



Women's Crew Protests NCAA Rule Changes

Men's Team Gathers Over 2,000 Signatures In Support of Women

By Jennifer Krishnan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Crew team members rowed for Lobby 10 onlookers all day Thursday in support of the women's crew team.

They gathered a total of 2,115 signatures by the end of Thursday for a petition asking the Athletics Department to help the women's crew team continue at their current level of competition.

"It was a phenomenal success," Mark D. Laughter '01, captain of the men's heavyweight crew team and one of the event's organizers, said of the demonstration.

The controversy surrounding the future of women's crew was sparked by two major changes made by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The first establishes a separate Division III championship in women's crew; the second limits practice hours of all Division III teams.



Adam C. Reynolds '01, Steven Carr '01, and Eric A. Dauler '02 row in Lobby 10 Thursday to protest the decision to make women's crew a Division III team.

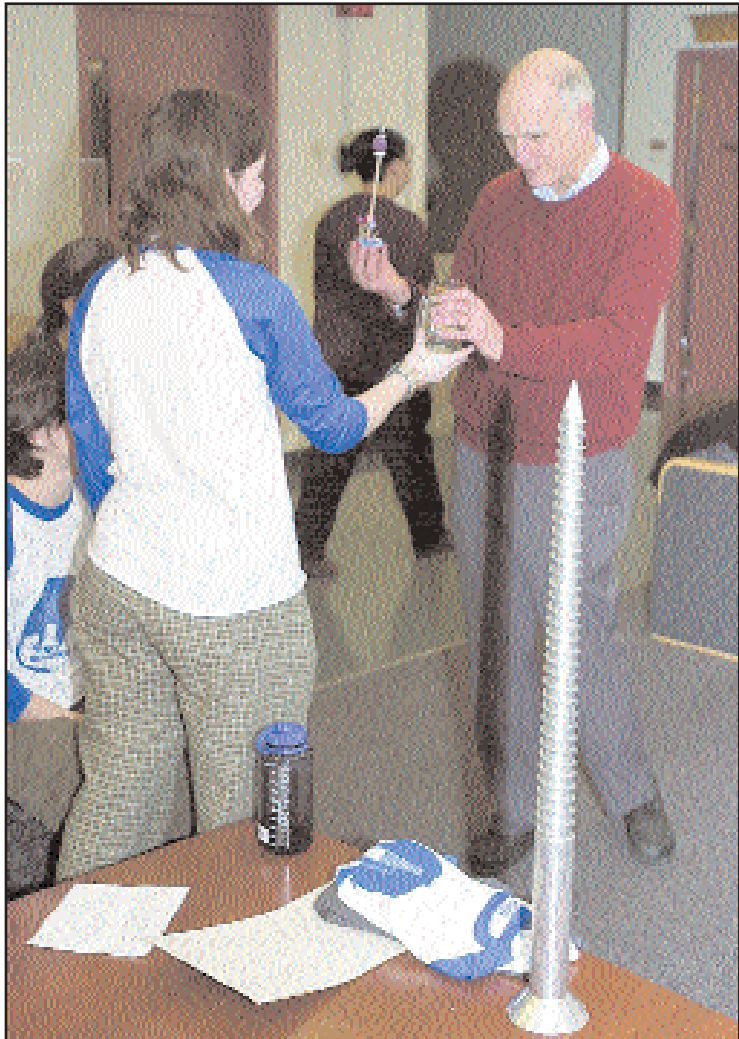
Division III contest established

Until this year, there has been

only one level of competition for women's rowing, so the women's crew team has been racing Division

I schools. Women's crew currently competes in the Eastern Sprints race at

Bradt Wins APO's Big Screw; Money Goes to MIT Community Service Fund



Alpha Phi Omega member Erin R. Tyndall '04 presents Professor Hale Van Dorn Bradt PhD '61 the Big Screw in honor of his 8.02 class. The MIT Community Service Fund received a \$2212.97 donation from the annual competition.

By Efrén Gutierrez
STAFF REPORTER

Professor of Physics Hale V. D. Bradt PhD '61 claimed the Big Screw for his 8.02 (Physics II) course in Alpha Phi Omega's annual "Big Screw" competition.

The philanthropic contest recognizes the person, class, or thing at MIT that "screwed" students the most this year.

Bradt was presented with the screw by Erin R. Tyndall '04, APO Awards Chair, in a ceremony on the fifth floor of the Student Center yesterday afternoon.

The victorious Bradt, who claimed victory with \$932.63 in donations, will donate the total proceeds of the contest, \$2,212.97, to his chosen charity, the MIT Community Service Fund.

"I nominated myself for the contest so I could do something different for my last year since I'm retiring," Bradt said.

"I chose this charity because it is used for Boston and Cambridge activities where MIT students, staff, and alumni are volunteers," Bradt said.

Unified Engineering (16.030/16.040) teaching assistant Christopher E. Johnson '02 collected \$579.41 for a second place finish, while Professor Michael D. Ernst's Laboratory in Software Engineering (6.170) course landed in third place with \$320.36.

"I was happy that Professor Bradt received the award because he has been donating toward that charity

Big Screw, Page 19

the end of the crew season in May. Among the 18 Sprint schools, MIT is the only university classified as Division III.

"No one said we can't still race against [these schools]," said women's crew coach Susan Lindholm.

However, "it wouldn't make any sense for them to schedule a race against us," Katherine S. Graham '01 said. "There are only so many weekends. [There is no reason] to race against a school you don't need to race against."

MIT can only race in the season-ending Eastern Sprint race if they race at least six of the other schools during the year.

Furthermore, the specifics of the Division III women's rowing

Crew, Page 18

Licensing Advisory Board Discusses Drinking Issues

By Vicky Hsu
STAFF REPORTER

Cambridge Licensing Advisory Board members joined representatives from Next House, Kappa Sigma, and various MIT administrative offices Tuesday at the second on-campus CLAB meeting this year.

The meetings are intended to be a means for the Cambridge city government and MIT to address jointly undergraduate alcohol and substance abuse at the Institute.

"Traditionally, undergraduates here have fared better than their national counterparts," said Gina R. Baral, health educator for students at MIT Medical.

"The binge drinking rate at MIT is half that of the national level, and although the rate at MIT has been steady from 1995 to 2000, that of the national level has increased," she said.

Baral said that the percentage of

Baral said that the percentage of

NASA Chief Will Deliver Keynote

Goldin to Speak At Commencement

By Shankar Mukherji
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Daniel S. Goldin, head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), has been selected to deliver the keynote address at MIT's 135th Commencement on June 8.

Goldin, the longest serving NASA Administrator in the agency's history, has revolutionized the nation's space program through his much-touted "faster, better, cheaper" approach in the face of declining budgets.

A graduate of the City College of New York, Goldin is no stranger to MIT. The administrator was on campus last October to present a packed audience with his visions of the future of space travel.

Student leaders support decision

Class of 2001 President Erick N. Tseng voiced his enthusiasm that Goldin will address his fellow seniors.

"I think it's a great choice," he said.

Commenting on selecting a government leader after a two year lay-over, Tseng noted that "following [last year's commencement speaker Carleton Fiorina] a ceremony with another industry leader would be repetitive."

Graduate Student Council President Soulaymane Kachani

Commencement, Page 19



Comics

Page 12

The Committee on the Undergraduate Program introduced its proposal to abolish second-term Pass/No Record.

Page 17



Men's lacrosse defeats Curry, 18-4.

Page 24

World & Nation 2
Opinion 4
Arts 8
On the Screen 9
On the Town 10
Events Calendar 14

WORLD & NATION

Bush Quashes Bar Association’s Role in Selection of Judges

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

President Bush decided Thursday to discontinue a half-century tradition in which presidents have relied on the American Bar Association for advice on potential candidates for federal judgeships, concluding it’s unfair to give “any single group such a preferential, quasi-official role.”

In a telephone conversation and subsequent letter, Bush’s chief counsel Gonzales told association President Martha Barnett that administration officials would consider the views of the ABA along with those of other groups. But in a major change from past practice, the association will get the names only after the president has made his selections public.

The decision, which White House officials had foreshadowed for nearly a week, delighted key Republicans in Congress and other conservatives, who have contended for years that the ABA has a liberal orientation that tinges its ratings of judicial candidates. But congressional Democrats and liberal organizations said the absence of early vetting by the ABA would erode the caliber and independence of the federal bench.

Sharon Returns Home To Increasing Violence

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon returned home Thursday from a U.S. visit to face a deteriorating security situation and an escalation in what he called “Palestinian terror” during his four-day absence.

While Sharon was abroad, an Israeli father of six was killed in a drive-by shooting, a large car bomb was defused in a religious neighborhood of Jerusalem and mortars were fired on a Jewish farming community in Israel and at Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip.

“I shall do exactly as I promised: restore security to the lives of Israeli citizens,” Sharon said.

Clashes raged in the Gazan town of Khan Yunis after the funeral of a Palestinian killed by an Israeli tank shell during a clash Wednesday night. The army said Palestinians lobbed five armor-piercing grenades at a post during the battle Thursday. At least five Palestinians were wounded during two hours of fighting, according to Palestinians sources.

FDA Approves New Device To Watch Adult Diabetics

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday approved a wristwatch-like device for adult diabetics that automatically — and painlessly — checks blood sugar levels every 20 minutes by sending tiny electric currents through the skin.

The GlucoWatch Biographer, made by Cygnus Inc. of Redwood City, Calif., won’t completely replace those often inconvenient and uncomfortable finger prick tests because it sometimes gives false readings.

But it will supplement them by checking blood glucose more frequently — sounding an alarm if blood sugar reaches dangerous levels, either too high or too low, even when the patient is asleep.

The approval “heralds the advent of new technologies that promise dramatic improvements in the quality of life for millions of Americans who have diabetes,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson.

United States Expels Four Russians Accused of Spying

By Mike Allen and Steven Mufson

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The State Department on Thursday morning announced that four suspected Russian spies must leave the country within 10 days and another 46 must leave by July 1. The four ordered out immediately, as well as two others who have already left the country and would not be welcomed back, had ties to Robert Hanssen, the veteran FBI counterintelligence agent charged with spying for Moscow.

The Russian Ambassador Yuri V. Ushakov was given details of the expulsions, the largest since President Reagan ordered the ouster of 80 Soviet diplomats in 1986, Thursday morning at the State Department.

President Bush later said the United States “made the right decision” on the expulsions. “I was presented with the facts; I made the decision; it was the right thing to do. And having said that, I believe that we’ll have a good working relationship with the Russians,” the president told reporters.

Meanwhile, the administration said Thursday that the expulsion of the suspected Russian spies is a sign

of a new “realism” that the president plans to bring to relations with the nation’s adversaries.

“The president believes the proper way to conduct foreign relations is to work together productively and fruitfully in areas where we can, and there are many such with Russia, but to be realistic about any of the problems in the relationship and to take action as necessary and required,” White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said at a briefing Thursday morning.

Fleischer repeated that Bush’s relations with Russia and other countries will be “marked by realism, by reality — he will deal with events in a serious and realistic action.”

“Concerns have been raised with the Russians for many years about the level and the presence of intelligence officers in this country,” Fleischer said. “The State Department yesterday asked a certain number of Russians to leave and declared them persona non grata.”

The action follows the arrest last month of Hanssen on charges of spying for Moscow. “This is in regard to the Hanssen case and it is an expression from the United States about the level of, and the number of intelligence officers that

Russia has in the United States,” Fleischer said.

At the State Department, John Beyrle, the acting special ambassador for Newly Independent States, told the Russian ambassador Thursday morning that four accredited Russian diplomats had 10 days to leave the country. All four had been implicated in the Hanssen investigation, the State Department said. Another State Department official told reporters that two other Russian diplomats who left the United States in the past week had also been “associated” with the Hanssen case and were “not welcome back.”

In addition, Beyrle told the Russian ambassador that 46 other Russian diplomats — all alleged intelligence officers — must leave by July 1. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said that this was done “to address our longstanding concerns about the level of their intelligence presence in the United States.”

A State Department official said that while Russia reduced the number of its intelligence agents in 1991 immediately after the end of the Cold War, that from 1993 to 1997 it built up the numbers of agents again and kept them at high levels despite U.S. complaints.

5 Wounded in School Shooting

Latest Violence Follows Shooting In Neighboring Town

By Jeff Adler and William Booth

THE WASHINGTON POST

EL CAJON, CALIF.

For the second time this month, a teen-ager took a gun to a high school in the suburbs east of San Diego and opened fire Thursday — this time wounding four others before he was shot in a brief but intense firefight with a police officer.

Five other people were injured by falls and flying glass in the rampage at Granite Hills High School, according to police and paramedics.

Police identified the suspect as 18-year-old Jason Hoffman, a senior. They said he arrived at the school shortly before 1 p.m. with a

handgun and what witnesses described as a shotgun, crouched into a sniper position and opened fire near the administration building of the 2,900-student school. He reloaded one of his weapons at least once, witnesses said

El Cajon Police Capt. Bill McClurg said the gunman then engaged in a “running gun battle” with an El Cajon police officer who was assigned to a security detail at the school and responded to the gunfire almost immediately.

Hoffman was shot and wounded by the police officer during the exchange. He was taken to an area hospital with wounds to his jaw and buttocks, and listed in serious condition.

Three students and a female teacher were also wounded by gunfire, and were sent to local hospitals with shotgun pellet wounds. Their injuries were not life-threatening,

authorities said.

The alleged gunman, seen briefly on television images as he was taken by stretcher into an ambulance, was heavy set with dark, shaved hair. His face was bleeding from wounds. McClurg said that police “have no motive, no statements” from the suspect.

There was an eerie sense of replay to the day’s events, which unfolded just a few miles away from Santana High School, where two students were killed and 13 others injured when a student opened fire there March 5. The dead from Santana High, located in the neighboring town of Santee, were buried just 10 days ago.

Counselors, who are still working with students from nearby Santana High, will begin working with Granite Hills students here Friday. The two high schools are in the same school district.

WEATHER

Calmer Skies Ahead

By Bill Ramstrom

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

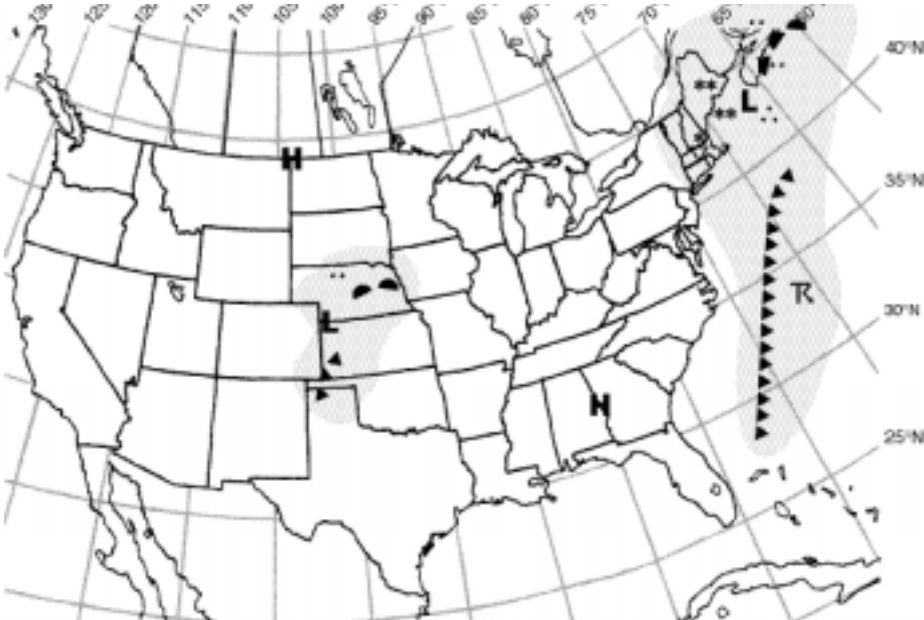
After a few last lingering showers and flurries exit the area today, generally tranquil weather should persist through early next week. Temperatures will remain at seasonal levels — mid 40s during the day, and close to freezing at night. There is a chance of a shower or flurry Saturday night, but more likely there will be just a period of cloudiness. Sunday will be the coolest of the weekend days, with a high near 40°F.

Weather across the country should be good for traveling today and tomorrow. Temperatures should be near 80°F in Spring Break retreats like South Florida and South Texas, with sunny skies prevailing.

Weekend Outlook

Today: Cloudy with a stray flurry. High 35°F (2°C).
Tonight: Clearing and cooler. Low 30°F (-1°C).
Saturday: Partly cloudy. High 51°F (10°C).
Saturday night: Cloudy, maybe a flurry or shower. Low 31°F (-1°C).
Sunday: Partly cloudy and cooler. High 40°F (4°C).
Monday: Sunny and warmer. High 46°F (8°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, March 23, 2001



Mir Begins Descent, Wreckage Expected to Fall into Pacific

By Peter Baker
THE WASHINGTON POST

KOROLYOV, RUSSIA

The space station Mir began its final, fiery plunge through the atmosphere early Friday morning, turning a milestone in human exploration into the largest piece of space junk ever to fall to Earth.

Using the engines of a cargo ship docked at the abandoned station, Russian Mission Control pointed the 135-ton complex toward the South Pacific Ocean where an estimated 25 tons of wreckage surviving reentry were supposed to drop harmlessly into the open sea somewhere between New Zealand and Chile.

The assisted suicide of the station after more than 15 years and 86,000 trips around the globe attracted great interest, and a good bit of fear, on the planet below. Despite Russian reassurances, residents of Japan and other Pacific islands were warned to stay indoors, airplane flights were rerouted and several nations deployed emergency

response teams in case of disaster. A couple of dozen tuna boats in the area refused to evacuate because, they said, the fish were biting.

With the approach of splash-down, scheduled for around 9:30 a.m. Moscow time (1:30 a.m. EST), Russian controllers continued to insist that there was nothing to worry about. All systems were operating as expected during the initial phases, they said.

“We’re taking all measures to make it 100 percent safe,” mission control director Vladimir Solovyov said after the station had fallen past the point of no return. Still, he added, “Emergency situations can always happen.”

Mir ended its storied, if sometimes star-crossed, existence less than two days after the first crew of the International Space Station returned to Earth, in effect a generational baton-passing to the next orbiting home for space-faring nations. No longer able to sustain a superpower-style space program, Russia decided to bring Mir down to

focus on its role in constructing the 16-nation project instead.

Since it was first launched on Feb. 20, 1986, more than 100 cosmonauts and astronauts took turns living aboard Mir, providing the first extensive understanding of long-term human habitation in space. But the station became just as well known for its many cosmic calamities: oxygen leaks, computer shutdowns, a fire and even a collision with an unmanned cargo ship.

As a result, Russian officials were determined to sink it without mishap. “We need to give a civilized end to the station and bring it down when it’s still under control,” Mikhail Sinelschikov, head of the manned flight program, said in a recent interview. “This is the last thing Mir can give to mankind — the experience of how something like this can be brought down.”

Because the course of Mir’s life has rarely gone smoothly in recent years, Russian officials devised backup plans and took out \$200 million in insurance.

Senate Debates Campaign Finance

Engaging Debate Strikes Chord With Many Senators

By Janet Hook and Nick Anderson
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Something remarkable is happening during the Senate’s sprawling debate on campaign finance reform. Senators are actually paying attention.

At a time of growing dependence on staff and made-for-TV speeches delivered to a mostly empty chamber, they are suddenly doing what they are supposed to do — deliberate, write bills, try to persuade each other.

The irony is that the Senate is coming alive on a topic that, for much of the public, seems to inspire indifference, cynicism or befuddlement. But for the lawmakers themselves, few issues could be more captivating: fundraising, after all, is the sprinkler system that waters the roots of their careers.

“These are all people who have raised millions of dollars to get where they are today,” said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Center for People and the Press. The reform debate “may not be salient for the American people, but it sure

is for them.”

This self-interest was vividly demonstrated when the first two major amendments added to the reform bill would make it easier to run for re-election. One, approved Wednesday, would drive down the cost of political ads on television; the other, passed Tuesday, would make it easier to fend off millionaire challengers.

The intensity of the give-and-take on the Senate floor is a reminder of one of the biggest reasons why it is so hard to reform the campaign finance system. Every senator has a direct personal stake in the outcome.

“This is a debate ... where everybody is concerned because, of course, this could affect all of us in very profound ways in the future,” said Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

Campaign finance debates usually prove raucous. The last time the Senate addressed the issue, in 1999, principal reform advocate Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) came under attack from members of his own party — barbs with a bitter personal edge rarely seen in the usually decorous Senate.

This year’s debate, so far, has been less emotional. But it has a new fervor because reform advocates have their best chance in years to prevail. The national following

McCain gained during his presidential run last year gave the reform movement new energy, as did the election of several new senators committed to the cause.

At the same time, the vast number of amendments in the works shrouds the bill’s fate in uncertainty. There seems to be no way to know, hour to hour, let alone from day to day, what will be proposed. And each amendment added to the bill potentially scrambles the political coalition that has publicly embraced reform.

“This is improvisational theater,” said Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.). “Everything else we do here is scripted.”

The unusual involvement of senators was driven home after defeat of the first version of the amendment aimed at helping candidates who face millionaire challengers. A bipartisan group of about a dozen senators retreated to the Republican cloakroom and figured out how to rewrite the measure so it would pass. That’s the kind of spadework that is traditionally done by aides.

“The nation and the world will be peeking in through their television windows to witness this Senate debate,” said Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb). “Will they see dignity, respect for others’ opinions, honest discourse and elevated debate? I believe so.”

Peace Talks Spurned in Macedonia

Government Sends Troops To Combat Guerrilla Uprising

By Richard Boudreaux
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TETOVO, MACEDONIA

Fighting between security forces and ethnic-Albanian guerrillas resumed Thursday after a 24-hour lull as the Macedonian government spurned a rebel offer of peace talks and put the army in charge of a struggling anti-insurgency campaign.

Two suspected guerrillas were killed and four government troops were wounded in scattered confrontations as unilateral cease-fires on both sides ended, dashing faint hopes for a quick settlement of an armed conflict over ethnic minority rights.

For the first time since combat erupted here a month ago, the government sent paramilitary police officers into the hills above Tetovo, de facto capital of the country’s disaffected ethnic-Albanian minority, in an effort to flush guerrillas from

at least six village strongholds.

“They have been provoking us for 34 days, and we are responding,” government spokesman Antonio Milososki said.

The battle moved briefly into Tetovo’s tense, mostly deserted streets when two Albanian men stopped their Suzuki compact at a police checkpoint. Television footage showed one man getting out of the car and cocking his arm as if to throw something at the police, who then opened fire, killing both men. Police said the would-be thrower died clutching a live grenade.

