MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper

The Tech

The Weather
Today: Chance of flurries, 29°F (–2°C)
Tonight: Clearing, cold, 21°F (–6°C)
Tomorrow: Sunny, clear, 35°F (6°C)
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Volume 121, Number 8 | Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 | Friday, March 2, 2001

UAP/VP Candidates Square Off in Debate

Three Tickets Tout Strengths, Blast Opponents

By Naveen Sunkavally
NEWS EDITOR

"I have been run over by an 18,000 pound dump truck. I crawled across the Infinite Corridor for 78 laps continuously. No one's going to stop me from becoming UA president!"

So began Wednesday night's Undergraduate Association debates, starting with the opening statement from presidential candidate Rhett Creighton '02 and covering a range of topics from athletics funding and dining to mental health and confidential medical transport.

Candidate team Jaime E. Devereaux '02 and Allison L. Neizmik '02, consisting of the UA speaker from MacGregor House and the UA's publicity chair from Alpha Chi Omega, respectively, touted their experience and the accomplishments of the current administration, including their resistance to the placement of the Technology Enabled Active Learning physics program in the Student Center and their involvement in searching for new deans.

SISIR BOTTA—THE TECH

Rhett Creighton '02 and running mate Margaret V. Stringfellow '03 join other UA presidential and vice presidential candidates in a debate Wednesday night in the Student Center lobby.

Devereaux said their ticket's goals were to create a larger sense of community, increase activities funding, and improve student-faculty advising. With their experience they said they could hit the ground running rather than spending a term acquainting themselves with administrators.

The UAP/UAVP ticket of Sanjay K. Rao '02 from Next House and Jyoti Agarwal '03 of Alpha Phi focused on their goal of increasing

UA Debate, Page 12

Physics Plans New Center

Renovations Will Unite Department

By Diana S. Cheng
STAFF REPORTER

Several offices and research groups belonging to the Department of Physics may be on the move under a plan by the department to renovate several buildings and create the Green Center for Physics.

Marc A. Kastner, Head of the Physics Department

MIT's Departments of Physics and Materials Science and Engineering are swapping spaces for headquarters and offices in buildings 4, 6, and 8 over the next few years, in an effort to consolidate departmental spaces.

Currently, the physics department occupies space in buildings 4, 6, and 8, and the Materials Science department has offices in buildings 6, 8, 26, and along the Infinite Corridor.

Professor Marc A. Kastner, head of the physics department, said the purpose of the renovations would be to bring the department's academic and research offices together.

The divide between the department's headquarters and education office creates "a false separation of education and research activities" that can be addressed by moving the offices closer together in the new Green Center, Kastner said.

Renovations include exchanging

Physics Center, Page 23

Claude E. Shannon

Professor Emeritus Claude E. Shannon PhD '40 died last Saturday at the Courtyard Nursing Care Center in Medford, Mass. after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 84 years old.

Shannon was known by many as the father of digital communication for his landmark 1948 publication "A Mathematical Theory of Communication." In this revolutionary paper, he theorized that it was possible to reduce all communications to strings of 0s and 1s and use them to transfer messages without errors over long distances.

"Shannon was the person who saw that the binary digit was the fundamental element in all of communication," said Professor Emeritus Robert G. Gallager '57, who worked with Shannon, to *The New York Times*. "That was really his discovery, and from it the whole communications revolution has sprung."

Shannon's work has made today's information age possible. His communications theory has been accepted worldwide. All of today's communication lines are measured in bits per second, a notion he crystallized in his famous "channel capacity" theorem. His binary code is central to the now-commonplace technology that delivers the Internet, complete with sound and pictures, to many homes around the world.

In 1940, Shannon earned both an SM in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and a PhD in Mathematics. His Master's thesis, "A Symbolic Analysis of Real and Switching Circuits," established the theoretical foundation for digital circuits using Boolean algebra, in which problems are solved by manipulating 0s and 1s.

Professor Howard Gardner of Harvard University told *Tech Talk* that Shannon's thesis was "possibly the most important, and also the most famous, Master's thesis of the century."

While he was a graduate student at MIT, Shannon also worked with Professor Vannevar Bush on his differential analyzer, an analog computer that used a complex system of shafts, wheels, and gears to solve calculus equations.

A noted cryptographer, Shannon worked on secrecy systems at Bell Laboratories during World War II. His team's work on anti-aircraft directors was crucial in defending England from German rockets during Germany's blitz of England. Many credit his 1949 paper, "Communication Theory of Secrecy Systems," with transforming cryptography from an art to a science.

Shannon worked on a variety of other projects, including a device

Shannon, Page 24

Ceremony Today Honors New MacVicar Fellows

By Matthew Palmer
NEWS EDITOR

Six MacVicar Faculty Fellows were named today to honor their contributions to undergraduate teaching and to their respective fields.

This year's winners are Professor of Mechanical Engineering Mary C. Boyce PhD '87, Associate Professor in Material Sciences and Engineering Anne Mayes '86; Assistant Professor in the Program on Science, Technology, and Society David A. Mindell PhD '96; Associate Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering Heidi M. Nepf; Associate Professor in Theater Arts Janet Sonenberg; and Professor of Ocean Engineering J. Kim Vandivir PhD '75.

MacVicar, Page 19

SEPHIR HAMILTON—THE TECH

Gerry Bloustein answers questions after showing video clips during her talk "Ceci N'est Pas Une Jeune Fille: Serious Play, Mimesis and Learning to Grow up Female." The Australian feminist, ethnographer, and videomaker spoke in 2-105 yesterday as part of a series co-sponsored by the MIT Program in Women's Studies and Comparative Media Studies. On Wednesday, March 7, the groups will host "Tres Vidas," a chamber music theater premiere, at 8 p.m. in Killian Hall.

Comics
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OPINION
The Tech's opinion staffers review the UAP/VP candidates' debate performances and offer their election choices.
Page 15

Administrators have agreed to match 2 to 1 Habitat for Humanity donations raised at the Naughty by Nature concert.
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WORLD & NATION

Cheney Aide Had Worked On Rich's Behalf

THE WASHINGTON POST

The person largely responsible for key legal arguments cited in Marc Rich's successful pardon application is not Jack Quinn, President Clinton's former White House counsel. It's I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, a longtime Rich lawyer who is now chief of staff for Vice President Dick Cheney.

Since 1985, when he left the State Department and was recruited by former Nixon White House counsel Leonard Garment, Libby spent countless hours reviewing legal documents and interviewing witnesses in a search for cracks in the government's tax evasion indictment of Rich, according to sources. "He spent the next two years traveling around the world," said a person familiar with his work.

"He's the best lawyer of all the many lawyers who have worked with me or for me," Garment said. "On this case, he didn't give in to anything. He was constantly skeptical and helped me reach the conclusion that we had a meritorious case" to present to New York prosecutors in attempts to negotiate a settlement.

Libby was convinced Rich was a victim of an overzealous prosecution that inappropriately used federal racketeering statutes, known as RICO, to squeeze him and his companies, sources said.

