



STEFAN CARP—THE TECH
Soyoung Jung '00 samples a fine wine during Monday's session of "In Vino Veritas," a popular IAP event now in its 19th year.

Party at ATO Leads To Arrests, Citations

Guests Removed; Most Charges Dropped

By Kristen Landino
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Alpha Tau Omega will face a review by the Interfraternity Council after a New Year's party produced several alcohol related arrests and citations.

One MIT student was cited for underage possession of alcohol at a party at ATO's house and four non-students were arrested. The IFC's review will determine if the fraternity committed any violations that night.

"We're still in the middle of investigating it ... this is a serious issue. It is something we are giving our utmost attention to. We're not going to let the investigation move too quickly and miss something," said Patrick D. Kremer '00, chair of the IFC judicial committee.

Four non-MIT students arrested

Early on the morning of the first, after Cambridge and Campus Police had been to the ATO house several times, ATO members called Cambridge Police to remove four partygoers who were refusing to leave, said Neal Dorow, the Assistant Dean to Residence and Campus Activities.

Allison Gunther, Christopher Roma, David Sullivan, and Kent Gunther, none of whom are current of former MIT students, were arrested outside the ATO house at 2:30 a.m. and charged with disorderly conduct and trespassing.

Charges were dropped on Monday in East Cambridge District Court.

Citations are dismissed, reduced

Originally, two students were issued citations by the Campus Police for serving alcohol to minors. However, the charge against one was dismissed and the other student's charge was reduced to underage possession, after a review by the Dean's Office.

"One of the students was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time," said Associate Dean Carol Orme-Johnson.

Vice President of ATO Christopher J. Brocoum '00 said, "Our position is that we really didn't do anything wrong ... we're very concerned because we feel we have been misrepresented."

"We are upset that everything

ATO, Page 21

Pet Bans Take Hold of Dorms

Bexley, Random Hall To Become Pet-free

By Anna K. Benefiel
and Mike Hall
STAFF REPORTERS

The Institute's recent steps to enforce a long-standing ban on pet ownership in dormitories campus-wide have drawn criticism from members of the MIT community.

On December 8th, following an increase in the number of cats living at Random Hall, House Manager Derrick Barnes announced to Random residents that the Institute would begin enforcement of its policy banning pets from living in Institute housing. The enforcement came shortly after contractors renovating Random's restrooms refused to work, complaining of problems caused by roaming cats, some largely unsupervised. Residents were told in an email from Barnes, "When you go home over Christmas, please take your cat with you and leave it there."

DormCon acts to address issue

Following the Institute's announcements, members of the Dormitory Council accelerated discussion on the DormCon pet policy proposal. While DormCon conceded in the first draft of its proposal that "the presence of these pets creates several problems [for students and staff]," it advocated compromise between students and the Institute on pet ownership, suggesting that portions of dormitories be set aside for pet owners with "physical barriers separating [pet-friendly zones]

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COC Set To Begin Denying Triple Major Petitions

By Sanjay Basu
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

At a faculty meeting late last month, Committee on Curricula Chairman Arthur C. Smith announced a clarification of Institute policy toward triple and double majors.

According to Smith's report, petitions from students requesting a third SB degree will not be granted after next add date, March 3, 2000. After this date, students will also be denied a second SB degree if they have received one SB already. All students majoring in two subjects will therefore be required to petition for both degrees simultaneously.

His report specified that MENG students will no longer be allowed to obtain a second SB if they are not registered as undergraduates at the time they petition for the degree. Other students petitioning for a second SB may need to obtain letters of approval from their advisors if they have GPAs significantly lower than 4.0.

"The new policy requires that the student petition for the second SB degree while still registered as an undergraduate, and that both degrees be completed in a four- or five-year period," said Assistant Registrar Phoebe Minias. "Students whose cumulative average is below 4.0 will need to supply a letter from their advisors specifically addressing the suitability of attempting a second SB"

The report made by Smith at the

faculty meeting constitutes a clarification of Institute policy rather than a change to Institute regulations. Students intending to receive three degrees can still petition for their degrees before March third. Graduate students and returning alumni will not be allowed to obtain second SB degrees.

"In the past, students have been allowed to petition for a second

degree regardless of whether they have completed the first SB, left MIT, or gone on to graduate study at MIT," said Minias.

Unlike many schools, MIT awards more than one degree to students who satisfy the requirements for more than one field of study. Most schools simply provide students with a single diploma listing two fields of concentration.

"In the course of reviewing petitions for multiple SBs, the committee questioned the benefit of pursuing more than two full degrees, particularly now that most science and engineering departments offer minors," said Minias. "The committee also felt that it was inappropriate that students in advanced degree programs be allowed to receive additional bachelor's degrees."

Williams' Resignation Prompts Restructuring

By Rima Arnaout
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Rosalind H. Williams will resign her post as dean of students effective this June, returning to a position in the MIT faculty.

Williams told senior MIT administrators about the decision three weeks ago. "It was not an easy decision, and it was made primarily for personal reasons," Williams said in a printed statement.

"It's my fifth year as dean ... a normal term for somebody who's always planned to return to faculty," Williams said.

According to Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72, no recent events precipitated this decision for Williams to return to faculty. "Dean Williams' decision to step down was hers alone. These jobs are very demanding. They take us away from our scholarship and teaching which is why we all became academics in the first place," Bacow said.

"Roz has been a wonderful dean. We are fortunate that she was willing to put the Institute's students ahead of her own scholarly career for five years ... our current focus on integration of student life and learning is a direct result of Roz's strong leadership and passionate and articulate voice," Bacow said.

Williams is second dean to resign

Williams' announcement comes shortly after the Dean of Student

Williams, Page 19



JAMES CAMP—THE TECH

Dean of Students Rosalind H. Williams will soon be leaving her office in building 7 and her position as Dean of Students.



MacGregor
windows get
screens.

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ARTS

Matt Damon shines in the impressive *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.

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WORLD & NATION

Chechen Men Between Ages 10-60 To Be Detained by Russian Forces

By Daniel Williams
THE WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW

Saying Russian troops have suffered from "tenderheartedness" toward Chechen civilians, Russia's top commander in the Caucasus said Tuesday his forces henceforth will detain all Chechen males between ages 10 and 60 and take them to a holding camp to check whether they have ties to rebel forces.

The declaration, from Gen. Victor Kazantsev, described a broad crackdown by the Russian military and intelligence services designed to curb the rebel incursions on Russian-held territory in Chechnya that in the last two weeks have stripped the Russian offensive of its victorious sheen. This is an important point, Russian commentators said, because the image of a low-cost conflict must be maintained to ensure the anticipated victory of Acting President Vladimir Putin in the presidential vote scheduled for March 26.

Kazantsev acknowledged what he portrayed as mistakes and naivete in the defense of three towns east and southwest of Grozny, the besieged Chechen capital. Among the mistakes, he said, were troops' "tenderheartedness" and "groundless trust" in Chechen civilians. As a result, the Russians did not thoroughly search houses, where presumably guns and ammunition, and perhaps rebels themselves, were hidden, he added.

"Now we are compelled to correct these mistakes," he said. The decision: "Only children aged up to 10 and men over 60, and women, will henceforth be regarded as refugees."

Stowaways From China Reaching Alarming Numbers

By Kim Murphy
LOS ANGELES TIMES

SEATTLE

Their prison was a 40-foot-long metal box, stuffed deep into the cargo hold of a ship. In darkness lit only by flashlights, 18 men sat on old blankets and cardboard boxes. First, they spent five days at the Chinese docks, waiting to be loaded. Then, a three-week journey across the Pacific.

When immigration officers peeled back the container top this week, 15 blinking, sick men crawled out, barely able to stand. Three others lay dead in the mess inside. The air holes in the canvas top showed where some had tried to punch their way out, only to find themselves buried beneath four other massive containers in the hold of the ship.

"They were virtually entombed there," said Sharon Gavin, spokeswoman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. "You had 18 people in total darkness, stuck in this container with their own human waste, exposed to extremely cold temperatures. The people who died may have been dead anywhere from three to seven days, and you're still stuck in the container with them. It's disgusting."

Yet in what is becoming a wave of illegal Chinese immigration on board container ships bound for the West Coast, authorities Tuesday found 19 more stowaways at the Port of Seattle. The arrests, coming just one day after the shipment that left three men dead and 14 others hospitalized, brought to 203 the number of people smuggled in containers over the past year into ports in the United States and Canada.

Employees at AOL HQ Site Dot the Halls with 'Aye'

By Jube Shiver Jr.
LOS ANGELES TIMES

DULLES, VA.

America Online Inc., whose employees work on a huge headquarters campus that was once a British Aerospace plant, remained remarkably laid back a day after their boss announced the biggest merger in U.S. history.

There were no Time Warner banners or balloons littering the hallways of AOL, located 35 miles from Washington, D.C. Most workers paid little attention to television monitors broadcasting ongoing media analysis and any riches they might reap from the blockbuster AOL/Time Warner deal. And the talk at water coolers was more of pride than of celebration — a feeling of redemption for a company whose online service has been derisively referred to as the "Internet on training wheels."

"The immediate reaction was, 'Wow!'" said Jimmy Lynn, director of account services at AOL. "Who would have thought that a little company like AOL would take over Time Warner? I think people who made that comment (about training wheels) are looking at us a lot differently now."

For AOL, the proposed merger with entertainment giant Time Warner caps a transformation of the company from a high-tech oddity — some 2,500 miles from Northern California's Silicon Valley — to the darling of the online revolution. In the process, AOL's 12,000 employees have learned to wear their nerdy image and global marketing aspirations with equal aplomb.

WEATHER

Found: winter

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Today: Expect sunshine. High of 43°F (6°C).

Tonight: Cooling off. Low of 26°F (-3°C).

Thursday: Expect snow. High of 26°F (-2°C). Low about 22°F (-5°C).

Friday: Sunny again. High of 27°F (-2°C). Low of 14°F (-10°C).

Weekend Outlook: Remaining sunny. Highs in upper 20s (around 0°C), lows in mid-teens (-10°C).

Pinochet Too Ill To Be Tried On Human Rights Violations

By Marjorie Miller
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LONDON

Former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet, in British custody for the last 15 months, is too ill to be tried on human rights charges and may be released next week, the government announced late Tuesday.

Home Secretary Jack Straw said an independent team of four doctors who examined the 84-year-old Pinochet last week had concluded that he is "unfit to stand trial" and that his condition is unlikely to improve.

Spain has been seeking Pinochet's extradition from Britain on charges of torture and conspiracy to commit torture stemming from the retired general's brutal 1973-90 rule in Chile, during which more than 3,000 people died or disappeared.

Pinochet has been fighting the extradition with all his legal might in a case that has twice gone to Britain's highest court and has set precedents in international human rights law.

Straw indicated that this was the end of the line. He advised attorneys for Spain and the governments of France, Belgium and Switzerland, which have outstanding requests for Pinochet's extradition, that they have seven days to submit any further petitions. Late Tuesday, the Spanish government said it will respect any decision by the British government on its extradition request.

"Subject to any representations he may receive in the next seven days, the home secretary takes the view that no purpose would be served by continuing the present extradition proceedings," a Home Office spokeswoman said.

The news was not entirely unexpected: Britain had seemed to be looking for a diplomatic solution to a case that had battered relations with both Chile and Spain. A medical determination of this sort allows Straw to send Pinochet home on humanitarian grounds — in response to a request from Chile — without taking sides in the politically charged legal case.

But the timing of the announcement was a surprise. It comes just five days before Chile's presidential election, in which the political left and right are battling for every vote.

After a close-fought campaign in which Pinochet had been largely absent from the debate, his likely return to Chile puts the ex-dictator back on the political stage. The impact on the election is unclear, but Straw's ruling presents a clear-cut victory to Chile's center-left government at a time when Socialist candidate Ricardo Lagos faces a strong challenge from rightist candidate Joaquín Lavín.

On Monday night, the Chilean government issued a statement through Foreign Minister Juan Gabriel Valdés, who praised the British government for the "seriousness" with which it has handled a "delicate issue."

Meanwhile, candidate Lagos reminded journalists that he led the fight to oust Pinochet from power. Although Lagos sounded a compassionate note Monday night, he also pointed out that Pinochet still faces a 53-count criminal investigation in Chile for crimes allegedly committed during his regime.

"All of us who have humanitarian values should have compassion," Lagos said. "(But) a trial in Chile is another matter. I reiterate that this was not a political problem but a judicial matter that evolved into a

human problem. Let's let justice run its course in Chile."

Lavín declined requests to comment on the decision.

Pinochet's daughter, Jacqueline Pinochet, told Chilean journalists that she called London as soon as she heard the news. But she said that Pinochet's aides declined to wake the general or his wife, Lucia, because of his fragile health.

"I give thanks to God; this was the correct decision, I hope that now things will be different," Jacqueline Pinochet said. "I am very excited."

Viviana Díaz, a leader of a group representing Chilean victims of the military regime, expressed disappointment at the news.

"We are very concerned," Díaz decreed. "This is news that we did not expect. It cannot be that Augusto Pinochet will be sent home to Chile because of humanitarian reasons."

Pinochet was arrested at the request of Spanish Judge Baltasar Garçon on Oct. 16, 1998, at a private London hospital where he was recovering from back surgery. He has lived under 24-hour police guard at a rented mansion west of London while his lawyers fought his extradition.

Last week, Pinochet underwent seven hours of medical tests after his own doctors and his personal medical team asserted that he was suffering the effects of a series of small strokes and Chile asked that he be sent home on humanitarian grounds.

Pinochet insisted that he had immunity from prosecution as a former head of state, but Britain's Law Lords twice rejected that argument, sending a message to despots around the world that they cannot commit abuses at home and expect protection abroad.

Court Curtails Federal Power In Age Discrimination Ruling

By Joan Bliskupic
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that state workers who were discriminated against because of their age cannot sue under federal law, in a sharply divided opinion that continues the court's effort to curtail congressional power and could have repercussions for thousands of state employees nationwide.

By a 5 to 4 vote along familiar lines, the justices said Congress lacked the authority to make states liable for the age discrimination complaints of its workers. The ruling was a defeat for the nation's five million state employees and a variety of advocates for older and disadvantaged workers who had been part of the case. While those workers can still seek redress in state courts, the laws and enforcement vary widely around the country.

"The decision sends a message that if age discrimination is a civil right at all, it's a second-class right," declared AARP lawyer Laurie McCann.

But a spokesman for the Florida Board of Regents, which had been sued by a group of older professors, noted that the ruling still permits state workers who face discrimination to sue under the various state anti-bias laws. "The right place for this is with the states," Keith Goldschmidt said.

Writing for the majority, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said that because an individual's age has not

been granted the constitutional protection that race and sex have, Congress had insufficient grounds to override states' usual immunity from federal lawsuits. "Older persons ... unlike those who suffer discrimination on the basis of race or gender, have not been subjected to a history of purposeful unequal treatment," O'Connor wrote.

Overall, the decision marked another stride in the court's quest to diminish the reach of Congress. It was announced, coincidentally, minutes before the court heard arguments in another, more closely watched dispute over federal authority — concerning the 1994 Violence Against Women Act that allows women who have been sexually assaulted to sue their attackers in federal court.

Joining O'Connor in *Kimel vs. Florida Board of Regents* were Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy and Clarence Thomas. Dissenting were Justices John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Steven G. Breyer. That is the same 5 to 4 split that emerged in a series of recent decisions limiting individuals' ability to sue for violations of federal law and on which Tuesday's ruling was based.

Writing for the dissenters, Stevens attacked the majority's larger effort and asserted that, in the age discrimination dispute, Congress was validly overriding the normal protections given states in allowing workers to sue under the Age

Discrimination in Employment Act, which protects workers 40 and older.

"It is ... clear to me that if Congress has the power to create the federal rights that these (older workers) are asserting, it must also have the power to give the federal courts jurisdiction to remedy violations of those rights," Stevens wrote.

The case arose from a trio of lawsuits: three dozen professors and librarians at Florida state universities who claimed they were unfairly denied raises because they were over 40; a guard at a Florida prison who said he lost out on a promotion because of his age; and two professors, aged 57 and 58, at an Alabama state school who said they were denied promotions and pay. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit had ruled that the states could not be sued.

The Justice Department sided with the workers, arguing that the 14th Amendment gives Congress the power to enforce equal protection of the laws.

But the high court rejected those grounds, effectively saying age cases are different from the traditional civil rights relating to race, national origin and sex. The court said that because state employers may differentiate among workers based on age in many situations, it is too extreme to hold them financially responsible in federal court for such decisions. The justices noted that states may favor younger workers if there is a legitimate reason to do so.

Clinton Proposes \$1.3 Billion To Stem Colombian Drug Flow

By Karen DeYoung
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Clinton administration proposed a two-year, \$1.3 billion aid program aimed at stemming the flow of Colombian cocaine and heroin into this country.

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, who announced the package Tuesday at the White House, will travel to Colombia this weekend to explain the proposal to President Andres Pastrana and to consult with him on efforts to gain additional aid from multilateral banks and European allies, said her spokesman, James P. Rubin.

The aid package, if approved by Congress, would vastly increase the U.S. military equipment in Colombia. It includes a request for 30 Black Hawk helicopters and 15 UH-1N Huey helicopters, in addition to 18 Hueys that have already been sent to the Colombian Air Force to carry troops into drug-producing areas.

Senior administration officials said Tuesday they do not expect the number of U.S. military personnel in Colombia, which now fluctuates between 100 and 250, to rise significantly. But they said the U.S. Agency for International Development would beef up its presence.

The administration will ask Congress to approve the bulk of the money, nearly \$1 billion, in an emergency supplemental appropriation this spring, with the rest of the new funding in its fiscal 2001 budget request. Existing aid to Colombia totals \$300 million, bringing the total Bogota would receive over the next two years to \$1.6 billion.

The Drug Enforcement

Administration estimates cocaine and heroin exports from Colombia have increased two- to threefold in recent years and supply 80 percent of the U.S. market.

Past criticism of U.S. policy toward Colombia has come from two directions. Congress members have argued that increased assistance should go to drug-fighting police rather than to the Colombian military. Members also warned against U.S. involvement in the guerrilla war and have raised questions about human rights abuses by the Colombian military.

The Clinton administration argues that since the guerrillas control many drug-producing areas and derive most of their income from taxing drug traffickers, the tasks of combating drugs and fighting guerrillas are intertwined, though the U.S. military aid is to be used only in drug-producing areas.