Macedonian police and soldiers said they came under attack at three points Wednesday night and Thursday along their country’s border with Kosovo, the separatist Serbian province where ethnic-Albanians are in the majority. Three soldiers and a policeman were reported wounded.

The heaviest border fighting was reported in Gracane, which appeared to be in rebel hands after a substantial guerrilla force entered from Kosovo before dawn Thursday.

The rebels say their National Liberation Army is a home-grown

movement fighting for greater civil rights in Macedonia, where about one-quarter of the population is ethnic-Albanian.

Macedonian officials Thursday seized on the border clashes to back their claim that the insurgency is being run from Kosovo. They said the rebel aim is to carve off northern Macedonia and join it with Kosovo in an independent ethnic-Albanian state.

Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski instructed his army to take all necessary measures to control the border and crush the insurgency.

Rejecting peace talks with the rebel leaders, who had called a unilateral cease-fire, he ordered his forces to move against guerrilla-held villages. The attacks ended the government’s own cease-fire, which had been called to give civilians 24 hours to get out of harm’s way.

Trajkovski said negotiations on Albanian grievances, such as linguistic and job discrimination, were still possible — but only through parliament and other established institutions of Macedonia’s multi-ethnic government.

Economic Downturn Lights Fire Under GOP Tax Hawks

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

With a nervous eye on the swooning economy, top Senate Republicans on Thursday abruptly changed course and decided to push for an immediate \$60 billion tax cut this year — in addition to the \$1.6 trillion tax cut President Bush has proposed for the next ten years.

The Senate GOP leaders also decided to speed legislative action on both their new tax-cut proposal and Bush’s plan.

“We are convinced ... that this must be done as quickly as possible for the economy,” said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete V. Domenici (R-N.M.) after meeting with his GOP colleagues. “I’m firmly convinced this \$60 billion [proposal] will be a big sign that we care.”

Although Bush’s original tax plan would not take effect until 2002, he has said he would support congressional efforts to provide some relief in 2001. A Domenici aide said the senator’s proposal was hatched in recent discussions with Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill.

Whether the proposal can pass the Senate, which is evenly divided between the parties, remains uncertain. Top Democrats recently have been warming to the idea of providing an immediate tax cut to stimulate the economy. But Domenici wants to add onto a \$1.6 trillion tax cut that many Democrats already view as too large and too skewed to the rich.

Bush Continues to Reach Out to Catholics

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush is reaching out to Roman Catholics, courting one of the most important groups of swing voters whose support has gone increasingly to Republican presidential candidates in the past three elections.

His aggressive focus on developing an easy relationship with the church’s leaders, exemplified by two events this week, comes as he seeks to build support for his program to ease the way for government help for charitable organizations.

Bush attended ceremonies Thursday dedicating the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center at the Catholic University of America. On Wednesday evening, he received a delegation of cardinals and bishops at the White House East Room.

“I may be just passing through and I may not be a parishioner, but I’m proud to live in your archdiocese,” Bush said, with a nod to newly elevated Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington.

Bush also has been calling on bishops and cardinals during his introductory travels around the country, paying short, private visits with the religious leaders.

Bush appeared to put the support of Catholics at risk with his campaign visit last year to Bob Jones University. Officials of the South Carolina school have made anti-Catholic statements. But before that visit could become a campaign issue, Bush moved to quell any criticism. He wrote a letter to Cardinal John O’Connor of New York in which he apologized for his visit to the school.

Taliban Opens National Museum to Journalists

THE WASHINGTON POST

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Three weeks after decreeing that all statues in Afghanistan be destroyed, the country’s ruling Taliban movement briefly opened the national museum for journalists, revealing a gloomy, near-empty labyrinth of rooms missing virtually devoid of treasures.

The museum, which has been shut for most of the past six years, once housed a priceless collection of artifacts, from paleolithic pottery shards to Greek coins to Buddhist statues. Thursday there was little inside the shell-pocked, graffiti-scrawled structure except a giant inscribed marble bowl, a hastily arranged display of about 50 artifacts, and endless shelves of ceramic fragments labeled in French in a dank basement.

After the Taliban, a radical Islamic group that controls most of Afghanistan, ordered on Feb. 26 that all pre-Islamic statues and idols in Afghanistan should be demolished, authorities said they had destroyed a number of statues in the museum that were deemed idolatrous. The Taliban also wrecked two giant Buddha statues in the central Afghan province of Bamian two weeks ago.

Yar and other officials said the vast majority of items in the museum had been destroyed or looted before the Taliban regime took power in Kabul in 1996, when civil war among several Afghan factions in the early 1990s turned the city into a battlefield. The officials also said many valuable Islamic objects had been stored elsewhere for safekeeping.

White Dwarf Stars Hold Part Of Dark Matter Mystery

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Solving at least part of one of cosmology’s great mysteries, an international team of scientists reports it has found a chunk of the missing “dark matter” that makes up most of our galaxy.

The components of dark matter have eluded scientists for 70 years, prompting an increasingly intense game of cosmic hide and seek.

Scientists have determined that the universe must have a certain mass. Anything less than that would not provide enough gravity to hold galaxies together: they would simply fly apart.

But visible matter can account for only a small percentage of that total mass — hence, the rest resides in the posited dark matter. In our galaxy, less than 10 percent of the matter is visible in stars that can be detected.

The new findings suggest that between 3 percent and 35 percent of that dark matter is made up of white dwarf stars. These are burned out husks of stars that once shined as brightly as our sun but now glow only feebly, said Ben R. Oppenheimer, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Berkeley who led the study to be published online Friday in the journal *Science*.

OPINION

Letters To The Editor



Chairman

Jordan Rubin '02

Editor in Chief

Michael J. Ring '01

Business Manager

Huanne T. Thomas '02

Managing Editor

Eric J. Cholankeril '02

Executive Editor

Dana Levine '02

NEWS STAFF

Editors: Naveen Sunkavally '01, Rima Arnaout '02, Matthew Palmer '03; **Associate Editors:** Nancy L. Keuss '04, Jennifer Krishnan '04, Brian Loux '04, Shankar Mukherji '04; **Staff:** Daniel C. Stevenson G, Frank Dabek '00, Sanjay Basu '02, Kevin R. Lang '02, Efrén Gutierrez '03, Vicky Hsu '04, Pey-Hua Hwang '04, Pallavi Naresh '04, W.S. Wang '04; **Meteorologists:** Véronique Bugnion G, Rob Korty G, Peter Huybers G, Greg Lawson G, Bill Ramstrom G.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Editor: Satwiksai Seshasai '01; **Associate Editors:** Stacia Swanson '03, Gayani Tillekeratne '03, Joel Corbo '04, Joy Forsythe '04, Tao Yue '04; **Staff:** Mary Obelnicki '98, Ryan Ochylski '01, Ian Lai '02, Anju Kanumalla '03, Vimal Bhalodia '04, Kartik Lamba '04, Andy Leiserson '04, Andrew Mamo '04, Shefali Oza '04, Eric Tung '04.

OPINION STAFF

Editors: Kris Schnee '02, Mike Hall '03; **Associate Editor:** Veena Thomas '02; **Columnists:** Philip Burrowes '04, Roy Esaki '04, Ken Nesmith '04, Jyoti Tibrewala '04; **Staff:** Matthew L. McGann '00, Michael Borucke '01, Kevin Choi '01, Christopher D. Smith '01, Jason H. Wasfy '01, Matt Craighead '02, Philippe C. Larochelle '03.

SPORTS STAFF

Editor: Aaron D. Mihalik '02; **Staff:** L. M. Hughey '01, Robert Aronstam '02.

ARTS STAFF

Editors: Devdoot Majumdar '04, Annie S. Choi; **Associate Editor:** Fred Choi '02; **Staff:** Erik Blankinship G, Bence P. Olveczky G, Roy Rodenstein G, Vladimir V. Zelevinsky '95, Seth Bisen-Hersh '01, Katie Jeffreys '01, Rebecca Loh '01, Bogdan Fedeles '03, Lianne Habinek '02, Jumaane Jeffries '02, Jacob Beniflah '03, Daniel J. Katz '03, Jane Maduram '03, Amy Meadows '03, Ryan Klimczak '04, Izzat Jarudi '04.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Editors: Nathan Collins G, Sephir Hamilton G; **Associate Editors:** Roshan Baliga '03, Wendy Gu '03; **Staff:** Erika Brown G, Krzysztof Gajos G, Garry Maskaly G, Karlene R. Maskaly G, Wan Yusof Wan Morshidi G, Michelle Povinelli G, Bob Sumner G, Samudra Vijay G, Gregory F. Kuhnén '00, Charles Boatín '01, Nii Dodoo '01, James Snyder '01, Yi Xie '02, Leonid Drozhinin '03, Ekaterina Ossikine '03, Pedro L. Arrechea '04, Sasir Botta '04, Brian Hemond '04, Max Planck '04, Jacqueline T. Yen '04.

FEATURES STAFF

Associate Editors: Melissa S. Cain '04, Eun Lee '04; **Staff:** Diana S. Cheng '04, Sonali Mukherjee '03; **Cartoonists:** David Abrameto G, Aaron Isaksen G, Kenneth Lu G, Kara S. Meredith G, Raj C. Midha G, Solar Olugebefola G, Jennifer Dimase '01, Grace H. Wang '01, Bao-Yi Chang '02, David Ngo '02, Lara Kirkham '03, Alison Wong '03.

BUSINESS STAFF

Advertising Manager: Rachel Johnson '02; **Operations Manager:** Jasmine Richards '02; **Staff:** Kedra Newsom '02, Dashonn Graves '03, Joey Plum '03.

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

Staff: Kevin Atkinson '02.

EDITORS AT LARGE

Senior Editor: Eric J. Plosky '99; **Contributing Editor:** James Camp G.

ADVISORY BOARD

Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74, V. Michael Bove '83, Barry Surman '84, Diana ben-Aaron '85, Robert E. Malchman '85, Simson Garfinkel '87, Jonathan Richmond PhD '91, Reuven M. Lerner '92, Josh Hartmann '93, Jeremy Hylton '94, Anders Hove '96, Saul Blumenthal '98, Indranath Neogy '98, Joel Rosenberg '99, B. D. Colen.

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Night Editors: Eric J. Cholankeril '02, Tao Yue '04; **Associate Editors:** Shefali Oza '04, Eric Tung '04; **Staff:** Jordan Rubin '02, Joy Forsythe '04.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January and monthly during the summer for \$45.00 per year Third Class by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Third Class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Permit No. 1. POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. Telephone: (617) 253-1541, editorial; (617) 258-8324, business; (617) 258-8226, facsimile. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2001 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Charles River Publishing.

Censorship Is Bad Karma

Reading a recent column espousing ripping down posters if they offend someone, along with a letter to the editor in support of this position, and the article on newspapers being stolen at Brown University, I have just one question: What are these people doing in college?

Colleges are academic institutions, dedicated to free inquiry. A fundamental element of our search for knowledge is the frank exchange of ideas, even when we might disagree with the opinions expressed.

Our goal is to develop critical thinking skills to allow us to evaluate the truth or falsity of ideas we encounter. Censoring or otherwise suppressing speech is never the correct answer, especially in an academic setting. Rather, new and dangerous ideas should be sought out. We are not here to be comfortable. We are here to learn and grow.

Like any growth process, education can be difficult. It is just this difficulty that makes it worthwhile. We don't want or need censorious individuals or groups trying to protect us.

Ray Jones G

Seek Graduate Student Input

Despite a recent statement by the UA/GSC Strategic Planning Committee (available at <<http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/UAGSC.html>>) that ranked community space as the most pressing capital need among all students, the cause of community space had a close call

earlier this month. In the new graduate dorm, designed to house 750 graduate students, members of the senior administration proposed a radical redesign of the first floor to remove approximately two-thirds of the intended common space. This decision was made without the input of graduate students and was clearly contrary to prior student feedback. In addition, it contradicts recommendations by the Task Force on Student Life and Learning and the Sidney/Pacific Client Team. Both of these committees included students, faculty and administrative staff who made extensive efforts to garner graduate student input.

In a recent town hall meeting, Jeremy H. Brown G said, "The administration respects the student body as a resource, but not as a participant. To convince us otherwise, it must approach the students and say: 'Here's an idea, help us flush it out,' and not: 'Here is what is going to happen, what color would you like it painted?'" We couldn't agree more.

Fortunately, through frank discussion with graduate students, the senior administration realized the detrimental effect this conversion would have on residential student life. We also appreciate the willingness of the senior administration to prioritize graduate student community space while balancing other Institute needs.

While we are pleased that this issue was resolved quickly, however, we remain disappointed with the circumstances with which it surfaced. Early in the design phase of this dorm, graduate student input was called upon to prioritize the allocation of space. Graduate students advocated a design that included substantial community space in the form of com-

mon kitchens, study lounges, and function rooms. To create this space, it was necessary to increase the density of students in the living areas, a compromise that graduate students made in order to ensure the inclusion of community spaces in the design. When it became apparent that the administration wished to reallocate this space, it created a strong feeling of broken trust among the volunteers who had worked on the design.

Sidney/Pacific will be the largest dorm on campus and designing it without sufficient community space would ensure that it performs as poorly as some other graduate dorms in building graduate student community.

Other issues with regards to the community within the new dorm remain to be resolved. We are currently working with faculty and the administration to establish a founders group that will examine community development issues more thoroughly. This founders group will aspire to be representative of all future residents of the dorm and may address issues such as the inclusion of additional positions for faculty or student community coordinators. Sidney/Pacific will house 750 graduate students and its effectiveness in building community will have an impact not only on its residents but on the entire graduate student community.

Jennifer Farver G
Ashdown House President

Erik Deutsch G
Edgerton House President

Salil Soman G
Tang Hall Representative



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, news editors, and opinion editors.

Dissents are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial. A vote count for the editorial will be printed if there is a dissent.

Columns and **editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters and **cartoons** must bear the authors' signatures, addresses,

and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of *The Tech*. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

The Tech's Ombudsman, reachable by e-mail at ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu, serves as the liaison between *The Tech* and its readers. From time to time, the Ombudsman writes an independent column reflecting the complaints, questions, and concerns of the readership.

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure who to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. *The Tech* can be found on the World-Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

Horowitz’s Ten Points Miss the Point

Philip Burrowes

In light of the protests at Brown University this week, many of you have heard of David Horowitz’s advertisement/column “Ten Reasons Why Reparations for Slavery is a Bad Idea — and Racist Too.” Much has been made of Brown students organizing to remove issues of *The Brown Daily Herald* containing the offensive ad from the newspaper stands.

Unfortunately, reporting on the matter has not given any reason for the uproar surrounding it except the title. This has lead to blind rage but little actual amelioration of the situation. At the risk of giving Mr. Horowitz more free publicity, I present his ten points and place them in a proper context.

I. There Is No Single Group Responsible For the Crime of Slavery.

This is very true. Slavery spans all of the globe and all of history. Reparations are not intended, however, to pay for the “crime” of

If America is to be the progressive nation Horowitz believes it to be, it must aspire to such measures as reparations.

slavery. It is payment for the system of dehumanizing by inherited pigment concentration that was antithetical to the precepts of the United States. The government not just allowed but at times mandated that blacks (among other groups) should count for less than other humans. It must be held accountable.

II. There Is No One Group That Benefitted Exclusively From Its Fruits.

Obviously, all of the United States benefitted to an extent from the massive agricultural output amassed under slave labor. A tenant of the reparations argument, however, is that these benefits were not distributed equally throughout the population, let alone in proportion to actual responsibility.

Horowitz also mentions the relative condition of black Americans versus their “cousins” on the western coast of Africa. That African-Americans tend to be better off than black Africans, however, is not merely a consequence of African-Americans’ status but of unrelated forces at work within that continent.

III. Only a Tiny Minority of White Americans Ever Owned Slaves, And Others Gave Their Lives To Free Them.

As previously stated, the majority of the population was aided in some fashion by slavery; one could argue the indigenous nations were adversely affected. Obviously the slave owners gained the most, but to the degree blacks could not gain under an inescapable caste system, slaveless whites were relatively better off.

The Union “fighting-for-freedom” argument is not baseless, but those soldiers’ descendants will be asked to pay no more than African slaves’ descendants. It should be noted that no sane reparations arrangement will ask only for specific people to pay more than the rest of the population, just as no sane judiciary would try only one sector of the population.

IV. America Is A Multi-Ethnic Nation And Most Americans Have No Connections (Direct or Indirect) To Slavery.

The United States would not be where it is without the contributions of slaves. Immigrants are reaping gains made from the toil of transplanted West Africans, although that was certainly not their intent. Present institutions that are in place largely because of such a system, such as the 14th Amendment, are also important to remember.

V. The Historical Precedents Used To Justify The Reparations Claim Do Not Apply, And The Claim Itself Is Based On Race Not Injury.

The time where slaves themselves could be paid back for their efforts is past. It is not true, however, that no precedent exists for such “indirect” reparation. Indigenous American nations have won such settlements in this country’s judicial system.

Most black people who lived in the country before the Civil War were descendents of someone who was a slave in this country. While the impact of that legacy varies, and the resulting arbitrary nature of “flat” reparations are significant, there is an ethnic correlation which is an effective paradigm for such dispensations.

VI. The Reparations Argument Is Based On The Unfounded Claim That All African-

American Descendants of Slaves Suffer From The Economic Consequences Of Slavery And Discrimination.

Yes, there are African-Americans in the middle and upper classes, but the fact remains that a disproportionate share of this country’s poor are of the same ancestry.

Reparations address not only economics, but also the psychological ramifications of slavery which transcend economic lines. Such a theory of almost abstract ramifications was similarly applied in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

In supporting his claim of the lack of a causal relationship between slavery and destitution, Horowitz cites West Indian black immigrants, who on average do better economically than the rest of the American population, as an example. Without delving too much into details, the conditions in the various West Indian nations are extremely different than that of the United States, and emigrants are not exactly a cross-section of their population.

VII. The Reparations Claim Is One More Attempt To Turn African-Americans Into Victims. It Sends A Damaging Message To The African-American Community.

Many African-Americans do perceive systemic obstacles to their improvement which either never did or no longer do exist. Their current situations are often much better than those of other groups, such as recent immigrants.

This does not negate the fact that there are self-perpetuating legacies of slavery that impede the progress of African-Americans. As an example, predominantly African-American schools are consistently less efficient than their white counterparts.

VIII. Reparations To African-Americans Have Already Been Paid.

Affirmative action is not payment for the past. It is supposed to recalibrate the current situation. End of story.

IX. What About The Debt Blacks Owe To America?

The United States was not the vanguard of abolition. From its origins with the Three-Fifths Compromise until well after European interests were outlawing the slave trade, the government did not make any concerted effort (the Northwest Ordinance notwithstanding) to better the lives of black people. Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation was not an altruistic exercise but an act of war against the secessionist South. The government’s military occupation of the South during Reconstruction, the only period during which the government made an attempt to change the status of blacks, was ended for merely political gain. The basic rights which were eventually granted to African-Americans are merely considered to be “inalienable” and should not be viewed as anything exceptional.

X. The Reparations Claim Is A Separatist Idea That Sets African-Americans Against The Nation That Gave Them Freedom.

Some demands for reparations take radical and selfish stances, but not all do. As long as the demand is an inclusive effort, acknowledging other groups’ needs in this country, it can be both educational and, in the end, reparatory.

Horowitz’s main viable argument is that reparations could have negative consequences which would negate their proposed purpose.

The time where slaves could be paid back for their efforts is past. It is not true, however, that no precedent exists for such “indirect” reparation.

The contentious nature of even the theoretical argument demonstrates this point. Still, to contend that nothing is owed by the U.S. government, and that slavery is in fact a positive part of the history of African-Americans is patently wrong. Procedurally, it is obviously difficult to fulfill, but if America is to be the progressive nation Horowitz believes it to be, it must aspire to such measures as reparations.

Reparation Reality

Guilt Remains with Individuals, Not Their Descendants

Matt Craighead

If your great-great-grandfather committed a crime and was never caught, would you be responsible?

By any reasonable standard of justice, the answer is no. Guilt does not transfer from one generation to another. It is wrong to hang the son for the crimes of the father.

Some people, though, have lost track of not only this basic principle of justice, but many others as well. I am speaking of the advocates of reparations for slavery.

None of the arguments for reparations hold up on even the most superficial level, as David Horowitz’s recent controversial ad in *The Brown Daily Herald* has pointed out. The links

which all wealth fundamentally derives.

More importantly, the arguments used in support of reparations are the same as those used in support of affirmative action. Both are claims on wealth based on the principle of race, rather than merit, and both are racist at heart. Racism, after all, is the idea that man finds his identity not as an individual, but as a member of a group with a similar skin color. It is a regression of man to the basest of all philosophies, tribalism.

To claim, for example, that whites are superior to blacks is to say that a person whose skin color is white is inherently superior than a person whose skin color is black, with no regard to any other traits of the two individuals. We all recognize that this is wrong. It is no less wrong to say that whites have injured blacks “as a group.” Again, this presupposes that a person whose skin color is black has

been injured by a person whose skin color is white, with no regard to the actions of either. This is not “reverse racism,” as some have commented; racism is not a one-way street. This is racism, plain and simple.

The answer to racism is not more racism. The answer to racism — in fact, to all forms of collectivism — is to recognize that individuals have merit exclusively as individuals, not as members of groups. Groups do not have an identity above and beyond the individuals who belong to them. We are all members of a society, for example, but “society” does not exist *per se*; society is not an entity. We are all members of some race, but to speak of a race as an entity is equally wrong.

Likewise, concepts that apply to individuals, such as justice and morality, cannot be applied to groups. There is a fundamental error with the statement that “blacks have been injured by whites.” The error is in equating individual actions with group actions. There may be *individual* blacks who have been injured by *individual* whites, but for the same reason that “whites” are not an entity, “whites” cannot take collective action.