Between 1989 and 1993, Libby served in the Pentagon when Cheney was secretary of defense. As soon as he went back into private practice, he resumed his role as the specialist in the Rich case.

House Approves Bankruptcy Bill

THE WASHINGTON POST

The House approved legislation Thursday that would revamp the nation's bankruptcy laws by making it harder for consumers to wipe out their debt.

The bill, which was pushed by the credit card industry and opposed by consumer groups, is the first major piece of legislation to come out of the House in the new Congress.

Lobbyists for the credit card industry expect the legislation to pass quickly through the Senate, which will begin debating it Monday. Consumer groups hope to add amendments in the Senate that would make the bill more consumer friendly but acknowledge there may be little support for their efforts.

The bill passed on a 306 to 108 vote that included 93 Democrats who supported it.

President Bush has indicated he would sign the legislation — a sharp contrast to his predecessor, Bill Clinton, who vetoed virtually identical legislation at the end of last year, arguing it was too slanted in favor of big business and against consumers.

Report Says Power Suppliers Overcharged by $500 Million

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Wholesale electricity suppliers overcharged California's utilities more than $500 million during December and January, an amount that the federal government should demand be refunded, according to a no-holds-barred state report released Thursday.

The report by the California Independent System Operator, which oversees the flow of electricity in the state, said suppliers charged $11 billion during those two months alone — more than they did for all of 1999.

Studying various market dynamics, the agency concluded that there was a "prima facie case" that the unnamed generators and marketers had earned $562 million above "just and reasonable" prices.

The state report is the most accusatory of a number of studies undertaken to determine why wholesale electricity prices have soared in California since last summer, throwing the state's biggest utilities into financial crisis and dashing hopes for lower consumer rates.

Census Officials Back Head Count, Undercount Millions

By D'Vera Cohn
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Census Bureau officials Thursday urged against adjusting the 2000 Census to compensate for people who were missed, dashing the hopes of civil rights leaders that such an adjustment could be used in redrawing political boundaries.

The recommendation was a surprise because census officials previously have portrayed adjustment as a solution to chronic undercounts. But Thursday, they said they could not guarantee that adjusted census numbers would be more accurate than results from mail-in questionnaires and a door-to-door count last year.

A survey conducted after the head count concluded that the census had missed 3 million people, including a disproportionate number of minorities. But census officials said Thursday they had questions about the validity of that survey and until those questions are answered, which could be months, they could not recommend adjustment.

"We were afraid it would be less accurate," said John H. Thompson, associate census director.

The recommendation from census officials now goes to Commerce Secretary Donald Evans, who has signalled his opposition to adjustment. Evans said Thursday he would announce a decision early next week. Redistricting numbers are legally due to states by the end of March.

The issue of whether to adjust the census has been so contentious that it produced lawsuits against the Census Bureau in 1990 and ended up before the Supreme Court two years ago. With Republicans controlling the House of Representatives by only a few seats, both sides have pushed hard for their preferred figures.

Disappointed Democrats and civil rights groups argued that Thursday's recommendation was not necessarily a rejection of adjusted numbers, but reflected a lack of time to weigh all the evidence. Some expressed concern that the bureau may have bowed to political pressure from the Bush administration .

"The bad news is that millions of Americans had the clock run out on them," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), until recently the ranking Democrat on the House census subcommittee.

Some Democrats urged the Census Bureau to release unadjusted numbers anyway, so states could consider using them for redistricting even if they were not the figures deemed more accurate by the bureau. Representatives of the Hispanic and Asian American caucuses, who are to meet with Evans Friday, are expected to press him on that issue.

Census officials said they did not have enough confidence in the adjusted numbers to release them yet, though they expect to do so eventually.

"The issue is: Is it fit for use?" replied William Barron, acting census director. "And I don't think we can say that now."

Republicans were gleeful. "Game. Set. Match," read the headline on a statement issued by the office of Rep. Dan Miller (R-Fla.), ranking Republican on the House census subcommittee.

The 2000 Census said the country had 281 million people last year. The survey said there were 284 million. But analysis using some of the other official documents said there were 279 million, meaning the census may have overcounted the country.

House Panel Passes Tax Cut

23-15 Vote Indicates Partisan Divide Facing Bush on Hill

By Janet Hook
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

House Republicans gave President Bush's domestic agenda its first legislative victory Thursday, as the House Ways and Means Committee approved a cut in income tax rates that is the crown jewel of his economic and budget policy.

But in a likely portent of things to come for him on Capitol Hill, the committee action reflected an absence of the bipartisan spirit that Bush promised to build around his presidency.

The tax cut was approved on a strict party-line vote, 23-15. House Republicans rammed the bill through the committee on short notice and voted in lock step to crush a Democratic alternative that would have provided a smaller tax cut, more targeted to middle-income people.

"The president talks all the time about having a bipartisan relationship," said House Democratic Leader Richard A. Gephardt (D-Mo). "What the House Republicans are doing is against everything he has said we ought to be doing."

Gephardt and other Democrats objected to the speedy action on the tax cut bill, arguing that lawmakers should not consider it until after they pass a budget agreement that balances reductions in taxes against other priorities.

Still, some Bush allies remain optimistic that some Democrats will come around to supporting the tax cut as it makes it way through Congress.

"It may look a little less bipartisan than it should today," said Rep. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), a Ways and Means member who is close to the Bush administration. "I'm still very hopeful that as the bill works its way through the process, it will become more bipartisan."

Portman said he expected five to 10 Democrats to support the measure when it comes to a House vote next week. One Democrat Bush can count on is Rep. Ralph M. Hall (D-Texas) — a conservative who was the only Democrat in Congress to endorse him for president. Hall's spokeswoman said Thursday that he would vote for the tax cut bill.

As approved by the committee, the bill would reduce taxes by $958 billion over 10 years by cutting income tax rates across the board. It would go beyond Bush's proposal by speeding up the cut in the lowest tax rate and applying the change to 2001 tax bills, a year earlier than Bush proposed.

WEATHER

In Like a Lion

By Efren Gutierrez
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

March has lived up to its reputation and entered like a lion.

The recent high winds and gusts that have plagued the area are due to the pressure gradient surrounding most of the New England and Mid-Atlantic area. The gradient results from the interaction of a low pressure system in Nova Scotia and a weak high pressure system in the Ohio Valley.

The two systems each feature their own wind circulation, and where the currents add vectorially the wind increases and becomes turbulent with a Reynolds number (a nondimensional measure of turbulence) of around 10^7.

With such strong upper level winds, there is only a small possibility of any precipitation, since cloud development is very limited.

