Ecuador instead, sources say, but he turned it down, perhaps hoping for something better, like Mexico or Spain.

Meanwhile, Peter Romero, now deputy chief of mission in San Salvador, has been picked to be ambassador there. The word is that Salvadorans are concerned that a relatively green diplomat would get that sensitive post. State also has chosen Central America hand John Maisto for Nicaragua.

The embassies in San Salvador and Managua have been vacant for a year as Bush's two nominees, Joseph Sullivan and Michael Kozak, were blocked by Senate questions over a covert program that may have influenced the Nicaraguan elections in 1990.

Social Security Tax Increase Will Be Hard Sell for Clinton

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

When President Clinton pitches his long-awaited economic program to a watching nation Wednesday, about 8 million elderly Americans could prove to be particularly tough customers. The elderly lobby is among the most powerful interest groups in Washington, and Clinton's program could quickly unravel if older Americans mobilize against it.

Under present law, Social Security recipients pay no income taxes on their benefits unless their total annual income, after adjustments, exceeds $25,000 for individuals and $32,000 for couples. For those recipients, up to 50 percent of their benefits may be subject to taxation.

Many observers predict Clinton will ask Congress to leave the income thresholds where they are, but to increase the amount of benefits subject to taxation to 85 percent. That would make the taxation of Social Security benefits roughly comparable to the current tax treatment of private pensions for which employees make contributions.

Clinton and his advisers are considering the increase because it addresses two critical needs, administration officials say. First, it would make a significant contribution to deficit reduction by generating an estimated $30 billion in additional tax revenues over five years. The deficit is expected to reach $319 billion by 1997, according to congressional analysts, and the president has pledged to reduce the figure by $145 billion.

Second, Clinton has accused the Reagan and Bush administrations of pursuing policies that favored the wealthy, and has signaled his intent to ask those at the top of the income ladder to contribute their fair share to deficit reduction.

So far, the AARP has refrained from attacking the tax proposal. But Rother noted that older Americans gave Clinton better support at the polls than any other age group. Surveys of voters as they left the polls on Election Day showed that 51 percent of voters over the age of 65 supported Clinton, compared with 38 percent for Bush and 10 percent for independent Ross Perot. In contrast, of all American voters 43 percent backed Clinton, 38 percent supported Bush and 19 percent Perot.

WEATHER

Snow and Slush

By Arnold Soto

STAFF METEOROLOGIS

A strong low pressure system from the southwest will deepen and bring us 3–4 inches (8–10 cm) of precipitation beginning this afternoon. Snow will predominate early on, but will quickly change to a mixture of snow and rain that will make driving hazardous.

The rain will continue through tonight and possibly early tomorrow morning. Tomorrow will be warm and very breezy. Thursday look for clearing skies and slightly cooler temperatures.

Today: Snow and rain. Winds southeast 10–20 mph (16–32 kph). High 32–37 °F (0–3 °C). Chance of snow near 100%.

Tonight: Rain, possibly heavy. Fairly windy, 23–30 mph (37–48 kph). Low 30–35 °F (-1 to 2 °C).

Tomorrow: A 30% chance of rain, some clearing. Variable winds, 23–30 mph (37–48 kph). High 40–45 °F (4–6 °C). Low in mid 30s (1–3 °C).

Thursday: Clearing. Weakening northwest and west winds 10–15 mph (16–24 kph). High 30–40 °F (-1 to 4 °C). Low in the 20s (-6 to -1 °C).

Clinton Expected to Include Energy Tax in Economic Plan

By Karen Hosler and Gilbert A. Lewthwaite

THE BALTIMORE SUN

WASHINGTON

President Clinton appears ready to raise taxes on energy in the least visible way — through a less-conspicuous levy on the heat content of fuel instead of an easy-to-spot sales tax at the gasoline pump.

As part of his effort to spread the energy tax burden as broadly, thinly, and evenly as possible, Clinton's evolving plan is now centered on a proposal that would raises taxes on most forms of fuel, including coal, oil and natural gas, on the basis of British Thermal Units — a means of measuring energy content.

This would require the creation of an entirely new and probably complex tax collection system, and it was unclear Monday whether the Clinton administration has settled yet on how that might be done.

But with a relatively low target that one source familiar with the discussions pegged at $20 billion over four years, the burden would be so spread out that while most everyone who drives a car, heats a house, runs an air conditioner or uses any form of electricity would be affected, they may not be so keenly aware of it.

For example, the gasoline tax would have to be raised by a nickel a gallon to raise $20 billion over four years. Under a BTU-based tax, the tax on gasoline may not rise more than a penny or two per gallon and it would probably be levied at the refinery level rather than at the gas pump.

However, President Clinton is also said to be seriously considering a separate oil fee, dubbed a "national security premium" on oil that would drive up both the price of gasoline and home heating oil.

The energy package, which the Clinton administration is expected to promote as an environmentally attractive "consumption tax," would exempt from new taxes renewable energy alternatives to fossil fuels, such as solar power and windmills.

A BTU is the amount of energy required to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit. Because it is based on energy content, the BTU-based tax would hit coal the hardest, then natural gas, then oil.

The potential impact on the individual user is difficult to determine until more details of the proposal are known, analysts say.

But according to one study, the effect after four years of the BTU-based tax could be a 20 percent rise in the price of coal to about $6 per ton, an extra $1.50 per barrel on oil — which now go for about $20 each, and 25 cents or more per 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas, the price of which varies from region to region between $2 to $5.

In developing the energy tax proposal, the president and his advisers weighed a variety of options and steadily threw out the most objectionable.

Many congressional leaders argue that raising the federal tax on gasoline would be the quickest and easiest way to produce a substantial sum of money, and that option was high on Clinton's list early last month. But it was rejected after critics claimed it would put too great a burden on the poor and drivers in Western states.

The president also considered imposing a sales tax on energy at the retail level and a similar "ad valorem" tax at the wholesale level.

But Clinton told reporters Monday he considered the BTU-based tax to be more fair to the middle class and more progressive.

"An ad valorem tax reinforces price changes," the president explained. "In other words, if you have an ad valorem tax and the price of one fuel goes up, then the tax rate goes up. So, it would aggravate whatever price changes are out there in the market, and that would hurt the consumers more."

Clinton declined to say whether he had settled on the BTU-proposal, but several members of Congress who met with the president and Vice President Gore Monday came away with that impression.

"BTU appears to be the one they are talking about," said Representative Romano L. Mazzoli, a Kentucky Democrat. "Gore spoke at length about how they went into this whole energy tax. They are looking at BTU. They think that will put us in a more harmonious position with the rest of the world, Japan, Europe, all of whom seem to be moving toward broad-based energy tax."

U.N. Sanctions Taking Their Toll On Iraqi Resources, Creativity

By Nora Boustany

THE WASHINGTON POST

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

It is not exactly the reinvention of the wheel, but in Saddam City — the drab concentration of slums and repair shops here where anything is possible — badly scarred car tires are mended with shoe soles.

This is just one of the many tricks desperate Iraqi car "fixers" have resorted to in recent months. Ruined generators are rewired, somewhat crudely, so that they work-at least for a while. Bicycle parts tossed as scrap metal always come in handy for a quick mend, as do a bagful of hubcaps and other odds and ends. All these objects — mostly stolen — can be found spread out along the pavement at Saddam City's bazaar of used parts, the Souk Mreidi.

Such creative recycling is commonplace for hard-pressed Iraqis trying to get around the trade sanctions — including a ban on the sale of oil — imposed on their country by the United Nations in August 1990, after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Making do has become a way of life since then for many Iraqis, who have entered a new world of wiped-out savings, scarcities and waiting in line. Among the prohibitions is the importation of tires, a pair of which costs at least 4,000 Iraqi dinars, equal to 10 months of a senior ministry official's income. Before the invasion of Kuwait, a set of four tires cost 50 dinars.

"First we used to dump used tires, now we fix them 10 times. We are Iraqis and we do the impossible," boasted car mechanic Ali Qazem, 30, showing off a large wheel sporting half a worn shoe sole stitched on unevenly with cotton string.

Hassan Hamid Jassem, 36, who owns a repair shop in Baghdad, was not as enthusiastic.

"I laugh at myself at times — my work load has increased but not my income. I used to fix 10 tires a day. Now I have a daily 50 to 60 to repair at 2 or 3 dinars a tire, but my heart goes out to my fellow Iraqis. I cannot send customers away. Where can they go?" said Jassem. "They use those things for two or three days, then they come back with flat tires."

Beatrice Ohanessian, the lead pianist for the Baghdad Symphony Orchestra, is not amused by the situation.

"I have five patched-up tires — one has been fixed five times," said Ohanessian, who graduated from the Juilliard School of Music in New York. "The other day I had a puncture. There I was a woman at 9 o'clock at night with a puncture on the freeway. I keep mending the torn ones and drive slowly to work. ... It is a matter of life and death."

"If you want to fix your car you better go and wait and watch every movement the mechanic is making," Ohanessian said. "You are afraid they will take a screw or some part you will not be able to replace even with a month's salary. You are always protecting your things yourself."

The musician has had to cut back on practicing from five hours to two hours each day to keep up with the demands of daily life under the sanctions, including queuing for rationed foods. "You have to go fight for your petrol, cooking gas, take your flour to the baker. ... Yesterday my sister waited for six hours for milk, cheese and yogurt," Ohanessian said.

Ohanessian's income from the orchestra, a small pension and teaching totals a mere 365 dinars a month. One liter of milk costs 70 dinars, a kilogram of meat 85 dinars and a carton of eggs 80 dinars.

With the sharp devaluation of the Iraqi currency, still officially yet unrealistically pegged at $3 to the dinar, even the wealthiest Iraqis have seen their savings wiped out. One man who declined to be named said the savings he thought were worth $300,000 are now worth $4,000.

"We have lost our past, our present and much of our future," an Iraqi physician complained. He said one of his colleagues performed three operations in one day and made less than $50.

But the scarcity of goods is not only due to the U.N. sanctions. To the frustration of shopkeepers as well as consumers, the Iraqi government has banned a long list of imported goods, including sweets, freeze-dried coffee and foreign cigarettes. According to Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh, the action was taken to reduce social discrepancies.

"There are two resolutions for Iraqis-that imposed by the United Nations and the one imposed by the Trade Ministry," joked one Information Ministry official who said he missed smoking his favorite brand of English cigarettes.

The Iraqi government has tried unsuccessfully to tie its blocked oil sales to a popular cause. Earlier this month, Baghdad offered to donate $50 million to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency to help Palestinian refugees if it could sell some of its oil under U.N. supervision, but the deal was rejected. Saleh said Iraq would like to see some of its frozen assets released so it can buy medicines, sugar, rice and other items.

Common Ground Emerging Amongst Health-Care Factions in Reform Plan

By Mark A. Goldberg and Theodore R. Marmor
THE WASHINGTON POST

Perhaps the first of many conflicts that the administration's high-powered health care task force will have to resolve is the war of words that dominates the debate over health care reform. For the past year, three phrases have defined (albeit imprecisely) the reform plans jostling for support.

These three labels — single-payer, play-or-pay and managed competition — have served as a handy shorthand for complex arguments and ideas, united groups of more or less like-minded reformers and made the debate easier for the press to cover and, at least in theory, for the public to follow. Now, however, they are blocking reform.

Obviously the chances of passing a reform package would be enhanced if those who favor change were not divided, by themselves and others, into three contending groups. But the labels are more than a tactical inconvenience: They mask differences within categories of reform (between, for example, alternative managed competition plans) and obscure similarities across them. Moreover, the most effective reform package would incorporate elements from all three types of plans. What's needed, as a matter of politics as well as substance, is a fusion plan — one that would bring together reforms and reformers.

A fusion plan for health care reform ought to be built on three principles. First, we can't solve any one of the three aspects of the health care crisis — cost, access, and quality — without tending to the other two. If we put all our emphasis on controlling health care spending, quality and access will suffer. If we focus just on making sure everybody has coverage, costs will soar and quality will erode. And if we do nothing but improve the quality of care, fewer and fewer people will have access to more and more expensive services.

Second, we need a plan that would work quickly — that would clamp down on cost increases, cover the uninsured and lay the groundwork for improvements in quality sooner rather than later. The longer we wait to fix the health care system, the harder the job will be.

Third, we need to be prudent. The stakes are too high — in terms of health and money — to put all our faith in one theory, model or mechanism. What's needed is a plan that maximizes the chances of success — that is, to borrow a term from the computer industry, fault-tolerant.

The basic building blocks of a fusion plan — one that could succeed substantively and politically — are strewn about, awaiting assemblage. In fact, many admixtures have already been misclassified under one or another of the standard-issue labels. (A case in point: The plan that candidate Clinton spelled out last September — and that he, and numerous commentators, described then as a managed competition strategy — was in fact something of a hybrid.) The elements include:

— A requirement that employers assure coverage for their employees and a commitment, with adequate public financing and a firm schedule, to the phase-in of insurance for those outside the workforce. Initiatives to increase the market power of health care consumers (the development of purchasing consortia and an infrastructure of information about quality and prices to support them).

— Incentives to create more, and more efficient, provider groups.

— Tough cost controls to keep spending in bounds.

— Measures to simplify health insurance, including a standard benefits package, a single claims form (instead of the thousands of different forms now bedeviling providers, consumers and insurers) and electronic billing. (At least 20 percent of what Americans spend on health care, more than $180 billion a year, goes to pay for administration and paperwork.

— Steps to improve the quality of care and reduce the amount of unnecessary or inappropriate treatment (including increased research on the effects of alternative procedures) and to help consumers judge the quality of care offered by competing provider groups.

— None of this is to suggest that it will be easy to refine a fusion plan beyond these basics, to develop political support for the plan (and its financing) and to implement it. But the alternative, a protracted and counterproductive squabble among rival factions, is surely less appealing.

Trade Issues, Security Concerns Require Clinton to Rethink U.S.-Europe Alliance

By William Drozdiak
THE WASHINGTON POST

BRUSSELS

As the Clinton administration searches for a new transatlantic strategy, Americans and Europeans once again find themselves obsessed with the problem of yesterday's enemy. Just as they struggled with repairing a shattered Europe in the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 1949, U.S. and European officials are now faced with the pressing needs of Russia and other remnants of the Soviet bloc. Their response to those nations will go far toward determining the future of their own alliance.

But unlike the post-World War II era, when friends and foes alike looked to the United States to take the initiative in rebuilding a devastated continent, the Atlantic relationship now seems fraught with jealous rivalries and petulant misunderstandings.

The allies not only seem unable to coordinate their strategy on dealing with former adversaries but also confounded by increasingly grave conflicts over trade and security issues. The sole area of consensus seems to be the alliance's abiding importance, European and American diplomats say. "Nobody dares to imagine what the world would be like without the Atlantic alliance," said a senior European Community official.

The alliance's foundations have been rocked by crises of confidence on both sides of the Atlantic. In Europe, the goal of political and economic union has been shaken by public doubts about the Maastricht Treaty and the impact of global recession. Germany has failed to live up to its leadership potential because of the draining costs of reunification. With weak governments at the helm in Bonn, Paris, London and Rome, no country has been able to offer the kind of bold new visions that created the postwar order a generation ago.

In the United States, the Clinton administration's vow to concentrate on a domestic social and economic agenda has revived worries in Europe of "global unilateralism" and a retreat from foreign commitments. The alternating currents in American society, said former French foreign minister Jean-Francois Poncet, "makes us wonder one day whether America will abandon us, and on the next whether it will stifle our quest to assume more control over our destiny."