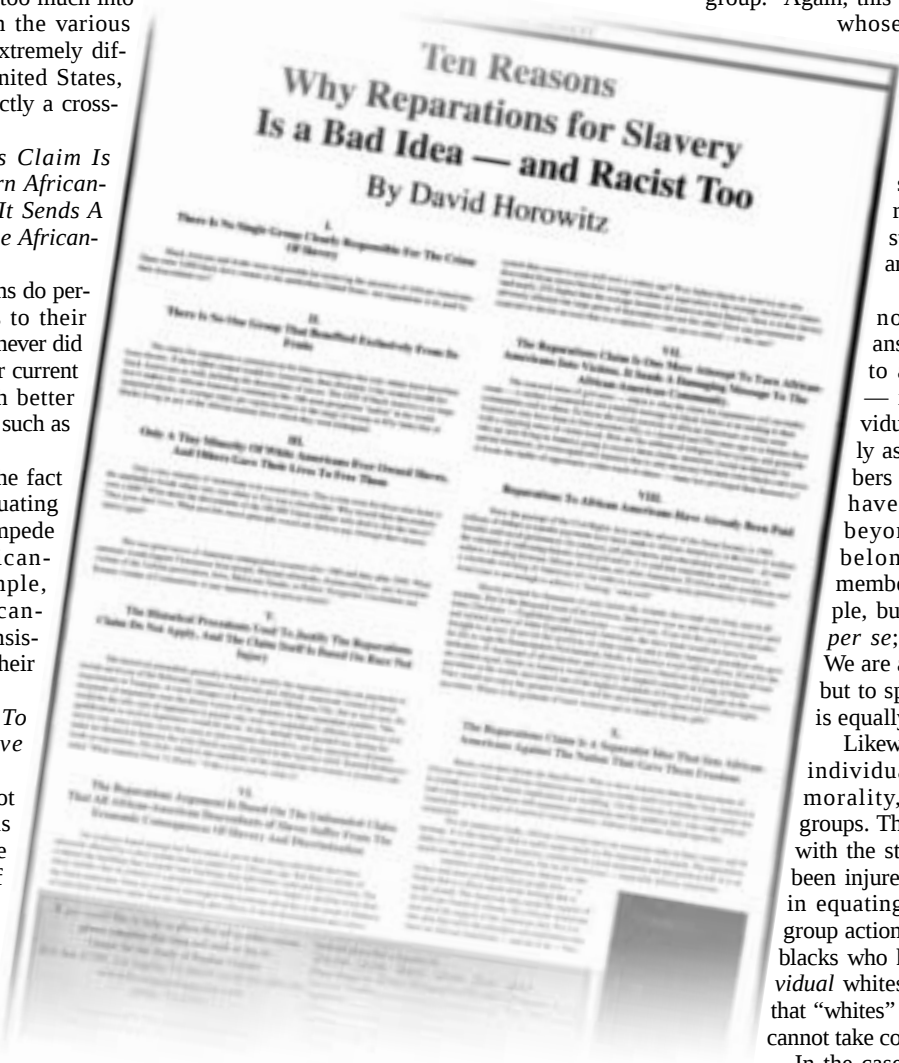
In the case of arguments for reparations and affirmative action, the error is worse. These arguments require not only that we accept without objection that “blacks have been injured by whites,” but also that “blacks should be compensated by whites for the injury they have suffered.” Again, concepts that apply only to individuals are applied indiscriminately to groups with no concern. Again, *individual* whites may have injured *individual* blacks, and if so, compensation on

Guilt does not transfer from one generation to another. It is wrong to hang the son for the crimes of the father. Some people, though, have lost track of not only this basic principle of justice, but many others as well.

the individual level makes sense; that is simply justice at work. However, this statement urges whites *collectively* to accept responsibility for the crimes of certain *individuals*, and for blacks *collectively* to receive damages for injuries suffered by certain *individuals*.

Collectivism in all its forms — racism, tribalism, socialism, communism, fascism, welfare statism — is dangerous. As long as we tolerate any form of collectivism, all forms of collectivism will prosper. After all, if we can assign blame for slavery to whites, that legitimizes arguments that we must assign some blame to “the rich.” If we can assign compensation to blacks, that legitimizes the argument that we can assign superiority to whites.

Let us all recognize that just as merit belongs to individuals, so does guilt. In the case of reparations, the individuals are all dead and buried. Let’s bury this bad idea, too.



Providing for MIT's Parents and Families

Guest Column
Amy Cohn

You may have read a recent article in *The Tech* about the Graduate Student Council's efforts to block the inclusion of a day care center in the new Sidney-Pacific graduate dormitory, in order to increase the amount of community space made available for other purposes ["GSC Wins Day Care Battle," Mar. 9]. The celebratory tone in many quotes within this article, as well as in subsequent statements made by GSC President Soulaymane Kachani, angered a number of students, faculty, and staff, who felt that it trivialized the negative impact of this decision on those struggling due to MIT's dire lack of on-campus child care.

As a doctoral student and also the parent of a 20-month-old son, I think that the Sidney-Pacific debate is an important one that merits further discussion. But even more importantly, it highlights the need for discussion on a broader topic: the place of families at MIT.

For many of us, graduate school is the logical time to start a family (I was 30 and a fourth-year PhD student when I had my son). I don't know exactly how many students are also parents, but you just need to walk into the lobby of Eastgate to realize that it's not a trivial number. The needs of these student parents are significant and yet often go unmet by the Institute.

I'd like to use this space to raise two questions. First, what are the needs of student families and how can the Institute help to meet them? Second, why should this be of concern to the MIT community at large?

Personally, I have been extremely fortunate in my experiences as a student parent; my department and adviser have supported me wholeheartedly, my husband works from home (not only providing much-needed financial support, but also significantly participating in our son's daily care), and I have family nearby who can be called upon in an emergency. And yet, in spite of having the best possible circumstances (circumstances not available to most student parents here at MIT), raising a child is still by far the most difficult thing that I have ever done. Parenting is an enormous responsibility under the best of conditions. Being a parent while studying at MIT can be an overwhelming task.

Student parents daily face a number of daunting questions. These include:

"How can I pay my rent when my monthly bill for childcare exceeds my stipend?"

"Who will care for my child during the year and a half that I'm on the waiting list for on-campus day care?"

"Who will care for my child during the first year of life, given that many day care centers (including those at MIT) don't accept infants?"

"What do I do when my child is up sick the entire night before my qualifying exams? When my babysitter can't make it the day of a major research meeting? When I'm expected to spend the summer in a foreign country doing field research?"

MIT cannot solve all of these problems, nor should it be expected to. However, there are many ways in which the Institute could significantly reduce the burden of student parents. Some of these are complex and costly issues, such as more affordable hous-

ing and a larger supply of on-campus day care. We need to continue to push the administration on such topics and work together to find solutions. There are a number of smaller and more easily addressed problems to be looked at. I pose two here for consideration.

First, consider the fact that students often need childcare at unusual hours. Most day care facilities (on and off campus) close around 6 p.m. However, such student events as labs, study sessions, and group meetings often take place during the evening. Could we use existing on-campus day care space to create a "drop-in" center for additional care on evenings and weekends? While not solving the critical problem of "9 to 5" care, this would nonetheless benefit many students who need help on evenings and weekends to attend meetings or just to get in some extra research time.

A second issue that the Institute should address is the need for flexible maternity leave options. When I was pregnant (my son was born after I completed my coursework and was working solely on dissertation research), I was told that MIT had two official options: either take a full-semester medical leave of absence (and petition to keep housing and health insurance, as well as to be re-enrolled after this leave) or take no time off at all. Neither of these options was a good one for those of us wanting the traditional 6 to 12 weeks of maternity leave. Furthermore, I know of no options at all for fathers who would like to take some time off during the first year after a child's birth. I hope that the Institute will consider providing both mothers and fathers more flexible options for taking some time away from their studies during the first year after the birth of a child.

Both of these measures would be modest, and neither would substitute for broader — and necessary — action by the Institute to address the needs of families. But they demonstrate how we can cooperate to find practical solutions to these very important problems.

Many of you may question why MIT should go to such effort and expense to benefit a select group of students. However, improving the MIT environment for those of us (students, faculty, and staff) who have families actually benefits the whole community. One way in which it does so is in MIT's ability to hire and retain the best possible faculty; many universities are aggressively working to address family/work balance issues specifically in order to maintain the quality of their faculty. Of course, the family needs of students are also relevant in this regard because students make up the pipeline for future faculty.

But perhaps more importantly, I believe that our interactions with our classmates are one of the great benefits of being at MIT. Working and socializing with such a bright, diverse, motivated group of individuals is of benefit to us all. When a student leaves MIT because the burdens of the dual parent/student role are too great, or chooses to attend a school other than MIT because their needs will be better met elsewhere, our community suffers from their absence.

I hope that we can all continue the discussion of how to make MIT a stronger place for families and, in the process, for us all.

Amy Cohn G is a PhD student in the Operations Research Center.

A Legacy of Contradiction

Ken Nesmith

Dr. Richard Atkinson, president of the University of California system, recently kicked up a storm of debate by recommending that the SAT not be a factor in admissions. Whines and screams arose from every predictable corner perfectly on cue, an angry harmony decrying the loss of objective standards in society and the consequent social chaos that will surely follow. Through his recommendation, Atkinson seeks not to destroy all social order, but rather hopes to encourage a more accurate evaluation of students' abilities and to decrease reliance on a test whose credibility as a measure of a student's intelligence continues to crumble.

The vocal objectors to Atkinson's recommendation fail to notice that he both recommended the development of another, more relevant standardized test than the SAT, as well as increased reliance on the SAT II subject tests, which most selective universities use to make admissions decisions. Quite simply, the loss of objective standards that seemed such a crime to so many is nonexistent.

Other factors in admission, such as race, face a periodic media firestorm similar to the current rage over the SAT. Conservative think tanks periodically release studies demonstrating how much easier a time minority applicants have gaining entrance to schools than do

It's fairly absurd to connect the college admissions process to truly dreadful racisms in history.

non-minorities, and columnists attack affirmative action as racism with a caustic intensity that can't easily be found elsewhere in the mainstream media.

It's fairly absurd to connect the college admissions process to truly dreadful racisms in history, but that connection is commonly employed by affirmative action opponents to incite more fervent popular opposition to the policies. The UC decision, meanwhile, has been interpreted as a means of increasing racial diversity by setting aside standards that might otherwise limit that diversity.

These impassioned diatribes rail against the evils of this modern-day racism while completely ignoring analogous admissions standards that are logically worthy of equal rebuke, such as legacy admissions. You will not find conservative commentators attacking the disparity between admission rates for legacy students and nonlegacy students at the nation's top schools. Even at MIT, where we pat ourselves on the back for our meritocratic ways until our skin is raw, admissions staffers report that legacies are granted an additional review before their rejection is finalized. At several schools, such students receive much more than an extra review.

The legacy practice, however, is precisely equivalent to racial preferencing: nothing you have done or accomplished, but rather whose child you happen to be, is a primary factor in your ability to gain entrance to many universities, whether you be the child of an alumnus, a politician, a wealthy CEO, or a minority. The

melodramatic stories about the hard-working white kids who didn't make it in because of their skin compare well to stories of all sorts of hard-working kids who didn't make it in because their father wasn't the right person.

The value of cultural diversity can also be well defended. When exposed to others from different backgrounds, students face challenges to their own reasonings and assumptions, and become well-versed, stronger scholars and more open-minded people because of the opportunity. Within the admissions debate, however, there seems to be some fundamental confusion about the task college admissions officers perform each year. No college seeks purely the smartest students, and no college pretends to, although attacks on admissions statistics seem to build primarily upon that errant assumption. Each admissions board, in the process of reviewing the thousands of applications received in the great perennial ritual, works to assemble a class that will best thrive at the college or university. Students may be chosen for any number of apparently random reasons, as the committee selects those with personalities and traits that best meet previously set objectives. A school may seek a class with strong athletic talent, or specialization in math and science, or cultural diversity, or even a class that will preserve what might optimistically be regarded as a sacred social tradition that is passed down from parent to child.

In the more narrow controversy over lineage as an admissions standard, it is not clear why there is so much opposition to employing cultural and racial heritage as a criterion, while no similar objections can be found to legacy admissions. I might speculate, though, that the cause lies close to the core of modern conservative political commentary, where arguments work less as promotions of certain ideas than they do as secondary, defensive reactions to the promotions of undesirable ideas. You will find, in the editorial pages of the *Wall Street Journal* or other bearers of right-leaning philosophizing, short-fused attacks on the media's investigation of the roots of school shooting sprees, yet you will not find any investigation of what led to the shootings. You will find attacks on the tactics of protesters of globalization, sweatshop labor, environmental destruction, or racism, but you will not find consideration of or reaction to the sometimes genuine wrongs that precipitate these protests. You will find invectives against those who practice "class warfare," but you will not find discussion of the growing gap between rich and poor. During the Clinton years, sure as the sun would rise, you would find consistent attacks on the man and, in considerably lesser quantities and slightly less dubious qualities, his policies. Even now, though, at the beginning of W.'s four or eight years, a majority of such political print space is devoted to sharply attacking those who criticize or disagree with the president and his administration.

In the case of college admissions, it would follow that ideologues would react to educational affirmative action, which is intended to restore equal societal footing to all participants by ensuring that colleges educate members of all races, by resisting the allegation that minorities are being denied anything at all, and then aggressively denouncing the institution. Perhaps it is because much of the conservative demographic is criticized in affirmative action, but not in legacy admissions, that there is this vicious secondary reaction. I can't help but think, as I glance down the river, that these efforts are misguided.

Spring Cleaning

Roy Esaki

Springtime approaches, at least nominally, with the prospect of spring break titillating the tired souls of the masses. A time of poetic and literal rebirth, renewal, and regeneration, as the cold-winded days of winter slowly wane. Both the season, and the upcoming week-long reprieve from routine duties, are perfect times for spring cleaning; as we create a refreshed environment to live in, it is also an appropriate time to clean out our mental attics and garages, and spring-clean our minds.

Spring break is a time for unrestrained revelry for most, and thus it should be. Be it with a trip back home, visits to old friends, road trips with new ones, or with a week spent lounging about and frittering a week away, the important attribute is that it's a break from the hectic whirlwind of life, when we are normally tossed around like frayed and mismatched socks in the dryer.

This interlude between the acts of the tragic comedy of collegiate student life can be used, much like the time spent dining alone, to reflect upon our position and velocity in life as best we can. It's unfortunate that normal schedules don't allow for really careful, deliberate introspection; while late night episodes of work-avoidance do allow for much random contemplation, carefully sorting out and cleaning our minds takes a solid block of downtime.

Like the furniture which was originally placed willy-nilly in the living room in an unideal configuration, but which we got used to and hence never rearranged, the inertia of our ideas, priorities, and endeavors often precludes substantial change. If we're either sprinting down a predetermined path, or perpetually chasing carrots perpetually dangled in front of us, we can at best keep running and hope we don't trip on our shoelaces. At worst, we can burn out, find ourselves lost in unknown terrain, or find that we've been running in the opposite direction of the finish line. With a moment's

reflection, we can rearrange our priorities and goals, and establish a more ideal layout of our living rooms.

Spring cleaning also involves sorting through the accumulated gimcracks, bibelots, knickknacks, and whatnots hastily thrown in the storage closet. We bring out all the sundry items, worn from overuse or rusty from disuse, and reassess if we really still need that broken rake or old sneakers. In goes the incomplete set of golf clubs and trombone we no longer play in the "I might need them later" box, and out go the clothes that are two sizes too small for the garage sale, after nostalgic remembrances of experiences with them.

It's often useful to apply this process mentally, as well, though re-labeling ideas and attitudes isn't as simple of a process. The status and nature of our interests, our tastes, our friends and acquaintances, our mannerisms, and peculiarities change quite rapidly, especially during collegiate years; a reunion with old acquaintances who, after extended separation, have changed

immensely, often illustrates this fact. It's still the same person, the same house, but the contents are replaced and reshuffled continually. Taking notice of how the contents of ourselves have changed, lets us know if we should make a special effort to undo or encourage that change.

Some neglected things should be brought out of deep storage, fixed up, and reused — things like child-like wonder at the world, compassion and empathy, and innocence. Others, like jaded cynicism, cut-throat competition, and the socioacademic narrow-mindedness that accompanies specialization, could be tucked away in a storage box to make room for the forgotten feelings and favorite childhood toys we've rediscovered.

It takes some heavy lifting, a good pair of workgloves, and a good supply of 409, but without at least some periodic cleansing and shuffling, upon returning from a week of Key-Westian merriment, we'll end up spending the remaining months with a cluttered, dusty mental environment.

The Second Step toward Campus Dialogue

Jason H. Wasfy

In the past couple of weeks, much discussion at MIT has circled around a lack of communication between students and administrative staff. Students have voiced their concern loudly about unresponsive deans in the recent Class of 2003 town meeting, in informal discussions, on e-mail lists, and on these editorial pages.

Indeed, the gap between regular students and administrators is too wide. The recent spat over residential advisers and staff members in the dorm has busted that secret wide open for all to see. I'm glad that students have been so active and vocal in its aftermath; that's the first step towards better communication.

But I'm concerned that the debate has focused too much on hammering administrators. Although opening their eyes to the depth of student unhappiness with the current situation is certainly a worthy goal, we all need to do a better job of examining how each and every one of us can contribute to better

Institute-wide communication.

In fact, much of the responsibility for bad communication falls on our shoulders. For example, our student representatives on faculty committees need to make sure they're showing up to committee meetings and actively participating in policy-making. Much of MIT policy is hashed out in meetings of those committees. Serving on them as student representatives needs to be accepted as a serious responsibility, not just an opportunity for resume building.

We also need to remember that administrators in the Dean's Office didn't choose those jobs to avoid talking with students. A big difference between faculty and deans is that faculty have a whole range of responsibilities from research to fundraising to teaching, while deans focus only on student life and learning. Listening

and responding to students is their job.

But many administrators that I've talked with seem perplexed as to why students don't give more input on important decisions. For the most part, they're willing to listen, so we should forcefully pursue our agenda and our concerns with them over e-mail or in person. They'd appreciate that.

For most of the almost four years that I've spent at MIT, I felt that high-level administrators were not responsive to students because they simply didn't care. I was wrong. Slowly, I have begun to see the deep frustration among many administrators that students are either too shy or too busy to let them know their ideas about routine decisions. I've only realized this after years of conversations with deans and other administrative staff.

The all-too-wide chasm between adminis-

trators and students is obvious to just about anyone involved in Institute affairs. But the reasons behind that chasm are far more subtle and complex.

I know that some of what I'm suggesting here might be hindered by the realities of the MIT undergraduate experience. Students swamped with problem sets often are understandably reluctant to meet with deans about questions of academic and student life policy. But even just a thoughtful e-mail now and then from students, including students who aren't involved much in Institute affairs, would make a meaningful difference.

So to all the students who have expressed their concerns recently, thanks. Keep it up, because this sort of dialogue may open up new avenues to communicate with administrators. I just wish that the tone of the dialogue would shift somewhat from just blaming administrators to thinking about what all of us in the MIT community — administrators, students, and faculty — can do to strengthen the lines of communication.

Reform Without Real Change

Guest Column
Gretchen Aleks

This week, Senators Russell Feingold (D-Wisc.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) introduced Senate Resolution 27, a campaign finance reform bill which promises sweeping changes in the way elections are funded. The McCain-Feingold bill will ban "soft money" (unrestricted gifts to political parties) and increase the amount of "hard money" an individual can contribute. Advocates of campaign finance reform hope this legislation will reduce both the amount of corruption in and the influence of major contributors on the political process.

In reality, however, the McCain-Feingold bill falls short of what is actually needed to revive American politics. The reliance on outside funding during campaigns forces candidates to serve corporations or special interest groups once they are elected.

What, then, can be done to improve the quality of American political campaigns while reducing the deleterious effects of money? In fact, the deterioration of political discourse comes from the lack of funding minority-party candidates receive in the election process. The key to reviving the political process is to have publicly-funded campaigns with funds accessible to minority-party candidates. If all candidates had franking privileges, subsidized advertising time, and adequate federal funds, the need to rely on outside donors would be greatly diminished.

One problem with the McCain-Feingold bill is that it actually increases the amount one individual can contribute in hard money to a campaign. This provision, included to compensate for the funding that will be lost in soft money, does nothing to tear candidates away from the wealthy contributors who are viewed by the public as corrupting the candidates.

Under a system where all candidates receive federal funding, however, the control currently exercised by special interest contributors will be lessened in several ways. First, the government can actually legislate limits or bans on personal and corporate contributions. Candidates will receive enough money, and equi-

The key to reviving the political process is to have publicly-funded campaigns with funds accessible to minority-party candidates.

table amounts of money, so that excessive donations from wealthy contributors will not be needed to fund a campaign.

This system also will allow more candidates to receive funding. Most presidential candidates, except the Democratic and Republican nominees, don't have the ability to generate funds for television advertisements or radio announcements. American political discussion is controlled by special interest groups when only the candidates who receive funding from these lobbies have access to mass media.

Despite all the acclaim McCain and Feingold have received, their bill is simply a means to protect the two major parties and to enable those parties to continue the same fund-raising practices that have stained the political process. Even if soft money is eliminated, major corporations and wealthy individuals will still be the dominant forces in the American political system. Perhaps the bill will reduce the amount of corruption inherent in the two-party system, but that's not enough. The American people should demand that "real" reform include a means for independent parties to survive in the national arena and bring a voice, free of special interest money, to the forefront.

Gretchen Aleks is a member of the Class of 2004.

McCain-Feingold's Soft Money Sidestep

Christopher D. Smith

During late January 2000, I was privileged to witness firsthand a small portion of the political combat held in the frozen hell of central New Hampshire. While in the town of Franklin, a group of Bill Bradley supporters and I learned of a John McCain for President rally to be held in a local VFW just down the street. In full Bradley regalia, we dropped in to find out what all the McCain hysteria was about.

The fuss most certainly wasn't about McCain's speechmaking which, although ostensibly sincere, was flat. The crowd, consisting of both veterans and non-veterans, did not seem to notice. They were more interested in paying their respects to a man whom they deeply respected, and more importantly, who seemed to get it. In that room, I sensed the same combination of sincere appreciation and hope that had been present at Bradley campaign rallies. There was a difference, however. With McCain, the intensity of hope and appreciation was much stronger. This memory has resurfaced as I've watched the U.S. Senate debate S.27, the latest campaign finance reform legislation to be spearheaded by McCain and his Democratic co-sponsor, Sen. Russell Feingold of Wisconsin.

When man encounters the profound, he is forced either to become equally weighty or instead find himself

crushed. In McCain's case, his profound encounter was with the millions of American voters who saw in him a genuine people's champion, a neo-Teddy Roosevelt. This was profound, of course, because prior to the 2000 presidential election, McCain had done little beyond campaign finance reform to suggest that he was inclined or ready to carry the banner of popular reform. However, to know McCain is to know that he has encountered the profound twice before in his life, both as a Vietnam POW and as one of the scandalous Keating Five, and each time he has responded with gritty determination to surmount the obstacle. McCain's response to the large wave of support he received throughout the nation in 2000 was to transform himself into the Senate's resident reformist crusader. In forcing a two-week debate and vote on campaign finance reform, he and Feingold have managed to do what would have been impossible two years ago.

This is a real achievement. However, this achievement shouldn't blind those who support campaign finance reform in principle from seeing the truth about S.27. The McCain-Feingold bill is bad legislation.