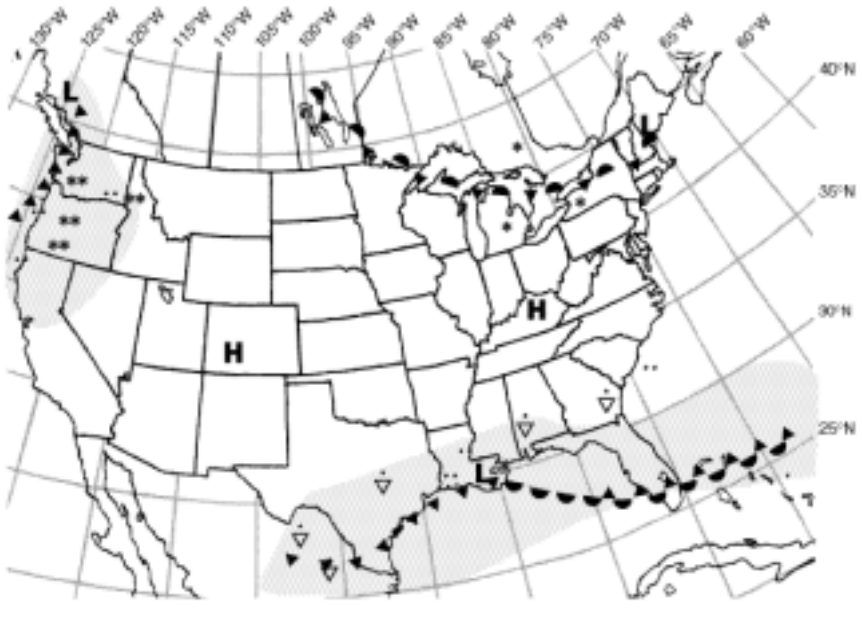
The winds will continue into the weekend and the clouds present today will shift toward the east.

A low-level low pressure system now centered in Texas will start trekking of to the east, and might move up the coast to impact Boston with showers by the middle of next week.

Weekend Outlook

Today: Partly cloudy with a small chance of flurries. West wind of 15 mph. High of 29°F (-2°C).
Tonight: Clearing skies and cold. Low of 21°F (-6°C).
Tomorrow: Sunny and clear. High in the mid-30s (1-3°C).
Tomorrow Night: Cool with some cloudiness. Low in the low-20s. (-7 to -5°C).
Sunday: Scattered clouds. High in the upper 30s (3-4°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, March 2, 2001



Marine Osprey Coverup Probe Reaches Top Pentagon Brass

By Mary Pat Flaherty and Thomas E. Ricks
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Defense Department's inspector general has seized data from the computers of two Marine generals as an investigation into an alleged coverup of problems with the troubled V-22 Osprey aircraft is reaching into the top ranks at the Pentagon.

The investigation began in January with allegations that a lieutenant colonel who commanded the Osprey squadron in North Carolina encouraged crews to falsify maintenance records. Investigators are now looking into whether the squadron commander was pressured by superiors to hide the shortcomings of the Osprey, an innovative aircraft that takes off like a helicopter but flies like a plane.

In a late October meeting with the Osprey squadron, one Marine general urged subordinates to "figure out how to manage and minimize the impact" of a rigid record-keeping system that had shown the aircraft were often grounded or available only for limited flights, according to notes on the meeting obtained by *The Washington Post*.

The Marine Corps has steadfastly defended the tilt-rotor aircraft against critics who charge that it is too expensive and unreliable. The Corps wants to buy 360 Ospreys at a total cost of $40 billion and has stuck with those plans despite three crashes, since 1992, that killed 26 Marines and four civilians.

Investigators working for the Defense Department's acting inspector general, Robert Lieberman, recently took data from the computer hard drives of Lt. Gen. Fred McCorkle, the head of Marine aviation, and McCorkle's assistant, Brig. Gen. James F. Amos, several Marines and a Pentagon official said.

"It's all about the e-mail trail, as part of the search to figure out what's there," said a Marine officer familiar with the Osprey program.

Investigators are also looking into the actions of Maj. Gen. Dennis T. Krupp, commanding general of the aircraft wing that includes the Osprey squadron in New River, N.C. Krupp met with the squadron in October and emphasized that computerized maintenance records were making the Osprey look bad, according to a summary written by an officer in training as an Osprey pilot.

"Skin this cat," Krupp said, according to the officer's notes.

Krupp also noted the importance of guarding the Osprey's image, advising squadron members that whenever they allow photographs of the aircraft to be taken, they should "make sure that they look good and/or are doing something," the notes on the meeting say.

The Osprey program faced a critical juncture at the end of 2000, with a change of administration in the White House. The change of administration was important because then Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney had halted the Osprey program in 1989, citing cost.

Taliban Orders Statues Destroyed

Archaeologists, Historians Outraged Over Demolitions

By Molly Moore
THE WASHINGTON POST

ISTANBUL

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban Islamic militia said Thursday that its troops have begun destroying all statues in the country, including the world's tallest standing Buddha, hewn from a rock cliff 1,600 years ago.

Carrying out an edict that stunned the world of archaeology and cultural preservation and unleashed an outpouring of international protest, the radical Islamic group said tanks, rocket launchers and "any means available" would be employed to demolish the statues, deemed to violate the tenets of Islam. Some have stood sentry over history stretching from the conquests of Genghis Khan to the Great Games of the British and Russian empires to the intrigues of the Cold War.

"All statues will be destroyed," Qudratullah Jamal, the Taliban's information and culture minister, told reporters Thursday in the Afghan capital, Kabul, saying the statues did not conform to Islamic prohibitions against depicting the human form in photographs, statues or paintings. "The work began early during the day. All of the statues are to be smashed."

Jamal specifically identified as a target Afghanistan's most renowned historic site: a sandstone carving of Buddha that towers 175 feet on the face of a cliff near the town of Bamiyan, 90 miles west of Kabul. That Buddha and a 120-foot one set in a nearby cliff were cut from solid rock between the third and fifth centuries A.D., when Afghanistan was an important center of Buddhist teaching and pilgrimage.

Jamal's assertion could not be independently verified because the Taliban has refused to allow journalists or preservationists near any of the endangered sites.

"We do not understand why everybody is so worried," the Taliban's supreme leader, Mohammed Omar, said through the official Taliban news agency, brushing off worldwide appeals to abandon the order he issued Monday. "All we are breaking are stones."

Historians and archaeologists said the Taliban's decree, which threatens not only antiquities and historic sites but hundreds of smaller relics in museums, could be the fatal blow to preserving a cultural heritage already decimated by war, looting and theft. A decade of guerrilla warfare that drove Soviet troops out of Afghanistan in 1989 was followed by bitter factional fighting and widespread lawlessness. Even after the Taliban consolidated its control over Afghanistan in the late 1990s, fighting against opposition forces has flared around Bamiyan and in the northeast.

The Taliban's promised destruction of antiquities drew condemnation worldwide. Other Muslim nations — including Pakistan, one of the Taliban's closest allies, and Iran, one of its rivals — joined with Western countries and Buddhist-dominated Far Eastern nations in urging that the statues be spared.

"Islam never preached the destruction of objects that depict the belief and history of millions of people throughout the world," the English-language daily Iran News said in an editorial. It accused the Taliban of trying "not only to erase the past and present of Afghanistan, but also to strip the country of anything that may form a cultural basis for its future."