This kind of schizophrenia, said Leon Brittan, the EC's commissioner for external trade relations, demonstrates that European states have "no real definition" of their own security. In a speech here before he left for Washington this week, Brittan urged EC members to learn the lessons of the "muddle" in the former Yugoslavia and to fortify the transatlantic military alliance.

"The U.S. is not necessarily going to carry the Free World through every conflict that arises."
—Leon Brittan

"Now that the Cold War is over, the United States is not necessarily going to want to carry on leading the Free World through every conflict that arises," he said. "There will be new areas in which the Community will be expected to take the lead or may even wish to do so of its own accord."

European officials were content to see the United States take the lead in the Persian Gulf War and the Somalia relief effort, but the risk that the conflict in the Balkans could spread appears to have jarred some of them into recognizing they face serious security responsibilities.

"I think many Europeans came to believe that a shooting war on this continent had become inconceivable," a senior U.S. diplomat said. "What's happening in Bosnia is teaching Europeans a lesson, but I'm not sure it's the right one. They still believe that American soldiers will bail them out every time. But you can never have an equal partnership if that's the case, and they should be ready to recognize it."

Similarly, U.S. officials chastize the Europeans for not opening their markets to the nascent free-market democracies of Eastern Europe. They argue that if another Marshall Plan is unaffordable, the least that West Europeans can do is to allow Eastern imports of steel, textiles and meat — even if it hurts their own farmers.

Besides the squabbles over security and how to help the East, the biggest area of transatlantic conflict now looms in trade, where more than $50 billion worth of goods and a global pact under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade appear held hostage to a test of wills between Washington and Brussels.

As the world's leading commercial power, the EC has become accustomed over the years to threats of bruising trade wars with the United States. But as a global recession deepens and a world trade pact looks more unlikely, the possible damage from a major transatlantic trade conflict appears ominous.

In the past, the United States and its European allies would be inclined to reach an expeditious compromise because of fears that a trade conflict could spill over into the security arena by eroding alliance solidarity in the face of the Soviet threat.

But now, with no such immediate danger, the alliance is taking its internal conflicts into uncharted territory.

"If Boris Yeltsin falls and Russia returns to a totalitarian form of rule, I wonder whether we could recover our old cohesion," said a European ambassador at NATO headquarters. "We probably could, but it would be a high price to pay to find out."

Clinton Begins Drive for Economic Plan With National Address

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Clinton, conceding he cannot reverse the nation's economic slide without raising taxes on the middle class, said Monday he will ask virtually all Americans to endure sacrifice to pay for his economic growth and deficit reduction program.

Mixing a populist appeal with the majesty of an Oval Office setting, the president urged a national television audience to resist special-interest lobbyists and defenders of the status quo, and to join him in a crusade to restore the nation's economic future.

He promised to soak the rich before attacking the wallets of the middle class, but admitted he could not achieve his goals of long-term deficit reduction and job creation without boosting the taxes of the vast majority of Americans.

Using several computer-generated charts, Clinton laid the blame for the nation's economic slide squarely on the Republican administrations of the past 12 years. He said the federal deficit had "exploded" under former Presidents Reagan and Bush, growing from $80 billion to more than $300 billion.

He noted that the current economic expansion has created far fewer jobs than previous recoveries and has left 9 million Americans still jobless two years after the recession of 1990-91 had technically bottomed out.

Clinton offered no explicit new specifics on the plan, which will be formally unveiled in an address to a joint session of Congress Wednesday night. But the key elements are already known: a $31 billion short-term stimulus package of public works spending and business tax cuts designed to create 500,000 jobs by the end of next year; $250 billion in spending cuts, including specific reductions in 150 domestic programs; and about $250 billion in higher taxes on corporations, the wealthy, and all forms of energy use. The proposed changes include increased taxes on the Social Security benefits received by higher-income retirees.

Labor, Congressional Leaders Signal Support of Clinton Tax Plan

THE WASHINGTON POST

BAL HARBOUR, FLA.

Organized labor Monday signaled its willingness to go along with higher taxes on the American worker as part of President Clinton's new economic program, as long as any sacrifices called for by the White House are distributed fairly throughout society.

"We believe that if we want programs from our government we ought to be willing to pay for them in a fair and equitable way," AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland said after a meeting with top Democratic congressional leaders. "Our members are prepared to pay their fair share."

But Kirkland stopped short of giving Clinton a blank check of approval for his economic program. "I haven't seen it so I can't offer any guarantees in advance," he said.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council, gathered here for its annual mid-winter meeting, met in the morning with Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell, D-Me., House Speaker Thomas S. Foley, D-Wash., and House Majority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-Miss., to discuss labor's legislative agenda and the president's economic proposal.

Despite any reservations labor might have about individual parts of the program, however, the union leaders gathered here Monday did not appear ready to cross their new friend in the White House.

Kirkland said Monday that if Clinton can bring about health care reform, the president will guarantee his place in history. For organized labor, the health care issue is the number one legislative priority on the agenda.

After meeting with the union leaders, Foley, Mitchell and Gephardt emerged with the same basic message: Give the president's economic program a chance and judge it in its entirety, not on the basis of one or two issues.

The three congressional leaders also defended the need for a stimulus spending package in the face of signs that the economy is improving and Republican claims that no further action is needed.

Bombs Rip Colombian Capital

THE WASHINGTON POST

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Two powerful car bombs rocked downtown Bogota Monday, leaving four dead and 117 wounded in the latest blow of a terror campaign blamed on fugitive cocaine boss Pablo Escobar.

Scores of businesses, hotels and offices were badly damaged when the two bombs went off almost simultaneously at 10:20 a.m. in the heart of the business district, according to authorities.

The escalation in Escobar's terrorism marked a setback for President Cesar Gaviria, who was elected three years ago promising to end the wave of narco-terrorism buffeting Colombia at that time. An upsurge of violence by the traffickers, coupled with killings by vigilante groups seeking to take revenge, has rolled over the country in the past six weeks, swiftly eroding Gaviria's popularity.

Escobar, who heads the drug smuggling cartel based in the Colombian city of Medellin, continues to elude arrest despite being one of the most hunted men in the world.

Government and international agencies have offered a $7 million reward for information leading to his capture. Thousands of troops have been deployed to pursue him. A wanted poster of Escobar and his closest associates is constantly flashed on television, with the reward offer and numbers one can call with promises of confidentiality.

Monday's car bombings — Escobar's trademark terror tool — brought to five the number set off in the capital since Jan. 21. A Jan. 31 blast killed 20 people, including a dozen children. Escobar also began new attacks against policemen in Medellin, where more than 60 law enforcement officials have been gunned down in the past nine months.

OPINION

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MIT Should Accept New CASPAR Offer

Editorial

Over the last two weeks the Cambridge City Council and MIT have exchanged proposals to find a permanent shelter for homeless alcoholics and drug addicts. After city officials' latest offer, the two appear close to reaching an agreement and ending the Cambridge and Somerville Program for Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation's 19-year search for a permanent shelter.

The various proposals discussed over the last few months have followed two central ideas: MIT would finance the construction of a permanent shelter and Cambridge would reimburse the Institute by giving it four city streets that lie within the campus.

This general formulation has obvious advantages for both parties. The most important issue here is that CASPAR find a permanent home: it provides the community with a valuable service, but needs a permanent facility to replace the three ramshackle trailers it currently operates out of. MIT's offer is a real boon to the city, because it provides funding that would be hard to come by otherwise. Giving MIT four streets — all of Carleton and Hayward Streets, a section of Amherst Street, and some sidewalks on Vassar Street — seems like a good idea, too. MIT will pay to improve and maintain the streets and sidewalks, which are currently low on Cambridge's list of priorities.

The previous proposals have come under fire for a variety of reasons. Residents were angry about the Institute's initial proposal to build the CASPAR shelter at 380 Green St. in Central Square. The City Council committee working to find an alternate location has run into similar problems with other sites. Residents also expressed the belief that MIT's real goal was moving CASPAR from it's current location on Institute property at 240 Albany St. in an effort to improve the value of MIT's nearby University Park development complex.

The notion of relinquishing control of city streets had problems of its own. Several city councilors and Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves are strongly opposed to giving away streets forever — which seems to be a very reasonable concern. Many city residents have a less rational fear that MIT plans take over all the land between the river and Central Square, and that giving MIT four streets just helps the Institute's secret plans.

The City Council and the Institute were at an impasse at the end of January, when the council discussed MIT's offer to build at Green Street. Reeves, in particular, interrupted the proceedings on more than one occasion to direct angry tirades against MIT.

MIT silenced many residents concerns last Monday when it offered to build a new shelter at the current Albany Street location and lease the site to the city. The offer addressed resident's concerns about the shelter's location and rendered baseless allegations that MIT only wanted to move the shelter away from University Park.

MIT's offer is a good one. It is particularly generous in light of the fact that the Institute's future plans include building dormitories on Albany Street and the adjacent Vassar Street.

The only issue that remained after that offer was how to reimburse MIT. The counteroffer of the city's CASPAR committee — selling MIT one street and leasing it the other three — provides the missing link in what seems to be an excellent compromise. MIT plans to offer the city a 20-year lease on the CASPAR shelter and the city would reciprocate by leasing the streets for the same time. As a result, both groups retain long-term control over their properties, but CASPAR gets a permanent home.

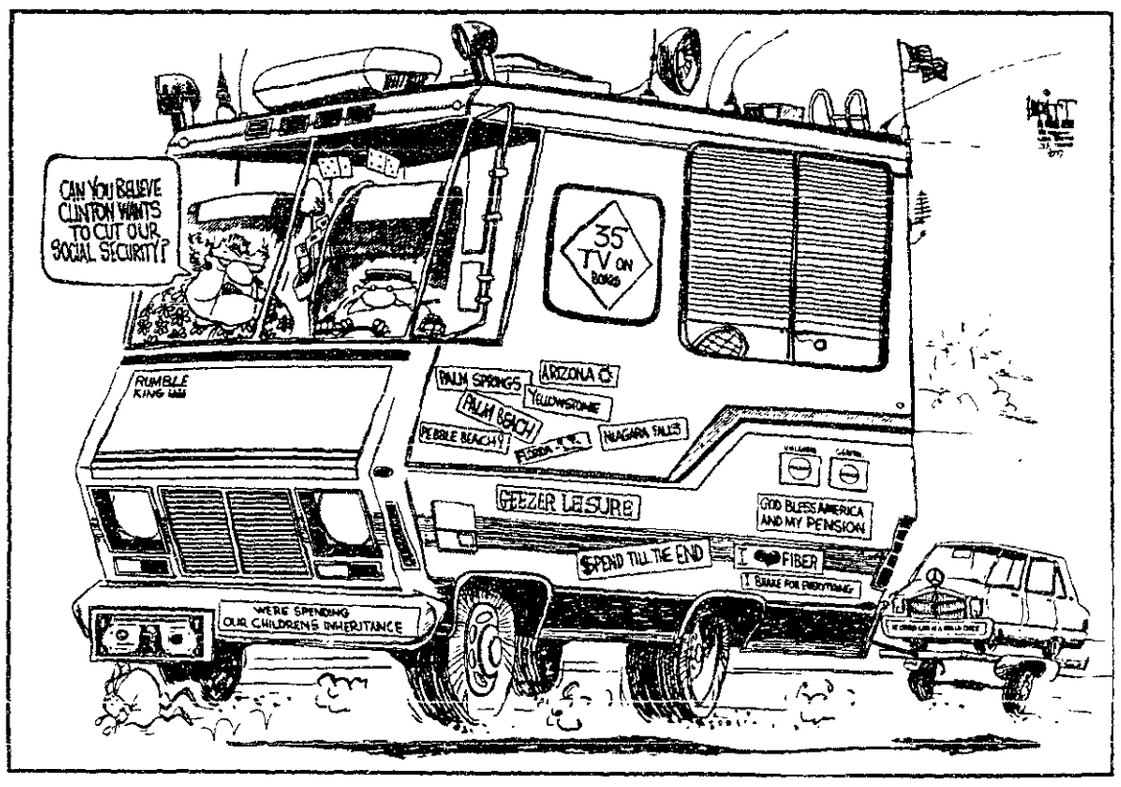
Two things need to happen in the near future: the City Council needs to vote to officially endorse the offer of its CASPAR committee and MIT needs to accept the offer. The compromise on the table accomplishes two things. It allows MIT to move ahead with its plans for the streets in question, while the city retains long term control over them. And the most important concern is addressed: CASPAR will finally have a permanent home.

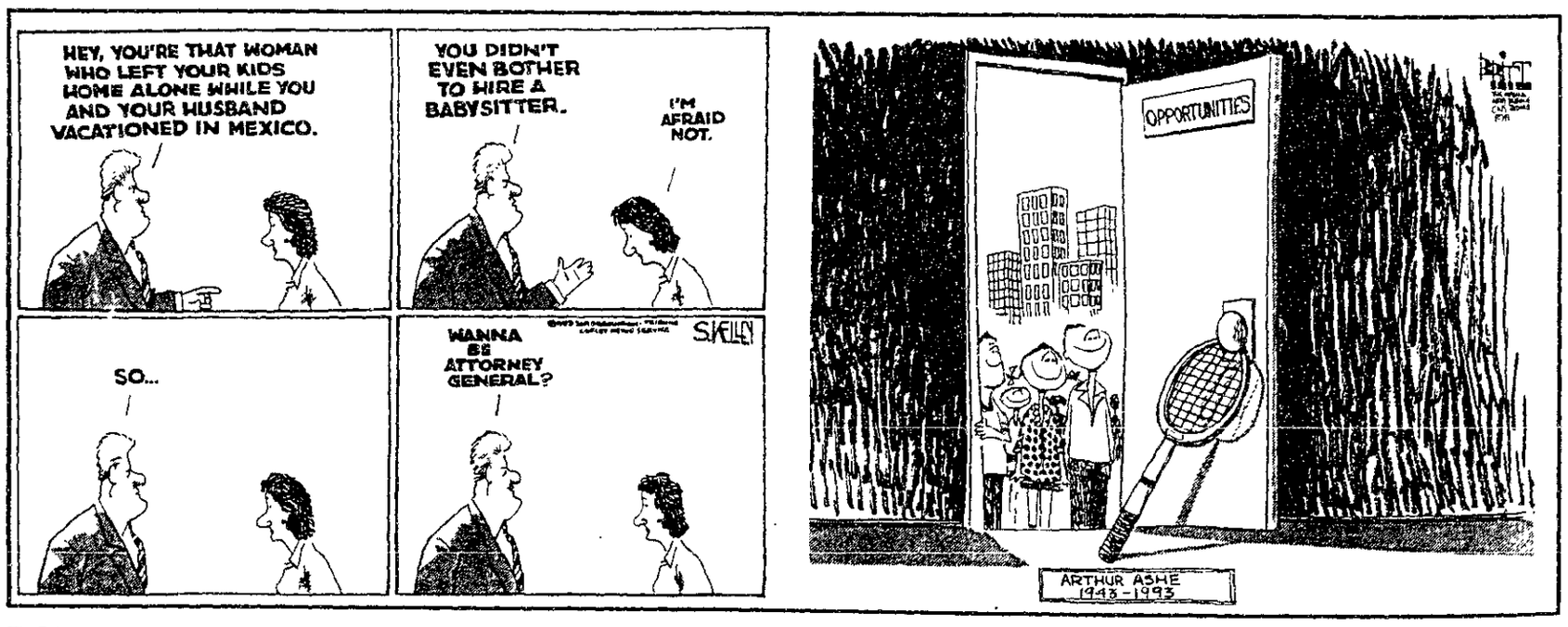
Letters To The Editor

Consultants Waste Valuable Computers

Could someone please explain why we have to have on-duty consultants in various Athena clusters? Not only do they take up valuable work space, but they're also not always doing something productive. When I entered the Building 1 cluster today, I found all the workstations in use — and the on-duty consultant there playing solitaire on her DEC. People who need help can use OLC. If there is a real need for consultants to be physically present in a cluster, the least they could do is limit themselves to the RT's — or, better yet, to simply take a seat in a corner of the room.