Barak Reassures Israelis Peace Will Preserve National Security

By Lee Hockstader
THE WASHINGTON POST

JERUSALEM

Returning home to face a gathering political storm, Prime Minister Ehud Barak assured Israelis Tuesday night that any concessions he makes in a peace deal with Syria will be matched by guarantees to protect the Jewish state's security and water sources.

In back-to-back television interviews, Barak acknowledged the formidable and apparently growing public opposition to prospects that Israel might reach a peace agreement that commits it to give back the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in 1967 and home to 17,000 Israelis. But the Israeli leader, projecting self-assurance and resolve, stressed that when there is a deal, a majority of Israelis, including some

of the 100,000 or more who demonstrated Monday in Tel Aviv, will vote yes in the nationwide referendum he has promised to hold.

"I know that if we bring the agreement that I intend to bring, which will strengthen security, bring the boys home from Lebanon, make openings to the Arab world and raise to a higher level the military capability and early warning systems of the army, many, many of these worried people will vote for the agreement," he said.

The Israeli premier also urged Israelis to ignore the demeanor of the chief Syrian negotiator, Foreign Minister Farouk Chaara, who has infuriated people here by refusing publicly to shake Barak's hand.

"It's clear to everybody that even President Assad will have to see us and have to make the deci-

sion and also to shake hands," he said, referring to the Syrian leader, Hafez Assad. "If we can't reach an agreement there won't be any value to the question of whether we sat with him 10 times or hugged him seven times. All this is of minor importance compared to the question of whether it is or isn't possible to guarantee a different future for the state of Israel through regional peace treaties."

Barak spoke on Israel's two major evening news programs barely four hours after arriving at Ben-Gurion airport, following a week of intensive talks in Shepherdstown, W.Va. He returns for the next round of talks in the United States next Wednesday, and the premier clearly intends to use this next week to chip away at the suspicion and opposition to a deal that has mounted in his absence.

Clinton Signs Order Creating Three New National Monuments

BY EDWIN CHEN

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, ARIZ.

With the stroke of a pen, President Clinton on Tuesday created three national monuments in the West, most notably more than 1 million acres on the Grand Canyon's north rim filled with rugged cliffs and ponderosa pines. The action effectively doubles the amount of federally protected land in Arizona.

In addition, Clinton used his executive authority to expand by nearly half the size of the 16,265-acre Pinnacles National Monument south of San Jose, Calif., to protect watershed and wildlife habitat from commercial exploitation.

The White House said Tuesday that Clinton now has designated more land as national monuments in the continental United States than any other president. But some critics were not impressed.

Clinton's designation of the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument provoked strong controversy in Arizona, where Republican Gov. Jane Hull and much of the state's congressional delegation denounced the move as a federal land-grab that ignored local concerns. The new monument also was opposed by hunters, off-road vehicle users and various other commercial interests.

Clinton acted under the auspices of the Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities, a 1906 law that authorizes presidents to set aside lands as national monuments, a status with somewhat more protection than many other federal lands but less than a national park.

To Cut Fire Deaths, Philip Morris Offers Cooler-Burning Cigarettes

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Philip Morris said Tuesday it will test-market cigarettes designed to cut the risks of smoking-related fires, a move that likely will pressure rival companies to make improvements of their own.

Philip Morris said that within six months it will begin offering a test version of Merit cigarettes that will burn cooler than standard smokes, making them less prone to ignite home furnishings. Company officials said tests have demonstrated the experimental cigarettes are 30 percent to 90 percent less apt to cause fabric fires than brands now on the market.

Fire safety advocates, who for more than two decades have fought unsuccessfully to require fire-safe cigarettes, reacted with anger and hope.

It's "a great first step," said Rep. Joseph Moakley, D-Mass., who has been pushing fire-safe legislation since 1979 when a family of seven in his district perished in a cigarette fire. But Moakley added: "I wish it would have happened when I first filed a bill. Twenty thousand people would still be alive."

Cigarette fires kill about 1,000 Americans per year — accounting for one of every four fire deaths — and cause thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in property losses. Many victims are careless smokers who allow burning cigarettes to roll off the lip of an ashtray onto bedding or a sofa, where the cigarettes can smolder at least 30 minutes before flames erupt. But other victims are innocent family members or neighbors, including scores of children.



The MIT
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Council

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phone: 253-2195

website: www.mit.edu/activities/gsc

email: gsc-request@mit.edu

Large Event Funding

DEADLINE: THIS FRIDAY
January 14, 2000

* To obtain a copy of the application: stop by the GSC (50-220) or the UA (W20-401) Offices. Or click on <http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/money>

* For Further information, click on: <http://www.mit.edu/activities/gsc/money>

* Questions? email lef@mit.edu

December- Calendar

12

Housing and Community Affairs Committee Meeting

20

Academic, Research, and Careers Committee meeting

All graduate students are welcome. Food is provided.

* @ 5:30 in 50-220 (above the muddy)

Becoming a GSC Representative

GSC is still looking for representatives from a number of departments, programs, and living groups. Interested? Please contact gsc-officers@mit.edu

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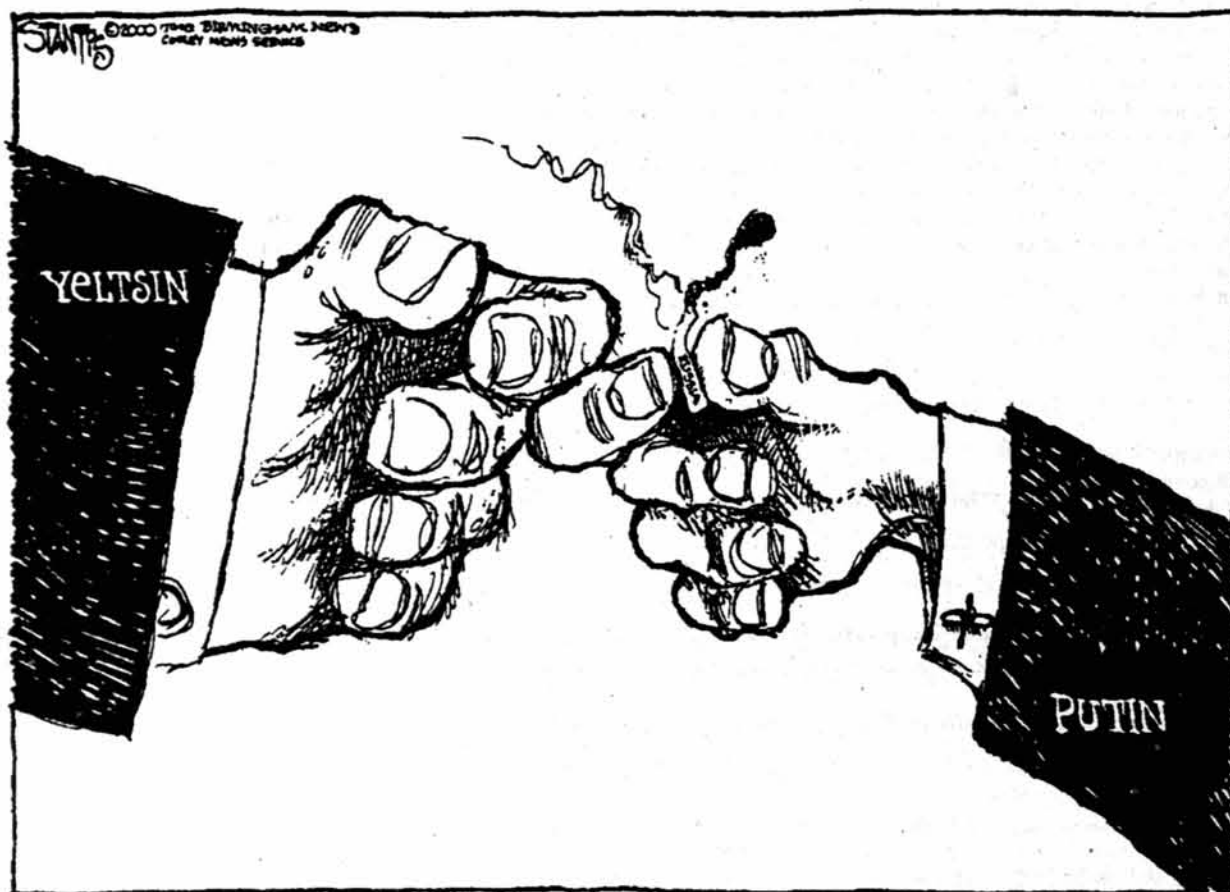
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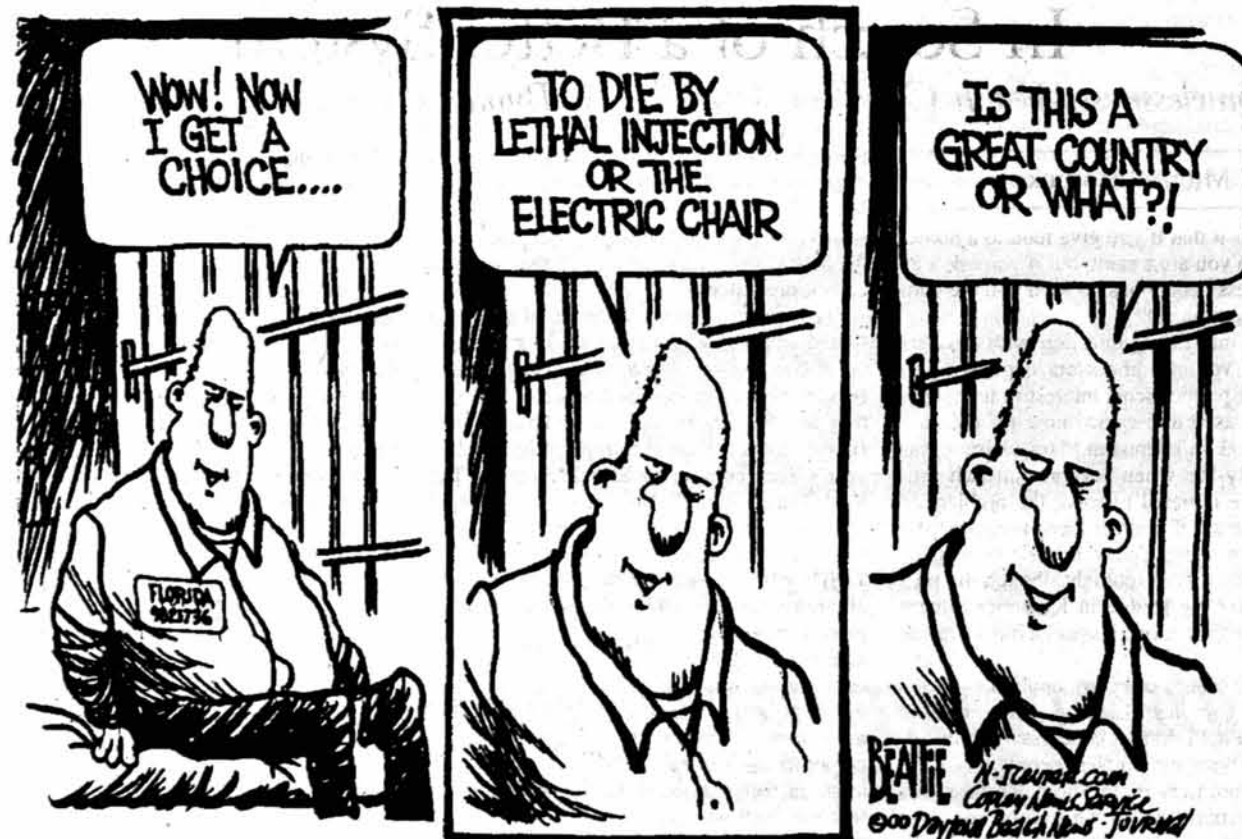
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THE TORCH HAS BEEN PASSED...



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Why Jane Swift Should Resign

Lieutenant Governor's Arrogance, Double Standard Appalling and Unacceptable

Michael J. Ring

Last August, when Massachusetts Port Authority chief Peter Blute was caught spending public funds on his now-infamous "booze cruise," Lieutenant Governor Jane Swift rushed to the cameras to announce Blute's (forced) resignation. "Both the governor and I take very seriously the public trust placed in us and we will not tolerate any breaking of that trust by anyone associated with our administration," she said, and further declared, "utilizing state resources for personal use is not acceptable."

But when Jane Swift wants to spend taxpayer money on her personal use, and use her underlings to run her errands and babysit her daughter, that is her prerogative as the lieutenant governor.

And her response to those who dare question her judgment or lack thereof? "It's not always easy and convenient for me to just pop in and out of errands like it is for everyone else."

Excuse us, Your Majesty.

Last week, Jane Swift got caught with her head too far in the public trough. It was learned she used her staff to run errands and even asked them to babysit. She asked staffers to take vacation days in order to help her move. And she used a State Police helicopter to fly home to Western Massachusetts for Thanksgiving, rather than crawl with her constituents along the Massachusetts Turnpike on one of the busiest travel days of the year.

Swift claims the staffers volunteered as movers and babysitters, and therefore that there was nothing wrong with the practice. Of course, Swift conveniently forgets that when a

boss asks an employee to perform a task, that task cannot be viewed as "voluntary" at all. Staffers eager for a raise or promotion will obviously feel obligated to do whatever the boss demands no matter how tedious or ludicrous the task. Asking state workers to waste their time to do her personal bidding is an ethical lapse on the part of Swift.

Yes, these are minor transgressions. These sins are not perjury or obstruction of justice. An apology, and a check reimbursing the state for the use of the helicopter and lost staff hours, would normally suffice.

But these aren't normal circumstances, for these are not the standards to which Jane Swift has chosen to hold the rest of the administration. Instead she has led the drumbeat to sack state officials doing even a hint of something wrong or unethical.

On a trade mission to Mexico, Massport board member James Carangelo was caught making sexist jokes — an action that was in poor taste but certainly not illegal.

Swift made sure he was not reappointed to the Massport board.

When Blute was caught in the booze cruise scandal, Swift wasted no time in announcing Blute's departure. Although Blute was remorseful and repentant and fully admitted his actions were unethical, and quickly paid back the state the \$800 of Massport funds used to charter the cruise, the lieutenant governor still decided Peter Blute had to go.

Now Swift has misused public funds of her own (the wasted staffer time and cost of using the helicopter is probably much higher than

\$800) and she is unrepentant and unwilling to repay the state for the services she used, but has decided she should stay.

Swift has tried to float two excuses to justify her behavior — the demands of the position of lieutenant governor and the difficulties of the working mother. Neither excuse justifies her actions.

Anyone who knows anything about Massachusetts state government knows the excuse that Swift's job is demanding is laughable. Remember, she says she can't pop in and out of errands like the rest of the world. But the lieutenant governor has exactly one constitutional duty — presiding over meetings of the Governor's Council, an obscure executive body. Otherwise all her job constitutionally entails is waiting for Governor Paul Cellucci to accept a Cabinet post in the George W. Bush administration.

As for the second excuse, Jane Swift is hardly the typical working mother. Swift makes \$75,000 a year as lieutenant governor, and a hefty raise is expected to be passed this year. Further, she has a stay-at-home husband who is able to watch their daughter most of the time. Most of Swift's constituents don't make \$75,000, and yet two-working-parent households in much tighter time and money binds than Swift manage to find child care arrangements.

And finally, remember that Swift has chosen to give these excuses — and argue that she's much more important and her job so much tougher than everyone else — rather than apologize.

Jane Swift's ethical lapses don't rank with those of Nixon and Clinton. She won't be the last politician caught with her hand in the cookie jar. But as Swift was the one who set such high ethical standards so as to cause the removal of two state officials for equal or lesser violations, she deserves to pay the same price for her transgressions. Consistency with her own standards demands nothing less. Jane Swift has lost credibility as a leader, and she should resign as lieutenant governor of Massachusetts.

Jane Swift's ethical lapses don't rank with those of Nixon and Clinton, but as the one who set such high standards as to cause the removal of two officials for equal or lesser transgressions, consistency with her own standards demands nothing less than her resignation.

In Search of a Better System

Homelessness, Wealth Gap Not Acceptable As Byproducts of Free Market System

Michael Borucke

"Why is it that if you give food to a homeless person you are a saint, but if you ask why the homeless person has no food you are considered a communist?"

It's an interesting question with answers that speak volumes about our capitalist culture. In the public arena, interest in homelessness has waxed and waned now for decades. The last peak in interest in Massachusetts was in the early-80s when several outreach programs were initiated to solve the problem of homelessness. Of course, these programs did not solve anything. Today, homelessness is no longer in the public spotlight, though the men living under the bridge in Kenmore Square remind us that homelessness hasn't gone away.

I would like to offer my opinion as to the causes of homelessness and some possible solutions. First I think it is necessary to differentiate the types of homeless people.

In the political realm, homelessness is a fairly partisan issue. The right sees the homeless as lazy bums looking for a hand-out. The left sees the homeless as people down on their luck who just need some help to get back on their feet. There is even another point of view that says homes are a right and not a privilege.

As I see it, there are those who choose to be homeless and those who are forced to become homeless. The former is a curiosity to those of us with a roof overhead. Why would someone choose to be homeless? What could possibly attract people to a life of destitution? Although I do not claim to have any understanding of their motivations, I can hazard a guess. They do not have a home tying them down, they don't have a job they have to work at their whole lives; in a way, these homeless are more free than those of us who have a home, a job, and a car.

Whether you want to look at it as a refusal of responsibility or a tremendous amount of freedom, these people prefer to exist outside of a system the rest of us participate in. They are content being scavengers, surviving off the trash we throw away, and the spare change we put in their cups. Any program created to bring

these homeless back into the system is doomed to failure simply because they do not want to be in the system. The politicians who keep funding the failing programs for the homeless are certain that all that is needed is more money.

The reasons the second group of people is forced to become homeless are less unusual, yet still unsettling. I have to believe the main reason people lose their homes is because they're either unemployed or underemployed. If this is true, then the implication of last year's *Tech* column by Eric J. Plosky ["The Real Thanksgiving", November 23, 1999] is correct when it hints that the free-market system causes poverty.

It's pretty clear that this should happen given a system in which the worker is little more than an expendable wage slave. The continual downsizing of companies and movement of giant corporations overseas, all in the name of capitalism and higher profits, will have no other effect on the worker but to take away his job and eventually his house.

As an example of how small a consideration the worker has become, consider an article published a few weeks ago in *The Boston Globe* on the multi-billion dollar merger between Exxon and Mobil. The entire article was devoted to the corporate merger. Only at the last sentence, and then only in passing, was it mentioned that 10,000 to 12,000 workers would be laid off as a result of the merger.