The biggest flaw in McCain-Feingold lies in its obsession with soft money. McCain and Feingold identify the proliferation of soft money contributions as the bane of the federal election system. Soft money consists of contributions made to political parties technically for party-building activities, but are often solicited directly by candidates, and then secretly earmarked for expenditure on their campaigns. Soft money donations differ from hard money contributions — contributions made directly to a candidate's campaign and which are subject to strict limits and donor disclosure requirements — in that they are often bigger. Much bigger. As total campaign spending has leaped upward over the last few election cycles, soft money fundraising has also lurched dramatically upward. Federal election candidates and the two major political parties increasingly and more brazenly flout the current campaign finance laws in their escalating efforts to raise soft money funds.

The proliferation of soft money is evidence that candidates



increasingly mock campaign finance laws and are too dependent upon the support of a small group of wealthy donors, and it should bring our condemnation. The McCain-Feingold bill recognizes the importance of upholding our laws and proposes to ban all soft money. This assumes, of course, that those laws were worthwhile in the first place, which they are not.

Our current campaign finance system, which was built mostly in the 1970s, also suffered from a woeful misunderstanding of the role of money in politics. In the bad-old days when elections were free, people voted, and campaigns were lawless, candidates often only needed to find a few wealthy supporters willing to foot the bill for all campaign expenses. There were many cases of elected officials relying on one or two major contributors for all their campaign finances for the duration of their multi-decade careers.

Unfortunately, this often led to corrupt unwritten *quid pro quo* agreements between candidates and their contributors. The '70s reforms tried to remedy this by limiting the amount of

The proposed soft money ban is problematic because it simply perpetuates the problem. Banning soft money will force future candidates to depend more heavily on hard money contributions.

money candidates could accept from any individual or corporate contributor. The logic was that, by limiting the amount a person or corporation could contribute to a campaign, candidates would have to rely on a much broader base of financial support, thereby reducing the influence of any single contributor and the potential for corruption.

The most significant effect of the '70s laws was to increase dramatically the difficulty in raising campaign funds. As campaign budgets have grown along with TV advertising rates, candidates, including federal elected officials, have been forced to devote more of their time to asking larger numbers of wealthy supporters (since by and large, neither the working poor nor the middle class donates very often) for contributions. Contributors usually want something in exchange. Candidates and elected officials offer the only things of value to the contributor: access to them and their votes.

The proposed soft money ban is problematic because it simply perpetuates the problem. Banning soft money will force future candidates to depend more heavily on hard money contributions, which will lead to more abuse of the hard money limits by the use of tactics such as "bundling" and PAC donations, in addition to forcing candidates and elected officials to spend more of their time on campaign fundraising rather than doing the "people's business."

Further, the soft money ban will prevent political parties from providing financial help to candidates without either vast personal wealth or a teeming campaign treasury, further aggrandizing the emerging wealth boundary which limits the ranks of candidates only to the rich. In turn, this will imperil the political parties. Although this will perhaps cripple terminally the major political parties, it will also destroy outright the viability of future third party movements. Also, by any reasonable reading of the First Amendment, the soft money ban violates the Constitution, and will likely be struck down by the conservative Rehnquist Court.

The McCain-Feingold bill's most disappointing flaw, however, is that it totally misses the real purpose behind campaign finance reform. By focusing on soft money, it fails to address the issue which leads the public to believe its politicians are corrupt: the unequal and exclusive influence created by the monopoly the wealthy have over the pool of potential campaign funds. When campaign funding is easier to get, the wealthy will hold less sway. Therefore, the only serious way to deal with this problem is to consider a move toward voluntary full public financing of federal elections. Otherwise, candidates will continue to peddle influence, only under a different cover.

THE ARTS

FILM REVIEW★½

Blow Dry

This Film Blows, to Put It Eloquently

By Jed Horne
STAFF WRITER

Directed by Paddy Breathnach
Written by Simon Beaufoy
Starring Alan Rickman, Natasha Richardson,
Josh Hartnett, Rachel Griffiths, Bill Nighy, and
Rachel Lee Cook
Rated R

You would think that after the sleeper success of *The Full Monty*, screenwriter Simon Beaufoy would use a little bit of his credibility to continue making credible movies. Instead, his latest farce, *Blow Dry*, is a feckless mish-mash of oddly restrained campiness, sappy sentimentality, and '80s-teen-movie rivalry.

Ostensibly, *Blow Dry* is the story of Britain's national hair-dressing competition and its invasion of a small town. The contest brings all the weirdos out of the woodwork, with a nod (perhaps unintentional) to David Mamet's *State and Main*. Enter Louis (*Bill Nighy*) and his entourage of hair-stylists of ill repute. This is where *Blow Dry* is at its best. Particularly entertaining is the transformation of the town mayor and competition emcee from a medalion-wearing, humorless relic to a Las Vegas-style Elvis Impersonator, complete with a leather jacket and a sneer exposing a little more of his gnarled teeth than I'd like to have seen.

Too bad *Blow Dry* tries to have a plot, too.

The story is held together loosely by salon-owner and former champion hairdresser Phil (played by probably the only talented actor in the movie, Alan Rickman). Sworn off contests since his wife Shelley (Natasha Richardson) ran off with model Sandra (Rachel Griffiths), Phil is unwilling to enter the competition despite the wistful glances his son

Brian (Josh Hartnett of *The Virgin Suicides*) casts towards a photo of former crush Christina (Rache Lee Cook) who just so happens to be the son of his arch-rival, Louis.

As if the setup weren't bad enough, Shelley, in a gush of *It Takes a Village*-style family values, decides that, because she is dying of cancer, she wants to reunite her former family, lesbian girlfriend and all, by entering them as a team in the contest.

Assuming, I guess, that no movie is complete without a rivalry straight out of *Rocky*, except with ambiguously gay contestants. *Blow Dry* trudges along to its inevitable conclusion (which I would be insulting your intelligence if I gave away to you) complete with music that could have come straight from a movie like *Teen Wolf* or *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*.

The thing is that campiness is a formula that directors have used in the past to full effect and successfully. It is particularly disappointing that this movie doesn't have the balls to go over the

top where it should, or to restrain itself where it just plain isn't funny. Maybe I'm being bigoted, but I think the British should stick to wry humor and leave trashiness to John Waters.

Okay, fine, so the British can't do camp. But, if *Blow Dry* is any indication, they can't do sentimentality either. Shelley's battle with cancer is simply done badly, as is Brian's romance with the too-perfect-looking Christina. So badly, in fact, that describing it would take another whole column. Unless you liked the equally un-watchable *Chocolat*, I wouldn't recommend it as a tear-jerker, either.

Who's the blame? The cast and crew are not without talent. The movie's formula has worked before. Blame the British for overstepping the limits of their country's cinema? Possibly. To be honest, it doesn't really matter. No matter how thin you slice it, it's still baloney.



COMMENTARY

Too Much Self-Love?

The Academy's Inherent Narcicism — A Good Thing?

By Philip Burrowes
COLUMNIST

As the 73rd Academy Awards approach, journalists, cinematic artisans, and the curious masses are giddy with anticipation. While the first group gets a job out of the show and the third is diverted — if only for eight hours — from their meaningless lives, what compels members of the film industry to attend this self-congratulation?

They are not alone in doling out awards to their own, with organizations from local churches to the federal government doing the same. Is this reflective of a national need for evaluation, a rudimentary meritocracy, or a general appreciation for peer recognition?

This is not merely a matter of listening to critiques, however; this is more about positive reinforcement. No section of the Tonys, for example, is dedicated to telling stage players how mediocre they may be. Yes, there are "awards" in more sardonic circles for extraordinarily bad productions, but even those are dedicated to products which are fantastic in their faults. Any gradient of ability or output is usually neglected as winner takes all.

Believing that participants in various activities instead want to honor the best and the brightest might be more acceptable. It's certainly more honorable, celebrating achievement within the profession or pastime while elevating it on a whole by giving members something to strive for. Dispensing bodies can regard their intentions as optimistically as they wish, but awards shows are rarely so altruistic.

Rather, they tend to be snobbish, driven somewhat by patronage and nepotism, and incredibly subjective. This is especially true of older institutionalized shows where governing boards have had time to become set in their ways. Grammy nominations are hard to come by for the more esoteric musicians in mainstream categories. Mechanisms for choosing actual winners are always opaque and often inexplicable. Where else could one of the fastest selling albums of all time be considered counter-culture?

Large award show productions are events in

and of themselves, which can be more alluring than the statuettes alone. Parvenus in the world of celebrity may be initially star-struck, but more importantly hot shots finally get to hobnob with people on their own level. How much better that is than dealing with peons, fans, or actual loved ones is all a matter of taste. Still, that aspect seems no more appealing than doctors going to a medical conference or councilors at your average UA meeting.

Nobody is trying to suggest self-awarding procedures are inherently flawed. External observations can be even more unreasonable, notably in athletics. How many times has the *Associated Press* or *USA Today* refused to recognize sports stars' abilities because of character traits? March Madness itself, while significantly better than other college championship systems, is perennially rife with debatable selections.

League officials' awards have been even more biased, especially in the era of David Stern image-fabrication. Many such important awards have superficial definitions (such as MVPs) that lend themselves even more to arbitrary dispensation. Contrapositively, any award that can be determined through more objective means, such as the NBA's inconsequential IBM —calculated through empirical methods— is less important.

Either system can create choices which are not just questionable but make absolutely no sense in retrospect. Tom Chambers as slam dunk champion is no worse than Shelby Lynne being awarded as a new artist in two shows only a decade apart. A cynic would note the number of Nobel Peace Prize winners who have died through violent means.

In reality, the attraction of an award is often different for different people. Oscars themselves might be life-long ambition for the professional thespian, merely a vehicle for publicity, or a baroque social. Whatever the case, there is little harm done when overblown fraternal circles pat themselves on the back. So long as we get to relate their narcissism, they don't start taking themselves too seriously, and you don't have to think about your utter insignificance, it's all gravy.

OSCAR PREVIEW

And The Winner Is ...

By J. F. Graham

Gladiator, Traffic, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Erin Brockovich, and Chocolat will all take center stage Sunday night as the world finds out which film will become the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Science's choice for Best Film of the Year 2000.

Before we begin with the nominees for best picture and the chances they all share at winning the Academy Award, we must give a brief mention to three films that were overlooked by the Academy. It happens every year, and this year is no exception. *Almost Famous*, *Billy Elliot*, and *Requiem for a Dream*. Three very interesting, entertaining, and unique films that did not have the necessary star power, box office receipts, and production value that is needed to compete with the more mainstream and financially backed movies that the Hollywood machine is capable of promoting.

Although these three motion pictures have managed to land themselves on every major critic's top ten list throughout the country, my list being no exception, we can only speculate as to why the Academy chose to ignore these brilliant films.

A simple solution would be to just increase the number of eligible films. Is it burned in stone somewhere that there can only be five films nominated? At the very first awards presentation in 1927 only three films were nominated in the best picture category. In 1942, there were ten movies that were on that list. So as you can see there is no historical precedent in place that demands only five films be nominated.

Citizen Kane was one of those ten films in '42 and sadly enough it lost. Considered by many associated with the movie industry to be the best motion picture ever made, *Kane* was recently named number one on the American Film Institute's list of the 100 greatest films. Unfortunately the film fell victim to the same lack of press, star power, and low-ticket sales, which was the case this year with these three movies. Had only five films been nominated in 1942 — who knows — maybe *the* greatest movie ever made would have been just another movie.

With that said, let's move on to the issue at hand, Oscar 2001. *Gladiator* and *Traffic* are the two favorites to win the best picture award this year, with *Gladiator* holding a slight edge. That edge is best described in one word, and that word is what places it at the pole position — EPIC. *Gladiator* is epic, and historically speaking, epics win the gold every time.

Gone with the Wind, *Braveheart*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Last Emperor*, *Ben-Hur*, and *Titanic* — these are all epic films and, not surprisingly, also best picture winners.

The Academy also seems to have a passion for period piece films. Epic plus period equals Oscar, and with a hero at it's center trying to right a great wrong and a scene stealing villain we just love to hate (played by supporting actor nominee, Joaquin Phoenix), *Gladiator* delivers, and shall be rewarded with, the Academy's most coveted prize.

However, *Traffic* does have a chance. With an impressive ensemble cast and brilliant direction, *Traffic* is epic on an urban level. I would not bet against it.

As for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* ... it's a lock for the best foreign language film, and I have never been surer of any film ever nominated in this category, so bet all you have with confidence. Ang Lee also has a very strong chance at winning the award for best director — the Academy might be apologetic for shafting him a few years back with *The Ice Storm*.

Erin Brockovich, and *Chocolat*. Two very good films that are unfortunately complete long shots, and will ultimately file alongside the ever-growing list of films such as *The Full Monty*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Quiz Show*, *LA Confidential*, and *The Piano*. Although all are great films, they just happened to be nominated in a year when there was an obvious front-runner. This year that film is *Gladiator*.

Moving on to the performance nominees. The men's race appears to be a dead heat. However, upon taking a closer look we may be able to see a slight edge going to Tom Hanks. Again, Hanks demonstrates (particularly in the middle hour of *Cast Away*) that he is capable of filling the screen all by himself, proving all you really need is a bloodstained volleyball named Wilson (not nominated for a supporting role) to create entertaining and intriguing dialogue. On screen, seeing what the character is actually thinking is not an easy task accomplished by an actor, in most cases it has to be done with some kind of action in order to reach the audience.

In *Cast Away*, Tom's best scenes seem to be the ones when he is not speaking at all, but silently sharing his thoughts with us. Look for Tom Hanks to win again. It's doubtless that Russell Crowe of *Gladiator* and Ed Harris of *Pollock* will make it a close race.

Newcomer Javier Bardem and previous Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush both turned in great performances as well, with leading roles in *Before Night Falls* and *Quills*. Rush (as the Marquis de Sade) could pull the upset here, but I see Hanks making Oscar history Sunday and becoming the only three-time winner in a male leading role.

The nominees for best female performance in a leading role this year are Julia Roberts, Julia Roberts, Julia Roberts, Julia Roberts, and Julia Roberts. Let's face it, *she can't lose*. Yet this one disappoints me. Ellen Burstyn's fearless performance in *Requiem for a Dream* was nothing short of perfect. It is also one of the best performances by a female lead I have ever seen and probably will see. I'm not kidding. She was *that* good. This was a role many actresses would have turned down, and probably did. As Burstyn's character slowly self-destructs and descends into madness, we all fall in with her, glued to the screen. Burstyn gives us all an acting lesson, telling us that there is no room for vanity in performers artistry. But in the eyes of the Academy, it's just Julia's turn and nothing can change that. Juliette Binoche, Laura Linney, and Joan Allen are all well deserving of their nominations, but as I said: it's just Julia's turn. Place your bets. So the smart money is on *Gladiator*, Tom, and Julia.

If you're thinking *Best Picture* automatically means best director, you may want to hedge that bet. In 1972 *The Godfather* won best picture, while Bob Fosse took the directors award for *Cabaret*. In 1989 *Driving Miss Daisy* was the Academy's film choice, and Oliver Stone won his second directing award for *Born on the Fourth of July*.

Once every decade seems to be the pattern. Director Steven Soderbergh finds himself nominated twice for *Traffic* and *Erin Brockovich*. This has happened before; in 1939 Michael Curtiz was up for two films and lost them both. Look for history to possibly repeat itself here. Soderbergh may not get the chance to touch Oscar this year. However, if he does *Traffic* will be the reason. Soderbergh directed over 300 speaking parts in this film with all of them coming together without missing a beat — not an easy trick.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Ang Lee's visual triumph, looks like the best bet for directorial kudos. With *Tiger* becoming the highest grossing foreign language film of all time, the director's award should fall Lee's way. Steven Daldry is nominated for *Billy Elliot*, and Steve should just stay home Sunday night. I'm not knocking the directing of the film, it's extremely well done, but look at the competition. I have yet to even mention Ridley Scott's nominations for *Gladiator*, and when I do speak of Scott, it is just tantamount to saying, sorry, Ang Lee wins.

In supporting roles, Benico Del Toro's performance in *Traffic* appears to be the favorite, but Albert Finny (his fifth nomination) could win for sympathetic reasons. Yet, those reasons never helped Lauren Bacall a few years back, and besides, Albert has already told everyone he's not going to attend. The Best Supporting female role *will* go to Kate Hudson for *Almost Famous* just like it did for her mom (Goldie) 32 years ago.

Well, there it is — winners, losers, how and why, and a little Academy history, Hollywood style.

Clubs

Axis
13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437

Sundays: See Avalon below.
Mondays: *Static*. Gay, casual dress. \$5, 18+.
Thursdays: *Chrome/Skybar*. Progressive house, soul, disco; dress code. \$10, 19+; \$8, 21+.
Fridays: *Spin Cycle*. Progressive house, 80s. \$12, 19+; \$10, 21+.

Avalon
15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424

Sundays: *Gay Night* (with Axis on long weekends). Featuring hard-core house and techno. \$10, 21+.
Thursdays: *International Night*. Eurohouse. \$10, 19+.
Fridays: *Avaland*. House. \$15, 19+.
Saturdays: *Downtown*. Modern house, club classics, and Top 40 hits. \$15, 21+.

Circle
Every Tuesday, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. A small but energy-filled place to hear local DJs spin a range of techno/trance. No age restrictions, no dress code. At the VFW, 371 Summer St, Somerville (take the Red Line to Davis Square). \$5, \$1 before 9:30.

Karma Club
9 Lansdowne St., 617-421-9595

Sundays: "Current dance favorites" by guest DJs. Cover varies.
Tuesdays: *Phatt Tuesdays*. With Bill's bar, modern dance music. \$10.
Wednesdays: *STP*. Gay-friendly, house. \$15, 21+.
Thursdays: *Groove Factor*. House.
Fridays: *Pure*. Drum and bass, guest DJ. \$15, 19+.
Saturdays: *Elements of Life*. International House. \$15.

ManRay
21 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-864-0400

Wednesdays: *Curses*. Goth. Appropriate dress required. \$5, 19+; \$3, 21+.
Thursdays: *Campus*. Popular tunes + House. Gay, casual dress. \$10, 19+; \$7, 21+.
Fridays: *Fantasy Factory* (First and third Friday of the month. Features kinky fetishes and industrial music.) *Hell Night* (every second Friday, 19+. Includes Goth music.) *Ooze* (the last Friday of the month.) \$10, 21+, reduced prices for those wearing fetish gear.
Saturdays: *Liquid*. Disco/house + New Wave. \$15, 19+; \$10, 21+.

Popular Music

Axis
13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437
Next: 423-NEXT

Mar. 25: Lagwagon.
Apr. 1: Sick of It All.

Avalon
15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424

Mar. 23: Eve 6.
Mar. 23: VAST.
Mar. 24: The Waterboys.
Apr. 5: Cowboy Mouth.
Apr. 5: Southern Culture On The Skids.
Apr. 25: The Slip.
Apr. 30: Badly Drawn Boy.

Berklee Performance Center
Berklee College of Music
1140 Boylston St.
Free student recitals and faculty concerts, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. some weekdays. For info on these concerts, call the Performance Information Line at 747-8820.

Mar. 24: Keiko Matsui.
Apr. 14: Joshua Redman.
Apr. 21: Loretta Laroche.
Apr. 28: Agathonas Iakovidis and Kompania.
May 5: Comics 4a Cause - Brett Butler.

Club Passim
47 Palmer St, Cambridge, 617-492-7679

Tuesdays: Open Mic at 8 p.m. (sign up at 7:30). \$5.
Mar. 22: Darden Smith, Carl Cachó opens.
Mar. 23: Tish Hinojosa, Christine Havrilla opens.
Mar. 24: Sonia of Disappear Fear, Linda Sharar opens.
Mar. 25: The Passim All-Stars.
Mar. 28: Sam Shaber and Josh Ritter.
Mar. 29: Barbara Higbie, Grace Griffith opens.
Mar. 30: Colleen Sexton, Trina Hamlin opens.
Mar. 31: Vance Gilbert, Andrew Kerr opens.
Apr. 1: Carrie Newcomer, Denice Franke opens.

Fleet Center
Ticketmaster: 931-2000.

Mar. 27: Sarah Brightman. \$75, \$55, and \$35.
Jun. 5-6, 8-9: U2. Sold out.

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

Mar. 22: Kool Keith w/ Smut Peddlers.
Mar. 30: Planetary Group Presents: Amphibian featuring Tom Marshall.

On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston
February XX – YY
Compiled by Fred Choi

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

Mar. 31: Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks.

Orpheum Theatre
1 Hamilton Pl., Boston, 617-679-0810
Ticketmaster: 931-2000
Mar. 23: Bean Town Funk Throw-down With Dbb and Original P.
Mar. 24: Wayne Brady and Friends.
Mar. 25: Paco De Lucia & Septet.
Apr. 7: Brian Evans.
Apr. 28: David Gray.

Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy St., 02138, 617-496-2222

Mar. 23: John Gorka.

Tsongas Arena
Lowell, MA
Ticketmaster: 931-2000.

Mar. 28: Ani Difrancio. \$26.50.

Jazz Music

Regattabar
Concertix: 876-7777
1 Bennett St., Cambridge 02138, 617-662-5000

Mar. 23: Roomful of Blues.
Mar. 23: Bill Summers.

Scullers Jazz Club
DoubleTree Guest Suites, 400 Soldiers Field Rd., Boston, 617-562-4111

Mar. 22-23: Deborah Henson-Conant.
Mar. 29: Kendrick Oliver and New Life Jazz Orchestra.

Classical Music

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Tickets: 266-1492.
Performances at Symphony Hall. Call for ticket prices.
For MIT Students: Tickets are offered for Th. evening concerts (8 p.m.) and Fri. afternoon concerts (1:30 p.m.) and are available on the day of the concert only at the BSO Box Office at Symphony Hall (301 Mass. Ave. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.). 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 10 a.m. on the day of concert.

Mar. 22, 24 at 8 p.m., Mar. 23 at 1:30 p.m.: Stravinsky: Symphony of Psalms; Ravel: Daphnis et Chloe (complete). Bernard Haitink, conductor; Tanglewood Festival Chorus, John Oliver, conductor.

Apr. 7 at 8 p.m.: Sweet Honey in the Rock.

Apr. 14 at 8 p.m., Apr. 13 at 1:30 p.m.: Walton: Scapino Overture; Sibelius: Symphony No. 7; Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1. Antonio Pappano, conductor; Yefim Bronfman, piano.

Brahms: Music to Stir the Soul
Mar. 24 at 8 p.m.: Choral and Solo Lieder from the Boston Cecilia Chorus; Donald Teeters, conductor. At New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall. Tickets \$60-\$11, with discounts for students and seniors. To order tickets or for more info, call 617-232-4540.