Stanley Shyn '96





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Absolute Truth, Dogmatism Antithetical to Science

Column by Loren King
GUEST COLUMNIST

In a recent guest column ["Student-Endorsed Relativism Inconsistent with Morality," Feb. 12], Marc Carlin bemoans the prevalence of what he calls "moral relativism" among the students here at MIT. He argues that a group of students so familiar with the natural sciences should instead embrace a doctrine which he attributes to these disciplines: that absolute, timeless truths exist, and that human reason, properly applied, can discover and apply these lofty principles.

I think Carlin misunderstands the character of science, and of morality. Unlike him, I am pleased to find that MIT students shy away from the notion that Absolute Truths exist and can be discovered. To me, this indicates that science is being taught and done well, and that students here are not indoctrinated with the misconceptions about science and moral judgment which Carlin exhibits.

"Science works because no fact or belief is ever taken as being final."

Carlin claims that Absolute Truth "is essential" to science. It is not. In fact, the best science recognizes the basic uncertainty of human knowledge, and by this recognition frees itself from the dogmatic belief that once a problem appears to be solved, it is solved for good.

The scientific method insists upon questioning not only the objects and events that we find in the world, but also our basic beliefs and assumptions about the way the world is, and the way we come to know things about it. Science works because no fact or belief is ever taken as being final; all knowledge is provisional, and postulates, methods, and conclusions are at all times open to the critical scrutiny not only of the researchers conducting the work, but also of the scientific community at large.

This is why science is so successful, and such an appealing method of rational inquiry: people are always asking questions, and never taking anything for granted. Controversy and discussion of competing ideas are a sure sign of good science in progress; when people start getting complacent, when they claim that all the important problems are solved, or that the final word has been spoken about a particular phenomena, we should be wary.

Scientific knowledge is never absolute. Rather, it represents the consensus of a critical and vigilant community of scholars. It is this idea of consensus which is often confused with Absolute Truth, and this is particularly apparent when we enter the realm of human action, and thus of moral judgment.

Consider an example which Carlin presents as a moral Absolute: "If I asked to see your most difficult problem set a half hour before it was due, then took a lighter to it and burned it up, wouldn't that be just plain wrong?" Few people would disagree, but this sort of consensus does not an Absolute make! Rather, consensus makes consensus, nothing more.

As another example Carlin draws upon the only portion of the Declaration of Independence which most people seem to bother reading: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." But these rights did not seem to apply as consistently (read: at all) when the indigenous people of the Americas had land which Jefferson's liberty-loving compadres wanted. Nor did Absolute Truth seem to include women and slaves in Jefferson's day.

The idea that is embodied in this oft-quoted phrase (which goes on to define as inalienable the rights of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness") is that States should define some basic rules, and offer some basic goods, which satisfy needs that almost everyone has, needs which are prior to more specific, and less-essential, interests and desires.

This is, I think, an agreeable conception of the state's role in modern society, but it is far from being an Absolute Truth. Rather it is a postulate, based upon the (accurate) perception that some needs are shared by many, and are prior to most others. Some of these basic requirements might include the need for food, shelter, and safety of the person from attacks by others. Furthermore, because these basic needs are widely shared, a great many people will probably agree that someone — the State, usually — should provide them.

"People change, circumstances change, beliefs change; as Heraclitus observed, 'everything flows, nothing is stationary.'"

Now, agreements of this sort are fine things, and indeed they are necessary in a complex society made up of diverse and often-competing interests and beliefs. But to call such agreements "Absolutes" is to deny the one fact about the world that is constantly impressed upon us: change. Change is a basic feature of human life. People change, circumstances change, beliefs change; as Heraclitus observed, "everything flows, nothing is stationary."

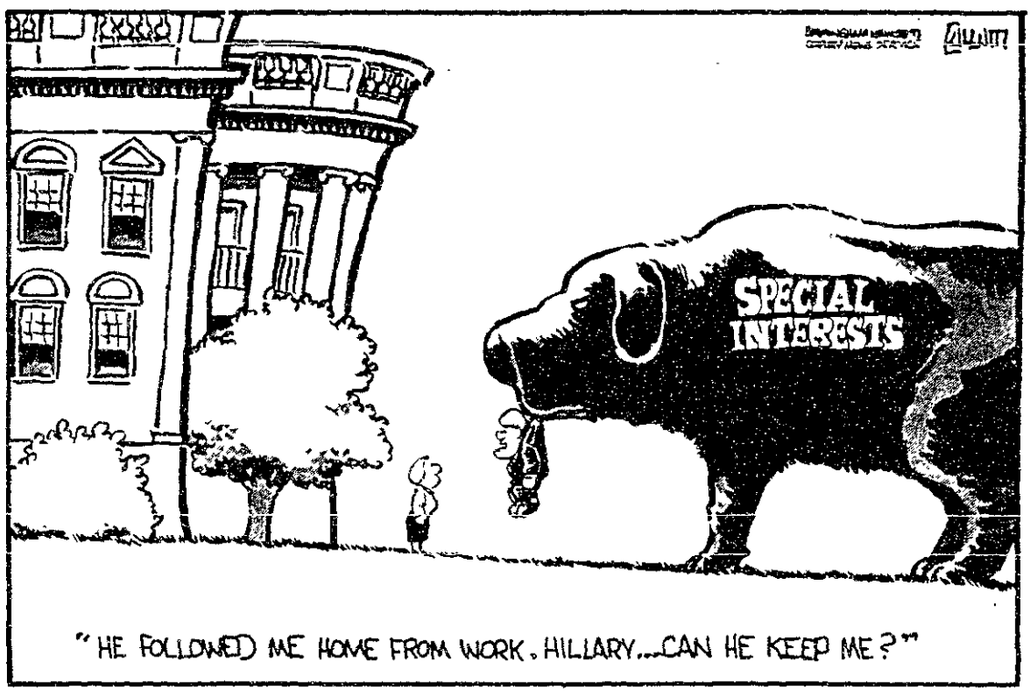
Science can adapt to change precisely because its methods take nothing for granted; even these methods themselves are open to scrutiny and re-evaluation! There are no timeless, ahistorical truths. If moral judgment were to be a scientific affair, it would not concern itself with Absolute Truth, but rather with understanding the ways in which people form beliefs, and the possible ways of resolving conflicts between these beliefs — without appeal to dubious universal laws.

The insistence that we can know Absolutes, moral or otherwise, is a denial of the dynamic character of the world around us, and it arises from the same sort of dogmatic appeal to absolute knowledge that in the present day condemns Salman Rushdie to a life of terror, and in earlier times twice put Galileo before the Inquisition. On this latter point we would do well to remember the response of a scholastic thinker when Galileo asked him to look through his telescope and observe the moons of Jupiter: the man replied that he needn't look through the device, as he would certainly not see anything that Aristotle had not written about more than a millennia before.

This is not a scientific outlook, and those who claim insight into moral Absolutes often find themselves in a similar position as the scholastic here described. They cannot account for new information, new insights, new ideas, precisely because they are trapped into asserting what seemed beforehand to be indubitable truth. New ideas, new interpretations are stifled because they are taken to be wrong a priori.

Thus for the knower of Absolute Truth there is no need to look through the telescope, no need to read The Satanic Verses, no need to meet and talk with a few homosexuals and thus understand that they are thinking, feeling, compassionate human beings, just like us hets.

It would be a shame if science actually were simply a quest for Absolute Truth, and it would be — and often is — a tragedy when the same association is made for matters of morals. So, despite Carlin's admonitions, here's to MIT students for escaping the lure of dogmatism, and for making science that much more relevant to society, and the moral problems therein.



"Another Cabinet nominee was denied confirmation today after admitting he ate fruit picked by illegal aliens."

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THE ARTS

Groundhog Day makes the most of hilarious premise

GROUNDHOG DAY
Directed by Harold Ramis.
Starring Bill Murray, Andie MacDowell, and Chris Elliott.
Loews Cheri

By Douglas D. Keller
CHAIRMAN

At first the trailers for Groundhog Day had me a little worried. The thought of Bill Murray and a rodent starring in the same movie sent chills up my spine and had me worried that this would be Caddyshack III, and we all remember how bad Caddyshack II was. But Groundhog Day is a rare comedy for these days; it has an original premise, it is genuinely hilarious, and it is at heart an allegory.

Here's the premise: Phil Connors (Bill Murray) is an arrogant, self-centered weatherman for a Pittsburgh television station who is sent to Punxsutawney, Pa. to cover the annual Groundhog Day festival with his cameraman Larry (Chris Elliott) and producer Rita Hanson (Andie MacDowell.) Their trip is only supposed to take one day but because of a blizzard's change in course, the crew has to stay in Punxsutawney overnight. Phil wakes up the next morning to find out that it is Groundhog Day all over again but he is the only one who remembers that Groundhog Day has already happened. Every time Phil goes to sleep he awakens to find that it is Feb. 2 all over again.

Bill Murray
Groundhog Day

Just imagine what you could do in 24 hours if there were no consequences and if no matter what happened you would just wake up again at 6 a.m. to Sonny and Cher singing "I Got You Babe" on the old clock radio. It is quite conceivable that you can't think of a scenario that is not covered in this movie. In one sequence, Phil comes to the realization that his actions have no results and he takes a couple of locals on a high-speed chase with the police. Phil is thrown in jail, only to wake up the next morning in bed with Sonny and Cher on the radio.

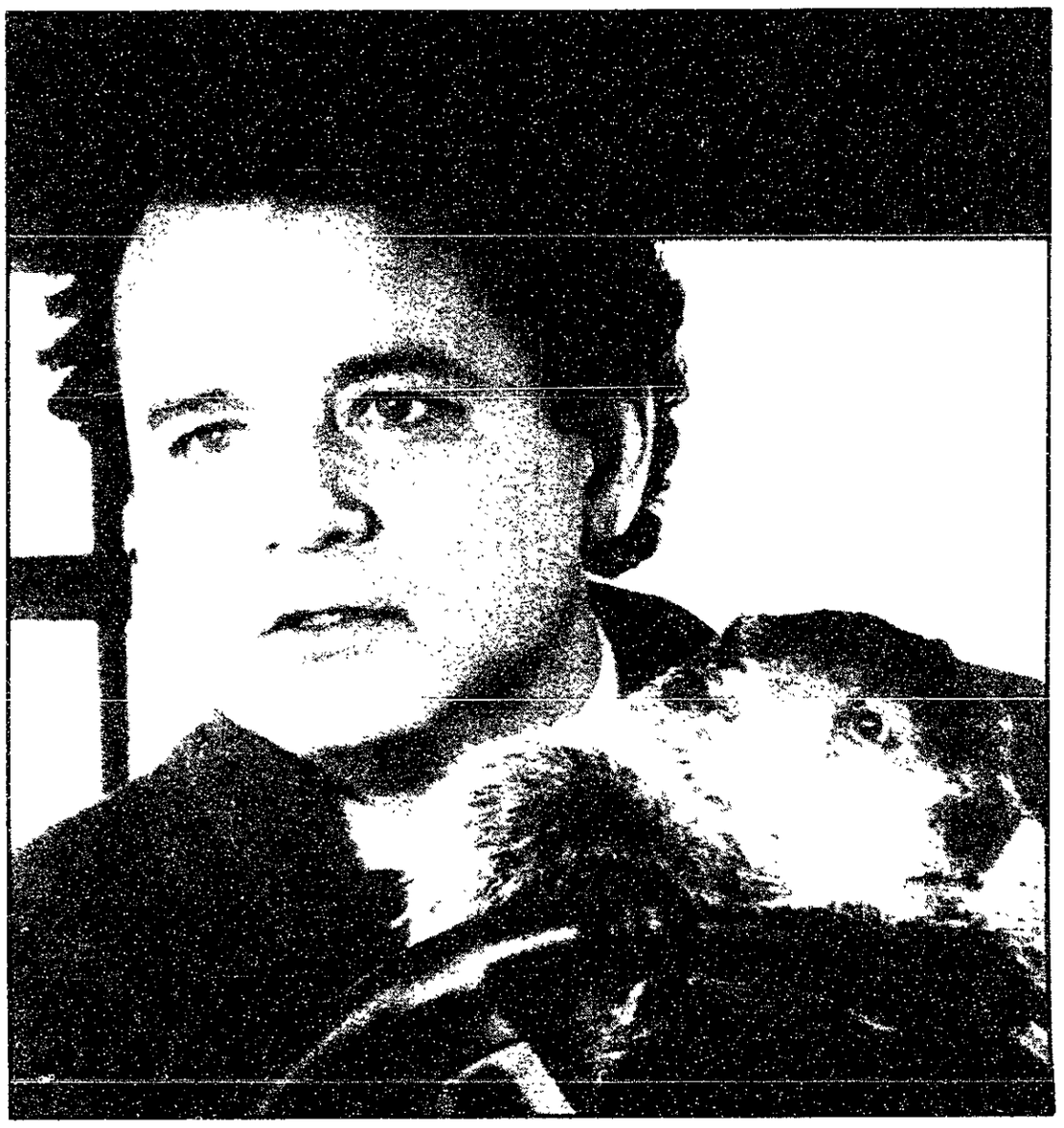
After hundreds of Groundhog Days, Phil decides that the only way out of this mess is to kill himself. His decision is the origin of the hilarious scene from the movie trailers in which Phil and Phil (as in Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog) are driving in the pickup truck. The Phils end the scene by going off a cliff, but not to worry, one will wake up the next morning to "I Got You Babe" while the other will be pulled out of Gobbler's Knob and forced to see his shadow.

The allegory is that Phil's repetition of Groundhog Day is like the daily grind that most of us experience: the same old job with the same people in the same situations with little variation. This theme is handled very well — after the twentieth (or so) time the clock radio's numbers have flicked over to 6 a.m., groans could be heard from audience members hoping that Phil might be able to escape from the daily grind of Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney.

A huge amount of credit must be given to Bill Murray for being able to keep the audience interested in a premise that should have grown old very quickly. Murray and writer Danny Rubin are able to keep us interested through Murray's superb acting and Rubin's script, which surprises the audience at every turn. One of the nicest surprises is the fundamental change that comes over Phil as the movie progresses. Realizing that no matter how many scams he tries to pull there will not be a change in his situation, Phil decides to improve himself by taking piano lessons and studying literature. It is through Phil's improvement of himself and concern for other people that he finds the solution to his unenviable situation.

Credit is also due to director Harold Ramis who resists the temptation to use the groundhog too much, as was the case in Caddyshack II, and to Andie MacDowell who plays a smart, ambitious producer who is fascinated by the simple things in life like the Groundhog Day festival. MacDowell's Rita plays an important part in helping Phil make it to Feb. 3, but you'll have to see the movie to find out how.