Will other work be found for them? Will they be able to pay their mortgage? Who knows? You're not supposed to care, anyway. All you should care about is how this will affect gas prices. For all the touting of capitalism as the greatest economic structure ever created, every American must admit that it cannot provide a minimal standard of living for a not insignificant percentage of the population. And we come to the question of

whether there is any system better than capitalism; whether there is a system in which every able-bodied person could find work if she so desired.

I think such a system would put the worker before the boss or the corporation. After all, it is the worker who produces, and it is the worker upon which the boss is dependent. Call it socialism or communism, it seems much more democratic to take the power from the corporations and give it to the masses.

So what can be done about the problem of homelessness? Well, if you believe that capitalism is the pinnacle of human existence, then your only course of action is to throw your hands up in the air, whine about welfare, and buy some khakis with your parents' credit card.

If nothing can be better than capitalism, your options are to accept it, or revert back to some antiquated, less civilized way of life. If you're middle class, you can accept this choice easily enough. If you're upper class, you tenaciously cling to it since that is the structure in which you are elite. If you're in the lower class, however, you might find it interesting that in the greatest possible human society, you are subjected to poverty.

However established it is, the notion that the current structure should simply be accepted as the best alternative is laughable. That concerned people should believe downsizing and layoffs to be inalienable truths of mankind is ridiculous. An expanding lower class and shrinking middle class is not a consequence of our being an advanced civilization, it is a consequence of our being a society driven by money. As far as the amount of guilt those of us should feel in having nice holiday dinners, I can't say. I know that our participation in this corporate culture is an approval of the present structure and therefore makes us all at least somewhat responsible for the current state of things.

That concerned people should believe downsizing and layoffs to be inalienable truths of mankind is ridiculous. An expanding lower class and shrinking middle class is not a consequence of our being an advanced civilization, it is a consequence of our being a society driven by money.

By The Numbers

Kris Schneer

Congratulations! You have now entered the third millennium. Or have you?

Come to think of it, which century is this? Or are we back in 1900? And what should we call this decade?

It's been difficult to keep track of the time lately, due to the media frenzy over numbers. The end of last year was a time of constant attention paid to one mistake, and little attention paid to two others. The famous one, of course, was the "Y2K Problem," caused by a lack of foresight by computer programmers. Rather than treating it as a simple computer glitch, some people blew the error slightly out of proportion, stockpiling food (and sometimes ammunition) in anticipation of civilization's imminent collapse. These patriotic Americans surely helped our nation's fledgling Internet commercial sector; they will do so again when they go to eBay to auction everything off. Look for bargains on canned food and weapons. Some religious groups, traditional and New Age alike, also capitalized on the phenomenon of nines becoming zeros.

As Scott Adams wrote, "The Lord works in mysterious ways, but he uses a base ten counting system and likes round numbers."

But the very fact that the word 'millennium' has been overused recently ... can be blamed on one man: Dionysius Exiguus.

Especially given the Y2K bug, what better year could a sect designate as having special mystical significance?

Despite the failure of apocalypse to happen on schedule, there are rumors of a few Y2K-related problems cropping up. Supposedly, one man was assigned jury duty for 1900, another faced a very large late-return fee at a video store, and some government automobile-registration computers classified '00 model cars as "horseless carriages." We can continue to blame shortsighted programmers for the Y2K problem, but we will of course leave the Y10K problem for others to deal with.

But the very fact that the word "millennium" has been overused recently by a factor of several thousand can be blamed on one man: Dionysius Exiguus. Around the year 523, he started the modern custom of numbering the years with reference to the birth of Jesus, with year AD 1 being his birth year, and 1 BC being the year before. There were several problems with this system. Dionysius was not familiar with the idea of a number between -1 and 1, and to this day we therefore have a calendar with no zero year. Because the "first millennium" began in year 1, not 0, the millennium ran from 1 to 1000 and not 0 to 999. The "third millennium," then, begins in 2001, not the more psychologically pleasing 2000.

Last December's global celebration of mathematical inaccuracy was off by even more than a year, because of Dionysius' other error. Jesus' birth is now estimated at 7 BC, and was probably before 4 BC. So it would actually be appropriate to call the present year 2007 — or 2006, if we add a zero year — and we could have been through with this millennium business years ago!

Presumably, people will start listening to the no-year-zero argument this year, giving them an excuse to throw turn-of-the-millennium parties twice in a row. The idea of adjusting the whole numbering system will probably be less popular.

Even if we can agree on what year (2000), century (the 20th), and millennium (the second) we are in, there are still some unsolved questions about what to call them. One issue is the era name. The old "Before Christ (BC)" and "Anno Domini (AD)" names, which make little sense for non-Christians to use, are now facing competition from the modern "Before Common Era (BCE)" and "Common Era (CE)." Some radicals have even proposed basing the calendar on modern math, making 1 BCE into 0, 2 BCE into -1, and so on. And then, what should we call the next decade? "The Zeros" seems like the best choice (although it does not include the year 2000), but we could also use "nulls," "noughts," "oh's," or (most entertainingly) "nothings."

However severe (or not) the computer problems turn out to be, and whatever terminology we use, the next decade, century, and millennium are certainly going to be interesting.

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FEATURES

Viewpoint

Where is your favorite spot on campus?

"The music library"
Derrick W. Ang '01



"I like Kresge Oval. That's the first thing I saw when I came to MIT, and I decided to come here because of the grass. We don't have too much grass in Manhattan."
Caroline M. Purcell '02

"The SIPB office."

Alex Rolfe '01

"The newly renovated architecture area near the Dome Cafe. It has a very fresh feeling to it. The space is very open"
Jennifer Lee '02



"I like the weight room."
Marc H. Coumeri G

"Killian Court"
Jeff H. Chuang G



This Week in MIT History

By Aaron Mihalik
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

During the second week of January 1970, tensions caused by the expulsion of Mike Albert '69, an undergrad student involved in a radical political campaign against war research at MIT, lead to an unprecedented level of student protests at MIT.

Mike Albert was elected UA president in March 1969 as a write-in candidate. From the beginning Albert was surrounded by controversy. Although he won the election in the actual voting, he could not initially take office because there was some confusion on whether he was officially registered as an undergraduate student. Former UAP Maria Kivisild '69 had to step in and decided that Albert was a registered undergraduate and could therefore take the position.



Mike Albert '69

One of several points on Albert's platform was "an end to war related research at MIT and the discontinuation of co-operative war research programs with other corporations." Albert was heavily involved with the Science Action Coordinating Committee and other student groups that protested MIT involvement in war related research. Among the groups demands were that MIT discontinue work on MIRV's, all-weather helicopters, and the ABM's that were to be used in the Vietnam War.

Eventually, Albert lead several protests that caused the Committee on Discipline to recommend that he be "required to withdraw for disciplinary reasons." On January 8th, 1970, Albert received a letter from President Howard Johnson that effectively terminated his status as an undergraduate at MIT. More protests began to ensue after the expulsion of Albert. The campus was littered with graffiti that called for "Amnesty for Mike" and a length of pipe with an undisclosed message was thrown through one of Johnson's windows.

Also, protesters forcefully took control of President Howard Johnson's office. Using a battering ram to break through locked doors, students stormed into Johnson's office and occupied it for 34 hours. What eventually lead to the occupation of Johnson's office began as a rally in Lobby Seven on Thursday afternoon. Approximately 250 people participated in the rally. During the rally, Paul Sullivan '71 gave a speech and used the Albert as an example of the suppression of "the Movement" by the MIT administration. Sullivan told the rally audience that the way to fight oppression is "by throwing it off now."

battering ram and broke down the unguarded door to Johnson's office.

The demonstrators were at first hesitant about entering the office, but the number of students in President Johnson's and Corporation Chairman James Killian's offices swelled to 100 within fifteen minutes.

The faculty, meeting in an emergency session shortly after the office takeover, overwhelmingly passed a motion condemning the forcible occupation of Johnson's office and called for disciplinary action against those involved. A motion to set up a group to negotiate with the occupiers was defeated. The faculty also discussed the demands made by the occupiers. These included reinstating Mike Albert, rescinding all past discipline and abolishing the Committee on Discipline.

Provost Jerome B. Wiesner, who presented this ultimatum from the occupiers, concluded by saying that he told the radical groups that he had neither the authority nor the inclination to grant the demands. At the faculty meeting President Johnson, responded to the radicals' actions by saying: "One thing I will not do is negotiate on the basis of an ultimatum or the occupation of an office."

The occupiers left voluntarily at 10 p.m. Friday night. No police were called. The occupiers left chanting and singing. The revolutionaries, now numbering 75, marched to the student center to plot their next move. Associate Provost Paul Gray delivered the following statement to the press on behalf of Johnson: "The group of students and non-students who battered their way into my office have gone. They went in with an ultimatum of non-negotiable demands. They left with nothing." He also noted that "MIT's faculty and students refused to support threats and violence as a way to accomplish change in this Institution" and that "had the occupation continued, we were ready to call in the civil authorities."

By midnight, the group of protesters had reconvened and marched towards Johnson's house. Although there was a minor scuffle between the protesters and campus police, nothing noteworthy came of that evening. The following week, MIT applied to the Third District Court of Eastern Middlesex for the issuance of complaints against 31 persons involved in the office occupation.



Four hooded men used this battering ram to break through the door to President Johnson's office. Demonstrators avoided trying to force another door guarded by Campus Police.

TechCalendar

TechCalendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the TechCalendar web page.

Visit and add events to TechCalendar online at <http://tech-calendar.mit.edu>

Thursday's Events

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. — **Renaissance Fencing Demonstration/Workshop.** We will be discussing fencing as it is treated before the 1600s, in the work of Giacomo DiGrassi and/or Joseph Swetnam. This will most likely be a demonstration and discussion. La Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Society for Creative Anachronism.

Friday's Events

9:00 p.m. — **Potluck Performance Art Party.** AKA show and tell. Bring video, poetry, slides, anything to read, show, perform and/or consume. N52-115. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

Saturday's Events

8:00 p.m. - 12: a.m. — **An Evening in Paris.** An extravagant evening of dancing and music of both latin and ballroom styles. Dress to impress! Delicious refreshments will be served. Admission 8.00. Morss Hall, Walker. Sponsor: MIT Ballroom Dance Team.

Tuesday's Events

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. — **The Future of Sustainable Energy Research & Education.** Latest results from the Alliance for Global Sustainability project "SESAMS" will be presented followed by a discussion of new research directions. Beverages and snacks provided. Admission 0. E40-496. Sponsor: Energy Laboratory.

Wednesday's Events

2:30 - 5:30 p.m. — **China Energy Technology Program.** This CETP Forum will present this ABB/AGS program's approach to finding sustainable energy solutions for Shandong Province. AGS and Chinese speakers invite input from participants. Admission 0. E51-149. Sponsor: Energy Laboratory.

6:00 p.m. — **Capital Markets Outlook for 2000** Monthly program for entrepreneurs with speakers and technology-oriented companies focused on the issues of building and growing the business. Students: Free; \$10/Forum members; \$15/non-members. Open. More info: Call MIT Enterprise Forum/Camb at 253-8240. Email mitefcmb@mit.edu. Web: <http://www.mitforum-cambridge.org>. Rm 10-250.

IAP Activity of the Week

By Katie Allen
STAFF REPORTER

This is the second in a series of articles profiling interesting or unique IAP activities.

The MIT Investment Challenge, held by the Sloan School of Management, is a series of investing lessons given by experts including Alfred Berkeley, president of the Nasdaq Stock Market, Thom Calandra, editor in chief of CBS Market Watch, Steve Saulnier, online investing expert and seminar instructor from Charles Schwab, and many others. These lessons culminate in a three-month investment competition, sponsored by investment giants such as Merrill Lynch, Janus, Vanguard, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, and JP Morgan. The event participants create a mock portfolio to compete for a \$1,000 cash prize.

This is the first event of its kind at MIT, and the idea of investment lessons preceding a competition is also novel. According to organizer Sam Jahanmir '01, "Our goal in creating the MIT Investment Challenge is to provide students of all majors with an exciting introduction to investing and personal finance. We feel that the time has come for an event such as this. With the increasing popularity of online investing, the financial markets are more accessible than ever before. And now, there is an entire population of new investors eager to learn more, and an even greater number wanting to explore investment and finance for the first time." Over 350 students have pre-registered for the program.

The event begins Monday, January 17, in 10-250, and the lectures continue through Friday, January 28. For a complete schedule and to register, check <http://web.mit.edu/investors/www>.

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THE ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

VooDoo Party

Entertainment Through Eccentricity

By Dan Katz
STAFF WRITER

Question: What happens when a humor magazine puts together a concert party? Answer: You get one of the most bizarre collections of bands and other performers ever to gather in La Sala De Puerto Rico. Friday's VooDoo Party was mainly structured around local and national music acts, but interim performances ranged from improvised cacophony courtesy of the VooDoo Noise Rock Band and the spectacle of a clown-suited Dan Goode '01 juggling knives to Matt Malchano '01 proudly singing along to the MIT Marching Band's first (and potentially last) rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." While these acts were primarily intended to kill time, many of them provided the party's most memorable moments.

Acid Wench opened the show with a set of relatively traditional metal songs, supported by appropriately crunchy guitars and a growling lead vocal. While their performance wasn't all that groundbreaking, the band did add some clever touches, such as miking a barely audible microrecorder and playing recognizable melodies in the middle of a bass solo.

After the generally slow pacing of Acid Wench's part of the show, Providence-based punk band Arab On Radar proceeded to rip the lid off the room with their unique approach to music, which generally consisted of incredibly rapid cymbal-driven drumming, repetitive guitar licks, and terrifying screams, accompanied by ghastly facial expressions. While one could argue that Arab on Radar's songs were anything but memorable, the musicians themselves were spellbinding, and the chaotic result was strangely artistic.

The wild and reckless mood of the evening continued as The Children In Heat, Tau Epsilon Phi's Misfits tribute band, took the stage. Popular around the MIT party circuit, the quartet showed a clear mastery of their instruments and material; however, I'm not personally a fan of the Misfits catalogue, and beyond that the Children had little to offer. In all fairness, though, their set was very well received. Ironically, the next group, Chicago's Today Is My Super Spaceout Day, created an interesting sound-

scape I wouldn't have expected from a guitar trio, but they didn't seem to capture the interest of the audience. While they pumped out songs with catchy rhythms and cool guitar lines, most of the crowd, who had been moshing throughout The Children In Heat's set, decided it was time to get food and mingle. It was a shame more attention wasn't paid to a surprisingly impressive performance.

All eyes were on the stage again, however, for the entrance of Jim's Big Ego. JBE illustrated why they are one of Cambridge's favorite local bands with a set that swerved

from "Porno Plots" (a funky number that's about precisely what it sounds like it's about), to their current hit "Y2K Hooray," to upbeat songs incorporating lines from Godsmack's "Whatever" and Limp Bizkit's "Nookie," and an impromptu poetry reading of lines scribbled by the crowd onto napkins. While some of the more punk-oriented attendees seemed to find the band's light Fruvous-esque approach a bit sugary and grumbled a lot, the majority of the people in attendance were highly entertained.

Finally, everyone gathered around the stage in anticipation for the final act of the evening: Wesley Willis, who is visually possibly the most intimidating human being on the planet. Slowly sitting in front of his keyboard, the 320-pound schizophrenic (yes, that's what I said) proceeded to announce the name of his first song, which I will not even attempt to have printed here. Over the course of about an hour, Willis played nearly identi-

cal songs backed by various automatic rhythm settings on his keyboard with little or no additional musical content ... and the crowd ate it up. Some viewers found the performance stupid, others enjoyed it at first but got bored by the repetition, and at least a few people were audibly concerned for Willis himself. However, most of the room was like putty in Willis's hands, and, as he closed with his closest thing to a hit, "I Wupped Batman's Ass," people flooded the stage and danced along.

Aside from just being a fun night, the VooDoo party taught a valuable lesson: weirdness is entertaining. Between the minimalist ponderings of Wesley Willis, the odd-ball covers of Jim's Big Ego, and the tortured visages of Arab On Radar that will haunt me until the day I die, VooDoo stocked its stage with things you just don't see every day. And the less you have seen of something, the less you want to look away.

MUSIC REVIEW

Inspired By Y2K

Dan Emery Mystery Band and Jim's Big Ego

By Fred Chol
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Although artists will always have the eternal themes of love, war, and angst to write about, many of them also take advantage of more mod-

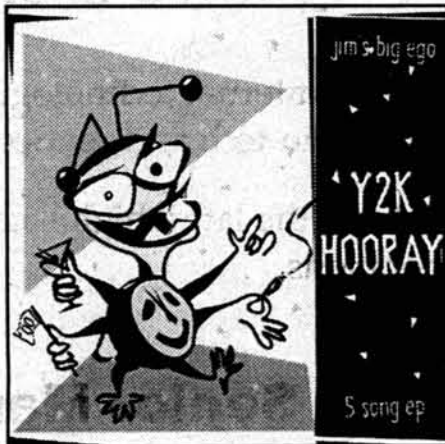
ern subjects such as the Internet, global warming, and the invention of the electric razor as the inspiration for new songs. The Dan Emery Mystery Band and Jim's Big Ego are two bands who have tackled the world's favorite millennium dilemma, Y2K: the former on a two-track promotional single entitled Y2K and the latter on a five-track EP called Y2K Hooray.

Each single showcases its Y2K track and includes a preview for each band's forthcoming album.

Although Dan Emery and Jim Infantino, the masterminds behind the Dan Emery Mystery Band and Jim's Big Ego, have simi-

lar senses of humor, they take entirely different spins on Y2K in their title tracks. The Mystery Band's "Y2K" (available for download at <http://aperock.home.mindspring.com/apemusic.htm>) is a multi-thematic song that aptly features the band's strongest characteristics as observed in their release *Love and Advertising* (reviewed in *The Tech*, V119, N12). For one thing, the band once again finds hilariously creative analogies that border on metaphysical conceit. They also slyly mix frivolity with heartfelt honesty so skillfully that the song's path — from thoughts on Y2K to a desire for companionship to thoughtful

musings on mortality and the end of an era — never seems contrived or illogical. Most importantly, however, the song also has catchy music that, while not the most potent among their tunes, fully supports and aids the lyrics.



In contrast, Jim's Big Ego's *Y2K Hooray* (available for download at <http://www.bigego.com/sounds.html>), which is included in both studio and demo versions on the EP, concentrates solely on commenting on the Y2K phenomenon and somewhat morbidly reveling in the imagined havoc that was going to ensue. The song features an interesting drum loop (by Lionel Cassin) and backup vocals reminiscent of the chorus of bugs in Fox's animated version of *Anastasia*. However, like their performance of the song at the VooDoo party, "Y2K Hooray" is not as immediately appealing as most of their other tunes.