The Daughter of the Regiment

Mar. 28, 30 and Apr. 1, 3, 6 8 at 7:30 p.m.; Apr. 1 and 8 at 3 p.m. The Boston Lyric Opera presents Gaetano Donizetti's classic virtuosic opera. Sung in English with English Surtitles. Conducted by Stephen Lord. Directed by Nick Olcott. At the Shubert Theatre (265 Tremont St., Boston 02116). Tickets \$108-\$27.50. Call Telecharge at 1-800-447-7400 or visit the Shubert Theatre Box Office at 265 Tremont St. Pre-opera lectures are held at the Tremont Hotel, next to the theatre, an hour prior to every performance, and are free to all ticket holders. For more information call the BLO at 617-542-4912, or visit <www.blo.org>.

Un Ballo in Maschera
Apr. 20, 24 at 8 p.m., Apr. 22 at 2 p.m. at (Emerson Majestic Theatre, 221 Tremont St., Boston). Verdi's classic opera, notable for its effective mix of tragedy, music drama and comedy. This revival of the Met's impressive staging stars Franco Farina as King Gustavo, Alexandru Agache as Anckarstroem



VAST (Thomas Froggat, Justin Cotter, Steve Clark, and John Crosby) returns to Boston in a concert tonight at Avalon.

(the spurned husband) and Michele Crider as Amelia, the woman caught in the middle. Tickets: \$65, \$47, \$33, \$18.

Cambridge Society for Early Music
Mar. 26 at 7:30 p.m.: Canadian harpsichord virtuoso Colin Tilney performs harpsichord sonatas by Domenico Scarlatti. At the Fogg Art Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge MA. Tickets \$20, \$15 students and seniors. Purchase at the door, or by mail to CSEM P.O. Box 336, Cambridge, MA 02238-0336 or call 617-489-2062. Venue is handicap accessible.

Theater

Amphitryon
Through Apr. 8: The Huntington Theatre Company, a professional theatre in residence at Boston University, presents Moliere's comedy, with the East Coast premiere of a new verse translation by Richard Wilbur. Directed by Darko Tresnjak. The production will be ASL-interpreted on Saturday, Mar. 31 at 8:00 p.m. Deaf patrons are asked to purchase tickets for this performance via TTY 617-266-8488 by Mar. 25th. Tickets \$36, \$44, \$52, \$55. Students, Seniors, BU Faculty/Staff/Alums \$5. ASL section \$27. Visit <www.huntingtontheatre.org> for more information or to reserve tickets.

Beauty and the Beast
Through Mar. 24, at the Wang Theatre (270 Tremont St., Boston, 617-482-9393): The third national touring company of Disney's first Broadway hit, based on the highly acclaimed animated film. Tickets: \$60-\$20.

Rent
Apr. 10-15, at the Wang Theatre (270 Tremont St., Boston, 617-482-9393): The now classic musical by the great Jonathan Larson retells Puccini's opera *La Boheme*, complete with homosexuals, drug addicts, transvestites, HIV-positive artists, and divas. Tickets: \$60-

\$20. A limited number of \$20 orchestra seats are offered on the day of the show, generally through a lottery-limit of two tickets per person (cash only), although the wait is generally long.

The Dumb Waiter
Mar. 28-31, Apr. 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 at 8 p.m.; Apr. 7, 14, 21 at 4 p.m.; Apr. 1, 8, 15 at 3 p.m. The Boiler Company presents Harold Pinter's brilliant mix of comedy and suspense, in which two hitmen visit a dilapidated boarding house and anxiously await their unknown prey. At the Threshold Theater in the Piano Factory on the corner of tremont St. and Northampton St., one block south of Mass. Ave. Take the Orange Line to Mass. Ave. stop. Enter theater through parking lot on Northampton. Tickets \$16, \$13 students with ID. Tickets available at the door, through BoStix, and by reservation 508-579-5686.

Comedy Connection
Mon.-Wed. at 8 p.m.; Thurs. 8:30 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m., 10:15 p.m.; Sun. 7 p.m. The oldest comedy club in Boston showcases big-name, national comedians on weekends and up-and-coming local talent during the week. At 245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston. Admission \$10-\$8 (weekend prices vary). Call 248-9700 for more information and a complete schedule.

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.

Exhibits

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston, 02115, 617-266-5152 (Hynes Convention Center T-stop). Gallery hours:

Wed., Fri. 12-5 p.m., Thurs. 12-9 p.m., Sat. and Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Features a wide variety of contemporary conceptual art with shows which emphasize artists from outside the United States. Admission \$6 adults, \$4 students and seniors, free to children under 12 and members. Admission free on Thursday evenings after 5 p.m. Wheelchair accessible. For more information visit <icaboston.org>.

Olafur Eliasson: Your Only Real Thing Is Time
Through Apr. 1, 2001: By isolating organic, ephemeral materials such as water, ice, sunlight, and wind within the spatial and architectural parameters of an exhibition space, the internationally recognized artist Olaf Eliasson creates sublime installations that explore the human perception of natural phenomena. In his first major U.S. museum exhibition, Eliasson has transformed the ICA's galleries with a series of installations using water and light.

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.

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 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: "Friday Night Stargazing," Fri., 8:30 p.m., "Welcome to the Universe," daily; "Quest for Contact: Are We Alone?" daily. Admission to Omni, laser, and planetarium shows is \$7.50, \$5.50 for children and seniors.

Other Events

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Apr. 17-21 at 8 p.m., Apr. 21 at 2 p.m., Apr. 22 at 3 p.m. At the Wang Theatre (270 Tremont St., Boston, 617-482-9393). Alvin Ailey's groundbreaking dance group presents a show that includes classic works from its much-celebrated repertoire. Many of these pieces are rooted in Ailey's personal experiences: "Blues Suite" inhabits the rural, Depression-era Texas of Ailey's childhood, while "Cry," depicts a black woman's transcendent journey through slavery. With rich musical selections (ranging from Fela Kuti's African pop and Duke Ellington's jazz to rock, gospel and traditional blues) and inventive direction (in the new work "Double Xposure," dancers are equipped with wireless cameras that relay real-time 20-foot projections behind them), the Ailey family has put together a performance that catapults the senses. Tickets are \$55-\$35, \$40-\$20 for matinees, and are available through TeleCharge at 800-447-7400 or via <www.celebrityseries.org>.

Eventworks
Mar. 22-May 5: An annual spring festival of multi-media and performing arts run by Massachusetts College of Art's Studio for Interrelated Media (SIM) program. The festival was founded in 1977 to provide venues for new experimental works and to create a link within the college environment and the professional art world. In the 24 years since, Eventworks has presented hundreds of artists working in music, installation, film, video, performance, dance, sound, and more. Located at 621 Huntington Ave., Boston 02115. Take the Green Line E train to the Longwood Medical stop. For more information, visit <www.massart.edu/~eventworks> or call 617-879-7726.

Kickoff Party
Thu. Mar. 22, 2001 at 7 p.m. in the MassArt Trustee's Room, 11th floor, tower. Opportunity to learn about Eventworks in general and the upcoming Spring 2001 festival. Free admission and food and drink.

FRED'S PICK OF THE WEEK

Bill T. Jones / Arnie Zane Dance Company

Mar. 22-25 at the Emerson Majestic Theatre (219 Tremont Street Boston, Mass. 02116-4717). Wed., Th. at 7 p.m., Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m., Sat. and Sun. at 2 p.m.: Bill T. Jones' "You Walk" treads toward numerous destinations, historical and poetic, while expressing a hunger to revisit some "first" home. Through the traditional music of the Americas, "You Walk" considers the simple and profound act of walking. Tickets: \$45, \$40, \$35 plus fees. Bill T. Jones Legacy Conversation, a Special Free Event, on Mar. 25 at 4:30 p.m. following the final performance of "You Walk?" at the Emerson Majestic Theatre.

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

15 Minutes (★)

Writer/director John Herfeld's police thriller substitutes trendy camera-style filmmaking over substance of content with predictable results. Robert DeNiro is dull and just goes through the motions as Eddie Flemming, a media-savvy homicide detective on the trail of two hapless criminals who have decided to videotape their crimes and sell them to the local tabloid news program. *15 Minutes* falls flat. — J. F. Graham

Blow Dry (★½)

As a national hairdressing contest invades a small town in Britain, ex-national champion Phil sharpens up his scissors for the fight of his life against his former rivals in Simon Beaufoy's (*The Full Monty*) new movie, *Blow Dry*. Unfortunately, it is a feckless mish-mash of oddly restrained campiness, sappy sentimentality, and '80's-teen-movie rivalry. — Jed Horne

Cast Away (★★)

All the physical courage and technical accomplishments of *Cast Away* are not enough to balance its unwieldy structure and make it anything but an extended catalogue of human misery. Just like the central Tom Hanks performance, it is courageous and elaborate — and surprisingly joyless and little fun to watch. — Vladimir Zelevinsky

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (★★★★½)

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon is a "wu xia" martial arts fantasy crossed with period romantic drama. It is a showcase for accomplished direction, stunning cinematography and special effects, and remarkable martial arts choreography. The most impressive aspect is the performance by a relative newcomer, Zhang Ziyi, who explodes on the screen like a force of nature. — VZ

Down to Earth (★★½)

Chris Rock plays Lance Barton, an aspiring stand-up comedian who meets an untimely death. He strikes a deal with heavenly angels Keyes (Eugene Levy) and King (Chazz Palminteri) to be reincarnated as a rich, white business tycoon. Chris Rock plays his character with genuine enthusiasm and sincerity, and does not even utter a



BOB MARSHAK

Dennis Quaid and Catherine Zeta-Jones avoid media attention in Steven Soderbergh's drug-cartel drama *Traffic*. The film is nominated for multiple Academy Awards, including best film and best director. The 73rd Annual Academy Awards will be announced on Sunday.

naughty word, conforming to the film's PG-13 rating. — Erik Blankinship

Hannibal (★★)

Compared to *The Silence of the Lambs*, this sequel is lacking lead Jodie Foster, director Jonathan Demme, and pretty much the point as well. Ridley Scotts directs by swooshing the camera around and the screenplay (David Mamet and Steven Zaillian, of all people) lurches unevenly. At least Anthony Hopkins still seems to have some fun. — Rebecca Loh & VZ

Head Over Heels (★½)

A parody that wants to be a romantic comedy, *Head Over Heels* is a story about two normal people that fall for each other in the midst of the New York City fashion scene. Poorly acted and unnaturally developed, the movie may be considered funny at times,

especially because of some laughable performances. If you have too much time to waste, you can go and watch it. — Bogdan Fedeles

The Mexican (★★½)

The quest for a sought-after object is usually filled with excitement and heartbreaks along the way. *The Mexican* is filled with Julia Roberts, a gay kidnapper, and Mexican thieves. Overall it is a great comedy that is light on an action-packed plot and character development. Though full of laughs, the film will leave you wanting more. — Jacob Beniflah

O Brother, Where Art Thou? (★★★)

The Coan brothers' latest endeavor is clever, witty, and thoroughly enjoyable. With a stellar soundtrack, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* is adapted from Homer's *Odyssey* — with a Coan brothers twist. George Clooney, John Turturro, and Tim Blake Nelson give

excellent performances as three escaped convicts in the South. — Annie S. Choi

Shadow of the Vampire (★★½)

Shadow of the Vampire is experimental director Elias Merhige's fictionalized take on the creation of F. W. Murnau's legendary (and amazingly enduring) 1922 silent classic *Nosferatu*, in which eccentric actor/vampire Max Schreck (Willem Dafoe) terrorizes the film crew, led by director F. W. Murnau (John Malkovich). Despite a brilliant performance by Dafoe, and a demonstrated mastery of recreating the look of early silent films, *Shadow of the Vampire* is only quasi-successful and somewhat undeveloped in its take on the nature of obsession and the vampy nature of artistic genius. — JH

Snatch (★★★★½)

Madonna's new hubby Guy Ritchie, bolstered by the run-away success of his first feature film, *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, can hardly be blamed for sticking to a successful formula — take roughly six Tarantino-esque criminals, throw in a touch of wry British humor, and mix. This fantastically entertaining movie, which deftly mixes a botched diamond heist with the chaos of underground boxing, is a must-see, especially for anyone unfamiliar with Ritchie's first film. — JH

State and Main (★★★½)

The immovable object meets the irresistible force when small-town America collides with Hollywood in *State and Main*, the latest from writer/director David Mamet. *State and Main* contains a few really good one-liners and sight-gags, and a well-concocted story. The film brings together a talented group of actors (including William H. Macy, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, and Alec Baldwin), bringing Mamet's usually high-brow production ethos back down to earth. — JH

Traffic (★★★★)

Stephen Soderbergh's captivating docudrama of a film makes for a movie that transcends the "drug movie" genre. Eloquently written and perfectly acted, this movie is groundbreaking and definitely Oscar material. — Devdoot Majumdar

You Can Count On Me (★★★★½)

Winner of the 2000 Cannes' Grand Jury Prize, this is a poignant film about a sister and a brother. Offering provocative writing, sincere acting and engaging editing, this film treats you like a friend who's been inadvertently asked to sit in the living room as a family drama unfolds. The characters are real and their challenges tangible. — EB

PROJECT - Studies or Studies, to produce a small water cooler using either burner electric heat exchangers distributed prior to construction. Based on 2000 model, please contact: 1-800-848-7222, C.E. Products Inc. or please call: (877) 211-8222 (800) 444-8222

Saturday
<http://www.george345.com/>

Mexico/Caribbean or Central America \$300 r.t. plus tax.
Europe \$179 o.w. plus tax
Other world wide destinations cheap. Book tickets on line www.airtech.com or (212) 219-7000.

We put the *SEA* into our re*SEAr*ch

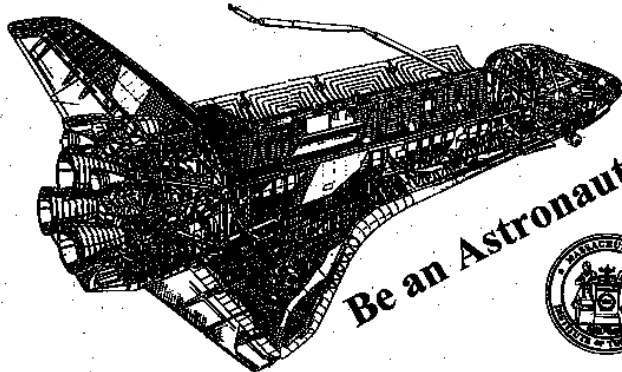


Ocean
ENGINEERING

**Freshman
Open
House**

Tuesday, April 3
3-5 pm in Room 5-314

*Find out about Careers in OE
Meet faculty and students
See displays of current projects
Learn about UROPS in OE*



Be an Astronaut!



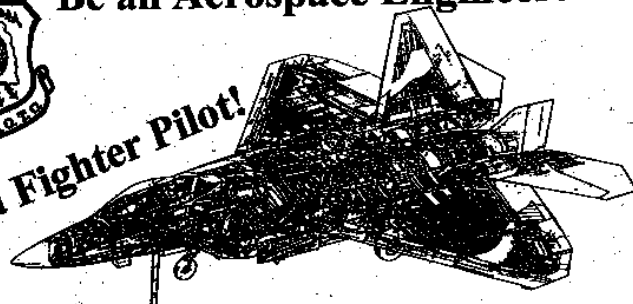
Is Your Future Up in the AIR or in SPACE?

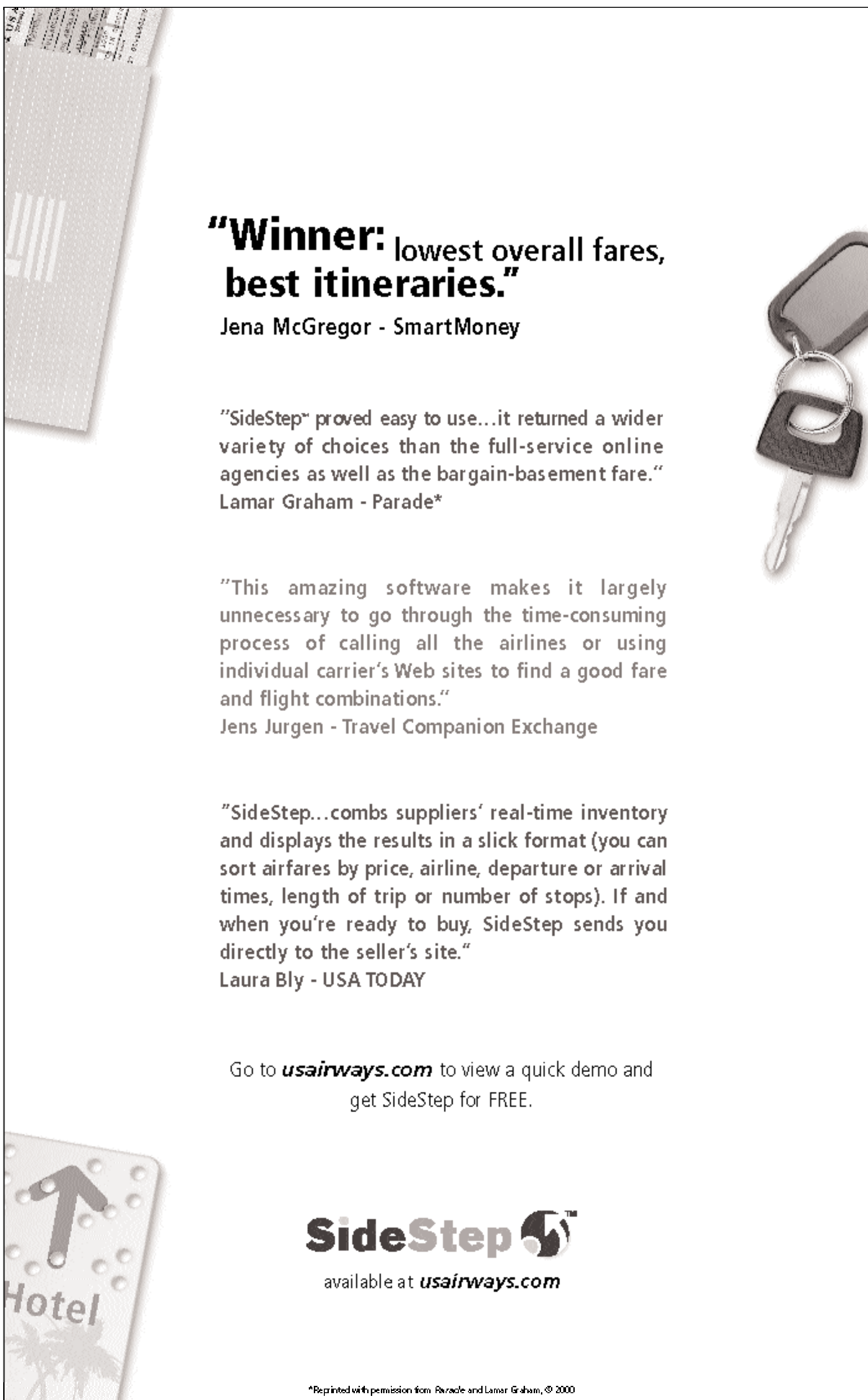
If so we can put you on the right flight plan for your future! **CONTACT: Major Wayne E. Daniels**
Email: wdaniels@mit.edu

Be an Aerospace Engineer!



Be a Fighter Pilot!





"Winner: lowest overall fares, best itineraries."

Jena McGregor - SmartMoney

"SideStep" proved easy to use...it returned a wider variety of choices than the full-service online agencies as well as the bargain-basement fare."
Lamar Graham - Parade*

"This amazing software makes it largely unnecessary to go through the time-consuming process of calling all the airlines or using individual carrier's Web sites to find a good fare and flight combinations."

Jens Jurgen - Travel Companion Exchange

"SideStep...combs suppliers' real-time inventory and displays the results in a slick format (you can sort airfares by price, airline, departure or arrival times, length of trip or number of stops). If and when you're ready to buy, SideStep sends you directly to the seller's site."

Laura Bly - USA TODAY

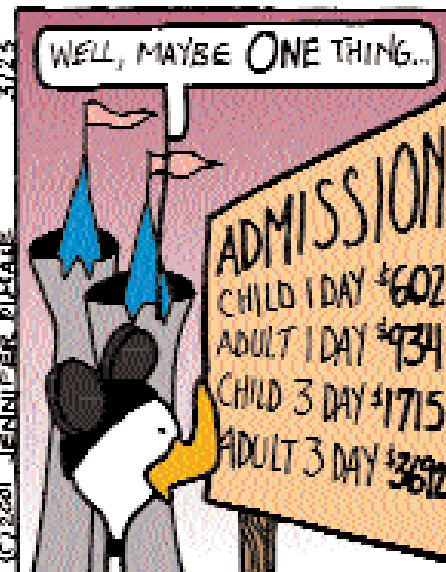
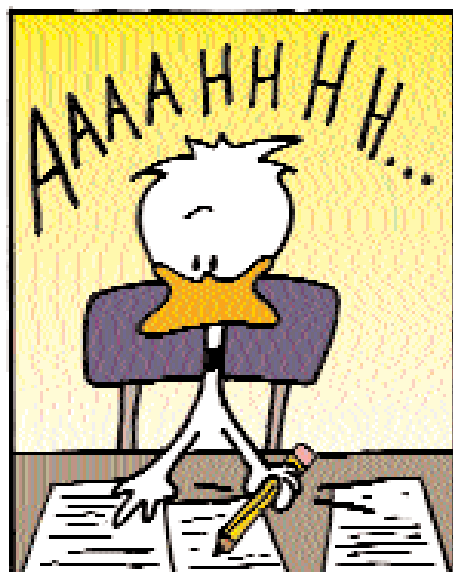
Go to **usairways.com** to view a quick demo and get SideStep for FREE.