On the whole, Groundhog Day is a very funny, entertaining comedy. The plot is fresh and layered with meaning and the cast does a superb job in making the same day seem interesting and vibrant over and over and over and...



Phil Connors (Bill Murray, *left*) and Punxsutawney Phil embark on a fatal joyride that willultimately have no consequences in the romantic comedy, *Groundhog Day*.

Entertaining *Temp* suffers from unsatisfying conclusion

THE TEMP
Directed by Tom Holland.
Written by Kevin Falls.
Starring Timothy Hutton and Lara Flynn Boyle.

By Joshua M. Andresen
STAFF REPORTER

This is an entertaining film that suffers from bad acting and bad editing. The concept is wonderful and the suspense scenes are very well done, but viewers may leave the theatre feeling unsatisfied with the movie's conclusion.

The Temp is a psychological thriller along the lines of *Hand that Rocks the Cradle*, but set in the corporate jungle instead of the family unit. The motive here is to get ahead instead of to take revenge. Kris Bolin (Lara Flynn Boyle) is a temporary secretary hired by Peter Derns (Timothy Hutton) when his usual secretary takes leave. Kris dedicates herself to working her way up the corporate ladder, and she starts out rather successfully because of a series of convenient accidents and mishaps. Peter is convinced that Kris is behind all the supposed accidents, but he has problems convincing his coworkers that he is right because he has been seeing a psychiatrist to help him deal with a problem he has with paranoia.

This works well as a psychological thriller because the Hollywood cliché of one person stalking another in some deserted building with some weapon or another is avoided. The suspense comes as Peter loses his control over all aspects of his life, apparently at the hands of Kris. This is very well done. No one knows what is really going on, least of all Peter, whose life is being manipulated and ruined, leaving him practically powerless.

The glaring problem with this film is no one ever finds out what is going on. Many of the "accidents" are presumably staged, yet are remarkably clever. How these were set up is never revealed to the audience. It would be nice if at the end we find out who did what and how. What we get instead is a culprit whose involvement is merely implied, rather than explained. Perhaps the clever accidents were meant to be just that, but this has less appeal.

The action at the end also becomes choppy and disconnected. The film jumps from sequence to sequence with little or no transition. Events get explained less and less until the closing scene which appears to be a simple and sloppy "quick ending." This is really too bad, as the film would have much potential if it were made smoother.

The acting was not incredible either. Boyle was at times unconvincing as the evil mastermind with the potential to wind her way to the top of the corporate ladder. Rebecca de Mornay did a better job in her role as the evil mastermind in *Hand that Rocks*. Hutton is not as bad in the lead role, but he is also unbelievable at times.

THE TEMP

One delight of the film is the cinematography as the accidents are investigated. The camera teases the audience with utter ruthlessness, bringing everyone to the edge of their seats. The best of these is after Peter's permanent secretary returns to work and has to unjam the paper shredder. Enough said.

Overall, this is an entertaining film, if unsatisfying in the resolution. Go to be thrilled but do not expect to be challenged intellectually.

Peter Derns (Timothy Hutton) grows suspicious of his temporary secretary (Lara Flynn Boyle) in the corporate thriller, *The Temp*.

Unimaginative *Love Field* never rises above mediocrity

LOVE FIELD
Directed by Jonathan Kaplan.
Written by Don Roos.
Starring Michelle Pfieffer, Dennis Haysbert, and Brian Kerwin.
Loews Copley Place

By Chris Roberge
ARTS EDITOR

After sitting on a shelf somewhere in the vaults of the financially strapped Orion Pictures, *Love Field*, a film made three years ago, is finally undergoing a theatrical release. When the studio entered into bankruptcy proceedings early last year, this Michelle Pfieffer vehicle was among many movies thrust into some sort of limbo state with no clear end in sight. As the 1992 Oscar season rolled around, however, Orion decided to give the film a chance, primarily because it was believed that Pfieffer stood a good chance of receiving one of the best actress nominations to be named this morning. Unfortunately, Pfieffer fanatics are probably the only people with an adequate reason to see this disappointing drama. With a story that is both predictable and dated, *Love Field* is a technically well-made and well-meaning movie that nonetheless fails to rise above mediocrity.

In the film, Michelle Pfieffer plays Laurene, a Dallas beautician who is obsessed with the lives of the current president, John Kennedy, and his wife, Jackie. When the couple arrive in Dallas in late November of 1963, Laurene even convinces her invalid neighbor to accompany her to the airport so that she can use the woman's injury as an excuse to push to the front of the eager crowd. Of course, that afternoon Kennedy is assassinated, and Laurene is devastated. The already frail woman has all of the energy instantly sucked out of her and she is left pale and stunned, staggering slowly into nearby restaurants and shops to tell everyone else the tragic news and to stare shocked at the television as the news of the president's death is told to the nation by a visibly shaken Walter Cronkite.

When she returns home, Laurene tells her husband (Brian Kerwin) that she feels obligated to attend the public funeral and pay respect to the man whom she says was "the only one I ever voted for." Her husband strongly rejects the idea as frivolous and silly, but Laurene sneaks out at night and heads east on a bus.

Along the way, she gets to know a black man, Paul Cater (Dennis Haysbert), and his daughter, who are going home to be reunited with the rest of their family. Laurene is drawn to the two, in part because the young girl reminds her of the daughter whom she lost,

but also because she is a talkative busybody who will introduce herself to nearly anyone who will give her a chance. She soon uncovers secrets about the man and girl, though, and after a series of mishaps the three are driving to Washington D.C. not only to get to the funeral but also to avoid the FBI.

Pfieffer and Haysbert give good performances, Ralf Bode's cinematography renders this a very attractive film, and Jonathan Kaplan's smooth direction never rushes or delays the plot. As the story of *Love Field* unfolds, though, it ventures too often into familiar and expected territory while relying on trite stereotypes to portray its characters. When Laurene calls home to explain to her husband what she is doing, he paces back and forth, running his hand through his hair and yelling, "Jesus, Laurene! Where the hell are you?" This guy should get together with Thelma's husband from *Thelma and Louise* sometime. The relationship between Laurene and Paul offers few surprises as well. When the two begin to get to know each other, they act fairly pleasantly towards one another while occasionally throwing subtle insults into their conversations which reveal the unease they feel. After noticing Laurene's vacuousness, Paul offers her his magazine, commenting, "You want this? I'm finished. It's got lots of pictures." And in one ridiculous moment, as Paul tries to wake Laurene up she jumps upon seeing him, saying, "Jeez, you scared me. Just like the bogeyman." All of these apprehensions have left, though, in time for the inevitable scene in which Laurene delicately washes the wounds of the topless Paul, looking into his eyes and admitting, "I guess you think I'm crazy." "No, Laurene. I don't think that," he quietly replies. This is even more cartoonish here than it was in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

But the biggest disappointment of the film is the unimaginative way with which the film deals with the interracial romance of Laurene and Paul, and the racism that he is subjected to. Paul is a quiet and soft-spoken black man, and Laurene's husband is a rude and insensitive white man. Which one do you think she will find more attractive? The movie removes any challenge to Laurene, or the audience, by distilling the men to the poles of saint and sinner. Similarly, *Love Field* never becomes daring when it deals with racism. The film does do a good job of suggesting how society's fascination with the better aspects of the Kennedy administration may have blinded them to the problems which still existed. At one ironic point Laurene stands in the middle of a decrepit town and says about Kennedy to Paul and another black man, "He done a lot for you people." And the visceral blow the film delivers with the assassination is small relative to that of a scene in which Paul is savagely beaten in front of his daughter by some good old boys. But who wouldn't react strongly to these scenes? At times the movie becomes little else then an excuse for audience members to pat themselves on the backs for not being rednecks.

This is a problem that all films which deal with the bigotry of the past deal with. Few movies attempt to provoke audiences as much as in, for example, *Malcolm X*, in which Malcolm refers the Kennedy assassination as a time for "chickens coming home to roost," bringing the white man's violence back to him in a fatal backfire. Sometimes, as was the case with *Driving Miss Daisy*, sublime craftmanship lifts the movie above its dated nature. This does not happen with *Love Field*. Although it is far from being a bad film, it never becomes a truly good one, and it ultimately seems like a movie which has been sitting on a shelf for 10 times longer than it actually has been.

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

FEBRUARY MEETING

Thursday, February 18
5:30 PM
Room 50-220

(directly above the Muddy Charles Pub)

For more information, call the Graduate Student Council office at x3-2195

AA-1 Immigrant Visa Lottery!!!

Attention– Nationals from the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Guadaloupe, New Caledonia, Germany, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Gibraltar, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, San Marino, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Tunisia.

You are eligible to apply for the AA-1 Visa Lottery program in 1994, which will provide 40,000 immigrant visas to natives from the countries listed above.

Details regarding application procedures are available in the International Student Office (5-106).

Application Period: March 2, 1993 to March 31, 1993.

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**Wisdom teeth extraction*

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Q: What do *Sniper*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *House of Blues* Have in Common?

A: All three have been reviewed in *The Tech*!

Want to review the latest movies, plays, and performances for free?
Join *The Tech* Arts Staff by calling x3-1541 and ask for Chris.

THE MIT LIBRARIES

Spring 1993

The Library Locker

Welcome to the MIT Libraries

This guide is intended to introduce you to the wide range of resources collections, services, and staff available in the MIT Libraries. The Institute's major collections are housed in five divisional libraries: Barker (engineering), Science, Dewey (social sciences and management), Rotch (architecture and planning), and Humanities. There are, in addition, a number of branch libraries that specialize in more narrowly defined fields including aeronautics and astronautics, music, industrial relations, earth and atmospheric sciences, health sciences, and visual materials. Page two of this guide has detailed descriptions of each library.

The Libraries' staff are eager to assist you with your information needs. Among the services offered are reference and information assistance, interlibrary borrowing, computerized literature searching, photocopying, access to other area libraries, and instruction in library research methods. Tours and seminars are available throughout the year. You may obtain information at any reference desk.

A key feature of the MIT Libraries is Barton, the online catalog. Barton can be accessed by dial-in or via the Internet. CD-Barton, the CD-ROM version of the catalog, is available at public terminals in the Libraries. Built on the Barton database, it provides expanded indexing, Boolean operators, and improved downloading and printing. Both CD-Barton and Barton contain records for material acquired by the Libraries since 1963, for some earlier items, and for items on order. Most maps, non-MIT technical reports, and pamphlets are not reflected in the catalog. The Dewey Decimal catalog on microfiche contains records for most items cataloged before 1963.

There are manual catalogues for pre-1974 materials not in Barton. Please don't hesitate to ask for assistance.

In order to borrow materials from the Libraries you will need a barcoded library card. These cards can be issued to members of the MIT community at any circulation desk at any time.

We hope to see you in the Libraries soon and often.

Jay K. Lucker
Director of Libraries

The Athena Library Locker makes it easy for you to take advantage of many traditional library services, as well as tap into the ever-expanding world of electronic information. From your Athena workstation or dial-up account, you will get the following menu options:

New at the Libraries

News about new services and facilities available to enhance your teaching and research activities.

The Basics:Hours & Locations

Library hours, phone numbers, and locations.

Services and Assistance

Here you'll find bulletin-board-type information including, for example, a list of subject/reference specialists, and an online document enumerating MIT thesis specifications. Also included here are connections to actual services such as online catalogs at other colleges and universities, the Medline database, and the Libraries' online reference service, OWL. Coming soon will be a selection of electronic forms which you can fill out in order to request services like photo copies or literature searches, or to suggest that the Libraries purchase a book or other item that you think we should have.

Barton: The MIT Catalog

Access the Libraries' online catalog.

Other Library Catalogs

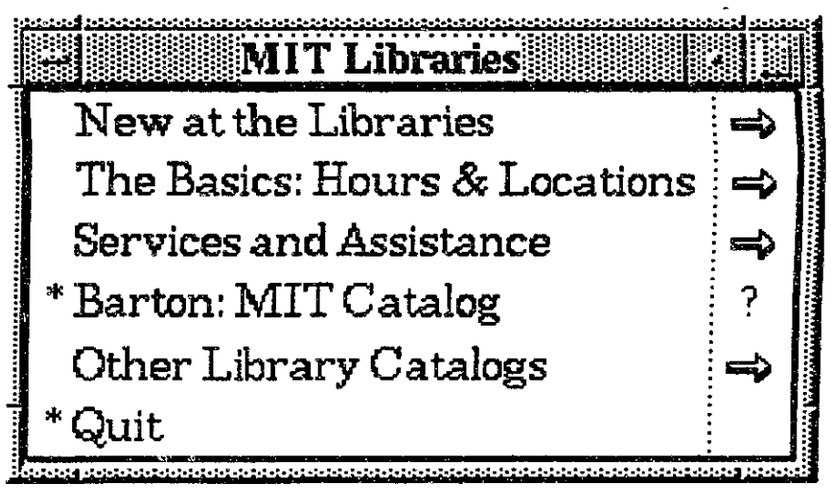
Provides telnet access to Internet-connected library catalogs throughout the world.

To Get Started:
From an Athena workstation, type:

```
add library
library
```

On an Athena workstation, you'll get a mouse-driven menu hierarchy (similar to the **dash** menubar). On dialup machines, a simplified version of the service menu will be offered. The application is also available through the Athena *Dash* menu under the *Special* heading.

David S. Ferriero
Associate Director for Public Services



Downloading Your Search Results from CD-Barton

The CD-Barton catalog will not only search for books, theses, journals, and working and technical papers relevant to your research. It also allows you to carry your searches away. The CD-ROM version of Barton, unlike the version available through Athena and dialup, will save your searches and then allow you to download the results to either a 3.5" diskette or a high density 5.25" diskette.

What advantage is this over printing the results at a library terminal? Like the print menu, the download menu gives you a number of helpful formatting options.

You can download your searches in any of four formats:

- title only
- catalog record
- MARC tagged record

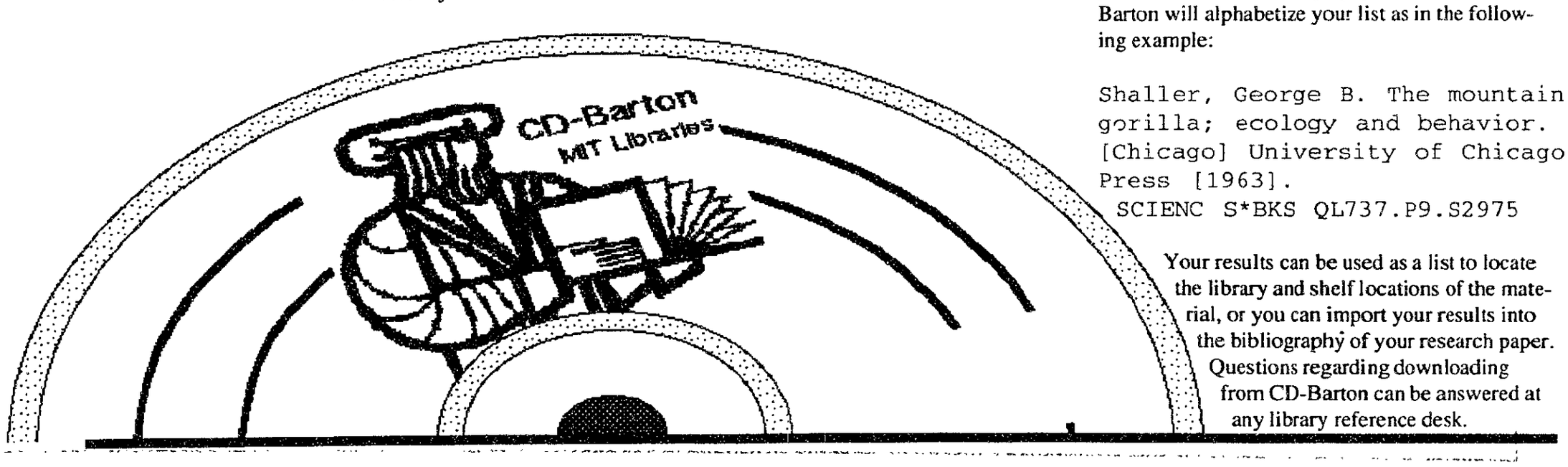
or

- bibliography.