Jim's Big Ego's single also includes a live performance entitled "Smells Like Big Chinos." Those who were present at the VooDoo party will recognize the band's knack for imitating other groups and juxtaposing unlikely styles to great effect in this seven minute track. Here, the lyrics to the classic campfire song "Kumbaya" are interwoven with the lyrics and the tune of Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit," and then combined with a silly spiel about "My Pair of Big Chinos" before the song finally segues into a rollicking accelerated version of the Bee Gees' "Stayin' Alive," complete with chimpanzee yells near the end. As recorded on the disc, the live performance loses a lot of the spontaneous humor that was so evident at their recent student center performance, so one is likely to appreciate the track only the first few times.

By far the two best tracks of the CD are "Ahead of the Curve" (a demo version of the song that appears on JBE album *Don't Get Smart*) and "Stay in Love," the preliminary mix of a track which will appear on their forthcoming album. "Ahead of the Curve" is an admirable song in every way. Lyrically, it moves forward with great eloquence, while perfectly conveying the character of the narrator in all his amusing arrogance. Moreover, the song has fantastic, toe-tapping music, to a very impressive degree of complexity. The verse, which is in 4/4, the chorus, in 4/4 and 3/4, and then the lead-in back to the verse, in three bars of 2/4, all flow completely naturally and provide the song with a wonderfully fresh sound. This track and "Stay in Love" achieve their purpose in strongly recommending the band's other releases.

Likewise, "Downloading Smut," the second track on The Mystery Band's single, hints at what's to come on their forthcoming album, *Natural Selection*. As in their live version, the track includes funny lyrics, a great hook, a funky keyboard solo (by band member Steve Espinola), and a seemingly uncomplicated subject, but with a punch line about censorship that gives added drive to an otherwise frivolous song. In addition, the track features a denser, generally stronger sound than most of what appears on *Love and Advertising*, perhaps reflecting the band's increasing comfort in playing together.

MUSIC REVIEW

State of the Airwaves

Guided, Guster, and Glycerine

By Dan Katz
STAFF WRITER

Happy Wednesday, kids, and welcome to yet another dead concert week. Only two shows are really worth my recommendation over the next seven days, and together they're the Airwaves Show Of The Week: a two-night stand of old-school indie rock at the Middle East, brought to you Monday and Tuesday by Guided By Voices. Mainstays on college radio stations around the country, the Dayton-based band are known for playing long and energetic sets, and most veterans of their live shows attest that it's an experience worth ... um ... experiencing. You see? The lack of live music this month has destroyed my vocabulary. At least there are shows from They Might Be Giants, Violent Femmes, and Guster in the near future.

I suppose we were about due this month for another punk-outing. Every now and then, a punk or ska band puts out a catchy single with a poppy harmonic chorus, all the radio stations start picking it up, and suddenly all the band's old fans start labelling them sellouts for finally succeeding. It happened with Reel Big Fish, it happened with Blink-182. Your next victim is the Suicide Machines, whose new song, "Sometimes I Don't Mind," even has the requisite goofy video to go along with its appeal: the day of a life of a dog, artfully portrayed by a guy in a big, stupid-looking dog suit. Don't be surprised if you hear a couple more songs from these guys, and then you hear a lot of people complaining about "how good they used to be back in the day."

It's "Glycerine II." Bush's newest single off *The Science Of Things* continues an admirable effort to abandon their grungy Nirvana-soundalike roots. "The Chemicals Between Us" took the band's rock sound and added dissonance and a synthesizer edge. Now "Letting The Cables Sleep" reassesses the sadly romantic ballad territory the band breached with "Glycerine," this time incorporating a more unique guitar tone, a more dynamic melody and strings section, and most importantly, more than four chords. To top it off, the lyrics in the chorus ("Silence is not the way, we need to talk about it, heaven is on the way, we'll wrap the world around it") are a lot more sophisticated than "Glycerine, Glycerine." At this rate, by summer I may actually admit to liking this band.

There are a couple more nifty new releases off previously released albums: Joydrop decided make me happy by releasing my favorite song of their album, *Metasexual*, a terrifically catchy song called "Spiders" that highlights the band's ability to meld terrific guitar lines with cool, atmospheric rhythms. Like their last single, "Beautiful," this one threatens to stick in your head for hours. Also, Powerman 5000's "Nobody's Real" has been on the radio for a few weeks now, but it deserves a mention for two reasons. First, it manages to follow up one of the best singles of the year, "When Worlds Collide," and not be a horrific disappointment, and second, its video manages to blatantly mimic the cut for "When Worlds Collide" in its science fiction theme, right up to having the band's lead singer shoot laser beams out of his hand, and still look fresh. How does a band that should be lost in the shadow of its frontman's brother (Rob Zombie) keep raising the bar like this?

So my column just barely made deadline last week. Apparently the Essential Vegetarian was ready to leap onto my dead body and brag about how she made print the first week of IAP and I didn't. But I snuck in under the wire and foiled our carniphobic friend's poorly planned attack; clearly she had no faith in the awesome and immortal power that is *State of the Airwaves*. (Perhaps the tofu has gone to her head.) Just another reason Katie Jeffreys is leading in one of the categories of the (drumroll) Airwaves Reader Awards! I'm still taking votes for the Best Single, Best Album, Best Live Act, Best Local Act, Best Music Video, and Most Annoying Personality of 1999. Remember, my readership is dismally small, so your vote could count even more than you think it does! Make your opinions known!

That should do it for this week. Yes, you can feel the withdrawal setting in already, can't you? Seven days without *State of the Airwaves* ... But you can curb those symptoms by making your thoughts part of *State of the Airwaves*! Just send your picks, pans, raves, rants, corrections, contradictions, and sexual propositions to airwaves@the-tech.mit.edu. All my mail gets read (provided it's in English) and your feedback matters to me. Until next week, get in on the mystery hunt this weekend and keep expanding your horizons.

FILM REVIEW

Magnolia

Overripe and Wilted

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

ARTS EDITOR

Written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson

With Melora Walters, John C. Reilly, Philip Baker Hall, Jason Robards, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Tom Cruise, William H. Macy, Julianne Moore, Melinda Dillon, Jeremy Blackman, Michael Bowen

There are indulgent films, and there are over-indulgent films, and then there is *Magnolia*. Paul Thomas Anderson's (*Boogie Nights*) sprawling movie devoted to one day in the life of several unhappy residents of San Fernando Valley. There are no scenes here: only narrative climaxes. No characters: only schematic walking bundles of stress. No story: only a grandiose — albeit frequently entertaining — mess.

The trailer for *Magnolia* consists of split-second takes of all the plethora of the film's characters, each labeled with a convenient tag. In these thirty seconds, I learned more about

all these people than during the film's three hour span, and in my head all the characters can be neatly summarized in a word or two. The movie merely adds the connections between them, mostly jaw-droppingly obvious parallels between the lost folks that populate this world.

Magnolia's characters include two elderly men (Jason Robards and Philip Baker Hall), both dying of cancer, both trying to reconcile with their estranged offspring (one has a daughter played by Melora Walters and another has a son played by Tom Cruise), while their alienated wives (Julianne Moore and Melinda Dillon, respectively) try to deal with what's going on in their husband's lives. There's also another father-child pair, namely that of a quiz show child prodigy (Jeremy Blackman) and his unfeeling father (Michael Bowen), just to show what is at the root of such paternal-filial riffs already amply demonstrated by the two other families. There's another parallel to the child prodigy, namely his counterpart of twenty years ago, now all grown up, and, of course, solitary and miserable (William H. Macy). Finally, in order to slightly alleviate the story's fearful symmetry, there are two characters who are actively trying to establish some human contact (as opposed to the rest of them, who wallow in isolationism): a kindly but klutzy police officer (John C. Reilly) and a compassionate male nurse (Philip Seymour

Hoffman).

During the film, they basically run around, with every moment of their lives being a Major Event, occasionally encountering each other, with rather obvious plot developments and tired, ostensibly taboo-breaking revelations at every step. For most of its running time the subtext of *Magnolia* feels like a stubborn refutation: no, says the film, Tolstoy was wrong, and all unhappy families are unhappy in exactly the same manner.

The fact that all of *Magnolia* feels obvious and simplistic is not the biggest problem, though. The real problem is that for all three hours of running time, I didn't believe a second of it. Not one iota of it makes any emotional or psychological sense.

The actors try hard, of course. They try so hard that the sweat — real or imaginary — is constantly trickling down their collective furrowed brows. But, still, every one of them (with one possible exception) fails to make the stick figure from the screenplay into a real, fleshed-out character. Jason Robards is given an interminable death-bed soliloquy; Philip Baker Hall is required to suffer a breakdown on the air (he's a TV quiz show host); Michael Bowen furiously throws the furniture around when his son meekly requests a minor measure of respect; etc.

By the time William H. Macy is forced to quote the Bible (a verse about the sins of the fathers, as if this wasn't an obvious theme

already) while vomiting in a seedy bar's bathroom, I more or less gave up on *Magnolia*. And don't even get me started on poor Julianne Moore, who has a part which simply makes no sense whatsoever, even though Anderson attempts to make it somewhat plausible by making her character under the influence of prescription drugs (a currently popular lazy plot device; see also chapter 100 of Thomas Harris' *Hannibal*).

Two actors come quite close to succeeding. The amazingly versatile Philip Seymour Hoffman, the one who usually plays weirdos, in a rather daring bit of stunt casting, plays a perfectly normal man: kind, compassionate, and even handsome. He is fine for most of *Magnolia* — until Anderson forces him to attempt to convince someone by saying: "I know, this feels like a scene from a movie — but this is not a movie, this is life!" Even he can't deliver this kind of archly postmodern line successfully.

The second almost-but-not-quite actor is Tom Cruise. He's very well cast, that's for sure. I have always maintained that Cruise is a fine actor, and can act anything but charm: if he attempts this, his natural charisma clashes weirdly with the artifice. P.T. Anderson, in a masterstroke of casting, gives Cruise the part which almost entirely consists of coasting on artifice, on aggressive put-on charm. Cruise is Frank Mackey, a profanity-spouting sex guru, teaching men how to attract and tame women by faking being nice. Cruise goes for broke, gyrating his pelvis right into the face of a female journalist who comes to interview him, staring at the world with unbridled contempt, and generally behaving like a slimeball. (To give credit where credit is due, this is not the first time he's cast as well; he made a great car salesman in *Rain Man*, playing essentially the same fake charm, although in a much subdued manner.)

In any case, Cruise is very good until the very end, where he's given a breathtaking scene, a progression from indifference to deeply rooted hate, to debilitating love, to, finally, acceptance. Cruise went into this scene, all his dramatic muscles coiled and ready, and I sat up in my seat, thinking, What if he really pulls this off? I guess I'll never know the answer, because straight in the middle, Anderson cuts to another scene. When he comes back to Cruise, the sense of the scene and the timing is lost, and all the heavy dramatics feel merely comical.

The only character who really matters, ultimately, is Melora Walters' cocaine-addicted abused young woman, who still manages to keep hope in her heart. She's the only one who feels real, and it's solely to her credit that the film's ending (the last shot is the only understated moment of the whole movie) works.

So here it is: a three hour film with pretty much no one to care about, and with not a single believable character or story. Yet it's rarely boring, and frequently even exciting. The reason is that, while P.T. Anderson the producer made a mistake by hiring P.T. Anderson the screenwriter, he also made a wise move by choosing P.T. Anderson the director, whose brilliant technique frequently manages to compensate the screenplay's woefully over-ambitious drive.

While narrative bombast doesn't work, the visual bombast does, making *Magnolia* such an eye-full and a visual treat that I rarely had a time to be bored. Just witness the opening sequence, a trio of unrelated vignettes about the power of chance, which are all hilarious; or the amazing montage of twirling cameras, which introduces all the characters during and after the opening titles; or the insanely elaborate tracking shots, showing the life backstage at the taping of TV quiz show. Aurally, *Magnolia* is as much of a treat: built around several gorgeous Aimee Mann songs, it's as lovely to the ear as it is exciting to the eye — and, regrettably, inert to the heart and mind.

Until the climax, that is. The last reel is one for the history books. It is devil-may-care filmmaking, the most wild, the craziest, most creative sequence I've seen this whole year (yes, more so than any one in *Being John Malkovich*). It is quite indescribable, totally unbelievable, and a relentlessly fun cinematic ride. When it was unfolding, my jaw was dropping, and it really didn't matter that this sequence really didn't have anything to do with the rest of the movie, nor that underneath, it was merely another hoary quotation from the Bible.

In the end, this is what I remember from *Magnolia*: ten minutes of wild abandon. I loved this sequence so much that the previous three hours of frustration seemed to be a decent investment. Other than the ending, there's really nothing innovative about the film: it's not even the first well-intentioned artistically-lacking film this year that deals with suburban angst and is named after a flower.

FOOD REVIEW

The Essential Vegetarian

By Katharyn Jeffreys

FEATURES EDITOR

At press time, I had attended the first of the three vegetarian cooking classes offered this week by Aramark and the MIT Vegetarian Group. It was my first cooking class, outside of Home Economics, and I found it very enjoyable. There were about 15 attendants who contributed to making seven "Quick and Easy" dishes. All the dishes turned out so well I will be interested to see what constitutes gourmet cooking on Wednesday.

Highlights of the meal were the simple balsamic vinaigrette, the colorful grilled vegetable platters, and the eggplant parmesan. I worked on the eggplant, and was surprised at how easy it was to make a dozen servings. After overcoming my fear of the enormous pot of oil, browning the breaded slices of eggplant was simple. The result was an impressive and tasty dish which I would serve to any large group of people.

The meal finished with an impressive baked brie and fruit platter. I had never seen this dish before, and was impressed by its taste and class. It would make a great appetizer or, as we had it, dessert.

The cooking tips offered by the chef who taught us how to make our dishes were very useful. From how to hold a knife safely (curl your fingers under so your fingertips are not at risk of being sliced) to how to make use of over-ripe fruit (in a coulis for ice cream or in a sorbet), it was a good introduction to some of the more advanced cooking tricks. Overall, the lesson and meal were well worth the time and registration fee.

I recently went to dinner with a devout meat eater. We enjoyed a vegetarian meal together at The Helmand, the Boston area's only Afghan restaurant. It is located at 143 First Street in Cambridge, near the Galleria Mall.

The vegetarian options comprise about one third of the entrees and nearly all of the appetizers, soups and salads offered. This restaurant offers a unique ethnic alternative to Chinese and Indian food. Dishes are comprised of vegetables such as pumpkin, eggplant, spinach, and leeks mixed with sauces and served with rice.

To start we split Aushak, a ravioli-like appetizer filled with leeks and scallions. I was not impressed with the size or quality of the dish. For my entree, I had a special called Dolma which had eggplants stuffed with spinach along with cauliflower and other vegetables in a chunky sauce that was flavorful but overpowered the vegetables' taste. The vegetarian special at The Helmand was a palette of pumpkin, eggplant, okra, and the highlight, spinach.

Overall the food was a pleasant change from the heavy fare offered by many local ethnic restaurants. The spice of the meal was neutralized by the blander desserts. I had a custard which played off the sweet fresh fruit bits with which it was topped.

In addition the ambiance was very cozy on a chilly evening. The overstuffed couches in the front, sunny yellow walls, a wall of wine, and two fireplaces gave an almost Mediterranean feeling to the restaurant. We were seated next to the fireplace in which the tasty complimentary bread was baked. The warmth and bustle of the workers baking at the fireplace was a nice touch. The service was prompt but curt; with the spice of dishes, I wished my water glass was more readily refilled.

The following is another recipe from the menu of the New England Soup Factory's menu, now that the weather has finally gotten cold. This one is taken from the Boston Globe's recipe archive at <http://search.boston.com/globe/search/stories/food/>. As always, feel free to e-mail me at veggie@the-tech.mit.edu with questions or comments.

New England Soup Factory's spinach and zucchini bisque with roasted leeks

4 tablespoons salted butter

1 1/2 cups diced onion
1 1/2 cups diced celery
1 small fennel bulb, thinly sliced
1 tablespoon chopped garlic
3 zucchini (about 1 3/4 pounds), cut in large chunks
2 large potatoes (about 1 pound), peeled and diced
6 cups vegetable or chicken stock
2 quarts firmly packed spinach leaves (about 1 pound)
1 cup heavy cream
Nutmeg, salt and pepper to taste
Roasted leeks (see recipe below)

Melt the butter in a Dutch oven or large pot over medium-high heat. Add the onion, celery, fennel, and garlic, and saute 10 to 12 minutes or until the onion is softened. Add the zucchini and potatoes, and mix to combine.

Add the stock and bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 15 minutes, until the vegetables are tender.

Remove from the heat and add the spinach in batches, mixing with a large spoon after each addition until the spinach wilts.

Puree in batches in a blender. To prevent splashing, remove the inner core of the blender cover and hold a kitchen towel over the top. Return the puree to the pot.

Add the cream, nutmeg, salt, pepper, and roasted leeks, and heat thoroughly. Makes about 14 cups.

For roasted leeks:

4 medium leeks, thinly sliced (about 3 cups)
2 tablespoons olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. In a large bowl, combine the leeks, oil, salt, and pepper; toss gently. Spread in a roasting pan and roast for 20 minutes, stirring once or twice.



Chef David Wurzel shows Anne Marie Polsenberg '01 different ways of arranging a plate of roasted vegetables at the first Vegetarian Cooking Class, held at Networks Monday night.

GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

The following movies are playing this weekend at local theaters. The Tech suggests using <<http://www.boston.com>> for a complete listing of times and locations.