SideStep 

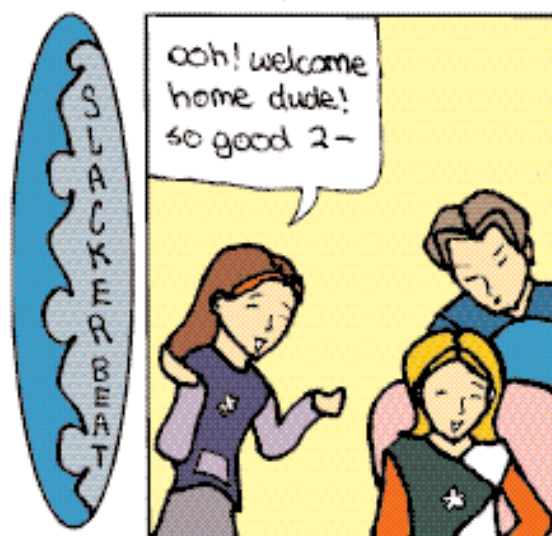
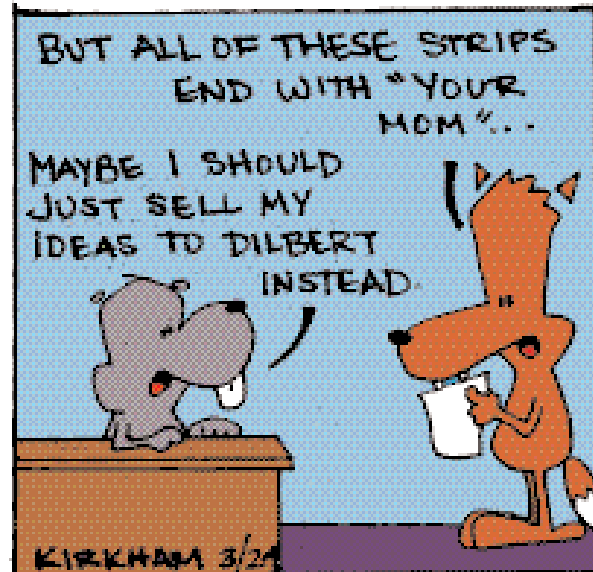
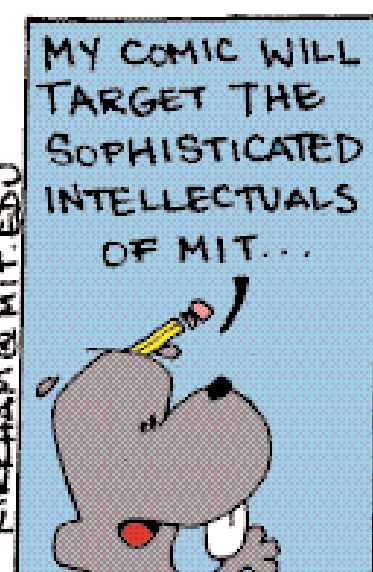
available at **usairways.com**

Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase

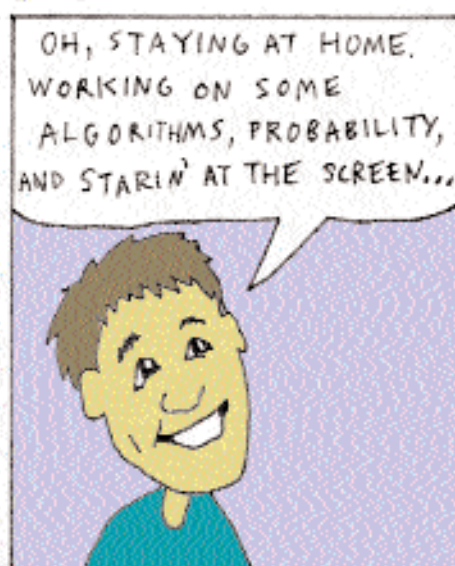


the crass rat



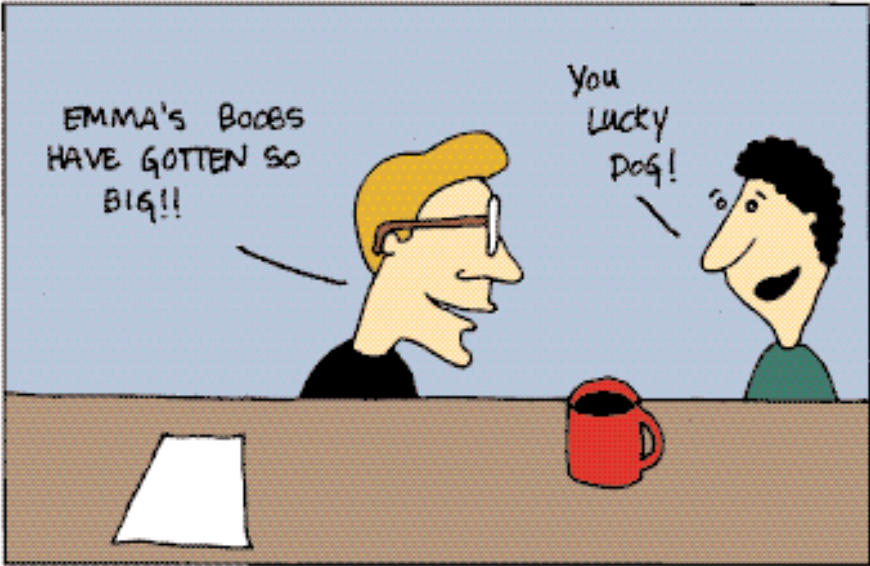
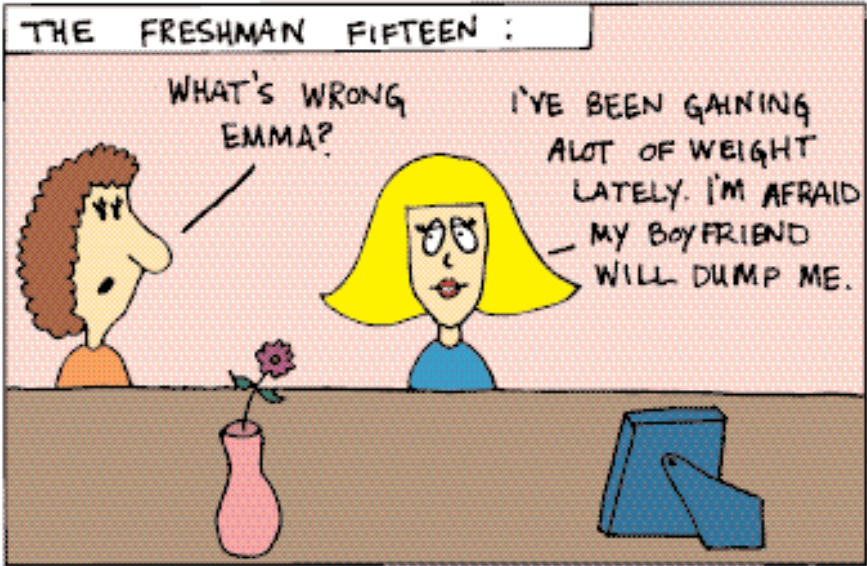
INSTITUTE MADNESS!

ALISON WONG

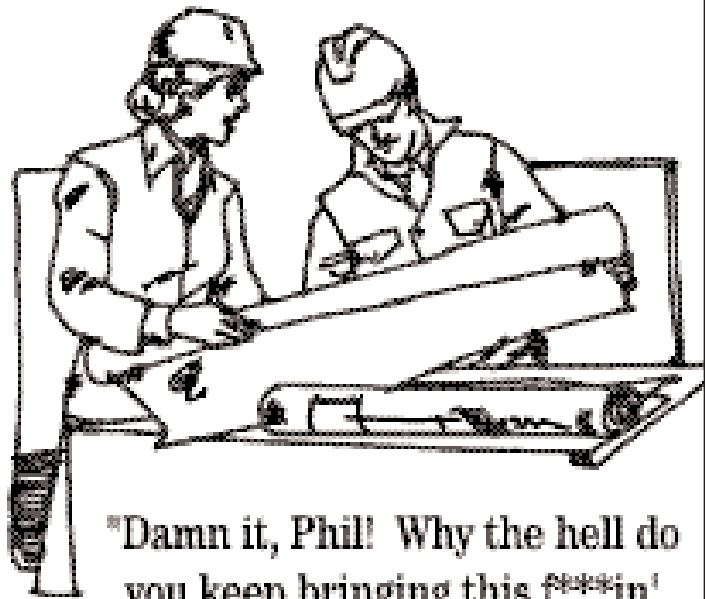


Thank You for your Interest

by Dave, Kara, and Raj



Fun With Clip Art
Aaron Isaksen



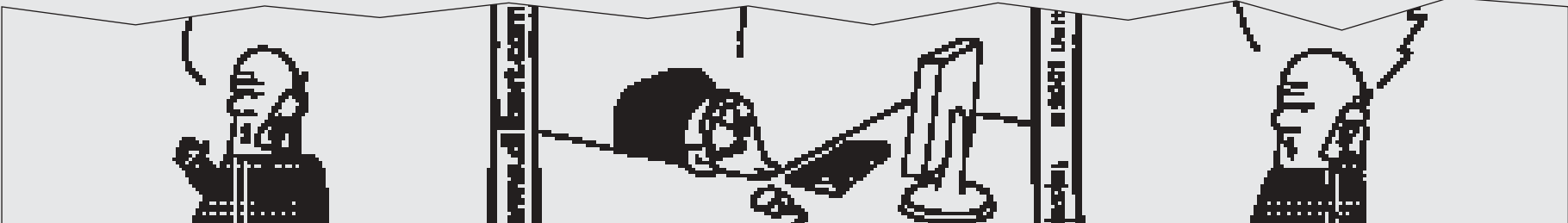
"Damn it, Phil! Why the hell do you keep bringing this f***in' Backstreet Boys poster instead of the blueprints?"

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 18

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams



Want to see the full picture?

Join The Tech Production staff and read Dilbert® and the rest of the paper before your friends do! Stop by Room 483 of the Student Center or call us at 253-1541 and ask for Eric.

TechCalendar

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

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.

Friday, March 23

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **Spring 2001 UROP Deadline (Supervisor Pay, Credit & Volunteer Proposals).** All Spring 2001 UROP proposals for Supervisor Pay, Credit or Volunteer must be submitted to the UROP Office in 7-104 by 5 p.m. today, March 23, 2001. See <http://web.mit.edu/urop/paperwork.html> for proposal outline, coversheets and guidelines. free. Room: 7-104. Sponsor: UROP.

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **Awards Convocation Nominations Deadline.** free. Room: 50-005. Sponsor: Office of Special Community Services.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Al-Anon Open Discussion: Al-Anon Meeting.** free. Room: E25-101. Sponsor: MIT Medical.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **BrioQuery Quick Start.** Learn how to download, install, and set up BrioQuery on your desktop. Learn how to download and process a standard report. An overview of the features and capabilities of BrioQuery will be given. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

2:30 p.m. – **Howard Hughes Lecture by David Baltimore.** free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: BUSA.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – **Chemical Eng. Department Seminars.** Evolution of Biomedical Engineering with Chemical Engineering Over the Past Half Century. free. Room: 66-110. Sponsor: Chemical Engineering.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – **“A New Approach to an Old Problem: Pool Nucleate and Film Boiling.”** free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: ME Seminar Series.

5:00 p.m. – **Advanced Music Performance Recital.** Management senior Jo Marie Sison, violin. free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. – **Transforming our Lives for God.** Andrew Snekvik from Vineyard Christian Fellowship will be speaking on “What it means to Truly Transform our Lives for God.” Afterwards, we will go to Good Times Emporium in Somerville for an evening of lasertag, pool, etc. free. Room: Student Center (W20-491). Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.

7:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. – **MIT Anime Club Showing.** 7:00 – Kareshi Kanjou no Jijyo (*His and Her Circumstances*) Kare Kanno 13-15, 8:10 – T-shirt sales, checkout distributions, 8:50 – Yamada-kun, 10:00 – Furikuri 5-6, 11:00 – Himiko no Den 1-2. free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT.

Saturday, March 24

1:00 p.m. – **Men’s Lacrosse vs. Mass Maritime.** free. Room: Turf. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

8:00 p.m. – **The Rover.** Play by Aphra Behn (1640-1689) directed by Kim Mancuso. \$8, \$6 students. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Shakespeare Ensemble.

Sunday, March 25

1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – **Ballroom Dance Lessons.** Samba 1 at 1 p.m., Amer. Rhumba 2 at 2 p.m., Swing 3 at 4:30 p.m. Free social dancing from 3:30-4:30 p.m. \$1 to \$5. Room: Lobby 13. Sponsor: Ballroom Dance Club.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – **F.A.S.T. Sunday (Family Adventures in Science and Technology): Creating Chaos.** Experience chaos through computer simulations, mechanical systems, and hands-on activities created by physicist E. J. Heller and assisted by MIT physics students. Free with Museum admission. Room: MIT Museum’s Main Gallery, 265 Massachusetts Avenue, Bldg. N52-2nd fl. Sponsor: MIT Museum.

Monday, March 26

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Virus Protection Quick Start.** Learn how to download, install, and configure virus protection for your computer, and how to keep the software up to date. Discuss your questions with Jerry Isaacson, MIT Information Security Officer. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – **MAC OS X at MIT.** Information Systems and Apple team up to bring you the latest information on the release of Apple’s MAC OS X. Hear what Apple representatives have to say about this extraordinary new operating system. Demonstrations will be conducted on the first floor lobby of the Stratton Student Center where participants can have a hands on experience from 10-4. Free. Room: W20-407. Sponsor: Information Systems, Software Release Team.

Tuesday, March 27

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – **Taming Organized Complexity: Logic, Neural Networks, & Theoretical Biology at the University of Chicago, 1934-1943.** Dibner Institute Lunchtime Colloquia. free. Room: E56-100. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Word User Group.** free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – **Gas Turbine Seminar Series.** No Seminar today. Spring Break.

Wednesday, March 28

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **InDesign Demo.** InDesign is Adobe’s new high-end page layout program. This demo will give you a tour of InDesign’s interface (with many palettes and tools borrowed from Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator) and show you some of its key features. These include frames, layers, gradients, and sophisticated typographic controls. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **spouses&partners@mit - The Art of Negotiation.** We will discuss decision-making, what works and what does not work, in couples. If we assume that marriage is a learning process, what have we learned? Please be ready to discuss your experiences so that we can learn from each other. If you have time, Getting To Yes by Roger Fisher and William Ury is a useful text. free. Room: W20-400. Sponsor: spouses&partners@mit, MIT Medical.

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – **MIT SCA Chainmail Workshop.** Come and learn simple medieval chainmail weaves and patterns to make your very own shirt (hauberk), or hood (coif). Smaller sized links can be used to make jewelry. We will provide the steel, brass, and copper links, pliers, and instruction. Please bring your own pliers, if you have any. free. Room: Private Dining Room 3, Student Center (W20). Sponsor: Society for Creative Anachronism.

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. – **Renaissance Dancing.** There are many forms of Renaissance Dancing that we practice. From Italian balli to courtly pavans to English country. We dance them all with flair and fun. Dress is common street clothing. No experience necessary; instruction is provided. free. Room: 31-161. Sponsor: Society for Creative Anachronism.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – **International Film Club Film Seminar Series.** free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, International Film Club.

Thursday, March 29

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. – **Modern Square Dance.** This challenging class teaches you Plus level square dancing set to a wide range of modern music. We begin by teaching you the calls which make up each level of dancing, which you then apply throughout the class. A group of eight dancers works together in this unique form of American dance. Focus is on fast and rigorous learning, reaction time, and flow. No experience or partner necessary. Wear

comfortable clothes and shoes. REGULAR ATTENDANCE EXPECTED. First night is free. Room: Lobdell Dining Hall - Student Center. Sponsor: Tech Squares.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – **International Film Club Film Seminar Series.** free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, International Film Club.

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – **Ashdown House Coffee Hour.** free. Room: Ashdown House Hulsizer Room. Sponsor: Residential Life and Student Life Programs.

Friday, March 30

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Al-Anon Open Discussion: Al-Anon Meeting.** free. Room: E25-101. Sponsor: MIT Medical.

12:10 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. – **GABLES Monthly Lunch.** GABLES is the Gay, Bisexual, and Lesbian Employees and Supporters group. Each month, on the last working day, we gather to enjoy lunch and the company of our colleagues and friends. Occasionally there are discussions of topical interest, however the focus of this event is social. The organization also works to advance the interests of GBLT employees at MIT. The lunches are open to anyone in the wider MIT community interested in our work. We have often welcomed guests from other universities and their friends. Cost: The cost of your lunch. Room: A variety of local eateries. Sponsor: GABLES.

3:00 p.m. – **Baseball vs. UMASS Boston.** free. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

Saturday, March 31

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **MIT Logarithms Reunion - “Log Jam Session 2001.”** Let’s get together again this year. Bring: Your voice, your sheet music/memorabilia, your pitch pipe, and cash for lunch at the Ta Sheng in Harvard Square. We’ll supply some sheet music masters, beverages, snacks, name tags, keyboard, etc. \$5. Room: Bush Room (10-105). Sponsor: Association of MIT Alumni & Alumnae.

11:00 a.m. – **Women’s Tennis vs. Vassar College.** free. Room: Indoor Tennis Courts. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

12:00 p.m. – **Softball vs. Coast Guard.** free. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

7:00 p.m.– 12:00 a.m. – **WMBR’s 40th Anniversary Celebration.** Come celebrate WMBR’s 40th Anniversary!

7:00 p.m., Cocktail hour; 8:00 p.m., Dinner. Tentative Highlights include: Multimedia presentation, The '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s and today, WMBR through the years. free. Room: Walker Memorial - Morss Hall. Sponsor: Association of MIT Alumni & Alumnae.

Sunday, April 1

1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – **Ballroom Dance Lessons.** Waltz 1 at 1 p.m., Samba 2 at 2p.m., Amer. Rhumba 3 at 4:30 p.m. Free social dancing from 3:30-4:30 p.m. \$1 to \$5. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Ballroom Dance Club.

Monday, April 2

12:00 a.m. - 11:59 p.m. – **CCRR Grants Program: CCRR Grants Application Deadline.** This month’s deadline for submitting applications to the CCRR Grants Program. free. Sponsor: Committee on Campus Race Relations.

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – **Managing Corporate Innovation.** free to MIT Community. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Office of Corporate Relations/ILP. ICRMOT.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – **SPECIAL EECS SEMINAR.** Adaptive Bases for Estimation of Time-Varying parameters. free. Room: Grier Room A, 34-401A (Refreshments served at 1:45 PM). Sponsor: EECS, Research Lab of Electronics.

3:30 p.m. – **A Theory of Objects — Fourth Annual Page Hazlegrove Lecture on Glass Art.** Talk by Josiah McElheny, whose work lies in the space between sculpture and installation. McElheny has exhibited work internationally in galleries and museums since 1993, including the 2000 Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art in NY, the Saatchi Gallery in London, Donald Young Gallery in Chicago and Brent Sikkema Gallery in NYC. free. Room: Wong Aud (Rm E51-115). Sponsor: MIT Glass Lab.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – **Differential Geometry. TBA.** free. Room: 4-159. Sponsor: Differential Geometry Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

5:30 p.m. – **Nomads and Monads or, the Subject of the Patron in Contemporary Art.** Lecture by Caroline Jones, professor of Art History, Boston University. free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: History Theory Criticism Forum, Department of Architecture.

Arts Scholars Program. The Council for the Arts at MIT Arts Scholars Program is designed to create a community from the artists in the undergraduate population of MIT— students who are committed to work in one or more discipline in the arts and who wish for more interaction with fellow student and faculty artists, and more exposure to the rich resources of the Boston area. The program was initiated in 1998. free. Room: E15-205. Sponsor: Council for the Arts at MIT.

Tuesday, April 3

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Managing Corporate Innovation.** Free to MIT Community. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Office of Corporate Relations/ILP. ICRMOT.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – **‘Fisica’ ex Machina: Measuring Success and Italian Particle Physics in the 1960s.** Dibner Institute Lunchtime Colloquia. free. Room: E56-100. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – **Civic Environmentalism: Democratic Pathways to Sustainability.** Examining Local and Regional Projects. free. Room: Harvard University, JFK School of Government, Littauer 3rd Floor, Fainsod Room. Sponsor: Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **Spinning into the Future: The Physics and Applications of Giant and Tunneling Magnetoresistance.** DMSE Distinguished Lecturer Series, featuring world-class speakers in Materials Science and Engineering. free. Room: 4-270 (followed by reception at 4:30 p.m. in 8-314). Sponsor: Dept. of Materials Science and Engineering.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **MTL VLSI Seminar Series.** MEMS Technology for the New Optical Network. free. Room: 34-101. Sponsor: MTL VLSI Seminar, Boston Area MEMS.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **Tunnel Maurienne-Ambin.** free. Room: 1-350. Sponsor: Engineering & Environmental Mechanics Group.

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – **Gas Turbine Seminar Series.** free. Room: 31-161. Sponsor: Gas Turbine Laboratory.

4:30 p.m. – **“The Politics of Lebanon and Syria After the Israeli Withdrawal from Southern Lebanon.”** A session of the Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar. free. Room: E51-095. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.

6:30 p.m. – **Architecture Lecture: “inlaid horizons.”** Talk by Ann Pendleton-Jullian, architect/professor, MIT. free. Room: Rm 10-250. Sponsor: Department of Architecture.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – **Hungarian Film Seminar.** free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, Hungarian Student Association of MIT.

Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts. April 7 — applicants must pick up works 9-4 p.m. only; April 17 — winners announced; May 14-30 — Winners' Exhibition in Wiesner Gallery Applications available at Student Art Assn (W20), Office of the Arts (E15-205) and CAC (W20). free. Room: W20-429. Sponsor: Student Art Association.

Harvard Student Combats Charges Of Racism in Column

Newspaper Article Provokes Protests, Fong Believes Piece Was Misunderstood

FROM UNIVERSITY WIRE

Harvard University sophomore Justin Fong's article, "The Invasian," about the "self-segregation" of Asians at Harvard has been met with both criticism and praise since it was published in last Thursday's *Harvard Crimson*.

Fong said the article was highly misunderstood and was intended to give not only Asians but also other minorities and groups, including "people from Long Island, red-heads, soccer players and any other group that hides behind walls due to their origin and identity, the sense that people are curious about what is behind those walls."

The article has provoked everything from protests by minority groups at Harvard to propositions for an on-camera interview by ABC News and interviews from reporters all around the country.

The staff feature in "Fifteen Minutes," the weekend and more "edgy" edition of Harvard's daily newspaper, has been called "irresponsible journalism" and a product of a "lack of understanding" by Asians and other minority groups at Harvard.

Fong said he knew his article might be considered "blatantly over-offensive" yet was surprised by the amount of attention his article received. He confessed that he would have spent time "proportional to the number of people it would reach" if he had known it would become more than a wake-up call for people at his school.

What he intended to be an exercise in "sociological freedom" has become a national issue of free press and first amendment rights, he said.

Fong said "knew it would provoke discussion and intrigue," among other reactions, and said many people can at least partially identify with what he wrote and

some even thank him for waking them up to negative factors of self-segregation. He said he feels his critics were upset to be "whipped out of their comfort zones" since self-segregation hasn't been noticed by many people.

"I am very confident with my American identity," Fong said, adding that his own article does not offend him. "This is not about hate, racism, shock-humor or anything like that. I meant it to be light-hearted; the article may even be

called a parody. I want to use my possible notoriety to lead to positive things."

While some Boston University students said the article was inappropriate, many said they thought it was a good example of satire.

A smirk crept across the lips of freshman Deeptej Singh as he read the article.

"All of these stereotypes are unfounded and based in ignorance," said Singh, who characterized the article as "blatantly stupid."

Junior Joe Stapleton smiled for a different reason.

"I'm sure a lot of people think it's racist — I think it's funny. But I'm not Asian. ... People should be able to write whatever they want and not be classified as racist," Stapleton said.

Freshman Ryan Jones, said he was "speechless."