Cultural preservationists compared the Taliban's actions to those of other intolerant regimes that attempted to obliterate religious cultures. "It is absolutely sickening. I can't believe what I'm hearing," Nancy Dupree," a leading expert on Afghan history, said Thursday in a telephone interview from London.

Manufacturing Sector Halts Decline

February Numbers Accompany Rise In Salaries, Spending

By John M. Berry
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The manufacturing sector of the economy remained weak last month, but the worst of its decline may be over, according to the monthly survey of the National Association of Purchasing Management released Thursday.

The NAPM's index that tracks conditions at manufacturing firms rose slightly to 41.9 last month from 41.2 in January, breaking a string of 11 consecutive monthly declines. But the reading remained well below 50, indicating that the sector is continuing to contract. Still, some analysts said, the break in the index's downward momentum could be a signal that the worst is over for manufacturing, the portion of the economy that has been hardest hit by the slowing of growth in recent months.

Meanwhile, other reports released Thursday showed increases in personal income, spending and construction in January, causing some analysts to suggest the U.S. economy will continue to grow in the first three months of the year. Growth in the fourth quarter of last year was only 1.1 percent, and some forecasters have predicted the economy will start shrinking and perhaps slide into a recession in the first half of this year.

Personal income rose a strong 0.6 percent in January, with the key wages and salaries portion up even more, 0.7 percent, the Commerce Department reported. The big increase in pay was the result of both a solid increase in the number of workers on payrolls and the number of hours worked. Both those factors were influenced to some extent by a swing from unusually bitter winter weather in December to more normal weather in January.

Personal consumption expenditures, which include spending for goods and services of all types, also increased 0.7 percent, Commerce said. However, after adjustment for inflation, particularly for energy services such as natural gas, the real increase was just 0.2 percent. That real gain matched that of December and was above the 0.1 percent increases in both October and November.

In the other report, Commerce said construction spending rose 1.5 percent in January after increasing 1 percent in December. Both private and public spending rose, with residential construction up 1.7 percent and nonresidential construction up a very large 5.8 percent, primarily because of increasing work on new industrial and commercial buildings.

The strength in housing and other construction should help the economy stay out of recession, analysts said.

"However, consumer spending should carry substantially more momentum into the second quarter" than it had when it entered the first quarter, said economist Joe Liro of Stone & McCarthy. "If the first quarter marks the bottom of the consumer retrenchment, then the economy will avoid a shallow recession."

NASA Told to Scale Back Station Plans

NEWSDAY

Faced with as much as $4 billion in cost overruns on the international space station, the Bush administration is ordering NASA to shift money away from such planned U.S. additions to the outpost as a living quarters and a crew rescue vehicle.

A top NASA official said the plan, outlined in the new White House budget document, will allow completion of a core U.S. structure to which Japanese and European modules can be attached. But some future American pieces, including the living quarters that would allow an increase in the crew size from three to seven, may be lost.

W. Michael Hawes, NASA's deputy associate administrator for space flight development, said the agency is assessing the impact of the Bush budget proposal. "There are a lot of options to look at and price out," Hawes said in a telephone interview this week with reporters.

While the White House's budget plan for fiscal year 2002 seeks a 2 percent increase overall for NASA — to $14.5 billion — it notes that some recent estimates peg the cost overrun for the space station at $1 billion for 2001 and 2002 and a total of $4 billion over the next five years.

To offset that cost growth, the Bush administration wants to "redirect" money away from a propulsion module scheduled for addition to the station in 2004, the habitation module that was to be deployed in 2005 and a crew escape vehicle, also slated for completion in 2005.

Bush Budget Includes Appeal For Military Base Closings

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Pentagon's military base-closing program has returned with new force.

The Bush administration, eager to find savings to finance military reform, included in its budget a strong appeal for several new rounds of base closings. The current inventory of about 500 bases, it said, "wastes money."

Of the roughly 500 bases nationwide, about half are considered major.

Advocates of base closings say the first four rounds saved the government $20 billion through fiscal year 2000, and will save $5.5 billion a year thereafter. They predict that new rounds could save an additional $2 billion to $3 billion a year when fully implemented.

This week, two longtime advocates of closings, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), introduced legislation calling for additional base closings in 2003 and 2005.

Agriculture Wants Quick ID Of Genetically Engineered Seed

THE WASHINGTON POST

Agriculture officials on Thursday told seed dealers to quickly determine how much of the nation's corn seed stocks contain the genetically engineered variety that prompted massive recalls of food and corn crops last year.

The Agriculture Department told the American Seed Trade Association to have the results by noon Friday so officials will know how much seed corn will have to be destroyed and can begin determining how much that will cost and who will pay for it.

Officials said Thursday that the amount of seed corn with detectable amounts of a protein from the genetically modified corn is expected to be small, less than 5 percent of the total. They also said that precautions are in place to ensure farmers don't plant the tainted corn, known as StarLink.

Federal officials met for two hours Thursday at the Department of Agriculture with about 50 representatives from the seed, corn and food industry officials. Agriculture Department spokesman Kevin Herglotz said the meeting focused on testing procedures and how federal agencies could help the seed industry deal with the StarLink issue.

"Our goal is to do what we can to prevent it from being planted," he said.

StarLink, developed by Aventis CropScience and approved only for animal feed, has caused regulatory and economic trouble since biotechnology critics found it last fall in taco shells. Federal agencies had approved StarLink only for animal consumption because of concerns that it might cause dangerous allergic reactions in people, though they have said the human health risks likely are quite limited.

The discovery of the corn in the human food supply prompted a massive recall of corn and food products made with corn in this country. It was detected in seed by dealers this year as they checked their stocks before selling to farmers for the upcoming growing season.

Combs, On Stand, Denies Gun, Bribery Charges

NEWSDAY

Hip-hop mogul Sean "Puffy" Combs told jurors in his gun and bribery case Thursday that he believed he was the target of an assassination attempt when gunfire erupted in a Times Square nightclub in 1999.

In a soft voice with a hint of a Southern drawl, Combs, 31, repudiated every charge leveled against him.

Combs said he did not possess a weapon on Dec. 27, 1999, never fired inside the club and never tried to bribe his driver, Wardel Fenderson.

Combs, who could face up to 15 years in prison if convicted of gun and bribery charges, also testified that he never faced off with Matthew Allen, a former convict who other witnesses called "Scar."

Combs said he saw a man "mouthing off" and apparently glaring in his direction as he left the club. He said that he heard one shot as he walked away and that he initially crouched down and covered his head with his hands.

Prosecutors say Combs and Barrow both drew guns, with Combs firing into the ceiling and Barrow firing into the crowd.

OPINION

The Tech
Established 1881

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UAP/VP — A Reluctant Decision

Editorial

As an editorial board, we have struggled with the choice of presidential and vice presidential candidates available to students in this year's Undergraduate Association elections. Unfortunately, we have concluded that none of the tickets in this year's elections are what we desire in a UA presidential/vice-presidential team.

That is not to say the candidates are without their strengths. Several of the candidates have strong talents which would contribute positively to the UA. But the current teams of candidates do not present these skills in a package we are able to embrace enthusiastically.