★★★★ Excellent
★★★ Good
★★ Fair
★ Poor

American Beauty (★½)

An extremely annoying movie: this deadpan black tragicomedy is a laughable failure as a work of art, being pretentious, simplistic, and self-important. Excepting a truly remarkable performance by Kevin Spacey (whose part is disappointingly small), there's nothing to this movie beyond tortured metaphors, caricatures instead of characters, and a messy pile-up of red herrings instead of a plot. — Vladimir Zelevinsky

Being John Malkovich (★★★★)

A film so different, so whacked-out, so original, and totally unlike anything else out there — like Monty Python at their most deadpan hilarious. An unconventional mixture of comedy, satire, and frighteningly deep ruminations on the nature of personality. — VZ

Dogma (★★★)

The latest film by Kevin Smith combines the elements of a mystery, suspenseful thriller, surreal fantasy, action movie, and black comedy to produce an engaging examination of religion. Although some may be put off by his irreverent approach, and the topics he brings up are never fully explored, a fairly novel story, excellent cast, and interesting ideas make this a movie that will covertly bring fodder for discussions on religion to the masses. — Fred Choi

Galaxy Quest (★★½)

Not quite the *Star Trek* parody that it starts out like; more of a *Star Trek* rip-off, with the same stupid computer graphics, fake sets, plot holes (all of the above rather irritating), and general air of amiable nonsense (very enjoyable). It's also neat to see a bunch of good actors having fun. Rather stupid, really; at the same time, rather cute. — VZ

The Insider (★★★)

A great story about a tobacco industry whistleblower benefits from great casting (Russell Crowe and Al Pacino) and an excellent screenplay, making the movie as much about the inner workings of big corporations as about inner character drama. On the other hand, we have overbearing direction, which frequently distracts from the power of the

annoying narrative bombast is compensated by great visual verve, and the climactic sequence is simply the most wildly creative bit of filmmaking of 1999, even though it has nothing to do with the rest of the movie. — VZ

Princess Mononoke (★★★)

An epic action adventure, a romance, and a philosophical treatise — which also happens to be animated. While it suffers from simply hav-

ceive the ghosts which, unbeknownst to the rest of the world, walk among us every day. Bruce Willis plays the psychologist trying to help him. The strength of their performances carries the movie past its slight flaws, making *The Sixth Sense* one of the best movies of the summer. — Tzu-Mainn Chen

Sleepy Hollow (★★½)

Very loosely adapted from Washington Irving's tale of the Headless Horseman, this film features huge lavish sets, wall-to-wall special effects, astounding cinematography — and a bland, boring, mediocre screenplay. Johnny Depp is fun, playing Ichabod Crane as a mixture of action hero and frightened schoolgirl, while Christina Ricci looks lovely but is otherwise wasted. — VZ

The Talented Mr. Ripley (★★★)

A lot to recommend: a complex plot, accomplished acting (Matt Damon and Cate Blanchett especially), and gorgeous visuals; especially impressive is the degree to which the audience gets to understand and identify with the film's immoral protagonist. A bit too slowly-paced, though. — VZ

Three Kings (★★★★)

As one of the most creative films of the year, David O. Russell's third film *Three Kings* marks his strongest directing effort to date. When American soldiers set out to find Saddam's stolen gold bullion, they also find Iraqi citizens in need of their help. In their efforts to help, the characters are forced to question the point of America's involvement in the Persian Gulf. The creative use of the camera makes for powerful images that help drive the film's message home. — Michael Frakes

Toy Story 2 (★★½)

An instant classic, one of the most creative and fun movies of the year, this completely computer-generated sequel about the adventures of a bunch of toys is clever, funny, complex, and, most surprisingly, deeply emotional. — VZ

The World is Not Enough (★★½)

The nineteenth James Bond adventure is a rather disorienting experience: everything that is supposed to work in a 007 adventure (stunts, gadgets, babes, exotic locations) is underused, while the acting, especially from Sophie Marceau, is spectacular. — VZ



A hapless toy penguin named Wheezy, who has been "shelved" because his squeaker no longer works, adds to Woody's anxiety about being outgrown in Disney and Pixar's latest computer animated film *Toy Story 2*.

story. — VZ

Magnolia (★★½)

A sprawling incoherent mess of a movie, with a story and characters that manage to be both jaw-droppingly obvious and make no sense whatsoever. On the other hand, the

ing too much stuff in it, and from being frequently messy and self-indulgent, it also provides thrillingly exciting action sequences and visuals you won't see anywhere else. — VZ

The Sixth Sense (★★★½)

Cole Sear is a young boy whose special power, "the sixth sense," enables him to per-

as a matter of fact, her performance is the best one of 1999, male or female, lead or supporting. Each time she smiles, the screen glows; each time Ripley used her as a pawn in his game, my heart broke.

But the movie really belongs to two people: Damon and Minghella. The latter, aided in no small measure by Walter Murch's virtuoso editing, makes *The Talented Mr. Ripley* an eye-full, with spectacular cinematography, gorgeous Italian locations, and memorable images. The opening sequence in particular, with its splintering screens (both modernistic and retro-looking) and bold color bars to highlight the credits, is nothing short of excellent. Minghella also knows what it is to create a suspenseful sequence: one involving Ripley walking toward Marge, his hand clenching a weapon in his pocket, is particularly tense.

The source material fights back somewhat, though: the genre change pays off handsomely, and at the same time creates a certain problem. The story, at its heart, is still a thriller, a low genre, and playing it like a noble tragedy limits the enjoyment to be gleaned from the purely suspenseful elements of the story. In particular, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* just feels too slow, especially considering that its entire first half is nothing but a glorified setup for the second hour. I cannot really point to a single scene that can be shortened, but I wish the whole movie was faster paced.

Minghella achieves amazing results by adding a massive layer of psychological complexity to what is, deep down, a pulp thriller; and, once in a while, I wished I could merely enjoy that pulp thriller. When Ripley whacks one of the more annoying characters on the head, this scene plays like a pivotal dramatic action — as a next turn of the ever-tightening plot, as a profound character insight, and as a visual metaphor as well. All of this is grand, of course, but deep down inside I kept wondering why this scene isn't any fun. Take this as an admission of my plebeian taste — or as a sign that *The Talented Mr. Ripley* occupies a strange position halfway between thriller and drama.

FILM REVIEW

The Talented Mr. Ripley

Believe It Or Not

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

ARTS EDITOR

Written and directed by Anthony Minghella
Based on the novel by Patricia Hingsmith
With Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jude Law, Cate Blanchett, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Jack Davenport, James Rebhorn

Anthony Minghella is rapidly becoming the king of literary adaptation. Not only has he succeeded in making a great movie out of the virtually unfilmable *The English Patient*, but he also managed to make the movie better than the source novel by completely re-working the book's structure and shifting the focus from one relationship to another. Now he adapts Patricia Hingsmith's classical thriller *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, also making a dramatic change to the book.

No, the plot is virtually identical to that of the novel: Tom Ripley (Matt Damon, in by far the best performance of his career) is sent to Italy by a certain Mr. Greenleaf (James Rebhorn), a wealthy ship-building magnate, to bring home his son, Dickie Greenleaf (Jude Law). When in Italy, Ripley rapidly befriends both Dickie and his girlfriend, Marge (Gwyneth Paltrow), falling in love with Dickie's idle life of privilege. Falling in love so much, in fact, that he's willing to do anything to keep living it.

Two things have changed: the genre and the title character. The novel was a thriller; the film is a romantic tragedy. Hingsmith's Ripley was the anti-hero; Minghella's Ripley is the hero, tragically flawed at best, but still the one character who changes and evolves as the story progresses.

In this, Minghella is aided immeasurably by Matt Damon who is riveting. If there's

another case of an actor using his own limitations equally well, I don't know of it. Damon rarely seems to be able to transcend his boyish charm and good looks, and here he transcends them by overemphasizing them until they start looking positively sinister (Tom Cruise does a similar trick, although with less effect, in *Magnolia*). When Ripley lies while flashing a wide grin and exposing all his perfect teeth, the effect is chilling; and Damon just keeps that sunny smile on his face until it starts to look positively spooky.

But what makes him a real hero (in a narrative sense), is the fact that everything he does is perfectly logical and has a true psychological motivation. Ripley's immorality is established early on — in the very first shot, as a matter of fact, via a beautiful visual metaphor. What happens to him later is made completely unavoidable by two forces: external circumstances and his own character. The whole second half of the film is a jazzy dance of lies and violence, when Ripley's only way to cover one lie is to make another one, and the only way to escape the punishment for a violent act is to commit another one. In this way, it is both impossible for the audience to hope for his success and to hate him (for anti-heroes these two circumstances usually go hand in hand). His inner life is presented so vividly (paradoxically enough, this is accomplished mostly via the intentional opaqueness of Damon's acting), that it is impossible not to empathize with Ripley.

The supporting cast is solid, especially Philip Seymour Hoffman as an obnoxious American who is as ugly as he is smart. The real standout, though, is Cate Blanchett. She has a relatively small part (although, plot-wise, she's one of the most important characters), and she's utterly luminous and touching;

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The Middle East
Ticketmaster: 931-2000.
Ticket prices vary. Call 354-8238 for more info.

Jan. 12: Buzzbomb.
Jan. 12: Giant Sand.
Jan. 13: Papas Fritas.
Jan. 13: Toxic Narcotic + Statistics + the Profits.
Jan. 14: Cokedealer + Random Road Mother + Five
Jan. 14: Red Krayola.
Jan. 15: Stocklan + Purr + Woodland Creatures + Trypnone.
Jan. 16: Six Going on Seven.
Jan. 16: Super Salsa Party, featuring New York's Salsa Rico Dance Company.
Jan. 17: Atomic Fanfare + The Curbies + Azurtech + Thought Brigade.
Jan. 18: Christine Baze.
Jan. 17-18: Guided By Voices.
Jan. 19: Bourbon Princess.
Jan. 20: Rocket From the Crypt.
Jan. 20: Victory At Sea.

Orpheum Theatre
Ticketmaster: 931-2000
Feb. 6: Marc Anthony. \$56, \$43.50, \$30.50.
Feb. 19: The Kids in the Hall. \$37.50, \$32.50, \$27.50.

Jazz Music

Regattabar
Contextrix: 876-7777

Jan. 12: Grisha Goryachev. CD release party.
Jan. 13: Mackie Burnette.
Jan. 14: Sergio Brandao & Manga-Rosa.
Jan. 15: Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters.
Jan. 18-19: Lee Konitz Trio.
Jan. 20-22: Jim Hall, guitar; Joe Lavano, saxophone; Joe Mraz, bass; Lewis Nash, drums.
Jan. 25: Dan Moretti.
Jan. 27-29: Ahmad Jamal. CD release party.

Scullers Jazz Club
(All performers have two shows per day unless otherwise noted.)

Jan. 14-15: Earl Klugh.
Jan. 19: Bamboleo.
Jan. 20: Vivian Male.
Jan. 21-22: Larry Harlo.
Jan. 25: Jim Porcella's Bombay Jim & The Swinging Saffires.
Jan. 26-27: Jeff "Tain" Watts.
Jan. 28-29: Marian McPartland Trio.

Classical Music

Sergey Schepkin

Jan. 23 at 5 p.m. at Harvard Epworth United Methodist Church, 1555 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA (near Harvard Square). Sergey Schepkin, pianist, will perform selections from Johann Sebastian Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 2, as well as Bach's Partita No. 5, Two Nocturnes and Scherzo III by Chopin, and three pieces by Debussy. Suggested Donation: \$15 adults, \$10 seniors, \$5 students. For more information, call (617) 354-0837.

Philip Glass's Akhnaten

Jan. 26, 28, Feb. 1, 4 at 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 30, Feb. 6 at 3:00 p.m. at the Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02116. The Boston Lyric Opera presents the third of famed American minimalist Glass's "portrait operas," based on the life of Egypt's first monotheistic ruler. Sung in English, Hebrew, Egyptian Arabic, and

On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston
January 12 - 19
Compiled by Fred Choi

Send submissions to ott@the-tech.mit.edu or by interdepartmental mail to "On The Town," The Tech, W20-483.

the ancient Semitic language Akkadian, with English surtitles. Tickets \$108-\$26, call 1-800-447-7400. In addition, a pre-performance lecture takes place one hour prior to each performance at the Tremont House Hotel, next to the Shubert Theatre. The lecture is free to all ticket holders. For further information, call the BLO at (617) 542-4912.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Tickets: 266-1492.
Performances at Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston unless otherwise noted. For MIT Students: Tickets are offered for Thursday evening concerts (8pm) and Friday afternoon concerts (1:30pm) and are available on the day of the concert only at the BSO Box Office at Symphony Hall (301 Massachusetts Ave. Open 10am-6pm). Two tickets may be obtained with two current valid MIT student IDs, subject to availability. For updated MIT student ticket availability, call 638-9478 after 10am on the day of concert.

Jan. 20-23: Anderson: The Stations of the Sun; Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante for violin and viola; Dvorak: Symphony No. 7. Ilan Volkov, conductor, Thomas Zehetmair, violin; Ruth Killius, viola. Limited availability. Call Symphony Charge at 888-266-1200.

Luciano Pavarotti In Recital

Jan. 26 at 8 p.m. at Symphony Hall (301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston). Legendary tenor Luciano Pavarotti will perform in recital with Leone Magiera, pianist as part of the BankBoston Celebrity Series. The performance will mark the 25th Anniversary of the tenor's Celebrity Series debut. Tickets are \$125, \$95, \$65, and \$35, with special "gold" premium center orchestra seating at \$250. For tickets call SymphonyCharge at 617-266-1200 (Mon-Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or through the Symphony Hall box office.

Theater

Sisters Matsumoto

Through January 30 at The Huntington Theatre Company, resident professional theatre at Boston University, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115-4606. The Huntington Theatre Company presents *Sisters Matsumoto* by noted Japanese-American playwright Philip Kan Gotanda. Directed by Sharon Ott the play depicts the lives of three Japanese-American sisters who struggle to rebuild their lives after being released from a U.S. Government internment camp after World War II. Performances: Evenings: Tues.-Thurs. at 7:30 p.m. (excluding Jan. 18), Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m.; Matinees Sat. and Sun. at 2 p.m., Wed. Jan. 12 and 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Miss Julie

Previews Jan. 28, 29 at 8:00 p.m. and Jan. 30 at 2:00 p.m.; Feb. 3-19, Th.-Sat. at 8:00 p.m., Sun. 2:00 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre in the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St. The Coyote Theatre, a professional, non-



Catch the IMAX film *Mysteries of Egypt* at the Museum of Science's Mugar Omni Theater.

profit theatre founded in 1991, presents August Stringberg's *Miss Julie*. In the play an aristocratic young woman engages in a heated sexual tryst with her father's servant. Tickets for previews \$15, for performances Th. and Sun. \$20, Fri. and Sat. \$22.50. For more information or to reserve tickets, call the box office at (617) 426-ARTS.

Anne of Green Gables

Feb. 4-27, Fri. at 7:30 p.m., Sat. and Sun. at 3:00 p.m.: The Wheelock Family Theatre (180 The Riverway, Boston) presents the family musical based on the L.M. Montgomery classic. Tickets are \$17, \$15, and \$10. ASL and Audio description Feb. 25 and 27. The theater is wheelchair accessible. To reserve tickets or for more information, call 617-734-4760, TTY 731-4426.

Blue Man Group

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston, indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, at 7 and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 3 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$35 to \$45. Call 426-6912 for tickets and information on how to see the show for free by ushering.

Shear Madness

Charles Playhouse Stage II, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston (426-5225), indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, and at 3 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$30-34.

Exhibits

Pauline Lim

Through Jan. 30. "Impotence Pill" and other new works, at the Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St. Newton Centre, MA 02459. For more information call (617) 552-7145.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston. (566-1401), Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$10 (\$11 on weekends), \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID (\$3 on Wed.), free for children under 18. The museum, built in the style of a 15th-century Venetian palace, houses more than 2500 art objects, with emphasis on Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Dutch works. Among the highlights are works by Rembrandt, Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, and Whistler. Guided tours given Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

Threads of Dissent
Through Jan. 30, 2000. Inspired by the Gardner Museum's extraordinary tapestries, this exhibition illuminates the permanent collection in the light of contemporary social, political, and aesthetic issues in the work of living artists. Six works in the special exhibition gallery by the contemporary artists Edward Derwent, Leon Golub, Wojciech Jaskolka, Jorge Pardo, Lilian Tyrrell, and Murray Walker will be related to six tapestries from the collection.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. (267-9300). Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. West Wing open Thurs.-Fri. until 9:45 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$10, \$8 for students and seniors, children under 17 free; \$2 after 5 p.m. Thurs.-Fri., free Wed. after 4 p.m.

Mon.-Fri.: introductory walks through all collections begin at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; "Asian, Egyptian, and Classical Walks" begin at 11:30 a.m.; "American Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 12:30 p.m.; "European Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 2:30 p.m.; Introductory tours are also offered Sat. at

11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Permanent Gallery
Installations: "Late Gothic Gallery," featuring a restored 15th-century stained glass window from Hampton Court, 14th- and 15th-century stone, alabaster, and polychrome wood sculptures from France and the Netherlands; "Mummy Mask Gallery," a newly renovated Egyptian gallery, features primitive masks dating from as far back as 2500 B.C.; "European Decorative Arts from 1950 to the Present"; "John Singer Sargent: Studies for MFA and Boston Public Library Murals." Gallery lectures are free with museum admission.

Museum of Our National Heritage

33 Marrett Rd., Lexington. 02421. (781-861-6559). Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. 12 p.m.-5 p.m. Admission and parking free. <<http://www.mnh.org>>

George Washington, American Symbol

Through Feb. 27, 2000. In observance of the 200th anniversary of his death, the Museum is hosting a unique exhibition which presents the most comprehensive exploration of the enduring nature of Washington's image. The exhibit will present more than 150 paintings, prints, sculptures, decorative objects, and memorabilia, including works by Peale, Gilbert Stuart, Norman Rockwell, and N.C. Wyeth.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. (723-2500). Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$9, \$7 for children 3-14 and seniors.

The Museum features the theater of electricity (with indoor thunder-and-lightning shows daily) and more than 600 hands-on exhibits. Ongoing: "Discovery Center"; "Investigate! A See-For-Yourself Exhibit"; "Science in the Park: Playing with Forces and Motion"; "Seeing is Deceiving."

Ongoing: "Everest: Roof of the World"; "Living on the Edge." Admission to Omni, laser, and planetarium shows is \$7.50, \$5.50 for children and seniors. Now showing: "Laser Depeche Mode," Sun., 8 p.m.; "Laser Offspring," Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.; "Laser Rush," Sun., 9:15; "Laser Beastie Boys," Thurs.-Sat., 9:15 p.m.; "Laser Floyd's Wall," Fri.-Sat., 10:30 p.m.; "Friday Night Stargazing," Fri., 8:30 p.m.; "Welcome to the Universe," daily; "Quest for Contact: Are We Alone?" daily.

Commonwealth Museum

220 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, 02125. Located across from the JFK Library. Hours: M-F 9-5, S 9-3. Admission is free. For more info. or to arrange a tour, call 617-727-9268.

The Archaeology of the Central Artery Project: Highway to the Past

The exhibit focuses on life in Colonial Boston as interpreted through artifacts recovered from the "Big Dig" before the construction began. Artifacts and information on display examine leisure activities, tavern life, the life of three colonial women, and Native Americans.