The *catalog record* is the information you view on screen when looking at a title, the *MARC record* contains specific library cataloging information. The last option, *bibliography*, may be the most useful when writing a research paper. Formatting your searches as "bibliography" means that CD-Barton will alphabetize your list as in the following example:

```
Shaller, George B. The mountain
gorilla; ecology and behavior.
[Chicago] University of Chicago
Press [1963].
 SCIENC S*BKS QL737.P9.S2975
```

Your results can be used as a list to locate the library and shelf locations of the material, or you can import your results into the bibliography of your research paper. Questions regarding downloading from CD-Barton can be answered at any library reference desk.



The Libraries'

twelve units contain over 2 million printed volumes and receive 21,000 current subscriptions. The Libraries also hold extensive collections in other media, including microforms, maps, slides, scores, sound recordings, motion pictures, and videotapes. Here are brief descriptions of the Libraries and their holdings.

Aeronautics & Astronautics Library

Room 33-316
253-5665

Collections:
mechanics and physics of fluids; instrumentation, guidance, and control; aircraft materials and structures aeroelasticity; aeronautical systems, including flight transportation.
Special Collections:
NACA/NASA technical reports, AIAA Society papers, AAS conference publications.

Barker Engineering Library

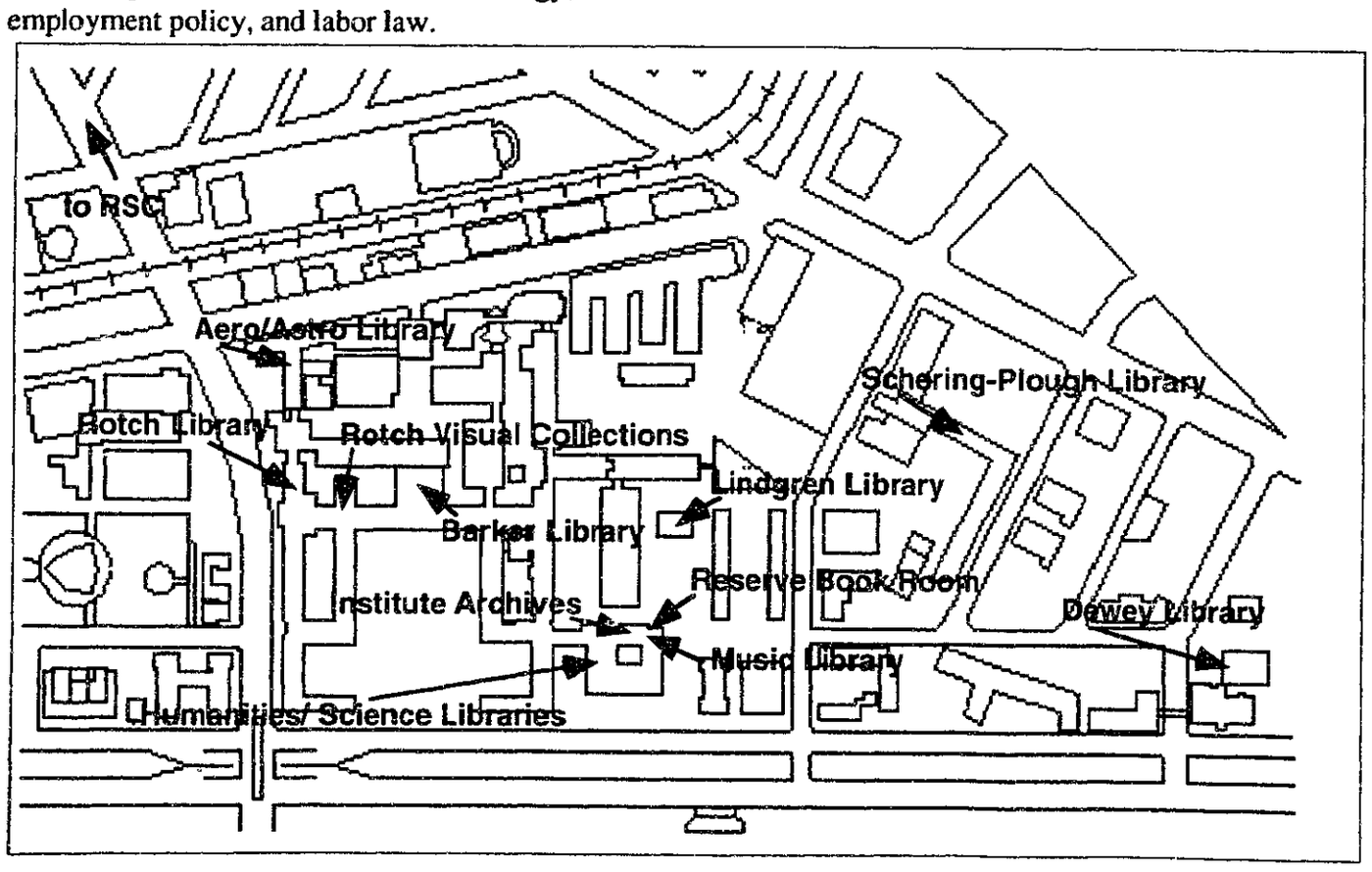
Room 10-500
Information 253-5663; Circulation 253-5661
Fax 258-5623

Collections:
biomedical, civil, electrical, environmental, materials, mechanical and ocean engineering; computer science; energy resources and utilization; applied mathematics and mechanics; manufacturing and machinery; mineral resources; and transportation.
Special collections:
industrial standards, professional society papers, and technical reports. A part of the collection isin microform, with facilities in the Media Services Area. Videocassettes, films, and film loops on engineering subjects, with playback equipment, are in the Media Services Area.

Dewey Library

Room E53-100
Reference 253-5677; Circulation253-5676
Reserves 253-7133; Fax 253-0642
Industrial Relations 253-7133

Collections:
social sciences and management emphasizing economics, political science, sociology, statistics, organizational psychology, law (especially legislative research material), U.S. government documents, corporate financial reports, United Nations official documents, and Rand Corporation reports. Dewey Library's *Industrial Relations Collection*, Room E53-238, is one of the oldest and largest collections of its type in the United States, with extensive holdings covering the broad areas of human resource management, labor management relations, personnel issues of new technology, employment policy, and labor law.



Humanities Library

Room 14S-200
Reference 253-5683; Circulation 253-5671
Reserves 253-5675; Fax 253-3109

Collections:
literature, linguistics, history, anthropology, archaeology, history of science and technology, philosophy,psychology, religion, education, library and information sciences and women's and men's studies.
Special collections:
current college catalogues andtelephone books, national bibliographies, and recreational and general magazines and newspapers.

Institute Archives and Special Collections

Room 14N-118
253-5136

Collections:
Central depository of materials documenting MIT's history, including official records of MIT, record copies of MIT publications, personal papers of MIT faculty, administrators, and alumni, and information about staff, alumni, and student groups.
Special collections:
oral history, rare books, and MIT theses from 1868 to date.

Lindgren Library

Room 54-200
253-5679

Collections:
earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences; meteorology; and oceanography. Includes a large number of atlases and geological maps and major U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Environmental Data Service materials.

Music Library

Room 14E-109
Information, Circulation, Reserves 253-5689
Reference 253-5636

Circulating collections:
books and periodicals covering music history and theory, and printed music.
Noncirculating collections:
sound recordings, videocassettes, and such audio playback facilities as compact disk players, open-reel tape decks, stereo cassette decks, and phonographs for individual or group listening. The Music Library maintains the reserve materials for music courses. This collection is not duplicated in the Reserve Book Room.

Retrospective Collection (RSC)

1 State Street
253-7040; Fax 258-6062

Collections:
The RSC is an off-site storage facility for the MIT Libraries. In order to make room for new acquisitions in the campus libraries, less frequently used materials are stored here. Library materials housed at RSC are identified in each of the MIT Libraries. RSC material will be delivered to any MIT library upon submission of a LIDS (Library Institute Delivery Service) form.

Rotch Library

Room 7-238
Reference 258-5599; Circulation 258-5592
Fax 253-9331

Collections:
architecture and building technology; art and architectural history; fine, applied, and media arts; photography, film, and video; environmental design; urban studies and planning; regional and Third World planning; and real estate development.
Special collections:
Boston-related materials, including local agency documents, maps, clippings files; U.S. Bureau of the Census population and housing reports; annual reports of Massachusetts cities and towns; microfiche collection of technical reports on urban and building technology; Historic American Buildings Survey on microfiche and microfilm; material on Islamic architecture and urbanism, including national development plans of Islamic countries; materials related to MIT campus architecture.

Rotch Library Visual Collections

Room 7-304
253-7098

Collections:
slides, study photographs, and photographic microfiche of architecture, urbanism, art, and photography; films and videotapes; visual archives of the Aga Khan Program; Kepes-Lynch photographic archive of Boston architecture; and the Boston Videodisc Series - Images of Boston and its Suburbs.
In-house facilities:
light tables, 1/2" and 3/4" videocassette playback equipment, videodisc player, 35 mm slide projectors, photographic copystand, and light table in corridor for afer-hours use.

Schering-Plough Library

Room E25-131
253-6366

Collections:
neurosciences, clinical medicine, and applications of medical instruments. Additional materials in these subject areas are located in the Science Library.
Special collections:
medical information for the layperson.

Science Library

Room 14S-100
Reference 253-5685; Circulation 253-5671
Reserves 253-5675; Fax 253-5365

Collections:
astronomy, biology, biotechnology, chemical engineering, chemistry, applied biological sciences, materials science, mathematics, medical sciences, nuclear engineering, and physics.
Special collections:
Department of Energy technical reports, the Palomar Sky survey, and topographical maps.

Electronic Library Services

Barton on the Network

Anyone with access to the Internet can connect with the Geac interface to Barton. Patrons can use the same gateway to connect to several other library resources both within and outside MIT. There are several ways to go about connecting to the library gateway on the net:

If you have an Athena account and are logged on to an Athena workstation:

At the athena% prompt, type **setup library** or choose *Libraries* from the 'Special' menu of Dash. A menu window listing currently available library catalogues will appear. Choose 'Barton' to connect with the MIT Libraries' catalogue or, if you wish, choose one of the other available catalogues.

If you are at an Athena workstation but don't have an Athena account, or if you don't wish to take the time to log on:

Choose 'Library Access' from the 'Other Options' menu. The 'Other Options' menu appears on the initial 'Welcome to Project Athena' screen. A menu window listing currently available library catalogues will appear. Choose 'Barton' to connect with the MIT Libraries' catalogue or, if you wish, choose one of the other available catalogues.

Most Internet users outside MIT and Athena users connected to Athena through remote (non X-Window) terminals should use this command:

telnet library.mit.edu (18.84.1.12)

Note the instructions that appear on the introduction screen, choose Barton or another available catalogue, then proceed with your search.
To borrow items you've found in the catalog, please go to the holding library. To place a hold or recall on an item that is currently circulating, call the circulation desk at any MIT library.

On-Line with the Libraries

The Libraries' reference staff provides online reference service for Athena users. Patterned after Athena's *Online Consultant* service, **OWL** allows patrons to communicate online with library information specialists. To hook up with **OWL**, type, at the athena% prompt:

add library
owl

Medline data is now publically available to all MIT users. We offer two user interfaces, one for X-Windows workstations and one for tty-type terminals and dial-up access. To access **Medline** data from an X-Windows workstation, enter the command:

add library
willow

This will bring up the *Willow* interface which offers a 10,000 record test Library Catalog as well as complete set of **Medline** data for the last two years. To access **Medline** from a terminal, enter the command:

add library
tmed

This will bring up the BRS-colleague interface into **Medline** data.

Dial Barton

Dial Barton provides dial-in access to the Geac interface of the Libraries' online catalogue from any standard ASCII 'dumb' terminal or from any microcomputer equipped with terminal emulation software / communication software such as Procomm or Red Ryder. If you have an analog phone, you'll need a modem. With a digital phone here at MIT, you can dial in through the 5ESS system.

Dial Barton provides a menu screen listing available search options. Like in-library terminals, Dial Barton shows the home location and current circulation status of materials. To borrow an item you've found via Dial Barton, please go to the holding library. To place a hold or recall on an item that is currently circulating, call the circulation desk at any MIT library.

Connections

Terminal: TTY emulation is best, but almost any ASCII dumb terminal configuration will work.

Communications: 8 data bits
1 stop bit
no parity
baud rate 1200
Phone number:
258-6700 (outside MIT)
x8-6700 (within MIT)

To dial in through a digital (5ESS) phone, you'll need to use the dx25 mode and dial in through the 'modem pool'. If you need assistance, see Information Systems document IS-9, *Dial-Up Access to MIT Computers and On-line Services.*

Once a connection has been made, a prompt will appear. Press Carriage Return to begin your session. To terminate your session, enter the command **END**. Dial Barton disconnects automatically after 10 minutes without any activity.

The Libraries in Techinfo

The Libraries' section of *Techinfo,* MIT's campus-wide information system, includes information about each library unit and its holdings, news of upcoming library events, names of subject specialists, lists of library equipment, bibliographies on subjects such as AIDS and the Gulf War, a list of CD's in the Music Library, and more. Just choose 'MIT Libraries' from the main Techinfo menu and go from there.
To get to Techinfo from Athena, enter **techinfo** at the prompt. From elsewhere on MITnet and from the Internet, enter **telnet techinfo.mit.edu**. A special MITnet / Macintosh interface to Techinfo is available, as is dial-up service. Call the Network Services Help Line at 3-4101 for more information.

CD-ROM Products In The Libraries

In addition to the new CD-ROM catalogue, the MIT Libraries provide access to over 20 other CD-ROM products in various disciplines. Databases include indexes and abstracts, encyclopedias, directories, and datafiles. For more information, call the contact persons listed below.

BARKER
Compendex Plus latest 5 yrs updated quarterly
Inspec 1989+ latest 5 yrs updated quarterly
NTIS 1985+ latest 5 yrs updated quarterly

DEWEY
ABI/INFORM latest 5 yrs updated monthly
Congressional Record, 1985
County and City Data Book, 1988
County Business Patterns 1986/87+
Current Population Survey Annual Demographic Files 1988-90+
EconLIT 1969+
Laser Disclosure 1991+
National Economic, Social, and Environmental Data Bank April 1992+
National Trade Data Bank
PAIS
Panel Study on Income Dynamics
Regional Economic Information System 1991+
SEC Online 1990+
1987 Census of Agriculture
1987 Economic Censuses
U.S. Exports of Merchandise *and* U.S. Imports of Merchandise

HUMANITIES
Academic Index
Bible Library
Dissertation Abstracts International
Grolier Electronic Encyclopedia
Oxford English Dictionary
PsycLit
Social Science Index
Ulrichs International Periodicals

LINDGREN
GeoRef 1785+

ROTCH
Art Index
Boston Globe
Construction Criteria Base
Electronic Sweet's
Real Estate Transfer Database
Supermap
1990 Census of Population and Housing
1990 Tiger/Line Files

SCIENCE
Aldrichem
Science Citation Index 1985+ updated quarterly

For more information about a specific CD-ROM product, call the following librarians.