The team of Jaime E. Devereaux '02 and Allison L. Neizmik '02 has the asset of experience. Devereaux is currently UA Council Speaker and Neizmik is UA Public Relations Chair, and this ticket has the best understanding of the issues facing the UA and the processes governing the UA. But both are commensurate insiders, and have a history of pursuing their plans of action in ways that inhibit meaningful contributions by the average student. At a time when the UA is increasingly governed by its own internal subculture, we hesitate to embrace such an insider candidacy.

In contrast, the ticket of Sanjay K. Rao '02 and Jyoti Agarwal '03 presents a fresh perspective — a new outlook which the UA desperately needs. Rao is especially able to connect the student body. However, Rao's evasiveness in answering a straightforward question about his petition from Rhett Creighton '02 presented him as a waffling politician, not the straight-shooter that students need. Regarding this and other issues, it appears that the Rao/Agarwal ticket has wilfully misled the student body. Additionally, we doubt the level of commitment to student affairs shown by Rao's running mate Agarwal. By her own admission, she rarely makes meetings of groups to which she claims membership. These factors give us serious concerns about the integrity of the Rao/Agarwal ticket.

Creighton and Margaret V. Stringfellow '03 bring a level of energy and excitement not found in the other candidates. And as Tau Epsilon Phi and Senior House residents, respectively, they represent constituencies that feel shut out of the UA. However, the goals of their campaign, such as bringing back Heart-to-Heart and the Millennium Ball, are issues below the scope of those we would like our UA leaders to address. At first glance, their eccentric style struck us as possibly awkward for UA leadership. Had the time available for campaigning been longer, we may have felt differently. In the limited time we have had to learn about the candidates, we do not yet feel comfortable that the individuals on this ticket understand the responsibilities involved with UA executive office.

The process has been additionally complicated by the decision of the UA Judicial Review Board to remove the team of Creighton and Stringfellow from the ballot because of an insufficient number of signatures. We hope that Creighton and Stringfellow are allowed the option cited by JudBoard to gather more signatures quickly, and that the other candidates support their restoration to the ballot.

Even if Creighton and Stringfellow are restored to the ballot, though, the overall quality of this candidate field will remain disappointing. All of the tickets have had the chance to impress, yet none have stood out as the students' clear choice. We can only hope that this underwhelming slate does not portend an underwhelming year in student government.

Rao/Devereaux for UA President/VP

Editorial

Given that each of the candidate teams presents serious weaknesses, the majority of us believe the only way to fashion an acceptable ticket is to exercise our right to write in a candidate team. We endorse Sanjay K. Rao for UA President and Jaime E. Devereaux for UA Vice President. We choose Rao for president because of his ability to connect with students and serve as a strong spokesman for the UA. We like Devereaux as vice-president because her experience with the UA allows her to administer the UA and serve as a "behind-the-scenes" leader.

In order to make this partnership work, each candidate must acknowledge the skills the other candidate brings to the table. Devereaux must recognize that Rao's vigor and student perspective makes him the ideal choice for the UA's most public position. Likewise, Rao must recognize Devereaux's wealth of experience within government and give her independent authority to manage the internal affairs of the UA.

To vote for this ticket, students must choose the option of "write-in" from the list available on the UA voting software. Voters should then write in the full names of Rao and Devereaux for president and vice president, respectively.

We realize that the action we urge is highly unusual; however we believe that all three tickets have flaws so serious they preclude us from endorsing them. It is our right as students to write in a candidate team, and we believe that combining Rao and Devereaux brings the right combination of perspective and experience to the UA. We reach reluctantly the conclusion that this is the best choice students can make from a field of imperfect candidates.

Devereaux/Neizmik for UA President/VP

By Jordan Rubin, Eric J. Cholankeril, Naveen Sunkavally, and Matthew Palmer

Dissent

While we agree with the opinion of the editorial board that new blood is needed in the UA government, we do not believe that Sanjay K. Rao '02 is the best choice for President. Despite our reservations about the the ability of the ticket of Jaime E. Devereaux and Allison L. Neizmik to involve and represent all students, we believe their experience and dedication to the organization outweighs their drawbacks.

For example, Devereaux was instrumental in the relocation of TEAL from the Student Center to Building 26, preserving student space on campus and fighting for the separation between academics and social life. In advocating this relocation, the UA was able to reverse a decision passed down by the Chancellor, Provost, Dean of the School of Science, and the head of the physics department, along with a host of other administrators and faculty members — a notable accomplishment. We think that their experience will give them a notable advantage over the other candidates in being able to work with the administration to implement new ideas.

If elected, however, this ticket must search for new initiatives to gather student opinion and garner student support for involvement in the UA; a web form is not sufficient. They need to make a concerted effort to defeat the insider culture in the UA.

Since last year's failed election bid, Rao has taken a year off from the Undergraduate Association, despite his statement last year that he would stay involved should he lose the election. While he may appear more charismatic and well spoken, he and his running mate have no clear direction and sense of purpose. His platform calls for activity on a laundry list of issues including anonymous medical transport, mental health, online learning, the freshman program, and student representation in the UA without providing specific solutions besides the creation of several committees. We feel that the Devereaux/Neizmik ticket better understands the constraints in coming up with solutions for these problems.

In addition, the UA President must find qualified individuals to fill Cabinet posts. We have not received adequate assurance that, in a Rao administration, such positions would be filled by individuals representing various interests on campus.

The ticket of Rhett Creighton '02 and Margaret V. Stringfellow '03 offers a refreshing point of view and sense of enthusiasm. We feel that these two candidates were handcuffed by the insufficient amount length of the campaign period and the time that they spent in a bureaucratic web due to complaints about their candidacy. We are concerned, however, that with their lack of experience Creighton and Stringfellow might not fully understand the range of responsibilities of the UA President and Vice President.

The student body needs a pair of qualified, committed, trustworthy individuals to serve as UA President and VP. These concerns trump the desire to find an outsider candidate. In this election it is not necessary to vote for a split ticket. Therefore, we encourage you to cast your vote for Jaime Devereaux and Allison Neizmik.

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Dissents are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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

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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.

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Letters To The Editor can be found on page 6.

Erratum

In Tuesday's issue, Ken Nesmith's column ["Ugly Enough For You?"] states that Simmons Hall will house all incoming freshmen. In fact, Simmons will not house all freshmen, but will house members of all undergraduate classes.

Race and the Truth

Education, Culture Miss the Point of Black History Month

Philip Burrowes

So you spent every waking moment this February thinking of events in the context of black history. The Grammys underlined the pervasiveness of "black" culture in the mainstream, Colombian President Andres Pastrana's request for increased American aid reminded you of the idiosyncratically debilitating "crack epidemic" of the African-American community, and Secretary of State Colin Powell's current role in the Middle East contrasts with decades of segregation in the American armed services. Now, with March finally here, you can go back to viewing events through normal, unbiased eyes. Unfortunately, by regressing, you've not only missed the entire point of Black History Month, but you've exacerbated the conditions it sought to mitigate.