Other Events

Film Festivals

At the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 02115. For tickets and more information, call 369-3770. Tickets for each showing are \$7, \$6 MFA members, seniors, students, unless otherwise noted.

Boston Film Artists Present

Jan. 15, 19, 20, 22, 29: *A Hero for Daisy* By Mary Mazzio (1999, 42 min.). A moving portrait of Yale rowing legend Chris Ernst. In 1976 Ernst galvanized her rowing team to storm the Yale athletic director's office to protest the lack of locker-room facilities for women. The story was carried by all of the major international news outlets and Ernst won her fight for new locker rooms two weeks later. She went on to represent the U.S. in two Olympic games, becoming a world champion in 1986.

New German Cinema Festival

Tickets 6-film series \$30, \$24 MFA members, students, seniors. In German with English subtitles.

Jan. 20: *Aimee and Jaguar* By Max Farberbock (1999, 125 min.). Featured at major film festivals around the world, *Aimee & Jaguar* is based on the true love story of two women in Berlin during World War II amid the constant threat of bombing raids and despite certain persecution.

Jan. 22: *AnnaLise and Anton* By Caroline Link (1999, 105 min.). Link, whose directorial debut was the popular *Beyond Silence* (nominated for a Best Foreign Language Academy Award in 1998), now brings a film that is as engrossing for children as well as adults. A contemporary version of a children's classic in which friendship transcends differences in social class and children teach adults about loyalty and love.

Pharaohs of the Sun: Akhenaten, Nefertiti and Tutankhamen

Through Jan. 16: The Museum of Fine Arts (465 Huntington Ave., Boston) presents an exhibit that captures the revolutionary epoch known as the Amarna Age (1353 to 1336 B.C.) when the Pharaoh Akhenaten assumed the throne of Egypt at its peak of imperial glory. This is one of the most important international presentations of Egyptian art and culture in recent decades. Tickets: Weekday: Adults, \$15, Senior/Student \$13, Ages 6-17, \$6, Children under 5 free. Weekend: Adults, \$17.50, Senior/Student \$15, Ages 6-17, \$6, Children under 5 free. For tickets call 617-542-4MFA.

Boston Review's Short Story Contest

Jan. 21 at 7 p.m., Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard St. Boston Review, a bimonthly publication, will be holding a reading as part of their Seventh Annual Short Story Contest. Pauls Toutonghi, the winner of the contest, will read from his story "Regeneration." Molly Melina Sultan, the runner-up, will read from her story "Five Ways to Propose Marriage."

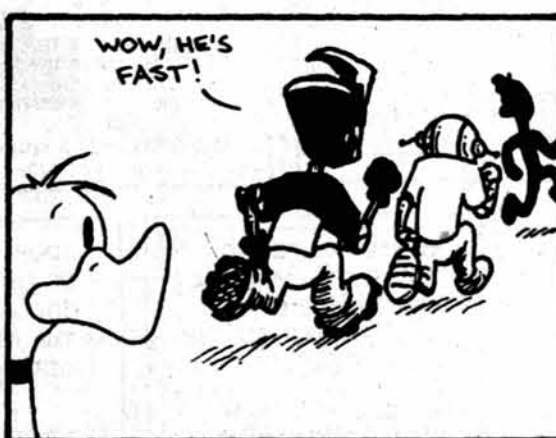
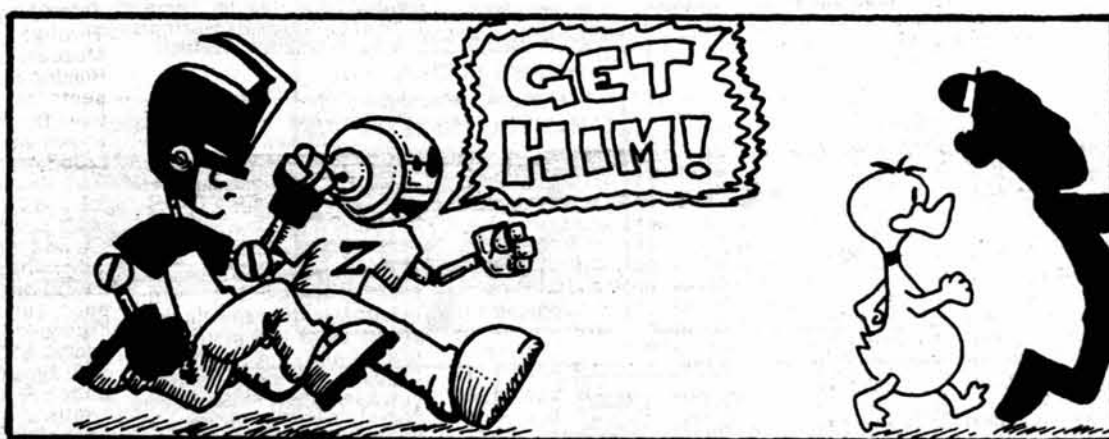
Children's Hour at the Kennedy Library

Jan. 15 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Stephen E. Smith Hall at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston. The Kennedy Library presents *Listen to the Children: A Tribute to Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* with award-winning children's entertainer Janice Allen. Experience a unique musical journey from the African continent to America as Janice Allen uses song, dance, and stories from Africa to bring to life the history of slavery, and the civil rights movement. Appropriate for family audiences and children 5+. Free. For more info., call 617-929-1211.

F U N P A G E S

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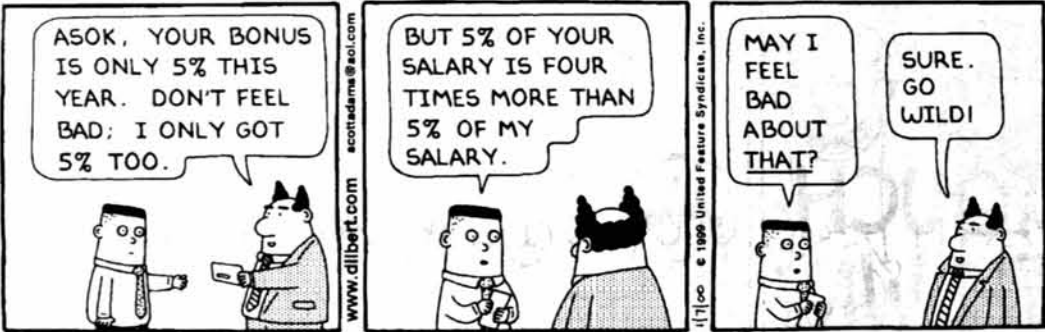
HOW BATHOLOMEW SQUEAK DIED: FLASHBACK



INSTITUTE MADNESS! BY ALISON WONG



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PETER, COULD YOU TAKE THIS BOWL OUT TO THE DINING ROOM?

SURE.

AND THIS BOWL, TOO?

OK.

AND THIS CASSEROLE DISH?

CONSIDER IT DONE.

I MEANT THE FOOD IN THEM, AS WELL.

(URP) OH. HEH HEH.

WHAT ARE YOU SMILING AT?!

Go! Go! Go! Go!

TOUCH DOWN!

THINK MOM'LL NOTICE THE CHEETOS-COLORED HANDPRINTS ON THE CEILING?

WHY DO YOU THINK I SWITCHED TO PRETZELS?

ROGER, THIS BOX CAME FOR YOU TODAY.

YEEHA! IT'S HERE!

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION! GOODBYE, FLABBY GUT. HELLO, SLABS OF WELL-TONED MUSCLE!

HOO, YES. COME TO PAPA.

NO OFFENSE, SWEETIE, BUT I WASN'T AWARE YOU HAD MUSCLE TO TONE.

(OOF) WHAT'D THEY DO?! PACK THIS WITH LEAD?!

YOU BOUGHT A WHAT?

AN AB-CRUSHER 2000. YOU KNOW, THE ONE ON TV.

ACCORDING TO THE INFO-MERCIALS, FIVE MINUTES WITH THIS BABY WILL WORK MY ABS AS MUCH AS DOING 2,000 TRADITIONAL SIT-UPS.

ROGER, WHEN IN YOUR LIFE HAVE YOU EVEN DONE ONE SIT-UP??

ALL THE MORE REASON TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME.

EXCUSE ME WHILE I GO PROGRAM 911 INTO OUR SPEED DIALER.

I FIGURE I'LL START OUT SLOWLY, MAYBE A HALF-HOUR A DAY.

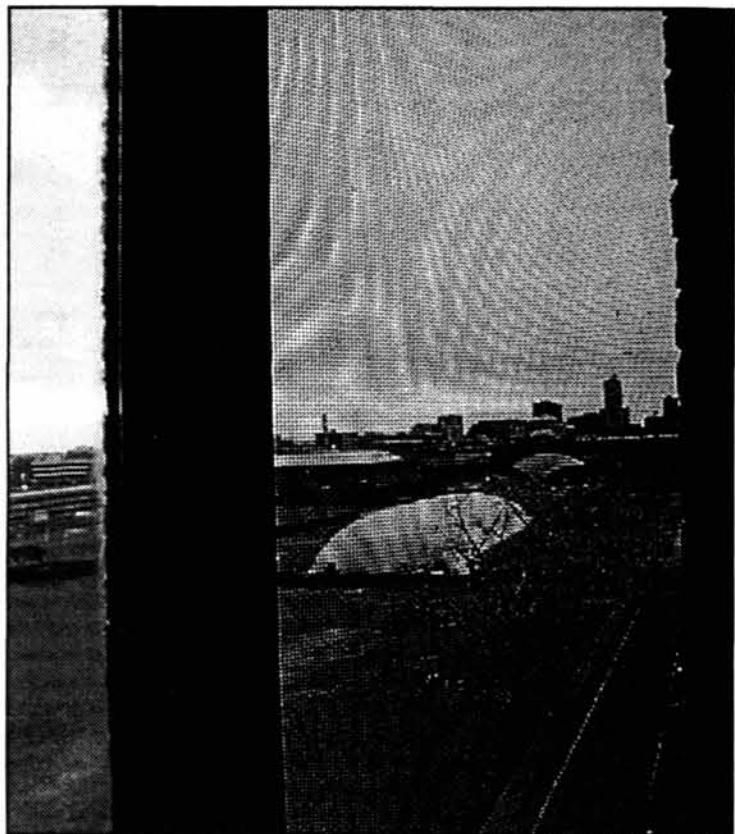
LET'S SEE... THE INSTRUCTIONS SAY TO PUT MY ARMS THROUGH HERE...

MY HEAD SHOULD BE AGAINST A PAD, BUT THE ONLY ONE I SEE IS DOWN BY MY KNEES...

OUCH! MY LEG IS CRAMPING UP! OW! OW! OW!

IRONIC THAT THE ONLY ABS GETTING A WORKOUT ARE YOURS.

(SNIFF) SORRY. I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BE LAUGHING.



Screens are being installed in MacGregor's windows as a safety measure. The screens have also improved ventilation in the rooms.

MacGregor Rooms Get Grates

Screens To Be Installed Over IAP To Improve Safety, Comfort

By Kevin Lang
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

During winter break, contractors began installing window grates and screens in tower rooms at MacGregor House. The grates, which are constructed of a heavy window screen material, have been installed in response to safety and ventilation concerns.

Casement windows in the tower previously opened approximately fifteen degrees to prevent suicide attempts. Despite precautions, four students have toppled from the MacGregor tower in the past eleven years. After the most recent suicide last February, MacGregor faculty, staff, and graduate resident tutors met with administrators and received funding for the screens.

In addition, the old window system created ventilation problems in tower rooms. MacGregor is not air conditioned, and rooms do not have internal ventilation. "It was just really, really stuffy," said C-Entry's GRT, Aurora A. Burds G. "We had been asking for some way to have a

barrier without bars."

Burds said that MacGregor's housemasters, entry tutors, and house managers had asked administrators to fund screens in the tower for years. While the most recent suicide had some impact on the decision, Burds said that "they've been planning this for a while." Burds said that MacGregor House had not been able to obtain funding before now. "We had actually been asking for screens for the last several years."

However, house president Edgardo J. Jimenez-Velazquez '00 thought the most recent suicide prompted the move. "They're doing it because of what happened last year," Jimenez-Velazquez said referring to the death of Michael P. Manley '02 last February.

Jimenez noted that the project was approved by the housemasters, House Manager Robert Ramsay, and the administration. "This was not a student decision," he said.

However, Jimenez has not yet heard any complaints regarding

room entry or problems with the installation. "I've heard that they're better than the bars." The screen installation also included the removal of the device that kept the windows from opening completely. "People have already commented that it's nice that the windows open."

Students notified during break

Ramsay notified residents via e-mail that installations would begin over the break, and that room entry would be supervised. "I'll have a person from MIT, Dick Clark, retired night watchman of MacGregor, to open each resident's room and be with the contractor while they install each screen so that your personal belongings are safe," Ramsay said in the notice.

Students were able to notify Ramsay if they preferred to have the installation performed upon their return to campus. However, the e-mail was not sent until December 29, and some students did not receive the e-mail until they returned to campus. Ramsay was not immediately available for comment.

Burds said that the contractors are making appointments with as many students as possible now that people are returning to campus.

Installation began at the top of the tower with A-Entry, and will eventually cover the entire residence. Lounges and common areas were screened first. Heavier-gauge mesh grates are being installed on the upper floors of the tower, and standard window screens will be installed in rooms on lower floors.

HST-Health, Science, and Technology IAP Seminars.

Weds., Jan 12, 4-5:30PM, E25-119

Seminar for Future Health Technology Entrepreneurs

The growth in emerging medical technologies is revolutionizing the entire healthcare industry and creating myriad opportunities for HST, EECS, and BME students with the right training. Genomics, artificial organs, neuroengineering, and intelligent machines are components of a futuristic landscape that was science fiction only a few years ago. Wall Street, recognizing the enormous business potential, is pouring billions of investment dollars into industries that have yet to show a profit.

Professors Locke, Szolovits, and Weaver will present a seminar that provides an overview and samples the highlights of three courses that explore these emerging fields.

HST 921/922 "Information Technology in the Healthcare System of the Future"

HST 950J/EECS6.872J "Medical Computing"

HST 572 "Future Medical Technologies"

Refreshments

Thus., Jan. 13, 12:00 -2:00 p.m., E25-119

Medical School at MIT?

Dr. Daniel C. Shannon

Yes, MIT joined with Harvard University and Harvard Medical school in 1970 to form the "Health Sciences and Technology" (HST) Program. HST's Medical Sciences curriculum leads to an M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School, and takes advantage of the rich opportunities afforded by each institution. Several HST faculty members and current M.D.s, as well as M.D.-Ph.D., students will present and discuss all aspects of the M.D. program.

Refreshments

Tues., Jan. 18, 2-4:00 p.m., E25-119

HST Biomedical Engineering Doctoral Program: Speech and Hearing Sciences

Louis D. Braid, & Joseph Perkell, Students

The Speech and Hearing Sciences Program (SHS) focuses on developing research scientists through collaborative research opportunities at numerous local hospitals. The SHS Program provides a unique blend of engineering and science for academic and industrial careers in areas involving speech and hearing. Several SHS faculty members and current students will discuss the SHS program.

Thurs. Jan. 20, 2-4:00p.m., E25-119

HST Biomedical Engineering Doctoral Programs I: MEMP

H. Frederick Bowman

HST's Medical Engineering and Medical Physics (MEMP) Program is one of the best biomedical engineering doctoral programs in the nation, offering a unique opportunity for hands-on experiences in biology and clinical medicine.

For all seminars contact: Isabelle Montesi, E25-518, x3-2307, isabel8@mit.edu

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Classified ads are due at 4:30 p.m. two days before day of publication, and must be prepaid and accompanied by a complete address and phone number. Send or bring ads, with payment, to W20-483 (84 Mass. Ave., Room 483, Cambridge, MA 02139). Account numbers for MIT departments accepted. Sorry, no "personal" ads. Contact our office for more details at 258-8324 (fax: 258-8226) or ads@the-tech.mit.edu.

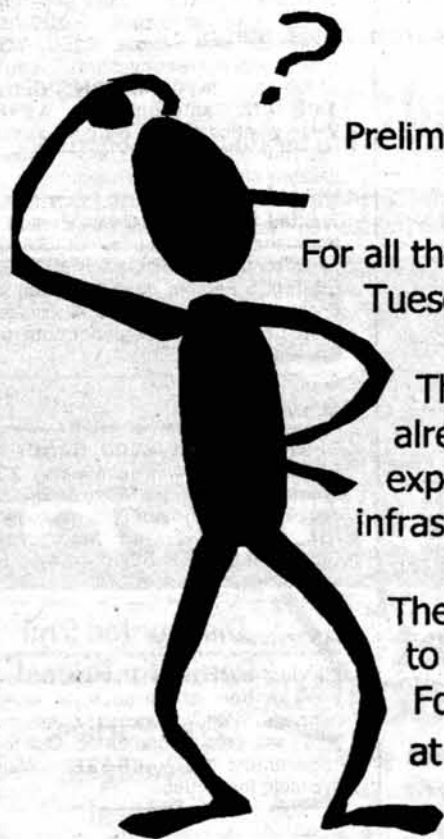
\$5 per insertion per unit of 35 words.



DASHA LYMAR — THE TECH

The lady Engineers rejoice after a goal during their 13-0 triumph over Salve Regina University Saturday.

Project I-Campus Student Proposals Due January 15th



Preliminary proposals for student projects funded by I-Campus are due on January 15, 2000.

For all those who have submitted proposals by the above deadline, a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 18th from 1-4 p.m. in MIT Room 34-401A.

These proposals are an exciting opportunity to come up with new ways to enhance already existing information technology, or to create your own innovative ideas for an experimental system or service that could eventually become part of MIT's computing infrastructure.