Dewey Library: Kathy Green, 3-5670
Engineering & Science Libraries: Scott Brandt, 3-7749
Humanities Library: Nina Davis-Millis, 3-9354
Rotch Library: Michael Leininger, 8-5595

FirstSearch

Through June 1993, MIT Libraries offers unlimited free access to 27 large information databases, such as *EngInd, BIOSIS, MLA,* and *PsycFIRST,* in the OCLC **FirstSearch** online reference service. An authorization number and a password to access **FirstSearch** databases, may be obtained for the MIT community by sending a message to ameyro@athena.mit.edu.

Library Services

Assistance

Whether you need to find information for yourself or for someone else, help is as close as your telephone or the nearest reference desk. Reference librarians trained in the science of information retrieval are available in every library, by phone or in person, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. (See the individual library descriptions for telephone numbers.) In addition to these hours, the Science Library provides reference service Sunday afternoons and Monday through Thursday evenings

Circulation

Loan periods vary for different types of materials. Check with the library in question for loan period details. A due date , stamped in an item when it is charged out, indicates when the item must be returned or renewed. Consult with the circulation desk of the lending library about renewal limits. Materials may be renewed in person or by phone. If an item is charged out, a circulation assistant can place a HOLD on the material. You will be notified when the material is returned.
You may also have an item RECALLED from another patron. All four-week loan items are subject to recall after two weeks.

Database Searches

Computerized versions of almost any print index or abstract are usually more up to date and can be searched quickly and efficiently. Customized online research is available, for a fee, through the Computerized Literature Search Service, x3-7746. For members of the MIT community, very short or quick search requests are available free of charge at any reference desk.

Finding Books and Journals

The Libraries online bibliographic database contains records for materials acquired by the Libraries since 1963 as well as most of the Libraries 21,000 journal subscriptions. For pre-1963 items, check the Dewey Decimal Catalogue (DDC) on microfiche. A copy is available in each library. Always check with a reference librarian before you decide that we don't have what you need.

Library Institute Delivery Service (LIDS)

Do you need a book from Dewey, but you're across the hall from Rotch? The Library Institute Delivery Service will deliver materials with a four-week loan period to the MIT library of your choice. Requests may be made via phone or in person at the reference desk closest to you. Material will be charged out at the lending library and delivered to the circulation desk of the <169>local<170> library, usually within 48 hours. Material may be returned to any MIT library.

Library Instruction

Instruction in the use of the Libraries' resources is available for Institute classes, small groups, and individuals. Consult a reference librarian in the appropriate library for more information.

Other Libraries

If you have searched the library catalogues, consulted a reference librarian and still find that MIT does not own the material you need, it may be possible to obtain the item from another library, or even from an online database. Consult with a reference librarian about obtaining the information you want from Interlibrary Borrowing.
The MIT Libraries also have reciprocal access arrangements with several area libraries. MIT is a member of the Boston Library Consortium (BLC). Faculty, graduate students and other MIT researchers may be eligible for a Consortium Card, which entitles the bearer to register for access or borrowing privileges at Consortium libraries. Application for a Consortium Card may be made at the Humanities Reference Desk. Information about BLC libraries and their holdings is available at any of the MIT libraries. MIT faculty may obtain on-site access and borrowing privileges at a large number of research libraries participating in the Reciprocal Faculty Borrowing Program. The *Scholar's Passport* is available through the Office of the Director of the MIT Libraries. Brochures describing the program are available at any MIT library reference desk.
Persons having access to the Internet through MITnet can search the catalogues of many academic libraries throughout the US. See Techinfo for details on how to connect.

Photocopies

Coin and card-operated copy machines are located in almost every library. Copy cards may be purchased by account number, cash or check at the Microreproduction Laboratory in 14-0551 (the basement of Humanities/Science Library) Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by mail. Copy cards can also be purchased at the circulation desks in the Hayden, Barker, Dewey, Rotch, and Lindgren libraries. Copy cards sold at library circulation desks are pre-valued for $5.00 (50 copies). At Hayden Library, 50-copy cards are sold through a vending machine that takes a five dollar bill or five ones only. Cards of greater or lesser value can be purchased at the Microreproduction Lab. You can also purchase additional copies for an existing card through the MRL and through the vending machine in Hayden Library.

Storage

Space limitations in the libraries require that some materials be kept in the RetroSpective Collection (RSC). Material can be delivered from storage to the library closest to you, usually within 24 hours. Fill out a request form for the item(s) you want at the reference desk in any library.

Suggested Purchases

The Libraries are happy to receive suggestions for purchase of materials. Forms are available in each library and may be given to the reference librarian when completed. Watch for electronic suggestion forms, available soon through the Library Locker on Athena.

MIT Libraries is published yearly by the MIT Libraries Public Relations Group. Copies are available in all MIT Libraries. *January, 1992*

Library Hours

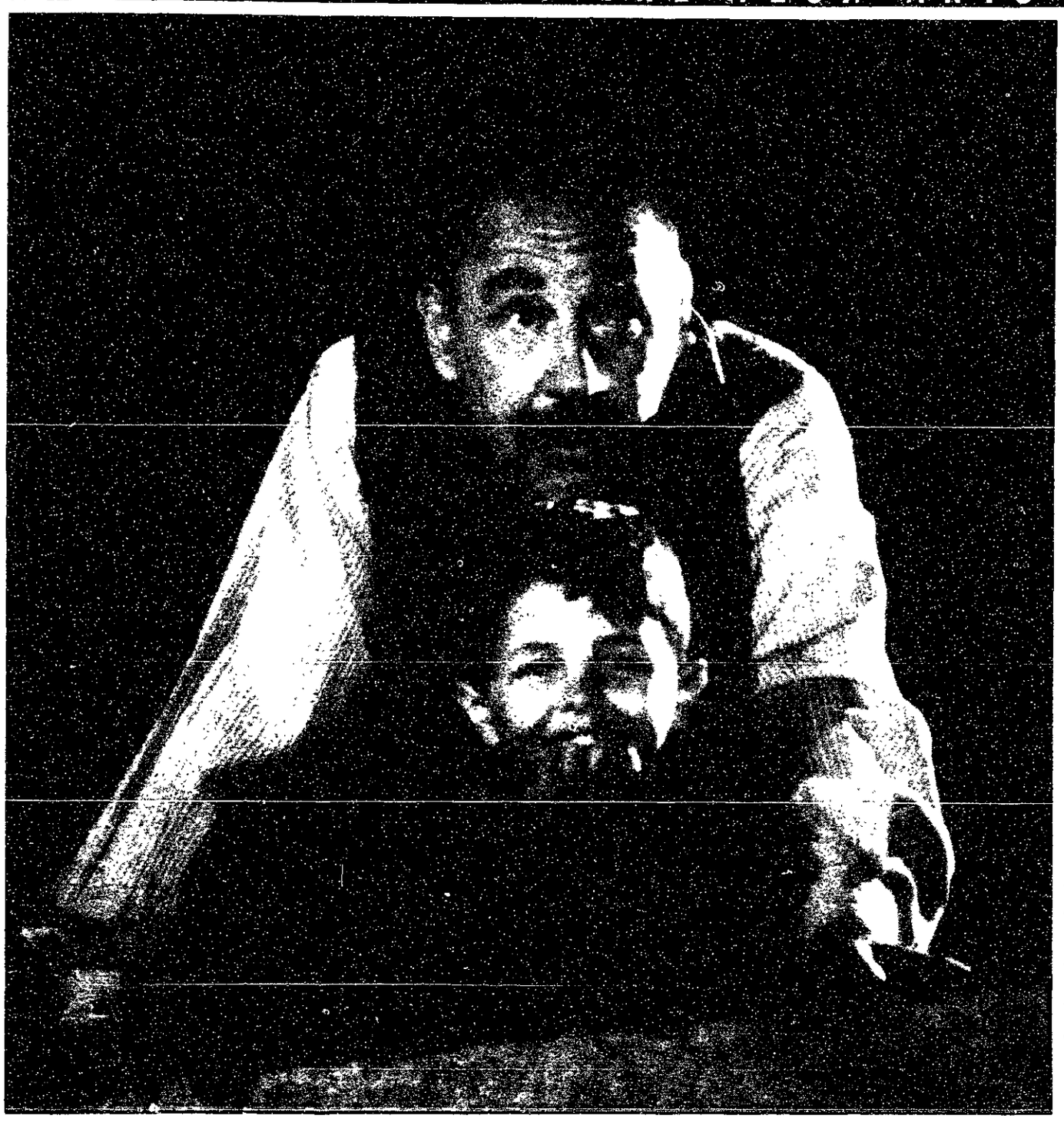
Vacation and holiday hours are posted in the Libraries and are available through Techinfo and the Library Locker on Athena.

Library	Monday - Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Aero/Astro	8:30am-6pm		11am-6pm	1pm-5pm
Barker	8:30am-11pm	8:30am-7pm	11am-6pm	1pm-11pm
Computerized Literature Search Service	9am-5pm		9am-5pm	
Dewey	8:30am-11pm	8:30am-7pm	11am-6pm	1pm-11pm
Humanities *	8am-12pm	8am-8pm		noon-12pm
Institute Archives	9am-5pm		closed	
Lindgren	8:30am-10pm	8:30am-7pm	11am-6pm	1pm-10pm
Microreproduction Laboratory	9am-5pm		closed	
Music	8:30am-11pm	8:30am-7pm	11am-6pm	1pm-11pm
Reserve Book Room	8:30am-11pm	8:30am-7pm	11am-6pm	1pm-11pm
RetroSpective Collection	9am-5pm		closed	
Rotch	8:30am-10pm	8:30am-7pm	11am-6pm	2pm-10pm
Rotch Visual Collections	8:30am-6pm		closed	
Schering-Plough	9am-6pm		closed	
Science *	8am-12pm	8am-8pm		noon-12pm

* Hayden Library (Humanities & Science) open 24 hours, Monday-Friday for members of the MIT community only (MIT ID required). Circulation functions cease at listed 'closing' times. Closed midnight Friday to 8 am Saturday and midnight Saturday noon Sunday.

ON THE SCREEN

— BY *THE TECH* ARTS STAFF —



Alfredo (Philippe Noiret, *top*) and Salvatore (Jacques Perrin) grow together in *Cinema Paradiso*, a charming Italian film about the power of friendship, family, and film showing at LSC this weekend.

★★★★: Excellent
★★★: Good
★★: Mediocre
★: Poor

★★★★ Aladdin

Never less than enormously entertaining, Disney's latest animated delight is a hilarious musical adventure based loosely on the Arabian Nights tale of a peasant boy and a magical lamp. Thanks to the vocal talents of comedians Robin Williams and Gilbert Gottfried and clever animation by Disney artists, this is probably the funniest animated film ever, but it never loses sight of the exuberant sense of wonder that permeates all of Disney's best works. With a breakneck pace and an abundance of wonderful images, only a second viewing reveals most of the background gags and beautiful artistry that went into producing this absolute pleasure. —Chris Roberge. *Loews Copley Place*

★½ The Bodyguard

Whitney Houston essentially plays herself, a temperamental pop singer who lacks songwriting ability and good musical taste, and Kevin Costner is a Secret Service agent hired to protect her after she begins to receive death threats in this mediocre romantic thriller. The romance in particular is emotionless, thanks to Costner's dry character and Houston's undeveloped acting abilities. Most of *The Bodyguard*, including the casting of Houston merely to cash in on the sale of a soundtrack, is little more than an unpleasant reminder that Hollywood is an industry more interested in producing money than art. —John Jacobs. *Loews Copley Place*

★★★★ Cinema Paradiso

This Italian film is simply incredible. It tells the story of the relationship of an old man and a young boy who grow up together in a small Italian town. Alfredo (Philippe Noiret) is the movie house operator in the town who shares his life and art with the young Salvatore (Jacques Perrin), who matures into a man through the course of the film. The immensely charming film deals with friendship, love, community, family, and the beauty and power of the cinema as a medium for both capturing reality and suggesting the fantasies that can never be a part of it. —Joshua Andresen. *LSC Friday*

★★★★ The Crying Game

Neil Jordan's story of an IRA terrorist (Stephen Rea) is a remarkably well-written piece of work that at first seems to follow its protagonist in aimless yet intriguing directions, but eventually reveals itself to be a perfectly structured look at violence, race, love, and sexuality. Rea is ordered to guard a kidnapped British officer (Forest Whitaker), but he begins to care for the hostage and later flees to London, where he meets the officer's girlfriend (Jaye Davidson). The two halves of the film, which contain some completely unpredictable plot twists, become mirrors of one another, reflecting how understanding and compassion may be a means of salvation. —CR. *Loews Harvard Square*

★★★½ A Few Good Men

Nearly every element of director Rob Reiner's adaptation of the military murder/courtroom drama clicks into place with the efficiency of a finely tuned machine designed to churn out entertainment. Sure it's unoriginal, but it's also extremely effective. The performances by Tom Cruise and Jack Nicholson are stirring, and the photography, with crystal clarity and frequent symmetry in its images, is polished until it shines. For the officers in the story, precision leads to tragedy, but for the film it leads to a triumph of sorts. —CR. *Loews Harvard Square*

★★★½ Homeward Bound

Despite being aimed at a juvenile audience, the latest Disney release about two dogs and a cat travelling cross country to find their family is sophisticated enough to appeal to even a college audience. Michael J. Fox and Don Ameche provide the voices of the two dogs and Sally Field provides the voice of the cat as all three pets think aloud while making their perilous journey. The script is well written and is quite funny overall, despite the corny morals that are presented. The hilarious and amazing footage of the animals in action truly makes this film, though. —JA. *Loews Copley Place*

★★★½ Malcolm X

Spike Lee has translated the complex life of Malcolm X into a fascinating and involving epic which, like most of Lee's work, raises more questions than it does answers. Despite occasional lapses into excess and the omission of some of Malcolm's more incendiary remarks, the film is a well-balanced portrayal of a man who went through many different phases, each flawlessly acted out by Denzel Washington, in an attempt to right the injustices done to blacks. Although the film, like Malcolm, never comes to a truly workable solution, it expresses the racist problems at the roots of society more powerfully than any other recent movie. —CR. *Loews Charles*

★★½ The Muppet Christmas Carol

The latest film featuring the late Jim Henson's Muppets provides a few solid laughs and is a fair version of Charles Dickens' perennial classic, but it is easily the weakest of the four Muppet movies. Michael Caine does a commendable job at playing a straight Scrooge while his more lively artificial costars contrast nicely with the dark London setting. And the movie makes the most it can out of amusing scenes involving singing vegetables, Dr. Bunsen Honneydew and Beaker as charity collectors, and Fozzie Bear as Scrooge's former employer, Fozziwig, but most of the humor comes from the audience's prior knowledge of the Muppets rather than any genuine wit. —CR. *Arlington Capitol*