All the insights you've undoubtedly made during your intense internal and external scrutiny of racial biases are invaluable. They should not, however, be regarded as some sort of seasonal eye-opening exercise. What should be grasped is a fuller picture of the world around us, not the fractured one we are used to. The reality is that by untangling the seemingly solely black conceptualization from any occurrence, we are unlocking the human experience.

Convention holds that there are distinctly black elements to American society, that there is a black experience that cannot be comprehended through mere historical analysis. This is true insofar as nobody else's life can be understood without living it. African-Americans — as the term is meant — have shared features but yet are born to live individual lives. Each ethnicity in this country could say the same of its members when obviously not each one demands segregated study. It is illogical, then, to contend that African-American issues could, let alone should, be reserved for specified discussion.

By regressing, you've not only missed the entire point of Black History Month, but you've exacerbated the conditions it sought to mitigate. Americans should not go about blind to their educational inadequacies.

Clearly, there is merit to in-depth analysis of specific issues. That merit, however, lies not with possible racial or ethnic confusion; it emerges from the natural impossibility of absolutely comprehensive description. Still, the question remains how, exactly, so-called black issues benefit from incorporation into other discussions. Is there something added beyond greater perspective?

The advantage is twofold. First, specifically black studies tend to build on an assumed knowledge of "mainstream" studies that may or may not exist. Richard Wright, for example, makes sense with an understanding of the stratified white social hierarchy of the mid-20th century, yet becomes merely unduly frustrated and impractical within the more or less uniform black caste of the same time period. Comprehension of multiple facets of American society is necessary to best understand the circumstances of the often epiphenomenal nature of the black community.

Such effects were not merely one-way, and this leads to the second boon. "Mainstream" culture is hardly static and in fact was highly affected by the effects it had on African-Americans. In all honesty, does the growth of the suburbs, the current Republican hegemony in the south, or the perpetuity of Ivy League schools' reputations exist independently of the changes African-Americans have experienced residentially, politically, and academically? A little more candor about the dependence of both segments of the country on the other would likely highlight unforeseen truths.

By faithfully adding black studies to historical curricula, the truth does not become blindingly obvious to the entire population. That there are several other ethnicities largely excluded from such studies makes the prospect all the more difficult. This neither provides an excuse to schedule token appreciation for African-Americans nor allow it to degenerate to an auxiliary field. No, not every month can be Black History Month, but people of this country should not go about blind to their own educational inadequacies.

Vietnam in the Making

Killing Colombia with Shiny Bell Helicopters

Michael J. Borucke

Liberals and conservatives alike often argue that the problems of other countries are just that — their own problems. Corrupt dictators and civil wars may ravage foreign countries, causing poverty, starvation and genocide, but we as America can hardly be blamed, much less called upon to help others, when we've got so many problems to deal with in our own country. Of course, we have no problem using the same facts to argue an opposite view when we say, "Well, at least we're better off than some other countries."

When the U.S. government does get involved in another country's affairs, it is assumed to be for the good of all concerned. To maintain this helpful assumption in the public's mind, officials tend to mask true motivations with pleasant-sounding words like "humanitarianism" and "national interest."

If you recall, both Iraq and Vietnam were humanitarian ventures — the former to rescue the Kuwaiti people from Saddam's hands, the latter to save the nascent democracy in Saigon from the barbarous regime in North Vietnam. But not even the government pretended these interventions were purely altruistic. In fact, it was a matter of national interests that contributed to the interventions. We needed to contain the threats of communism in Vietnam and high gas prices in the Middle East to ensure the security of the American people.

Today, the U.S. government has decided that drugs are the threat. The best strategy our leaders have devised to contain that threat is to give massive military aid to the source country. But former President Clinton's $1.3 billion aid package to the Colombian government is only fueling the 30-year-old civil war between the leftist rebels and the Colombian army. Moreover, everyone knows it.

This "War on Drugs" is an interesting paradigm shift in the rhetoric spewed by the new masters of war. Unlike in Iraq or Vietnam, there don't seem to be any humanitarian goals to be achieved in Colombia, any noble pursuits that the U.S. government claims to promote with the lending of the aid. In the United States, the judicial system continues to condemn and imprison drug offenders for as long as possible. In addition, there is currently a severe lack of federal funds for drug treatment, and there may be even less if certain congressmen get their way. Further, school programs such as DARE have failed to curb teen drug use. Given this, it's difficult to see how the Drug War is benefiting the public.

In Colombia, the situation is undoubtedly worse. If people in this country are becoming weary of the Drug War, people in Colombia have never doubted its motives. Massacres of civilians and labor leaders abound. Environments are polluted or blown up outright. Chemical defoliants are falling on the legitimate crops and on the heads of innocent Colombian farmers, making children sick. Humanitarian objectives have never been considered in Colombia, much less acted upon. And both the U.S. and Colombian governments have done their best to make sure human rights don't exist in debt-ridden Colombia.

Last August, after the aid package had been approved by Congress, Clinton sent the first installment ($781 million) by waiving four out of the five human-rights criteria that Congress attached to the aid. That wasn't all. Clinton's administration sent the second installment without any human-rights conditions attached to the aid at all. In a maneuver that would have made Reagan proud, the Clinton administration marked the installment as "Emergency Funds" rather than regular funds, thus evading annoying human-rights conditions. One administration representative explained, "We don't believe legislation requires that kind of formal certification."

Humanitarian objectives have never been considered in Colombia. And both the U.S. and Colombian governments have done their best to make sure that human rights don't exist in debt-ridden Colombia.

Congress never seemed too distraught over Clinton's refusal to acknowledge the human-rights conditions, though. The Senate beat back one proposal to redirect $225 million from the Colombian aid package to U.S. drug treatment programs by a vote of 89–11. Another proposal to reduce the aid package from $1 billion to $200 million was defeated in the Senate, 79–19.

The Colombian president, Andres Pastrana, is doing little better than Clinton or Congress. In a gesture of goodwill, Pastrana traveled to rebel territory to meet with the rebel group, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). His gesture stopped short of offering peace terms to the guerrillas. Pastrana also vetoed a "Heinous Crimes Act" which would have required that soldiers involved in human-rights cases be tried by military and not civilian courts.

This omission of human-rights issues is very disconcerting when one considers the scale of state-sponsored terror in Colombia. According to reports by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, there is mounting evidence that links the paramilitary operating in Colombia to the Colombian army. The paramilitary is responsible for at least three-quarters of the human-rights violations. While it is true that the other quarter of human rights violations are committed by the rebels, it is important to note several points. For one thing, the United States can do much to lessen the violations committed by the paramilitary (stop the aid). For another, the media reports give the impression that violations are shared equally between the rebels and paramilitary.

The media also have the tendency to emphasize the connection between the rebels and the drug lords, and at the same time to downplay the connection between the drug lords and the paramilitary. The DEA has found that a paramilitary leader, Carlos Castao, is a trafficker himself, with connections to a Colombian cartel. It's good to know that the drug lords are contributing to the efforts to win the Drug War.