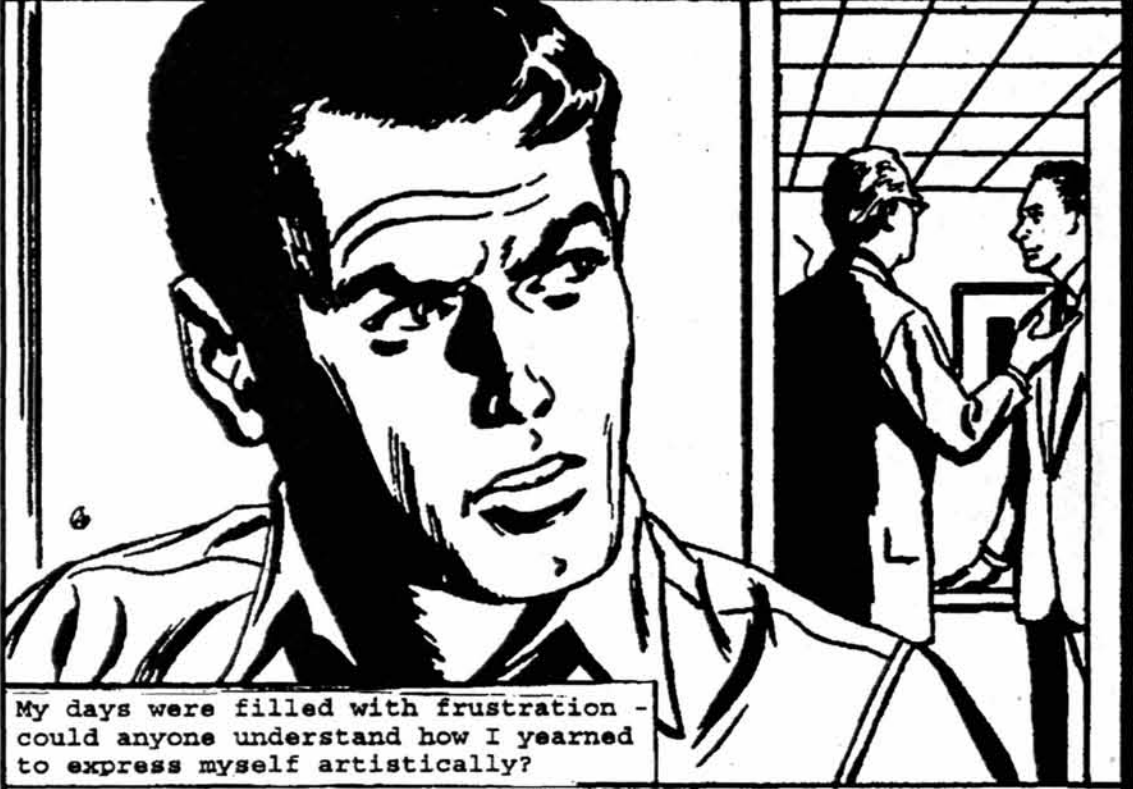
The I-Campus Project is associated with the MIT/Microsoft alliance, which is an agreement to distribute up to 25\$ million in research funds to MIT over the next five years.

For more information about the project, and how to submit a proposal, visit our website at **mit.edu/i-campus**

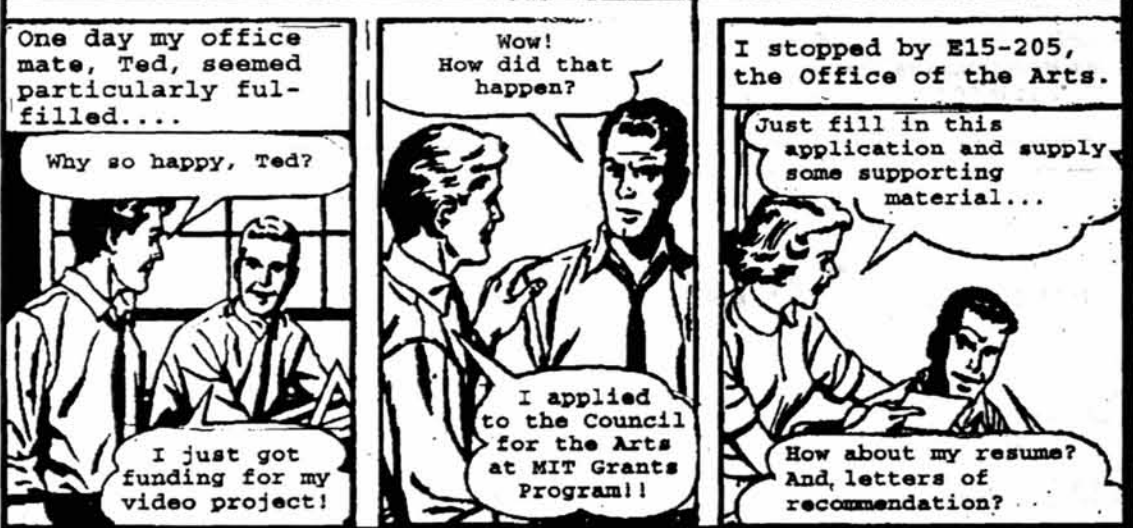
The suggestions for proposals that you find on our website should in no way inhibit you from offering something not mentioned, which *you* think could be a success. Explore the possibilities!!

ANOTHER ARTS SUCCESS STORY!!!!

(Next Grants Deadline: January 21 !!!!)



My days were filled with frustration - could anyone understand how I yearned to express myself artistically?



One day my office mate, Ted, seemed particularly fulfilled....

Why so happy, Ted?

I just got funding for my video project!



The next day....

I got the Grant! Now my artistic yearnings won't wither and die due to lack of funds!

Wow! How did that happen?

I applied to the Council for the Arts at MIT Grants Program!



I stopped by E15-205, the Office of the Arts.

Just fill in this application and supply some supporting material...

How about my resume? And, letters of recommendation?

My site visit with a Grants committee member went well. Encouraging? And how!

Bill, I am confident that your song cycle "Problem Sets", will have a great deal of relevance for MIT students....

Thats right! You too can be part of an **ARTS SUCCESS STORY!!!**

Apply to the Council for the Arts at MIT Grants Program!!!!!!

contact cohen@media.mit.edu for more information, or go to:
<http://web.mit.edu/arts/grants.html>

The Department of
Biomedical Engineering
at
Boston University
is accepting applications
for
Graduate Fellowships

For more information:
bmegrad@bu.edu,
<http://bme.bu.edu>
<http://www.bu.edu/eng/grad>

Application Deadline: Feb 15

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A unique work-study **summer internship** is also available.
(Housing will be provided for interested students.)

To schedule an interview on **February 18** for a **summer** or **full-time** position submit your resume electronically to **JOBTRAK** by **February 4, 2000**.

Jean L. Gee, FSA
Assistant Vice President and Actuary



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SPRING BREAK

Williams' Role Shaped by Reorganization, Krueger

Williams, from Page 1

Life Margaret R. Bates said she would leave MIT at the end of the school year.

"My first instinct was I should stay on awhile; [our leaving the same year] seemed a disadvantage," Williams said. But Williams "decided it wouldn't be a disadvantage and it might even be an advantage" to consider the job descriptions of Bates and Williams in tandem.

"We need somebody who can look at academics from an institute-wide perspective. I'm trying to do it but I'm trying to handle too much so I can't focus on academics," Williams said. "As a faculty member you want to focus on academics; that's what you do, that's what you know. I certainly did end up spending more time on residential life than I ever anticipated," due to the reorganization of the Dean's Office in 1996 and the aftermath of the death of Scott S. Krueger '01, Williams said.

"It wasn't what I planned but it had a profound impact on getting residential to be life seen as part MIT education," Williams said.

Dean's Office to be split

With the double vacancy in the Dean's Office, senior administration is discussing splitting the Dean's Office. "One model under discussion is to have a dean for undergraduate education and a dean for student life, both of whom report to the Chancellor. Even with this model we'd have a very, very close relationship between the two deans and the two offices," Williams said.

"The new dean for undergraduate education will be a member of the faculty, whereas dean for student life might not be," Williams said. Residential Life and Student Life Programs will report to the

dean for student life while offices like the Office of Academic Services will report to the dean for undergraduate affairs.

"The decision about how to do this will be made by the senior administration altogether," Williams said. "Vest especially will want to review any model. He created the Dean's Office in 1996 ... and we want to maintain that achievement," Williams said.

Currently, the Dean for Student Life reports to the Dean of Undergraduate Education, who in turn reports to Bacow.

Office reshaped through term

The power structure in the Dean's Office has changed significantly in the five years since Williams accepted the post.

"There were two stages: the first was in the fall of 1996, when what we now know as ODSUE was created," Williams said. "The second really major change was in the spring of 1998 when we had a change of senior leadership." In 1998, Robert A. Brown became Provost and John R. Curry became Executive Vice President.

Bacow's appointment as Chancellor at the same time brought back a senior administrative position whose focus is student affairs.

The 1996 reorganization of ODSUE changed the responsibilities of the Dean's Office significantly. Admissions now reports to the Dean of Students, as does career services, student financial services, all operations of residential life, campus dining, campus activities complex, and athletics, Williams said.

Also, "we're now doing fundraising in a more focused way, speaking on behalf of the students," Williams said.

"Margaret Bates and I were hired for a much smaller office ...

for both of us there's been a huge expansion in the definition of the job and the size of the office," Williams said.

Search on for new dean

Bacow is currently forming a search committee to find the new Dean of Students. "There will be a search for a new Dean. Professor Graham C. Walker will chair the search committee," Bacow said.

The committee will include MIT administrators as well as faculty and student representatives. "You need that presence because that job has a lot of administrative responsibility,"

Williams said.

"The fact that we are also searching for a new Dean of Student Life also gives us an opportunity to think about how we can strengthen both positions to better serve students," Bacow said.

Williams eager to teach

"The role of the humanities at MIT right now is a really exciting one ... humanities faculty at MIT have in many ways been at the forefront of the information revolution," Williams said.

Williams' term as dean had given her insights to apply to teach-

ing. "I'm much more interested in trying to build connections between my school and the rest of MIT, and I have a much deeper sense of the lives of our students outside of the classroom."

When she returns to teaching, Williams is not planning to do any more administrative work. "It's hard to avoid committees, however," Williams said.

Williams received her Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and came to MIT in 1980. She is the Robert M. Metcalfe Professor of Writing and became Dean of Students in 1995.



ROSHAN BALIGA—THE TECH

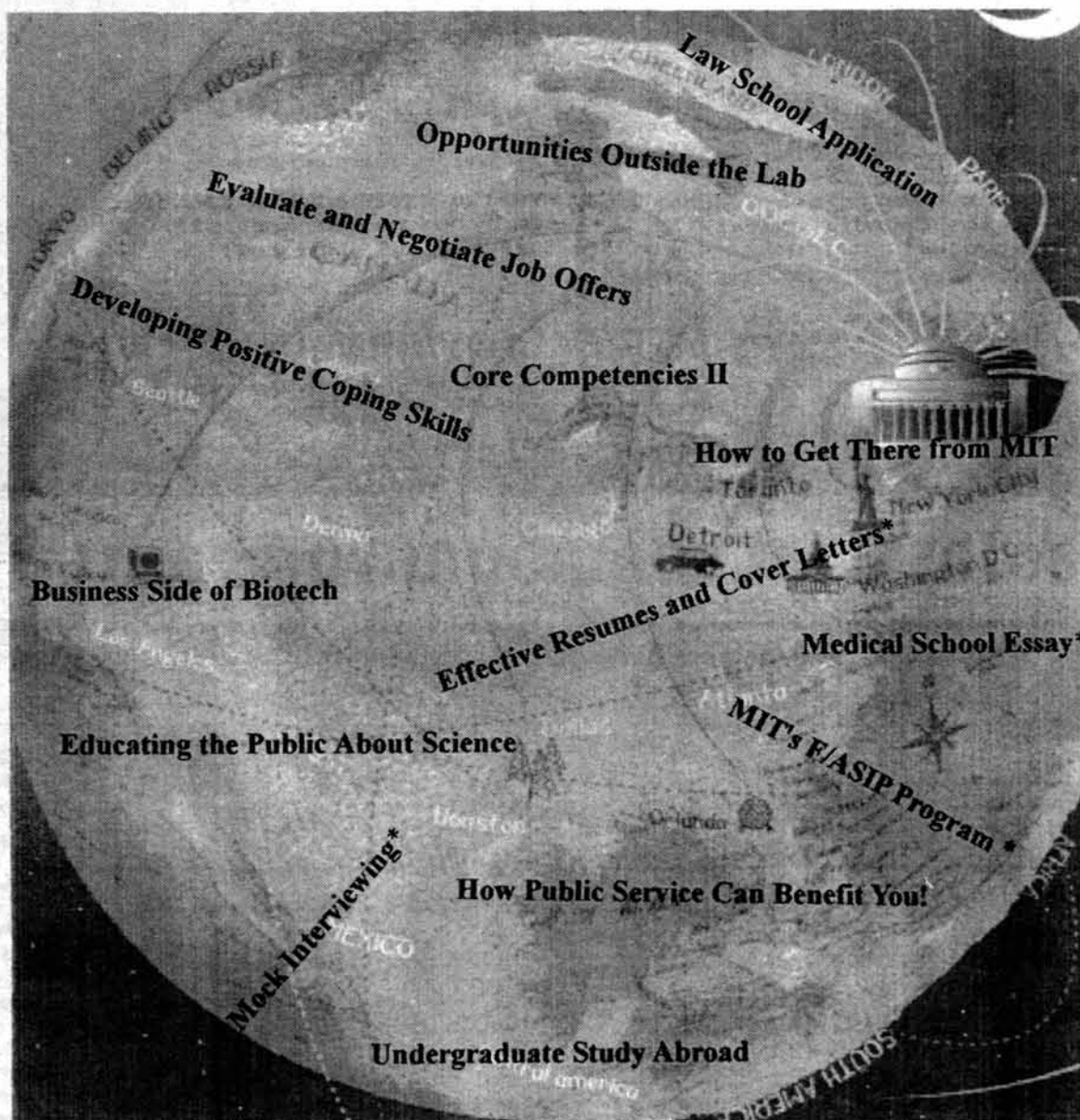
Geoffrey King and Maitland Lederer play Monopoly on Sunday, in a tournament sponsored by CAC and Residential Life. Future dates for the tournament are Jan 19th (7:30-11 in Lobdell), Jan 23rd (7:30-11 in 20 Chimneys), and the Finals on Jan 27th (8-11 in 20 Chimneys).

Career Services IAP 2000

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-Oliver W. Holmes

* For more information and to preregister for workshops please go to <http://web.mit.edu/career/www/IAP.htm>



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finger food for the fatuous

from the secret files of
Max Cannon

Say, Karen...I don't suppose you could lend me five dollars until tomorrow, could you?

No way! You're always a big meanie to me. Besides, what do you need five dollars for?

Well, I was going to go purchase us each a double-scoop ice cream cone.

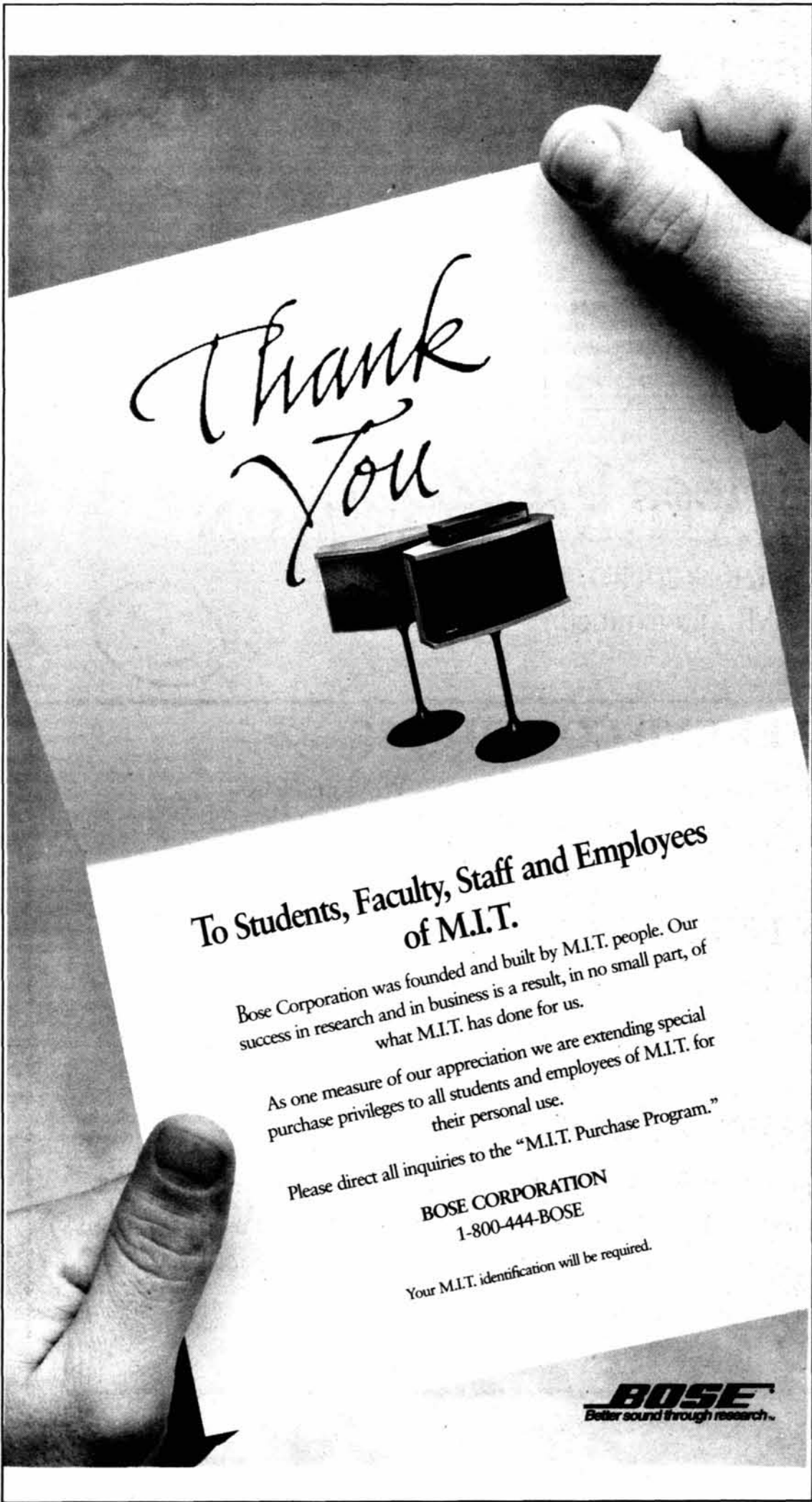
Really...? Now I wish I had money to lend you.

Just kidding about the ice cream, Karen. I like to periodically check on your financial status in case you might be diligently saving your allowance in an effort to afford the services of a low-priced hitman.

What makes you think I wasn't kidding about havin' no money?

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On Campus Interviews
February 18, 2000

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ATO: Party Not a House Event

ATO, from Page 1

happened before we got a chance to talk to anyone ... the media reported that two brothers were arrested when that is entirely not true. Both were issued citations by the Campus Police, but they were not arrested," Brocoun said.