"I thought people at Harvard were more intelligent than that," Jones said.

Asian-American groups at Harvard are planning to work on forming a coalition of the different ethnic groups at Harvard, as well as instituting teach-ins and other pro-active events to combat racism and ignorance within the University.

(By Matuya Brand & Jim Welt — *The Daily Free Press*, 03/22/01)

The article has provoked everything from protests at Harvard to propositions for interviews by reporters all around the country.



SEPHIR HAMILTON—THE TECH

Cambridge Licensing Advisory Board members meet with students and MIT affiliates on the 3rd floor of the Stratton Student Center Tuesday afternoon. Shown (from left) are CLAB members Jamie Tipping and Richard V. Scali, Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics Paul Lagace, and Campus Police Officer Charles Perry.

CLAB, Students Discuss Programs

Participants Brainstorm Initiatives that Could Increase Awareness

CLAB, from Page 1

executive officer of the Cambridge License Commission, posed several questions regarding whether these programs are effectively reaching the right people.

"Is the demand for CPR and EMT training a symptom of increasing alcohol related problems?" Scali asked. "The programs are in place, but are they working? Why are these incidents happening at frats?"

Lawrence W. Colagiovanni '04, who went through the Training for Intervention Procedures by Servers of Alcohol (TIPS) program earlier in the year, expressed some disappointment with the program.

"TIPS training is not very helpful. A lot of material is crammed into three hours. Rather than giving a broad overview, maybe it would be better to be more focused, like teaching people the warning signs of alcohol poisoning," Colagiovanni said.

"We at MIT Medical are willing and capable of giving the kind of workshops you want, just ask," Baral responded.

Scali cited the change of leadership within houses as part of the

problem. "Different people bring different knowledge to their offices. It is important that the students are properly trained before they get to be seniors," Scali said. He also suggested that it may be better for MIT

to "provide alcohol rather than let people bring their own. Having a central point of distribution may make it easier to regulate alcohol consumption."

When the meeting called for participants to brainstorm possible initiatives that could promote alcohol awareness on campus, C L A B member Jamie Tipping said that "rules regarding alcohol consumption are very difficult to enforce. Whatever goals you set for next year, make them attainable and realistic."

Colagiovanni suggested restructuring the new member education programs of each FSILG to include some kind of medical training. "We need to train the whole house, not

just five out of fifty people," he said, while at the same time recommending "replacing the TIPS training with a program that provides more in-depth information and content that fits actual student experience."

Sally Susnowitz, Director of the Public Service Center, emphasized the risk of solitary drinking at MIT and urged the Institute to develop more programs to address "risk management, stress management, and mental health issues at MIT."

"There should be medical training information on the web. MIT students turn to the web first for help," Susnowitz said.

CLAB members were thoroughly impressed with the outcome of the meeting. "To work as closely as MIT has with the Cambridge gov-

ernment, to get to this level, is a tremendous achievement," Tipping said. "Other administrations, such as

that of Williams College, really protect their own, even if laws were broken. Communication with them is impossible," he added.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled to occur in a month. On the agenda are implementation of the suggested programs, additional initiatives, and communication with target audiences.

CLAB members were impressed with the outcome of the meeting.

The meeting included MIT and city officials.

Crossword Solution

from page 14

S	P	A	M		H	E	N	S		S	P	E	L	L
P	E	R	I		O	M	O		M	O	N	E	Y	
R	E	D	A	C	T	O	R	S		E	I	D	E	R
A	W	E		A	F	T	M	O	S	T		O	R	E
W	E	N		R	O	E		L	A	I	R			
L	E	T	S	G	O		S	T	A	N	D	S	U	P
			P	O	T		L	E	G	A	L	E	S	E
S	A	G	A		W	E	T		I	D	E	A		
I	T	E	R	A	T	E	D		S	A	N			
P	E	R	T	U	R	B	S		T	I	G	H	T	S
		M	A	D	E		H	A	D		E	W	E	
E	R	A		R	E	S	P	I	T	E	L	E	N	
D	O	N	E	E		A	R	R	E	S	T	E	E	S
E	M	I	L	Y		N	O	E	L		A	N	T	E
N	E	C	K	S		E	D	D	Y		B	A	S	S

**FRIENDS
DON'T LET
FRIENDS
DRIVE
DRUNK.**



U.S. Department of Transportation

This space donated by *The Tech*



8:31 a.m. Tuesday marked the Persian New Year. The celebration, called *Norouz*, begins at the moment when the Sun crosses the equator. The Persian Students Association set up a table in Lobby 10 to symbolize the traditional *haft-sinn*: the seven items on the table all begin with the Persian letter *sinn*. Pictured from left are Ali Tabaei G, Farid Ganji G, Fardad A. Hashemi G, President of the PSA, Nazbeh R. Taghizadeh '02, Soosan Beheshti G, Roya Beheshti Zavareh G, and Pirouz Kavehpour G.

JORDAN RUBIN—THE TECH

CUP Recommends P/NR Changes to Faculty

By Naveen Sunkavally
NEWS EDITOR

The Committee on the Undergraduate Program convened at Wednesday's faculty meeting to introduce its proposal to eliminate second-term Pass/ No Record.

The biggest concerns raised were not over the concept of reducing to Pass/ No Record to one term but over the timing.

Under the current plan, the elimination of second-term Pass/ No Record would take place during the 2002-2003 school year, said Chair of the CUP Robert L. Jaffe. Jaffe cited the sophomore wall effect, diminished mastery of material under Pass/ No Record, and a tendency for freshmen to take classes beyond their level as reasons to eliminate second-term Pass/ No Record.

Undergraduate Association President Peter A. Shulman '01 said that the "grading changes, while not completely supported, are understood." Of the 100 responses gained from a web feedback form,

about half were strongly against changing Pass/ No Record, a quarter in favor of the changes, and another quarter expressed mixed reactions.

the Task Force Report on Student Life and Learning.

Jaffe said that the CUP did consider postponing the grading changes a year but decided not to because the benefits gained for the freshman year are a first-order effect while the negative effects on the FSILG

system constitute a second-order effect.

Professor of Mathematics Alar Toomre and Professor Arthur Steinberg in the anthropology program both questioned why the

take at least a year to plan out and implement.

CUP discusses other changes

The CUP brought forth three other motions at the faculty meeting in addition to changes to Pass/ No Record.

These motions included reaffirming the right of faculty to enforce prerequisites and a proposal enabling sophomores to designate one subject per term as an exploratory class. Exploratory classes would enable students to essentially remove undesirable grades from the record in those classes at the end of term, at the cost of losing academic credit and dropping to listener status.

The faculty voted to postpone voting on these motions to next month. The proposal on Pass/ No Record will also likely be voted on at next month's meeting.

The faculty vote, Jaffe said, is not in any way binding and only serves in an advisory capacity; the CUP can still carry on the Pass/ No Record experiment without faculty approval.

Under the current plan, the elimination of second-term Pass/ No Record would take place during the 2002-2003 school year, said CUP Chair Robert L. Jaffe.

Instead of focusing on the proposal itself, Shulman made an appeal to delay the elimination of Pass/ No Record one year from the 2002-2003 school year to the 2003-2004 school year.

The delay would allow the "FSILG system to have a trial year" to cope with rush during the first year that all freshmen will be required to live on campus, Shulman said. Having second-term Pass/ No Record eliminated the same year that freshmen have to live on campus would hurt FSILG rush, Shulman said.

"Living and learning on campus are connected," Shulman said, citing

UA President Peter A. Shulman '01 appealed for a one-year delay in implementation.

changes to Pass/ No Record could not be implemented during the next academic year.

Jaffe said that the changes had to wait at least a year in order to leave enough time for the changes to be advertised. Jaffe said that it is typical for these type of changes to

MIT Department of Facilities CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE LOBBY 7

A major restoration to Lobby 7 begins with the installation of scaffolding during the last week in March. Preliminary testing of cleaning methods will be conducted prior to the restoration. Work to take place this spring and summer includes a clearing of the dome and masonry, lighting replacements, and the opening of the skylight. Although some pedestrian traffic may be affected, primary accessibility coming in and out of the lobby will continue.

MEDIA LAB ADDITION

Investigatory utility work on Ames Street requiring the opening of certain manholes between Main and Amherst Streets could affect pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

STATA CENTER

The East Annex Parking Lot will be closed on Saturdays for the next few weeks to allow for the delivery of concrete trucks. However, the East Garage will remain. The walkway from buildings 36 and 66 will also be closed to ensure pedestrian safety.

SIMMONS HALL

The installation of an electrical duct bank could result in utility shutdowns and may affect pedestrian wayfinding, traffic and cause vibrations.

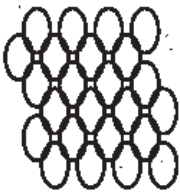
DREYFUS CHEMISTRY BUILDING

Construction of the labs on the north end of the building has begun. Saws used to cut the concrete floors will cause a high noise level between the hours of 6:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

70 PAFIC STREET (GRADUATE HOUSING)

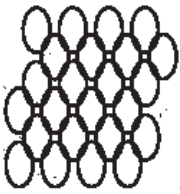
Site utility installation and the pouring of concrete foundations may generate dust, noise and cause disruption to vehicular traffic.

*This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities:
web.mit.edu/facilities/newsroom/construction*



The MIT SCA proudly presents:

Chainmail Workshops



On Wednesdays, March 21 and 28, in Private Dining Room # 3, on the third floor of the student center (W20), from 6:30 pm to 9 pm.

Come and learn simple medieval chainmail weaves and patterns to make your very own shirt (hauberk), or hood (coif). The upper portion of a hauberk will be available to try on. Smaller sized links can be used to make jewelry. We will provide the steel, brass, and copper links, pliers, and instruction. Please bring your own pliers if you have any. web.mit.edu/sca/www or sca@mit.edu

We will also provide snacks and desserts.

Nightline

NCAA Changes Will Curtail Women's Crew Season

Crew, from Page 1

championship have not yet been decided. They may preclude MIT from competing in the Eastern Sprints race.

Practice limited to 21 weeks

In January, the NCAA Division III membership voted to limit the playing and practice seasons of all sports at Division III institutions to a maximum of 21 weeks. Since MIT is classified as such an institution, this legislation affects all NCAA teams at MIT, whether they compete at the Division I level.

MIT has several teams that are classified as Division III teams but compete in "the National Collegiate Championship, which is open to all divisions," said Candace L. Royer, Director of Athletics.

Until now these teams have been allowed to operate by Division I playing season rules that call for at most 26 weeks of practice per year. Now they will be limited to 21 weeks of practice, though their rivals will still be allowed 26.

"This is a huge issue with rowing," said Anthony J. Brock, one of the crew coaches. "We need to see these kids every day ... races are won by [one inch]. That could be one week of practice."

"The problem with staying Division III is that we would have to limit practice times to 21 weeks, which is 5 weeks difference. That's over a month," said Seaeun Kim '01, a member of the women's crew team. "It would cut off our water time, and we would not be able to have coach-directed practice in the winter, which is our strength building time. Instead of keeping up our strength we built up in the fall, we'd have to start all over again in the spring."

Other teams will not feel the effect of this legislation as strongly.

"Our season is normally 21 weeks, so we probably won't be affected," said Roy Horsey, rifle team coach.

MIT allowed two exceptions

Several members of the women's crew team expressed a desire to reclassify their squad as a Division I team.

Each Division III school can petition to reclassify up to one men's and one women's team. Women's crew could be one of those exceptions.

"We would have to file an application indicating that we want [women's crew] to go Division I. Then there would be a waiting period, during which we would have to bring the program up to to the Division I level," Royer said. "We're in the process of trying to better understand the application process."

Royer added that petitioning for reclassification is "not something I've ever heard of any of our conference members trying to do."

Additionally, the NCAA currently has a moratorium on reclassifica-



The women's novice crew braves the cold and windy Charles River yesterday.

tion of teams, effective through April 2002.

Long-term planning needed

Lindholm warned that a decision about whether to reclassify women's crew could not be made without a great deal of consideration.

"A couple questions need to be answered first," Lindholm said. "First of all, is it smart for MIT to have any Division I sports? ... If so, why should it be crew over anything else?"

The Strategic Planning Committee for the Department of Athletics is currently in the process of answering these and many other

questions. This committee, consisting of both students and faculty, was commissioned by Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 to generate a long-term plan for the department. They will publicize their conclusions by May.

John A. Benedick, Assistant Director of Athletics for Sports Administration, said reclassification of teams "was always a point of emphasis [for the committee], even before all this other stuff came forth."

"Women's crew across the country is in flux," Benedick added. "It's brand new in the eyes of the NCAA ... There are questions as to

how teams are going to compete in the divisions and whether or not there will be lightweight rowing ... This is a growing period for women's crew."

Women appreciate men's support

Danielle M. Schumaker '03 said the petition will "show the athletics department the support of the student body."

"It's a good thing to get awareness out," Kim said. "Now it all depends on the athletics administration."

"It was nice to see the support, the enthusiasm, and the passion," Benedick said. "It shows how strongly the crew team feels about

their position."

Lindholm said it was nice of the men to show their support, but that she was unsure if they knew exactly what they were protesting.

Men's crew will not be affected by the changes, since it is not sponsored by the NCAA. As members of the Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges, they follow rules similar to the rules for Division I teams.

Women's crew has been an NCAA-sponsored sport for only about six years.

Matthew Palmer contributed to the reporting of this story.

Production

We make *them* look good

News ♦ Photography ♦ Features ♦ Opinion
World and Nation ♦ Sports ♦ Comics ♦ Arts

Email <join@the-tech.mit.edu>

Goldin To Speak In June

Commencement, from Page 1

echoed Tseng’s optimism about the decision to invite Goldin.

“The NASA Administrator is a great speaker and a great person,” said Kachani.

“Goldin’s selection is a wonderful result of our search for possible speakers at commencement,” he continued.

Process includes student input

The process by which commencement speakers are elected is a mixture of student input and committee action, with President Charles M. Vest making the ultimate decision.

As GSC President, it was Kachani’s responsibility to cull a list of 10 names of possible speakers based on surveys distributed to graduate students across the Institute. The list was then combined with a similar list of 10 names, proposed by the Class of 2001, and formally submitted to the Commencement Committee.

After hours of discussion and debate, the Committee selected a final list of 10 names and sent it to President Vest. Vest was not available for comment.

“We were very pleased with the kind of feedback we got from the senior class via e-mail,” said Tseng.

“The students wanted someone who could communicate something constructive and useful, while having some sort of relationship with their future,” he continued.

When asked about other candidates in the running, however, both Kachani and Tseng refused to comment.

“It was made very clear to us,” said Kachani, “that we were bound to secrecy and were not allowed to discuss other names on the list.”

MIT has drawn variety of speakers

The last government official to address Institute graduates was President William J. Clinton, who spoke in 1998 with famed AIDS researcher Dr. David Ho.

Following the duo of Clinton and Ho were MIT’s own Magliozzi brothers, Tom and Ray, who host National Public Radio’s popular show *Car Talk*.

Last year Hewlett-Packard Chief Executive Officer Carelton Fiorina, a graduate of the Sloan School of Management, offered her pearls of wisdom to the members of the Class of 2000.

Goldin longest-serving NASA chief

Daniel Goldin, who will take his place with the likes of Clinton, Vice President Albert Gore, and United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan ’72 as keynote speakers at MIT’s Commencement exercises, has built a solid reputation in both industry and government. A 25 year veteran of TRW Space and Technology Group, Goldin was appointed to head NASA by Republican President George Bush in 1992 and has subsequently stayed on throughout Democratic Bill Clinton’s eight year term. On March 5, Goldin surpassed James Fletcher as the longest serving of all of NASA’s chiefs.

Bradt Bests Unified, Captures Big Screw

Big Screw, from Page 1

ty throughout his career,” Johnson said. In regards to whether Unified will run for the Big Screw next year, Johnson said, “We shall see if Unified will be up for it, but it will be a team effort of over 20 people like always.”

Tight race for the Big Screw

“Early on in the contest it was a big competition between both 6.170 and Unified,” Tyndall said. “Closing to the end, though, most people thought that Unified had won. However, a ‘suspicious’ roll of dollar bills [wound up] in the 8.02 jar.”

After all the money was counted, 8.02 seized the lead. “I wasn’t surprised that 8.02 was given the screw since about half of the freshman class is suffering through it right now,” Tyndall said.

History of the Big Screw

The contest benefitting community service organizations began in 1967, when APO replaced its Spring

Final Results for the 2001 Big Screw		
Candidate	Charity	Totals
2.007–Prof. Alexander H. Slocum	Komen Breast Cancer Fund	\$83.37
6.002–Prof. Paul E. Gray	Cambridge Salvation Army	\$48.04
6.004–Prof. Leonard McMillan	Transition House	\$33.79
6.012–Prof. Jesus A. Del Alamo	India/El Salvador Earthquake Relief	\$42.12
6.170–Prof. Michael D. Ernst	ACLU Massachusetts	\$320.36
7.013–Prof. Uttam L. Rajbhandary	American Cancer Society	\$13.49
8.02–Prof. Hale Van Dorn Bradt	MIT Community Service Fund	\$932.63
18.02–Prof. Michael Artin	Undecided	\$15.41
Unified Engineering	Children's Miracle Network	\$579.41
–TA Christopher E. Johnson		
Dean Larry G. Benedict	MIT Community Service Fund	\$15.46
Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow	United Way	\$95.73
Write-ins		\$33.16
Grand Total		\$2,212.97

SOURCE: ALPHA PHI OMEGA

Carnival Queen Contest with one that instead awards a three-foot long, left-handed wood screw to whichever faculty member or class caused students the most pain over

the term.

In 1975, APO began engraving the winners on a single two-and-a-half foot aluminum screw. The screw is now handed down to each succes-

sive winner, with the new winners’ names engraved on it each year.

W. S. Wang and Nancy L. Keuss contributed to the reporting of this story.

Ode to News

So, you like writing late into the night?

So, you prefer making phone calls to doing p-sets, right?

Then come and join the news staff for food and friends and fun,

And let the world know how MIT is run!

We promise that our prose is better than our poetry.

email <join@the-tech.mit.edu>

don't believe everything you feel.

You've been pulled from the world you once knew. There's a reason for it. It's depression. It's very prevalent. But it's also very treatable.

TREAT DEPRESSION

#1 Cause of Suicide

http://www.save.org

This space donated by The Tech



We're looking for people with intellectual capital to invest.

The D. E. Shaw group is a securities and investment firm founded by a former Columbia University computer science professor. Since 1988, we've grown from a seven-person startup with an initial investment of \$28 million into a group of closely related entities with more than US \$1 billion in aggregate capital. We've done so by coupling our Wall Street expertise with a rigorously analytical approach, and by assembling an extraordinary team of professionals with a broad range of backgrounds: from robotics to philosophy, from finance to physics.

We're currently seeking top-flight traders, software developers, quantitative analysts, and business developers. Successful candidates will demonstrate strong analytical abilities, excellent communication, negotiation, and interpersonal skills, and an exceptional sensitivity to detail. We provide unusual opportunities for advancement, and compensate exceptional people exceptionally well. If you'd like to be one of them, e-mail your resume and a cover letter including your GPA and standardized test scores to oncampus@recruit.nyc.deshaw.com.

Or you can fax them to (212) 403-8499.

Broker-dealer activities of the D. E. Shaw group are conducted in the United States through D. E. Shaw Securities, L.L.C., D. E. Shaw Investments, L.P., or D. E. Shaw Valence, L.P., which are registered as broker-dealers with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and are members of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Investment advisory activities are conducted through D. E. Shaw & Co., L.P. and D. E. Shaw & Co., L.L.C. Technology venture activities are conducted through D. E. Shaw Development, L.L.C.