But even with the help of the drug lords, the cost-efficiency of the Drug War is very dubious. According to a report from the RAND think tank, fighting the War on Drugs through drug treatment is 23 times more cost-efficient than fighting the Drug War at the source, which is what "we" are currently attempting. Other alternatives include funding more interdiction programs at the border and domestic enforcement programs, both of which are two or three times more cost-effective than funding the Colombian Civil War.

With the amount of discussion about these alternatives (none), I get the feeling that perhaps cost-effectiveness is not top priority in U.S. drug policy. The reasons for this can be found in the list of organizations which pushed for the Colombian aid. Among those noble bodies were Occidental Petroleum, BP Amoco, Enron Corp., United Technologies, and Bell Helicopter Textron Incorporated. The compassion that these oil and defense companies have in ridding our country of the drug blight is truly touching.

Even though the aid has already been sent, the helicopters bought and paid for, this does not mean the public cannot influence our leaders in future policy. Americans have rights and freedoms denied to most Colombians. Among these are the freedom to assemble and the right to influence our representatives, or at least to try. The protest at Park Street on Saturday will address issues about the Drug War in addition to making some noise in the Common. The problem will not go away if the public remains uneducated and silent about U.S. complicity in Colombia.

Dining Alone, Together

Roy Esaki

As humans, we're all social animals, but at MIT, we're really *really* busy social animals — if we're even still human. Consequently, the logistics of our schedules often deprive us of many opportunities for social interaction. And among the most tragic, but often necessary, casualties of a hectic life is mealtime. Though not without its pensive sadness, there's something rather therapeutic and valuable about the process, and lifestyle, of dining alone.

Granted, many students with convenient living and dining situations have never had a need, let alone inclination, to eat alone. Actually, because there are enough of such people, both here and in larger society, there's a strong stigma associated with eating alone. It's the habit of a lonely, antisocial, extra-nerdy, friendless recluse, a sad and silent testimony to one's loneliness in a chaotic and obscure world — sort of like the life of an MIT student.

Eating alone is the habit of a lonely, antisocial, extra-nerdy, friendless recluse, a sad and silent testimony to one's aloneness in a chaotic and obscure world — sort of like the life of an MIT student.

But this stigma, like most stereotypes, is hardly universally or consistently true, though it has a clear basis in reality. The scattered schedules and physical distribution of dining establishments, let alone one's schedule, makes solitary dining much more likely than eating in groups. It's a lot more convenient and efficient, if not necessary, to eat alone, be it for lunch bought at the food truck or for dinner at Lobdell. You're completely free and independent, untethered by any social obligation whatsoever — free to do problem sets while eating, at liberty to ignore table etiquette and put your elbows on the table, allowed to stand up and leave at your own discretion. There's always the tendency for continual isolation to cause one to ignore dining manners, but otherwise, the freedom is quite useful during hectic times.

And with this freedom comes a really valuable mental freedom, something that's often neglected in the routine cycle of classwork and active avoidance thereof. Dining in Lobdell during dinner hours, you look around and see so many solitary individuals, sitting there like weather-worn rafts drifting along a darkened sea. Perhaps you're a raft yourself, wordlessly floating, reading this paper perhaps, while unknown conversations drone on all around you. If you really want to, you could even think about how alone you are, but you can think about anything you want. Fret about that test if you wish, but you can also quietly reflect on where you are in life, where you want to be, and what you need to do to get there. Or chew over what could be done to improve yourself, your life, and the lives of those around you.

You could also look around at the other solitary diners (don't stare too long, lest it makes them feel uncomfortable), and ponder about what they're could be thinking of as they solemnly sip their minestrone. Though the specifics may differ, they probably have concerns analogous to yours: the upcoming tournament, how to raise your grade in that one class, how in the world all that absurd amount of crud is going to get done by Friday. Or maybe, if they read this column, they're looking at you, contemplating what you're thinking about.

These pensive, almost meditative, reflections aren't possible when you're busy bantering and chaffing with others during the meal. Social interaction should be encouraged, of course, and lunch or dinner can, and should, provide occasions to bring people together. For those who are, by choice or circumstances, forced to enjoy their own company at times, though, it's nice to remember that it's an opportunity to digest our lives and that one really isn't alone in dining alone.

A Call to Public Service

Matthew L. McGann

I often hear derogatory phrases like "entrenched in the system" or "junior administrators" to describe student government-types who enjoy their advocacy work and devote significant amounts of time to that work. Just what do terms like this mean? Are the characterizations fair? What does this say about the work that they do? These questions are particularly interesting to consider during this election season.

There is a select group of students on campus who spend a good portion of their waking, non-class hours doing advocacy work. You will most often find these people in groups such as the Undergraduate Association, Interfraternity Council, Dormitory Council, Association of Student Activities and Graduate Student Council. Part of their MIT education is this on-the-ground public service. Often, though, that service is discounted because the students are too "insider," they are "junior administrators," they are "not in touch with students."

Advocates take their role as servants seriously. Public service is a calling. Those who are true public servants don't see it as a "career," a way to stroke their ego, or a chance to be well-known. To answer the call of public service is be devoted to the welfare of others.

In national politics, being a dedicated public servant is seen as negative. In this past year's presidential race, Al Gore was chided by many in the media for being in politics all of his professional life (aside from a brief stint as a reporter). At the same time, George W. Bush was praised for his business experience, even though he was not very successful. As an aside, I'm not sure how much owning a baseball team counts as business experience, though the oil company certainly counts.

Having little-to-no public service experience is often seen as a positive factor. When H. Ross Perot ran for president in 1992, he had never worked in public service. Most of his professional life was spent with two very successful companies which he founded and ran: Electronic Data Systems (EDS) and Perot Systems. He received 19 percent of the country's popular vote, partially because of his significant business experience and status of not being an "insider." This past year, another non-insider saw victory. New Jersey's freshman Sen. Jon Corzine had spent his entire working life working through the ranks of Goldman Sachs, eventually becoming CEO and chairman.

Don't get me wrong — business experience can be extremely useful in public service, especially as it pertains to finance and management. But the ultimate goals are completely different: business is profit-driven, while service is done for the good of the people. For Perot and Corzine, money factored heavily in their political ambitions, both spending exorbitant amounts of their personal fortunes in hopes to attain a position. Ironically, their campaign finance indulgences may serve to bring about meaningful change in the role of money in federal races.

Other public service arenas are not held to the same scrutiny. We don't expect the clergy to have previously served in a 9-5 job, yet we still believe that they can relate to problems of the common person. It's rarely questioned if they are "entrenched in the system." Our ministers, rabbis, priests and others can still relate compassionately to our problems even while committing their lives to service.

In reality, student advocates are just following the call to public service. They do their best to represent students, and the interests of the constituents are always foremost in their minds. They always have your best interests at heart.

Students who serve in student advocacy are, in fact, just that: students. They live in the MIT residence system. They attend classes, have advisors, do problem sets. They have friends, go out, have fun.

Sure, a disproportionate number of student advocates hail from departments like Management, Urban Studies, Political Science, Economics: the departments to which one might expect people interested in public service to flock. And yes, not all student advocates are in politics for the right reasons. But taken on the whole, student advocates are students just like you: passionate, intellectually curious, and hosed.