According to Orme-Johnson, the cited fraternity member will face the "standard sanctions in the case of possession of alcohol by a minor." The student will be required to have a conversation with a dean and to complete an alcohol education program.

ATO party not a house event

There were approximately 100 people at the New Year's Eve Party held at the ATO house on 405 Memorial Drive.

Brocoun claimed the party was not sponsored by the fraternity: the fraternity's defense may hinge on proving that point. "The important thing is that this party was not a house event. One of our brothers from the Boston area decided to throw a party with some of his friends. Most of the brothers were not here since it was during break," he said.

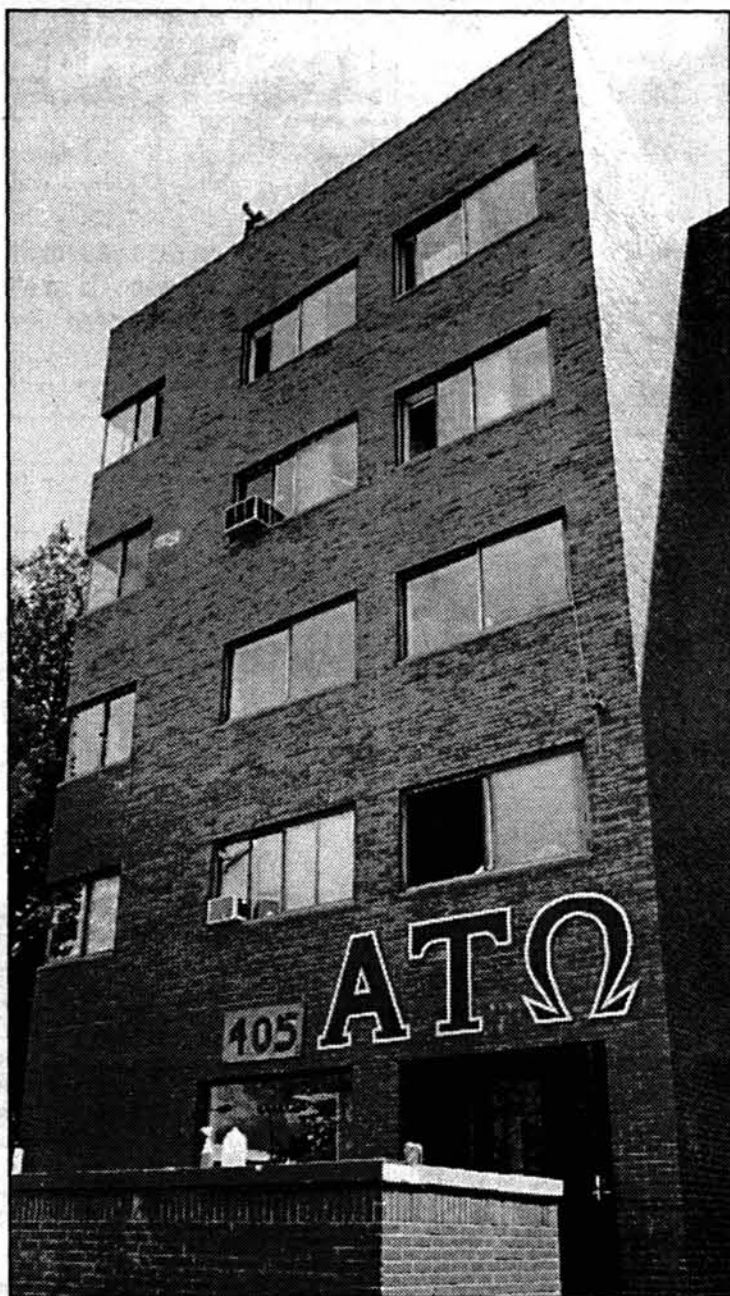
If IFC officials agree that the party was not sponsored by the house any sanctions are likely to be less serious.

"In my estimation, I don't think it was a fraternity event," said Kremer.

"I think there were a lot of non-MIT students there, but those four were the only ones who refused to leave," said Dorow.

Fraternity members maintain that they did not serve any beer that night. "It was a BYOB event. We didn't even buy any beer," said Brocoun.

ATO has remained free of any IFC violations in the past year.



A New Year's party at ATO's Memorial Drive house resulted in four arrests and several citations.

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UA PROJECT PROPOSAL

Have a good idea??? The UA is soliciting proposals for projects. Projects should be design to benefit a significant number of students or student groups. Proposals should include detailed cost analysis, time schedule, event description approximately 200 words! Proposals must be submitted to W20-401 by 2pm, February 18, 2000. Questions: ua@mit.edu

RED MEAT

hell hole swan dive

from the secret files of
Max Cannon

I watched this movie about Ben Hur on the TV last night. It reminded me about when I was a kid I used to like to play "gladiators."



I used a big cooking pot for a helmet, an' a toilet plunger for a sword, an' me and the neighbor kids used to have these wars.



Man...it takes a lot of work to kill a kid with a plunger.



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Pet Evictions Decried by Bexley, Random Residents

Pets, from Page 1

from the majority of the residence hall."

"Many students own pets as a source of companionship and stress relief," stated DormCon in its draft, "something every student at MIT needs help with."

Regardless of the Institute's reasoning, many students are still bitter over the enforcement of the pet ban. Random Hall resident Liana F. Lareau '00 mourned the loss of Random's pets, stating that the hall's cats "really made our floor a fun place to live."

"Besides," Lareau said, "[the cats] killed more mice than the mousetraps did."

"Since the removal of the cats," Conwell added, "Random has experienced a major mouse infestation. We've always had a mouse or two, but it's gotten far worse. Certain parts of the dorm have so many mice that they have been compared to scenes from 'The Nutcracker Suite'... cats were much cheaper and more effective rodent control."

Rachel A. Sharp '02, a hall chair at East Campus, also suggests that her hall would face a rodent problem of epidemic proportions if the cats were to be removed. Sharp advocates student self-policing to promote responsible pet ownership. "Third east takes a vote each time a

new cat is desired by one of the residents," said Sharp. "We also put conditions on the ownership of cats. Cats must be fixed when they are old enough, so as not to offend the other cats, and must have all their shots."

Students react to enforcement

Residents of Bexley and Random decried the Institute's enforcement of the pet ban.

"We knew that cats were technically illegal, but the rule had been ignored for many years, longer than any of us had been at MIT. We were also upset that we were given only two weeks' warning to find alternate situations for our pets," said Random resident Erin R. Conwell '03.

"My cat is my best friend at MIT," stated Bexley resident Victoria Y. Chen '00, owner of Peter, a black-and-white domestic longhair. Chen stressed that most pet owners at MIT responsibly maintain their pets and select dormmates that consent to their ownership.

The timing of MIT's announcement also angered Chen. "Where else am I supposed to put him [before the holidays]? I can't take him back to the shelter and I won't put him on the street."

"We would put down a deposit [with MIT] to have our pet," stated Jennifer D. Navarro '00, co-owner with Analeah O'Neill '00 of Black-

ie, described by Navarro as "a fat black cat." Both joined in Chen's criticism of MIT's sudden announcement, with O'Neill complaining that the roommates "were told after we had left [for the holidays] that we had to take her away."

Navarro raised concern of a double standard, stating, "If we lose our pet, what about the tutors? Do they lose their pets?" Technically, only the housemasters at MIT are allowed pets, due to their status as "permanent residents" of Institute housing, said Nilsson.

Policy to spread to other dorms

In his mail to Random Hall Barnes also said, "The issue is not just one for Random Hall. All dorms will have to comply with the same policy."

Bexley Hall, also managed by Barnes, was notified on December 17th that the no pet policy would be enforced upon students' return from Winter Break.

Barnes, described by one resident as a "good guy who genuinely likes students," explained the timing as necessary due to the "desperate last minute preparations" students were making for care of their pets. "I was extremely concerned that some of the pets would be left throughout the buildings with no one to care for them," he said.

"The no pet policy is a long-standing policy. I have been working with students, along with the housemaster and tutors, since the fall to find other homes for their pets."

Pets kept at MIT over the summer brought the issue to a head. Incoming residents "felt many of the rooms previously occupied by residents pets were uninhabitable. Students were extremely reluctant to absorb the cost of cleaning and carpet replacement," said Barnes.

Enforcement of the policy at Random and Bexley is the first step in plans of the office of Residential Life and Student Life Programs to address enforcement of Institute pet policy campus-wide, according to RLSLP Associate Director of Operations Karen A. Nilsson.

Nilsson explained that in previous years "perhaps the issue of pets wasn't at the forefront" of administrative concern, but the pet issue is now one whose time has come. The pet ban provides for the "welfare of the community" she said. "Because pets cause problems even for a few people, we would be discriminating against the few with pet allergies" in allowing pets on campus.

When students sign a housing contract, Nilsson said, they agree to abide by the policies set out in MIT's "Standards and Procedures for Students." The housing section

of this document clarifies the official Institute policy on pets: "no pets may be kept by residents or guests in an Institute house."

RLSLP will not seek out pets

RLSLP is not going to search for "illegal pets" on campus, according to Nilsson, who said, "we do not want to be the pet police... we're not going to have a pet search." However, occasionally "someone brings to our attention that there is an unauthorized pet on campus. Usually these people are the ones affected by the pet - other students, or workers with allergies," or people who notice pet-related facility damage.

With that information, "we have an obligation to talk to the [pet-owning] student and make arrangements to have the pet removed," said Nilsson. But, "As far as I know," she said, "no one has ever been removed [from MIT housing] for having a pet."

"We're not trying to throw people out because they have a pet. We'd like to find a better place than a residential hall for these pets," Nilsson said.

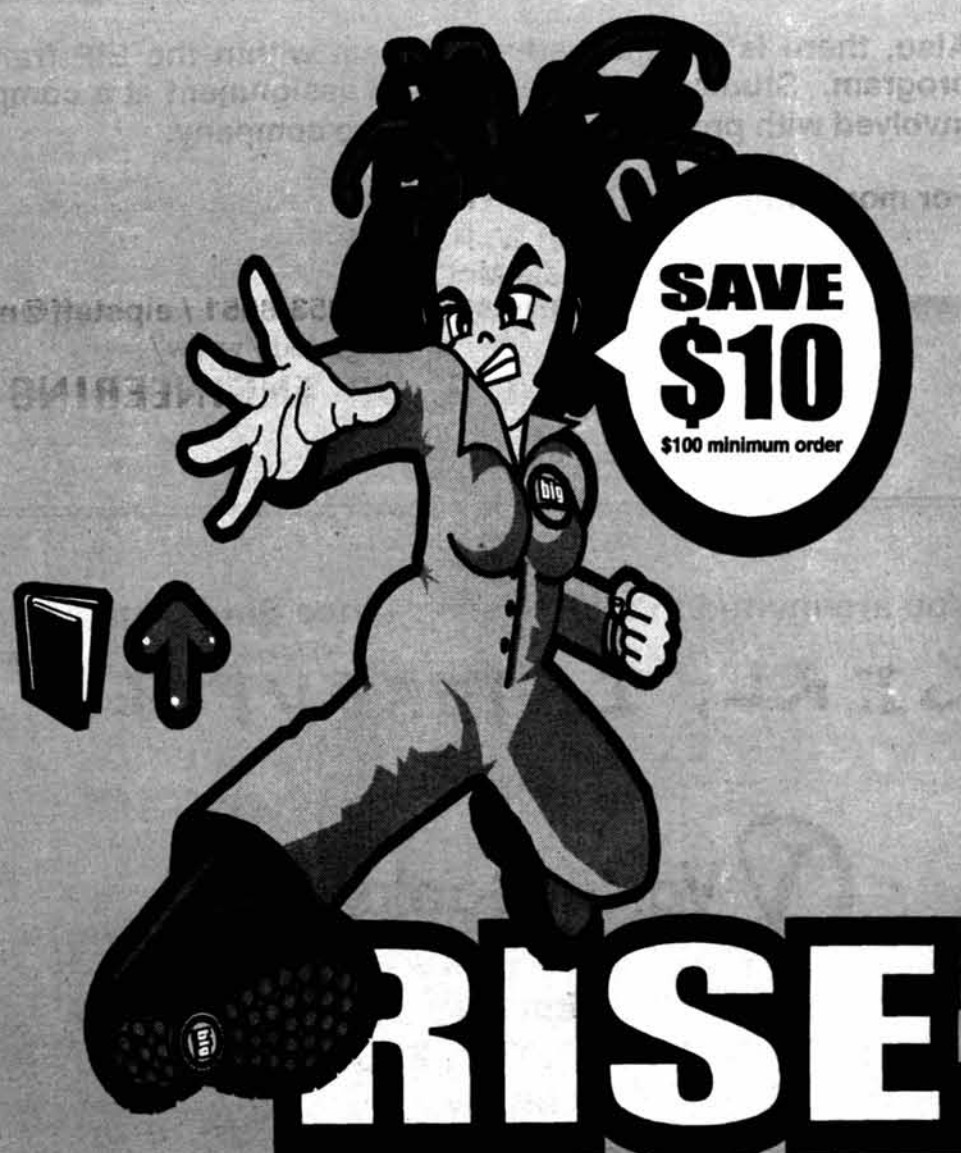
Nothing in Cambridge housing law explicitly disallows pets in apartments or temporary housing. Instead, the decision about pets is left to the landlord. In the case of residential halls, the landlord is MIT.

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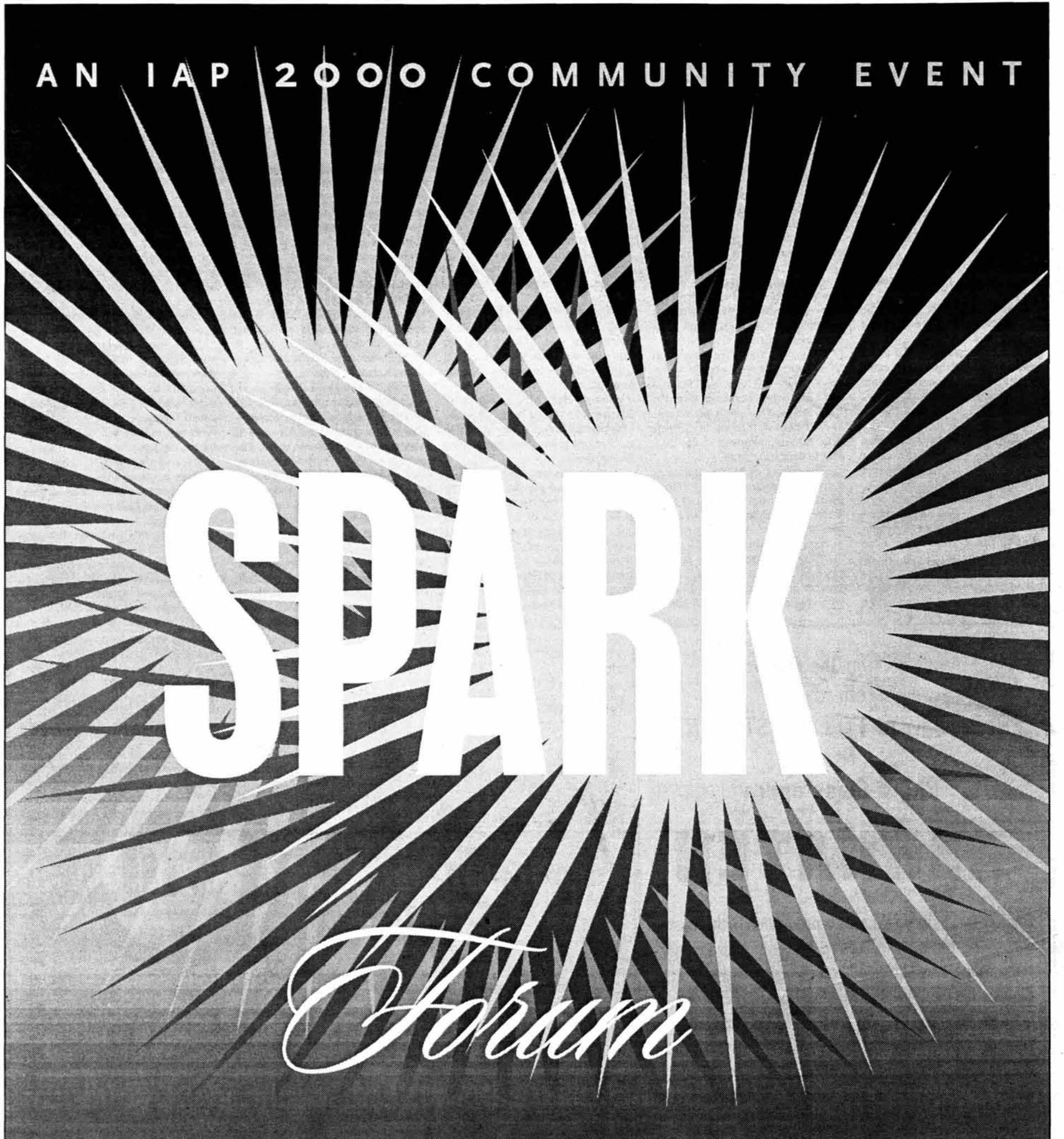
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Justine Cassell, Media Arts & Sciences
**Nudge, Nudge, Wink, Wink:
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between Humans and Machines**

Thursday January 6th • 10-250
Ely Dahan, Management
**Using the Internet to Get Close to
Customers and Design Insanely
Great Products**

Monday January 10th • 6-120
Tina Voelker, Civil & Environmental
Engineering
**Clean Water: A Chemist's Outlook
on Sustaining the Health of
Aquatic Environments**

Tuesday January 11th • 6-120
Angelika Weis-Amon, Biology
**From Yeast to Drug
Against Cancer**

Thursday January 13th • 10-250
Peter So, Mechanical Engineering
**Optical Imaging:
Capturing Biology in Action**

Tuesday January 18th • 6-120
John-Paul Clarke, Aeronautics &
Astronautics
**The Future of Air Traffic Control:
Can We Do It Safely and
Reliably without Harming
the Environment?**

Wednesday January 19th • 10-250
Sendhil Mullainathan, Economics
**The Psychology of
Financial Markets**

Thursday January 20th • 10-250
Lynn Stein, Electrical Engineering &
Computer Science
**The Disappearance
of Computers**

Monday January 24th • 10-250
Ned Hall, Linguistics & Philosophy
**Is Quantum Physics Inconsistent?
(And Does It Matter, If It Is?)**

Tuesday January 25th • 6-120
Sebastian Seung, Brain &
Cognitive Sciences
**Towards a Unified Theory
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