The D. E. Shaw group does not discriminate, in matters of hiring or promotion, on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, military service eligibility, veteran status, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability.

the Council for the Arts at MIT

ARTS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Open to sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduate students regardless of major

Application Deadline: **MONDAY APRIL 2, 2001**

- Who are the Arts Scholars?** A community of MIT student artists, from all disciplines
- Who should apply?** Students who are committed to work in one or more disciplines in the arts and who wish for more interaction with fellow student & faculty artists
- What is the program?** The program is structured around informal monthly dinners accompanied by presentations or excursions. Presentations may be given by faculty members, MIT artists -in-residence, fellow students or Boston-area artists
- When does the program start?** The full 2001-2002 program begins in September 2001

Students may apply to the program by completing and submitting an application form that includes a brief essay describing the student's involvement in the arts, and his/her interest in participating in the Arts Scholars Program. Also required are:

- 2 letters of recommendation - one from an MIT faculty member familiar with the applicant's artistic work
- Interview with selection committee members
- Samples of previous work when applicable

Application forms are available at 3-234 and E15-205

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

For more information call 253-4005 or email cohen@media.mit.edu



Biology
Undergraduate
Students
Association

presents the
Howard Hughes
LECTURE

DR. DAVID BALTIMORE

NOBEL LAUREATE & PRESIDENT OF CALTECH

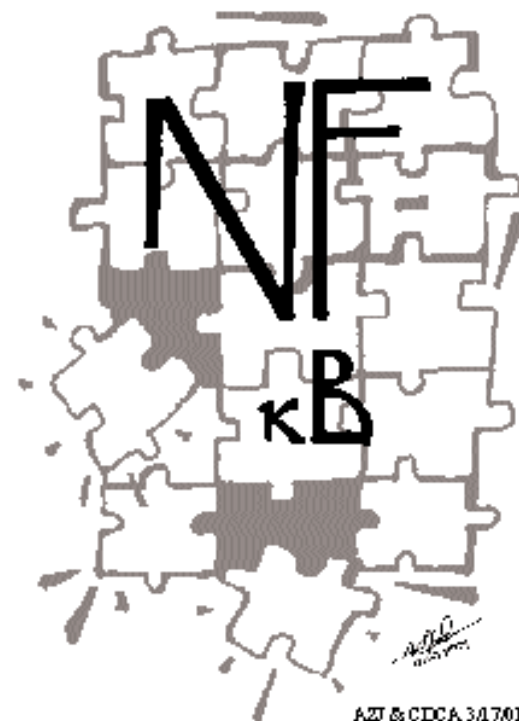
will speak on

The Many Facets of
NF-κB

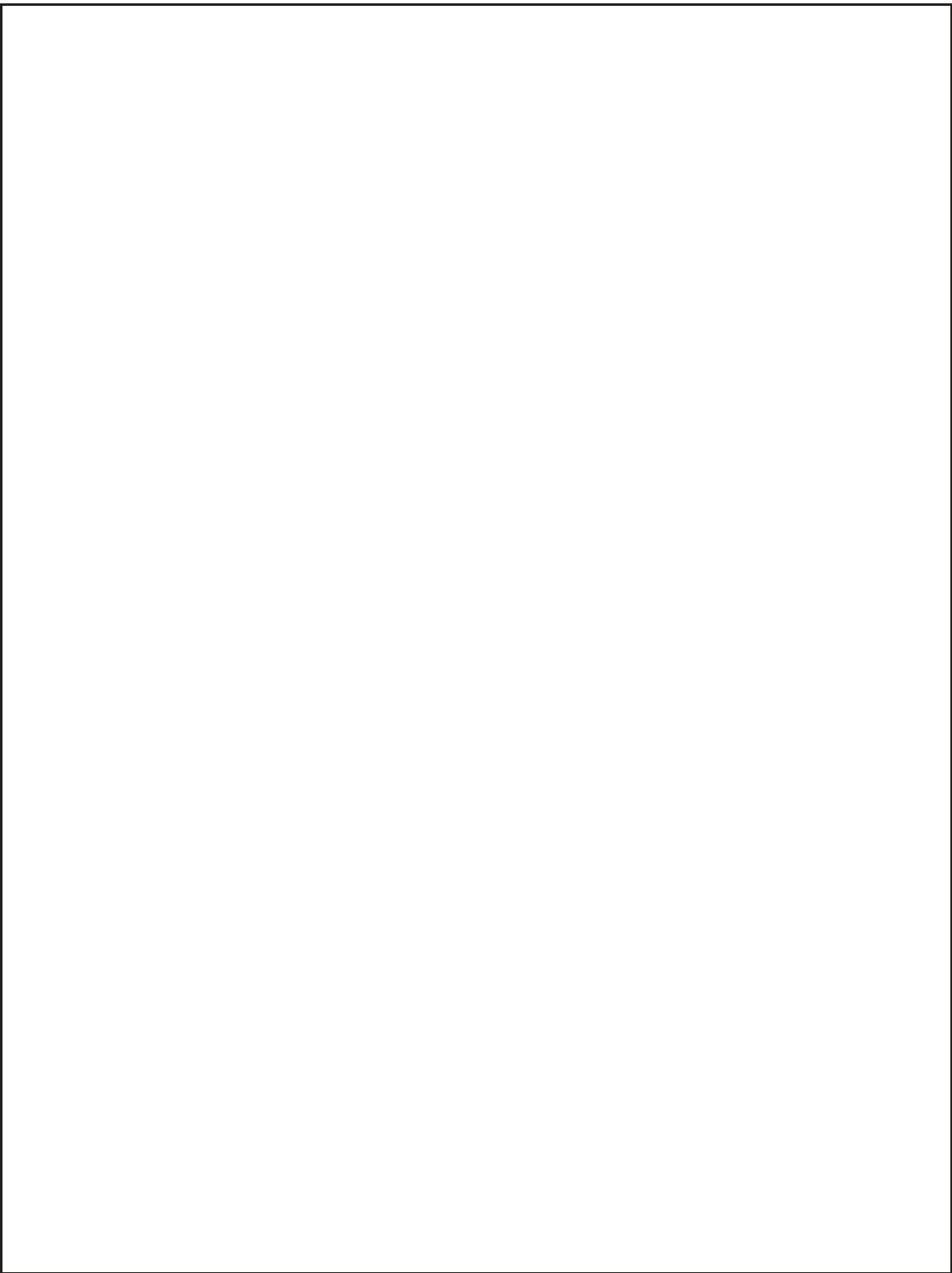
FRIDAY, MARCH 23

2:30 PM IN 10-250

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



A27 & CDCA 3/17/01



The MIT Student Art Association invites all registered MIT students to submit works of art to the Schnitzer Visual Arts Competition.

Prizes will be awarded as follows. In addition, the winners' art will hang in the Wiesner Student Art Gallery from May 14 through June 30.

- First - \$1500
- Second - \$900
- Third - \$600

To apply for the Schnitzer prize, you must submit a completed application and all supporting materials to the Student Art Association, Stratton Student Center, Room W20-429, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on April 3. *This is the only day and time applications will be accepted.* A complete application consists of the following materials.

- 1) example of artist's work:
 - a) three pieces of original work, or
 - b) one piece of original work and visual representations of other originals (i.e., slides, photographic prints, etc.),
- 2) a written statement concerning artist's intent as it pertains to his or her works and art in general,
- 3) a completed application form, available in W20-429.

Sponsored by the MIT Student Art Association

Phillips' Next Goal To Lift 760 Pounds

Phillips, from Page 24

earned her second place.

Power lifting competitions consist of three events: bench, squat, and dead lift. Phillips scored 145, 275, and 330 lbs. in each of these categories, respectively.

Competitors are allowed three lifts in each category of any weight they choose. This is what creates difficulty for the competitors, since they must be entirely aware of their capabilities.

"Many people confuse power lifting with weight lifting," stated Phillips. She explained that weight lifting, made up of chin/jerk and snatch, is an official Olympic sport, while power lifting is currently not.

Although Phillips was physically active as a Navy ROTC member and an MIT women's hockey player for four years, she began lifting during her senior year.

Phillips' primary reason to lift was to excel on the ice. At the time, it was her third season on the women's ice hockey team and the team had just obtained varsity level status.

"I just figured, what the hell, I'm going to be the best hockey player I

can be," Phillips said when explaining her initial motivation.

Phillips sought coach Chamoy through a friend who had been training under his skilled supervision. Chamoy gladly began coaching Phillips three or four times weekly to start.

Phillips tried lifting competitively about a month ago when she attended an open Rhode Island state competition. "Everyone [there] thought I was crazy," she said, "because I was 'lifting raw.' I didn't know they wore gear." Yet, even without gear, Phillips scored enough to continue on to the U.S. collegiate competition.

Phillips is disappointed, however, that 760 lbs. is required to qualify for non-collegiate nationals, which leaves her only 10 lbs. short. Competitors in collegiate competitions cannot be over 24 years of age, Phillips explained, while non-collegiate nationals allow women of any age. "Non-collegiate nationals is more difficult since women lifters peak at around 30."

Her next power lifting challenge is to lift at least 760 lbs. in an open state competition, which she believes is definitely achievable.

MIT community—take extra 10% off with MIT ID

Springer

Physics and Computer Book Sale 2001

Up to 60% off list price on over 250 titles
Now through June 30

West to
Cambridge Avenue,
corner of Broadway
14 Ames, one block
from Legal Sea Foods

QUANTUM BOOKS
A TECHNICAL BOOKSTORE

Four Cambridge Center, Cambridge

www.quantumbooks.com 617-494-5042

ATTENTION SENIORS

POSITION AVAILABLE IN THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE AS AN ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR

The Office of Admissions is now accepting applications for the position of Admissions Counselor. This is a one-year full-time position beginning in July 2001. Duties include:

- evaluating applications and participating in admissions committee decisions
- traveling throughout the country for recruitment purposes
- coordinating MIT student involvement in the reception area and Campus Preview Weekend
- conducting question and answer sessions

Applications are available in the Admissions Office, 3-108, with Hillary Oak and should be returned no later than April 13, 2001.

Note: This is for 2001 (January or June) MIT graduates.

Baseball Team Looks Forward to Spring 2001 Season

Squad to Rely on Strengths of First-Year Players, Seeks to Improve Pitching to Best Last Year's 10-19 Record

By **Alvan Eric P. Loreto**
TEAM MEMBER

Amidst blankets of snow, cold rain, and biting wind outside, the 2001 MIT baseball team continues to warm up for its March 24 season opener in South Florida with its daily three-hour sessions in Rockwell Cage.

For the Engineers, the facts right now certainly don't look too promising: only one full-time starter and four experienced upperclassmen return from last season's under-achieving team. That team posted a dismal 10–19 overall record, including a fourth-place NEWMAC finish and a first-round exit from the post-season tournament at the hands of rival WPI. So why on earth has this year's squad set out with the quiet, laughing-to-oneseelf confidence reserved for title contenders?

“Every year I’ve been here we’ve talked about how good our chances are of winning our conference,” said co-captain Jeffrey J. Billing ’01, “and we didn’t come close. This time we know the facts say ‘rebuilding year.’ So this preseason the coaches are drilling us hard, and we’re just shutting up and staying really sharp and focused right now.”

Indeed, fifth-year head coach Macdaniel Singleton and his assistants have the T’s working harder than in past years in order to make up for the severe shortage of experience. However, many of the newcomers have shown flashes of talent in addition to their willingness to work. The result is Tech’s growing belief that it can gel and win games sooner than expected.

Providing the leadership for the young squad are P/3B/1B Billing and co-captain CF Alvan Eric P. Loreto ’01. For the fourth consecutive year, Loreto figures to be the primary target for MIT’s opponents after hitting .381, .342, and .360 in his first three collegiate seasons. Billing will see full-time infield action this year for the first time after spending his first three years as a vital cog in the Tech pitching rotation, where he is also expected to be its ace in 2001.

Much-needed experience will also be provided by P/SS/2B Brian S. Nykiel-Furgala ’02 and C John J. Kogel ’03, both of whom showed immense potential in the rough waters of the 2000 season. Nykiel-Furgala brings model consistency and a nasty curveball to the green pitching staff. Kogel is a vocal defensive stalwart from behind the plate who as a rookie showed an ability to generate clutch hits. Even so, both look to contribute even more solidly as they are thrust into full-time roles this year.

2B/LF Jason A. Poff ’02 and 3B/2B Brett K. Klein ’03 round out the list of veterans on the MIT squad looking to have a breakout year.

However, the main ingredient in the recipe for the team’s success remains the performance of its rookies.

Upperclassmen P/IF Bryan P. Perryman ’01, 2B Jonathan A. Coe ’02, and P/1B/OF Robert L. Wieker ’03, in their first year on the team, are showing maturity, poise, and a solid work ethic in preseason workouts. All three are capable of adding firepower to a lineup weakened by the graduation of four .300-plus hitters.

In addition, tremendous offensive promise has been shown by the crop of freshmen, especially P/OF

Douglas L. Allaire ’04, OF David J. Ostlund ’04, and OF Edward I. Duggan ’04. MIT will rely heavily on its youngest team members making quick transitions to the pace of the college game.

Yet if Tech hopes to finish anywhere above .500 for the first time since 1998, offense is certainly not the answer. Pitching, which is a traditional weak spot for the T’s, figures to improve. The staff boasts six new arms to chew up quality innings in addition to Billing and Nykiel-Furgala, including a formidable lefty in Allaire.

Another point of emphasis is that MIT must show much more focus on defense: in 2000, MIT committed 39 errors in 29 games, resulting in numerous second chances by opponents. As the saying goes, offense wins games, but defense wins championships. For this year’s Tech squad, a youth movement like this is better off focusing on those games, keeping all the championship talk out in left field.



Aaron D. Mihalik—THE TECH
A baseball player dives for the ball during practice on Monday. The baseball team’s first home game of the season is against UMass-Boston on March 30 at 3:00 p.m.

X

MAC OS X at MIT

Monday, March 26, 2001

Stratton Student Center

Lecture: 12:30 – 2:00 – Rm. 407

Demo: 10– 4, 1st floor lobby

Information Systems and Apple team up to bring you the latest information on the release of MAC OS X. Hear what Apple Representatives have to say about this extraordinary new and different operating system.

Anyone who attends will get a chance to try it out.

For additional information or general questions, please contact: macosx-release@mit.edu

MIT Information Systems

unique job opportunity

part-time inquiry, minimum time commitment

earn up to \$500 per week

If you're smart, in college or have a college degree, and are interested in a job where you will earn up to \$500 per month on your own schedule, call 877-487-8844 for information on our unique money maker program. Only in this unique job can you earn extra income and help families realize their dream of becoming parents.

SPORTS

Lacrosse Dominates Colonials; Tight Defense Gives MIT Win

By L.M. Hughey
STAFF REPORTER

The men's lacrosse team secured their victory of the season Tuesday over the Curry College Colonials, winning by a score of 18-4. The large margin was mainly

because of the Engineers' indomitable defense. Christopher C. Ebeling '01, Christopher K. Wilmer '02, and Scott B. Mahar '03 warded off the Curry Colonials with relentless strength. They repeatedly stole possession of the

ball with heavy checking and unexpected interceptions.

"The entire defense is deserving of praise, for sure," said Coach Walter A. Alessi.

Timothy P. Nolan '01 defended goal for the second full game in a row this season. Nothing could break Nolan's energy, including Curry's angry drives as little as ten feet away from goal.

The MIT offense competed just as strongly. Key scorers were Matthew P. Van Horne '02 (5 goals, 2 assists), Eli J. Weinberg '02 (3 goals, 3 assists), and Pascal F. Rettig '02 (3 goals). Curry's aggression and checks simply couldn't keep the Engineers from repeatedly invading their goal.

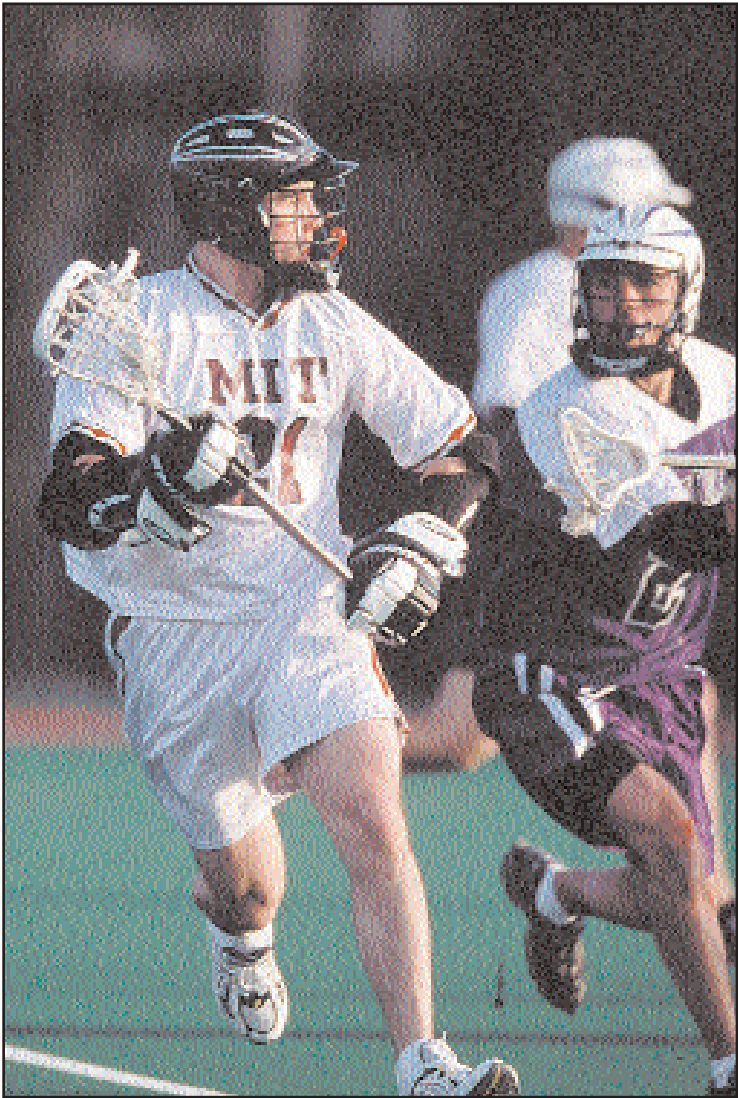
"We hope we can continue to play that well on Saturday," said Alessi

The men's lacrosse team will be competing against Mass Maritime this Saturday. It is their first League game of the season, so come cheer them on.

During the week of spring break, the Engineers will be facing Farleigh Dickinson University and Norwich University on foreign turfs.

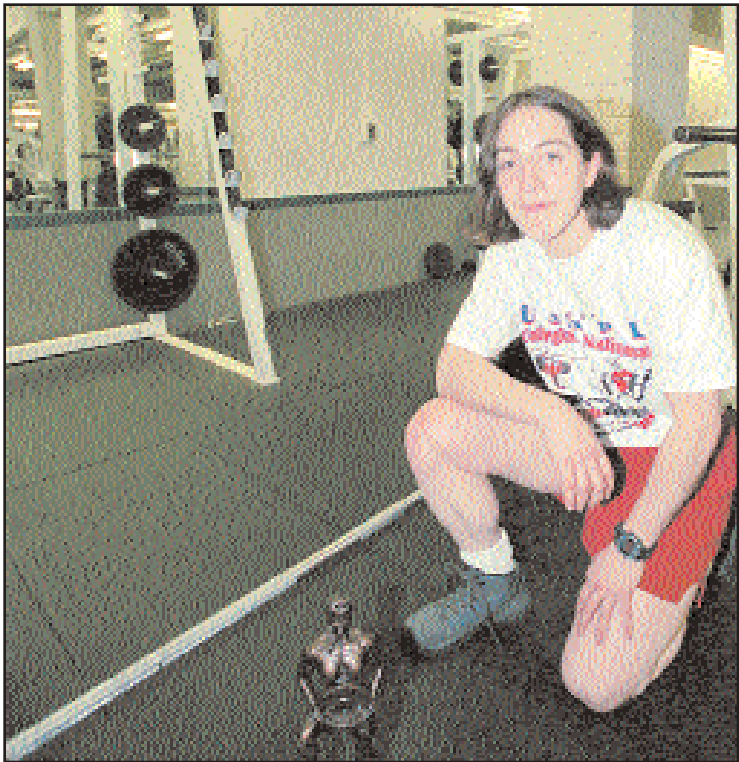
During Coach Alessi's career, he has made an annual spring break trip into a lacrosse tradition. This is the first season in 27, however, that the team will remain in New England to compete in official season games. Usually, the players travel abroad to develop skills and grow closer together as a team. But because of the combination of league scheduling and MIT altering its spring break week, a trip this year was impossible.

The men's lacrosse team's first home game after spring break is on Wednesday, April 4th at 4:00 p.m. Be there to support your fellow Engineers as they take on UMass-Boston.



AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

Brendan T. Maddigan '04 looks downfield during the men's lacrosse match on Tuesday. The Engineers defeated the Curry College Colonials 18-4.



AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

Carolyn L. Phillips G kneels next to her second place Collegiate National USA Powerlifting trophy. Phillips competed in each of three events and lifted a total of 750 lbs.

Phillips Places 2nd At Powerlifting Meet

By L. M. Hughey
STAFF REPORTER

Who says you can't be all brains and all brawn? Certainly not Carolyn L. Phillips G, a second-year mechanical engineering graduate student, who placed second in the Collegiate National USA Power Lifting competition.

This is the first time MIT was represented at the event.

Phillips attended the March 10 competition in Alexandria, La., with her coach, Todd N. Chamoy '99, who is also the women's track and field throwing coach.

"I was the second lightest girl in my weight class and the most inexperienced," said Phillips.

Phillips competed in the 148 lb. category, the most populated class; she weighs only 138.1 lbs.

There was the additional intimidation of competing against official college power lifting team members from institutions such as West Point and the Naval Academy. Many of the women had competed in nationals before, placing Phillips at a disadvantage.

Also, the competition also brought "the most rigorous depth judging I've ever seen," according to Phillips.

Despite these factors, she lifted a total weight of 750 lbs., which

Phillips, Page 22

Nordic Finishes with Impressive Showing at Bogus Basin Meet

By Derek Southwell
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Nordic ski team has returned from Boise, Idaho, where it finished one of its most successful seasons in recent memory.

Under first-year head coach Michael Johnson, the team competed in a weeklong series of races held at the Bogus Basin ski resort. Although slushy spring conditions and a high-race altitude made for very difficult skiing, several racers came through with some of their best performances of the year.

After a week of strong races, the men's team placed fourth overall behind Whitman College, the University of Wyoming, and Clarkson University. Samuel T. Coradetti '02, Timothy G. Garnett '02, and Christopher M. Testa '03 were all honored with All-American finishes in what were some of their best races.

The competition began the morning of Monday, Mar. 5 with a 1.5 kilometer sprint. The skiers had yet to acclimatize to the thin mountain air, but Garnett, Coradetti and Derek G. Southwell '01 still made it through the first elimination round. However, all were knocked out in the next round.

Southwell, this season's conference sprint champion, managed to post the second-fastest split of the day. Southwell's time was good enough for ninth place overall.

In the women's event, Marissa L. Yates '03 also made it to the second round before she was eliminated, coming in with a respectable 10th-place finish.

Following a rest day spent training and waxing, the team returned to the trails on Wednesday for the mass-start skate race.

Yates, MIT's only competitor in the women's race, skied strongly and smoothly at the start of the 10k event. The high altitude slowly began to take its toll, forcing Yates to drop out at the fifth kilometer.

Noting the warming temperatures and the sloppy conditions, the men knew they were

also in for a painful experience.

Southwell led the team through the first few kilometers and found a comfortable pace behind the front pack of racers. Shortly after the first set of climbs, though, he began to fade.

At the fourth kilometer, Testa passed Southwell in pursuit of the front pack. Coradetti and Garnett, both coming off relaxed starts, followed closely behind.

Throughout the following lap, Coradetti

continued to pass skiers, making his way up into fifth place by the end of the 15 kilometers.

Testa and Garnett both managed to stay strong and skied to ninth and 10th place finishes, respectively. Meanwhile, Southwell was left gasping for oxygen, falling back into a disappointing 23rd.

MIT takes second after two events

The team returned on Friday ready to

improve upon the skate results. The team, led by Coradetti, did exactly that.

Having spent the previous evening alone in front of a romantic fire at the condo, Coradetti was obviously mentally prepared for a tough race. As he entered the hills in the last few kilometers, Coradetti's incredible double-poling pushed him ahead into an astounding second place.

Garnett also came through with a remarkable finish and took fifth. Testa and Southwell also placed well, taking 11th and 13th, respectively.

In the women's race, Yates bounced back with a much better day and finished in 11th place.

These strong performances earned MIT second overall in the classic discipline, pushing them into a second-place tie with Clarkson University after two events.

MIT moves to fourth in last event

Saturday brought more sunshine and slushy conditions for the final and deciding event, the three-person relay.

MIT's team of Southwell, Garnett and Coradetti began the race with Southwell skiing the opening classic leg. After slowly losing ground to the top teams, Southwell tagged off to Garnett in fifth.

Garnett quickly passed one skier, and finished his leg in fourth place.

With the top three teams in front by a sizable margin, Coradetti set off in pursuit. Skiing one of the quicker legs of the day, Coradetti managed to make up some ground on the leaders, but his heroics were not enough to bring the team out of fourth place.

Lacking enough teammates for an official relay, Yates skied on a mixed team, leading it into an impressive second.

The team would like to thank and credit coach Michael Johnson for a successful season.



MARISSA YATES

Samuel T. Coradetti '02 skis in the 15-kilometer skate race at the Nordic Ski Nationals in Bogus Basin, Idaho. Coradetti led the team to a fourth place finish in the men's overall Nordic Championship.