★½ Peter's Friends

After going two for two with *Henry V* and *Dead Again*, actor/director Kenneth Branagh has made his first disappointing film. A comic drama about six college friends who reunite for the first time in years, the movie is fine when it sticks with its smart sense of humor. Unfortunately, it ventures all too often into smarmy and contrived melodramatic territory as every one of the characters faces some type of crisis. All the performers are good, particularly Emma Thompson and Stephen Fry, but for every extremely funny one-liner there is a scene in which the host walks up to someone and spurts, "Well, congratulate me! I just did X to Y and ruined Z and..." —CR. *Arlington Capitol*

★ Sniper

This may be a movie about military men who shoot at Panamanian drug dealers for a living; but by the time the hero, Beckett (Tom Berenger), delivers an unmoving When-the-Army's-Through-With-Me-I-Can-Fish-In-Montana story, it becomes painfully obvious that the intent of the director is to have a hero with a sensitive, nurturing side. At first Beckett mourns his dead partner by keeping the boots he wore in combat, and later he teaches the ways of the jungle to his new partner, fresh from the DC SWAT team. All of this shows clearly that Berenger should never be cast as anyone who has to be even remotely emotional. —JJ. *Loews Fresh Pond*

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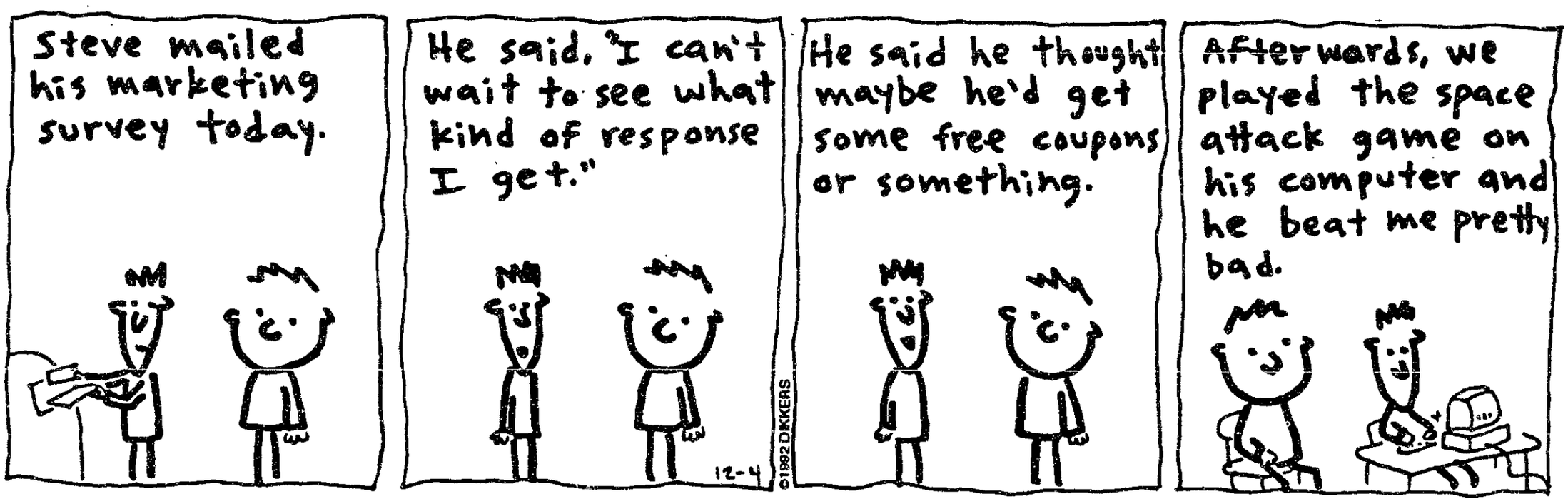
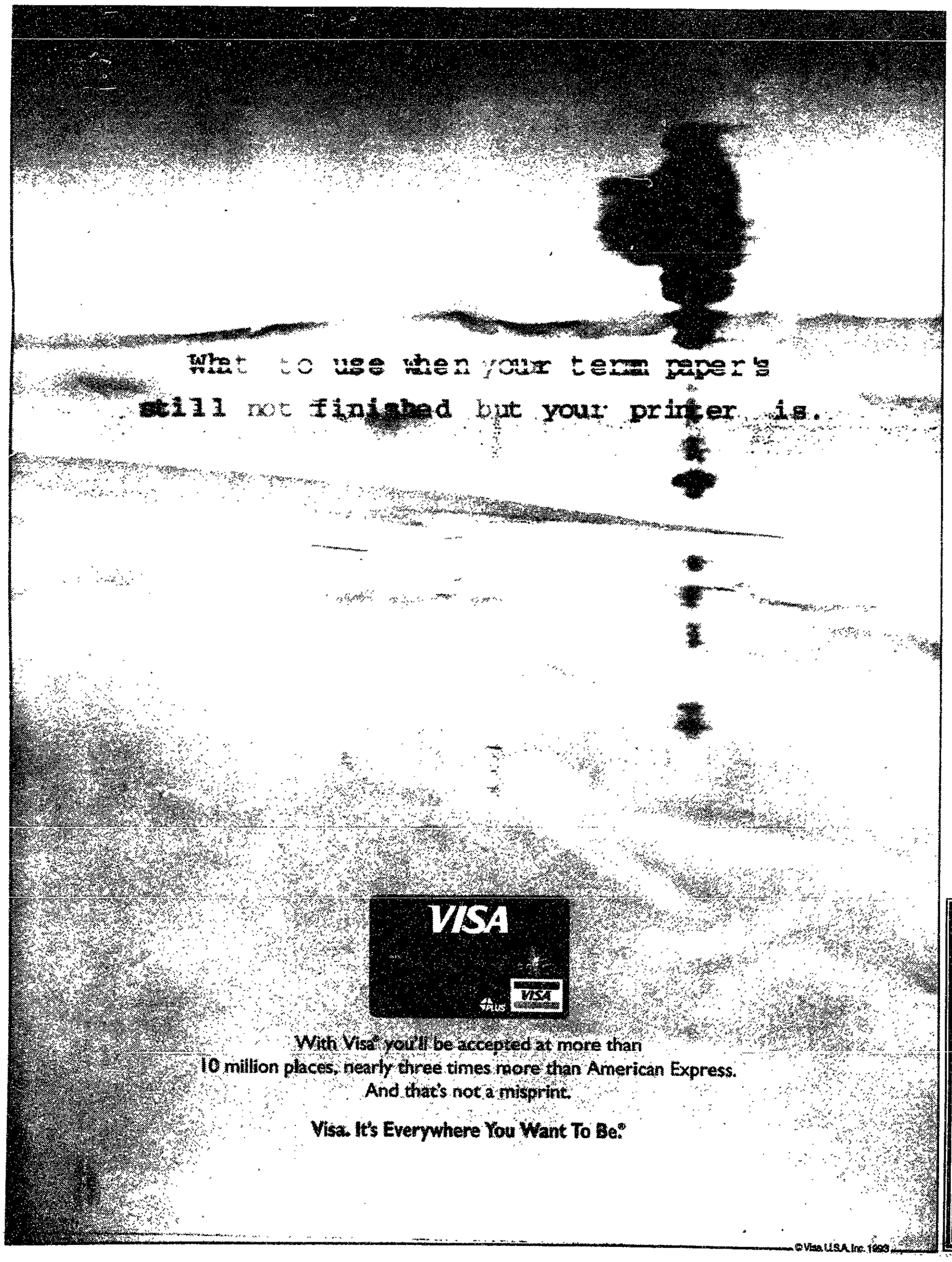
Jim's Journal

by Jim





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City Officials Make New Offer for CASPAR Shelter

CASPAR, from Page 1

The Institute made its new offer last Monday after residents and several members of the city council strongly opposed MIT's original offer to renovate a building in Central Square for a permanent CASPAR site.

The CASPAR shelter has been looking for a permanent location for 19 years. In MIT's new proposal, the Institute offered to build a permanent shelter at 240 Albany St., a site owned by MIT. The shelter has been in temporary trailers there since 1979.

Myers emphasized that the negotiating committee's endorsement is a proposal, not an offer. Nothing is definite "until something is voted on by the council," he said.

The proposal was made after a consensus of the city's negotiating committee. There are three council members on the committee. Myers is chair of the group, which was appointed by the mayor.

No response from MIT

City officials are unsure of MIT's response to the proposal, or if MIT is waiting for a more definite offer. MIT officials could not be contacted yesterday.

"We have not had an official response [from MIT] to date," Myers said. Reeves has been in touch with Vest, he said.

"There are certain things that need to be resolved," said Corinna E. Lathan G, who has been involved in working to help find a permanent site for the CASPAR shelter. "The city's counteroffer takes care of one of those. I had a problem with giving streets to MIT while only leasing the site to CASPAR."

"The premise of [MIT's] first offer was it's an exchange value-for-value," Lathan said. "In general, the reaction to leasing the streets hasn't been good — it's not a value-for-value exchange — but value is a subjective thing," she added.

Christopher S. Stipp G, another student who was active in finding a permanent site for the CASPAR shelter through the now-defunct student group, Homelessness Initiative, said he could see both MIT and Cambridge's points of view.

Cambridge is reluctant to give MIT more land; MIT wants the streets because "we're already using them, and we just want to fix them up," he said. But "it's fair to not give all four streets to MIT, when MIT could have the option of rescinding the lease," Stipp added. He said he understands why the city does not want to "give up all four streets unconditionally" right now.

Close to a solution

Myers said that the city and MIT have moved closer to negotiating a final solution. Because of MIT's latest offer and the counterproposal, a significant amount of progress has been made, he said.

"The fact that MIT has made this land available is unbelievable — it is shocking in a good way," Lathan said. "This offer that MIT made is what people have been working for for 15 years. We've really reached the crucial moment."

"The regrettable thing ... [is] the shelter is being used as a political football," Stipp said. But he did add that MIT's new offer has the "highest probability of anything so far of leading to a productive solution."

Myers said that the March 1 council meeting would be a "plausible date" for the council to vote on MIT's current offer and the negotiating team's counterproposal. Still, he did not want to guarantee anything since there are "remaining issues" to work out.

These remaining issues include the two other items in the proposal.

The proposal asks that "the members of the Committee shall commit to working expeditiously in partnership with MIT on matters currently pending in the City Council," according to the letter.

For the third point on the proposal, the committee recommended that "additional CASPAR health services will be funded by the City," the letter stated.

Myers said the committee proposed "additional funding for CASPAR so we can work actively to make this site a success." This way, the city can "move to the actual siting of CASPAR, which is what we to see," he said.

"It's approaching the proper compromise," Lathan said. One thing that is not clear is that the building is being leased to CASPAR instead of the city, she said. "What would happen if the emergency shelter were to fold? ... Would CASPAR be able to hold on to the lease?"

Students took action

During the 1990-1991 school year, the campus group Homelessness Initiative, "started a campaign on campus to gain awareness about the shelter," according to Stipp. Members circulated a petition asking MIT to offer CASPAR a lease and to build a permanent building." This petition was presented to Vest, and later there was a letter-writing campaign, Stipp added.

Then MIT and the city began negotiations.

Stipp said he is uncertain to what extent Homelessness Initiative's efforts helped start these negotiations. He thinks "it helped because it made the MIT administration more aware that people on campus cared and wanted to see MIT be a good neighbor."

"I like to think maybe we helped speed things up a little bit," he added.

"According to CASPAR, it was our pressure on MIT that brought MIT to the negotiating table," Lathan said. From 1987 to 1990, Massachusetts offered CASPAR a $2.5 million grant to build a shelter if they could find a site. Unfortunately, CASPAR could not find a site during this time period, MIT took no action, and the state retracted its offer, she said.

It was at the end of that time that the Homelessness Initiative put pressure on MIT, Lathan continued. "We were honored at a CASPAR banquet — we claimed it as a victory," she said.

For the petition, 1500 signatures were gathered, Lathan said. Then, the Homelessness Initiative gave a report to the MIT administration in April 1991. The report pointed out that "the only option that's going to work is giving [CASPAR] the 240 Albany St. location," Lathan said.

"It's ironic because we presented a position paper that said eventually what [MIT] will have to do is let the shelter stay on the site because of the politics of the city," Stipp said.

He added, "It worked out that the offer they made was similar to the one we were suggesting."

Lathan hopes that MIT will make a commitment to the shelter and the problem of homelessness. "I'd like to see a commitment of MIT's resources," she said.

"Our primary concern all along was that the shelter have a permanent place," Stipp said. This would help CASPAR serve their clients better, he added.

Students Disapprove Of Russian Cuts

HASS, from Page 1

in Russian IV," Semeka-Pankratova said.

She added, "I have a pool of students who take three or four courses with me and go higher and higher."

This semester, she has over twenty students in Russian Novel of the Nineteenth Century (21.317), which will definitely be kept in the program according to de Courtivron.

Students contest reason for decision

Many students interested in Russian strongly disapprove of the department's decision. Helene D. Grogan '94, who is pursuing a minor in Russian studies, has written a petition to challenge this decision. It has not yet been circulated widely.

The Russian major consists of eight culture, language, and literature classes, six of which will be eliminated next year. "There's not much of a minor or major left," said Lyudmila Tsirulnik '96.

"I think that the administration is making a mistake by getting rid of the advanced level of classes. I was thinking of minoring in Russian, but I heard there won't be enough courses to fulfill the minor unless you have already taken some of them," said Rachel D. Caileff '95.

"The department says the classes are under-subscribed, but it is wrong. Semeka-Pankratova has usually six or more people in her classes. She is popular with people taking Russian. ... It is not fair for the Russian department, which just shows what MIT thinks of a humanities major," Tsirulnik said.

"If you make the Russian department smaller, then even less people will take Russian," said Daniel Katz '94, who also said he will not be able to major in Russian.

It would be a major inconvenience to take courses at Harvard or Wellesley because of time and schedule conflicts, said Tsirulnik. "They should really think about the students. It's not just that the most popular teacher is being layed off. The department is not thinking about students' time or how they will get a major that was promised, but not kept," Tsirulnik said.

Lecturer is well-liked

"One consequence I was upset about was that Semeka-Pankratova is essentially out of a job. She is one of my favorite professors at MIT. She brings so much to her classes because she lived in Russia. It'll be a shame if she had to leave," Grogan said.

"She is the only one qualified to teach the classes. She is a native speaker and got a doctorate from Moscow State University," Tsirulnik said. Native Russian students who have an interest in culture or history now have few options, she added.

Semeka-Pankratova has been analyzing contemporary Russian. "The way they speak Russian now in Russia has changed significantly. With the change in political climate, the language changed so dramatically that it takes even me a while to understand what they are writing about. ... Students need to know contemporary language," she said.

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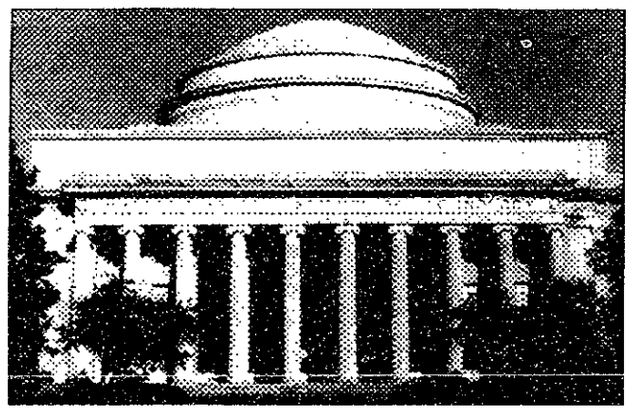

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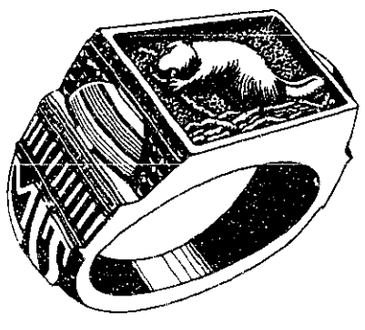

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Vest Emphasizes Cooperation at AAAS Convention

By Michael A. Saginaw
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Hundreds of scientists representing exceptionally diverse disciplines met this weekend at the 159th annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Scientists from around the country lectured and participated in seminars at the Hynes Convention Center and at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston. President Charles M. Vest and 46 other speakers from MIT addressed the group.

The AAAS aims to facilitate cooperation among American scientists and to "increase public understanding and appreciation of the promise of scientific methods in human progress," according to an AAAS news bulletin. In that vein, the annual conference of the AAAS offers an opportunity for members to discuss their latest research in their fields and communicate their ideas to the public via the press. The organization publishes the magazine *Science*.

F. Sherwood Rowland, president of the AAAS, spoke about the role of his organization in helping to formulate national policies. In particular, he discussed environmental problems that the United States has to face, such as ozone depletion and pollution.

"Success in meeting these challenges will require detailed knowledge, scientific knowledge, of all of the branches of the AAAS," Rowland said. Optimistically, he pointed to the example of the Montreal Protocol, which requires all participating nations to stop producing chlorofluorocarbons, the chemicals which cause ozone depletion.

"It is possible to get international cooperation based on scientific information. Perhaps this can be a harbinger of what is to come," Rowland said.

Proponents of a new government agency, the National Institutes for the Environment, discussed more environmental issues. The proposed NIE will review proposals for environmental research and grant funds competitively.

In a series of technical lectures, several researchers discussed progress in making and understanding devices whose dimensions are of nanometer scale. Such tiny devices are currently used to sense the deceleration of cars and send a signal to inflate air bags.

Vest speaks at meeting

Vest spoke on Sunday about cooperation between universities, industry, and the government. He said universities need to teach engineering students more about management.

"I think ultimately, some tuning in our engineering and management education will have a greater effect," than just funding more science and technology research, Vest said.

If universities are to contribute to American competitiveness in world markets, Vest continued, they would have to forge new partnerships with industries.

Vest supported programs in which business employees spend a year at a university. Although the time involved for such exchanges may get in the way of career advancement, Vest said that such problems are solvable if all parties are interested in the exchange, and "such partnerships could serve both the needs of large corporations and small start-up companies."

He cited MIT's "Leaders for Manufacturing Program," in which students spend two years learning how laboratory research gets transferred to final products in private companies. The program is a partnership between MIT and 13 corporations and leads to a masters in engineering and management.

Vest emphatically stated that, "Partnerships of this nature can work!"

He concluded by noting that three-way partnerships between universities, industry, and government will be essential for progress in enormous projects which are currently on the cutting edge of science and technology, such as new global communication networks and smart highways.

Student members participate

Student members of the AAAS participated in this year's annual conference for the first time. A caucus of students from Harvard University and Yale University discussed ways in which they could help improve American science education.

Dr. Joycelyn Elders, the U.S. surgeon general nominee, talked to the students after the caucus. She said that the United States cannot have a healthy population unless it has an educated population, and vice versa. "We have not educated our population on what they can do to improve their own health," she said.

On Thursday, the conference's opening day, the AAAS joined local medical and science centers in sponsoring "Public Science Day," which consisted of activities for 6,500 students from the Boston and Cambridge area.

Among other activities, the students made plastic and crawled through an inflated 25-foot exploratorium to learn about the phases of the moon.

Rowland and William Kiernan, director of the Training and Research Institute at Boston's Children's Hospital, had lunch with 50 disabled children on Friday at the Convention Center.

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Alex Y. Lee '95 fires and Chris J. Sarton '95 prepares the next shot during the MIT Beanpot Shootout, a NCAA Division I qualifer. MIT finished third in the smallbore competition with 4410 points.

Solid Performances By Lyren and Sollod

Gymnastics, from Page 16

ward somersault, for which she was awarded a score of 8.7.

"No falls" routines from Carmel and Sollod highlighted the balance beam competition. Carmel performed back-walkovers and a back-somersaulting dismount beautifully, receiving a score of 7.25. Sollod landed two back-handsprings and a full-twisting dismount for a score of 8.6. Lyren barely even wobbled as she gracefully tumbled and danced on the beam for a score of 9.05.

The floor exercise saw great performances from Jen Moore '94, Carmel, and Kim Cornwell '94. Each had her season's best performance with clean tumbling and strong dance for scores of 6.85, 7.15, and 7.45, respectively. Stephanie DeWeese '95 landed a powerful back somersault in her first tumbling run and earned her personal best score of 7.8, while Sollod had a bit of trouble landing her full-twisting backward somersault but finished up strong with an 8.3. Lyren again had a strong performance as she completed a full-twisting layout back somersault in her third tumbling run and earned an 8.9 for the difficult routine.

Overall, Lyren totaled 35.65 while Sollod earned her season's highest score of 33.4. The MIT women travel to the University of Vermont this weekend to compete against the Division I Catamounts.

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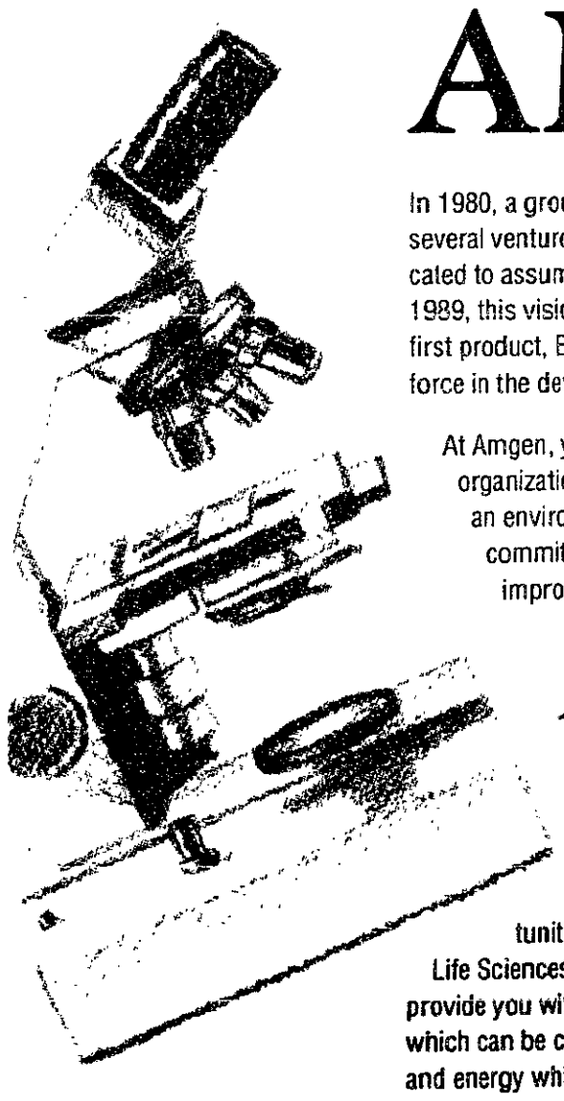

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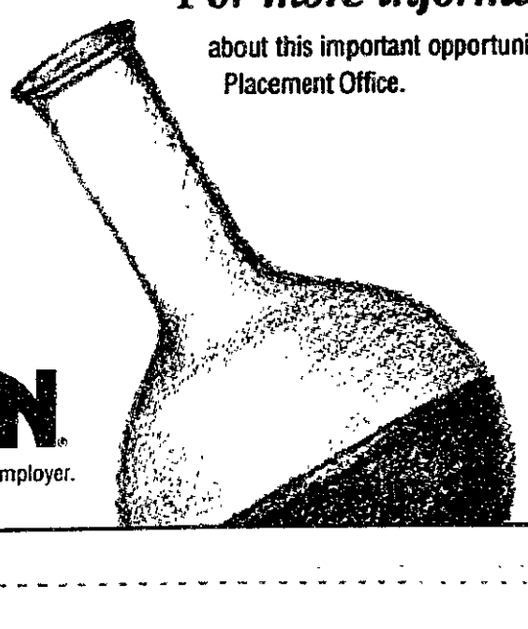

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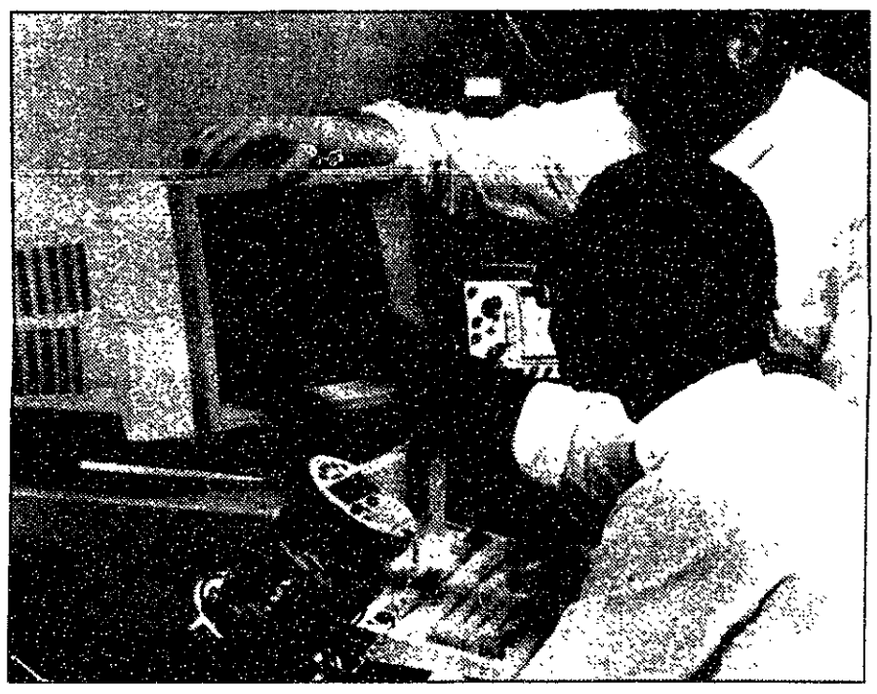

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SPORTS

MIT Hosts Annual CRASH-Bs; Olympians Participate

YUEH Z. LEE—THE TECH

Rowers and ergometers fill Rockwell Cage for the CRASH-B Sprints.

By Dan Dunn

MIT's Rockwell Cage was host to the 1993 CRASH-B World Indoor Rowing Championships on Sunday. Fifteen hundred competitors from more than a dozen countries came to Cambridge to compete on the rowing ergometers, or "ergs."

The erg machine requires great strength and endurance, but very little skill. As a result, indoor rowing is accessible to all athletes, especially cross country skiers and long distance runners.

The MIT boat club had entrics in five of the 11 events. Engineers competed in the men's and women's lightweight and collegiate events, and the collegiate doubles challenge. The first events were all 2500-meters long, while the challenge was 1000 meters.

MIT placed fifth in the Collegiate Challenge. The Engineer time of 3 minutes, 21.2 seconds was 11.8 seconds behind the eventual winner, Harvard University. None of MIT's individual entrants qualified for the finals.

In the master women's event, for women 30 and over, Joanne Ritchie broke her own world record by 13 seconds. Ann-Marie Dryden, of Imperial College of British Columbia, came within 0.8 seconds of breaking the world record for light weight women.

The winner of the open women's event was Helene Cortin of Dunkirk, France. She defeated the American rower Amy Fuller, who was vying for her third consecutive title.

The men's open was won by Matthias Siejkowski of Germany. He held off Jamie Koven of Brown University to win his third title since 1990.

Mathematics professor Hartley Rogers Jr. came in fourth in the men's veteran B event. Between 1982 and 1987, Rogers won the first six championships in the veteran's divisions.

The acronym CRASH-B stands for the Charles River All Star Has-Beens. The group was started in 1982 by a Harvard alumnus. Membership was once restricted to former and present Olympic or national team members, but this restriction has been relaxed over time.

The CRASH-Bs treat the events rather irreverently. The winner of each event does not win a medal, but a hammer. The term "hammer" refers to an oarsman who has a great deal of power, but who is completely lacking in finesse. The group also reserves the right to rewrite the rules so that it can win the overall points trophy every year.

This group has organized the sprints for 11 years, with mounting success. Last year's 16 finalists, included 15 Olympic competitors — five of them gold medal winners. Most of this year's competitors competed at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

Gymnasts Vault Well Against SCSU

By Catherine Rocchio
TEAM COACH

Despite season high performances by Captain Julie Lyren '93 and Janet Sollod '96, the women's gymnastics team lost its meet last weekend to the Division II powerhouse team, Southern Connecticut State University.

SCSU totalled 183.30 to MIT's 154.00 at Saturday's competition. It was MIT's best vaulting performance this year, though. Erica Carmel '96, vaulting for the first time this year, made a beautiful handspring and earned a 7.45 and Karen Oda '93 earned a 7.8 for her vault. Sollod and Lyren both performed their best vaults of the season. Sollod's full-twister earned an 8.55 and Lyren's one-and-a-half twister scored 9.0, taking second place overall on the event.

The Engineers were consistent on the uneven bars with Oda performing a full-twisting dismount, and Sollod had a one-and-a-half forward somersaulting dismount. They recieved scores of 7.5 and 7.95, respectively. Lyren ended the event for the team with a very difficult dismount, a half twisting, back-

Gymnastics, Page 15

Fencing Teams Lose Narrowly to Crimson

By Mark Hurst
TEAM MEMBER

The fencing teams both lost close matches to Harvard University in the Du Pont Gymnasium on Saturday.

The women's team suffered a narrow loss to the Crimson. After sixteen bouts the score was tied 8–8, and the match had to be decided on the basis of indicators, or number of touches, which were scored. The MIT women lost by two touches.

The men's team was also defeated by the smallest margin possible. Although both the sabre and epee squads won 6–3,the foils could only produce one victory , bringing the overall score to a 13–14 loss. Team captain Mark Hurst '94 and epee squad leader Kris Giesing '94 both won prefect three-bout sweeps.

This was the last varsity dual meet of the season, so personal and squad records have been finalized and are being used to determine who will qualify for regional championships in March. Outstanding personal records that will qualify belong to Hurst, Keith Lichten '95, and Charles Baroud '93. The sabres will also travel to regionals as a squad, having ended the season with a 21–4 varsity record.

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PLAYER OF THE WEEK

The Tech player of the week goes to gymnast Janet Sollod '96, who had personal best scores on Saturday both on the vault (8.55) and in the all-around, totaling an impressive 33.4, placing her behind captain Julie Lyren '93.

BLUNDER OF THE WEEK

This week's blunder belongs to the previously undefeated Zeta Beta Tau C league intramural basketball team for its superb defensive effort. In its game last Wednesday against Random Hall, ZBT managed to keep its opponents to a mere 73 points. Considering the fact that C-league games are 40 minutes running time, this performance is really pathetic. However, it seems that the team's woes may be finally over since the season is.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, February 16
Women's Basketball vs. Babson College, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, February 17
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Springfield College, 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 18
Men's Basketball vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 20
Women's Basketball vs. Smith College, 2 p.m.
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Emerson College, 2 p.m.

Write Sports. Call Lynn or Haider at x3-1541.