My suspicion is that phrases like "entrenched in the system" largely refer to issues of compromise. Student advocates do their best to represent the larger student point of view; that point of view often conflicts with the administrative viewpoint. When a compromise is reached, and the original student goal is not completely fulfilled, the reason is seen by some to be because the advocates are "entrenched in the system" or aren't "in touch with students." By finding common ground with staff, the students become "junior administrators," in the minds of some.

In reality, student advocates are just following the call to public service. They do their best to represent students, and the interests of the constituents are always foremost in their minds. And while their long-term professional interests and current pursuits at the Institute may be different from yours, they always have your best interests at heart.

Letters To The Editor

Keep Rhett on Ballot; Open UA to All

This past Wednesday, just hours after the *Tech*-sponsored Undergraduate Association President/Vice President debate, the word went out that Rhett Creighton '02 and Margaret V. Stringfellow '03 were no longer considered official candidates. The UA Judicial Board ruled that Creighton and Stringfellow did not collect the required number of signatures by the deadline.

One wonders if there's such a thing as a smooth UA presidential election at MIT. Compounded with the harsh criticisms of the UA Election Commission last week, many would probably take a dim view of this year's elections.

However, events are not as bad as they would seem. The ruling leaves it up to the election commission to decide Creighton and Stringfellow's candidacy if they submit the required number of signatures after the deadline. Both other candidates have publicly expressed support for keeping Creighton and Stringfellow on the ballot if the proper paperwork is completed. This would then seem to be a mere technicality whose ill-effects can be avoided.

And yet things are worse than they would seem. Rumors abound concerning political maneuvering and favoritism in the UA for its "own people." Creighton appeared to blame Sanjay K. Rao '02 for the challenge to his candidacy. It is alarming how few people from the demographic that Creighton and Stringfellow represent, the east side of campus, take part in the leadership of the Undergraduate Association. One wonders how representative the UA truly is, and whether it perhaps inadvertently contributes to the social divides on campus.

If perhaps the UA is to west campus what LSC/SIPB is to east campus; then the UA isn't representing all undergraduates, despite its appeals to the entire community.

Should Creighton and Stringfellow be on the ballot? Well, they certainly would bring representation from a social demographic lacking in the other candidates. So long as no rules are broken, they would bring a fresh perspective to the UA: how it appears to those on the "outside." Because so many MIT students are cynical about what exactly the UA can do for them, perhaps such a fresh perspective is exactly what is needed in our next Undergraduate Association President.

Bradley T. Ito '01

No Need for Class Council Debate

[Ed.: The following letter was sent to the Undergraduate Association Election Commission on Monday, February 26.]

As the only two candidates running for Class of 2003 Vice President, we would like to request that the scheduled Transitions Debate for our position be changed to a study break for all of the 2003 class council candidates.

We feel that this is a much better use of the allotted time and space, and more beneficial for our class. A debate would accomplish very little, as our race does not contain the policy issues found in a race for UAP/VP. It is more important for the members of our class to get to know their officers in a social setting, as the bulk of the responsibility of the class council is to provide social programming for the class. The environment created by a study break is a much better format for this form of interaction.

Additionally, this would allow the other candidates to attend and get to know their constituents as well. While their races may not be contested, it is still important for the class to get to know who they are.

We hope you consider this request and make the change to the event. We thought it would be inappropriate and inconsiderate to simply refuse to attend the debates, despite the weight such an action would carry with unanimous consent of all of the candidates. In recognizing this, we look forward to attending the Class of 2003 Candidate *Study Break* on Thursday night.

Alison H. Wong '03
Diana L. Bolton '03
Class of 2003 Vice Presidential Candidates

Delay P/NR Change

I write in response to Jason H. Wasfy's February 20 column on Pass/No Record policy ["P/NR Policy: The Wrong Battle"]. As someone who served on the P/NR Committee that examined this topic, I too support the shift to the new grading policy. But along with the UA's Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP), the UA Council, and the over 400 students who signed the UA's petition, I support delaying the implementation of this shift until the Freshmen class entering fall of 2003.

The clearest reason for waiting the additional year is to provide the student body a buffer time to adjust. As it stands, the current implementation coincides with the 2002 freshmen-on-campus move. The community benefits from our proposed delay as it allows a full year of the new rush system to run without freshmen and parental concerns about joining a new social organization while also subject to a visible grading policy.

Of equal importance is the insurance of a greater sense of community on campus. Breaking with two long-standing traditions creates havoc with relations between classes before and after the switch, and a delayed implementation provides for a more gradual shift.

We have been running some version of Pass/No Record grading for over thirty years, and an additional year will not poison the academic environment, but it will go a long way in providing for the health and continuity of MIT's strong living group culture.

Peter A. Shulman '01
Undergraduate Association President

The Tech thanks those who submitted forms for the Questions for the Community portion of Wednesday's debate.

**you have a voice,
let us hear your opinions**
<letters@the-tech.mit.edu>
The Tech

THE ARTS

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

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

Finding Forrester (★★★)

Good Will Hunting revisited with Robin Williams's humor replaced by Sean Connery's sexy voice. Newcomer Robert Brown essentially plays himself: a brilliant high school athlete from the projects who receives a scholarship to a private school. Warm, dusty sentimental scenes combine with the vivid, noisy life of New York City to create a literary film with humor rather than pretense. — Katharyn Jeffreys

The Gift (★★★)

Featuring the acting talents of Cate Blanchett, Greg Kinnear, and Hillary Swank, and boasting a screenplay by Tom Epperson and Billy Bob Thornton, *The Gift*, under the direction of Sam Raimi (*A Simple Plan*), seems the perfect formula for a good movie. And it is … to a point. While this yarn about a woman with a psychic gift has well-rounded characters and well-developed tension, the latter part of the film reads only as a thrills-a-minute horror film with little substance. Open it up … but know what to expect. — Debora Lui

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

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. — Jed Horne

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 the 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

DAVID LEE

Sontee (Regina King of *227* fame) and Chris Rock fall in love in *Down to Earth,* an updated version of 1978's *Heaven Can Wait*.

Sugar and Spice (★½)

What happens when the A-squad cheerleaders try to rob a bank? Plot muddles, character flaws, and general teenybopper chaos happen. With a flawed script, flat characters, and an unrealistic premise, *Sugar and Spice* flounders while trying to be clever. — Amy Meadows

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

Kelly-Douglas Traveling Fellowships

for MIT Juniors

Spring 2001

Fellowships of $1000 will be awarded to MIT juniors who are committed to further work in the humanities or arts and plan to travel in order to enhance their study.
Students whose study and travel plans relate to a major or minor in the School of Humanities, Arts & Social Science will be given preference, but all juniors are encouraged to apply.

Deadline: Wednesday, 11 April 2001

Application guidelines are available
in the Music & Theater Arts Office, 4-246,
and at
http://web.mit.edu/
mta/www/music/resources/kellytraveling/html

JUNIORS!

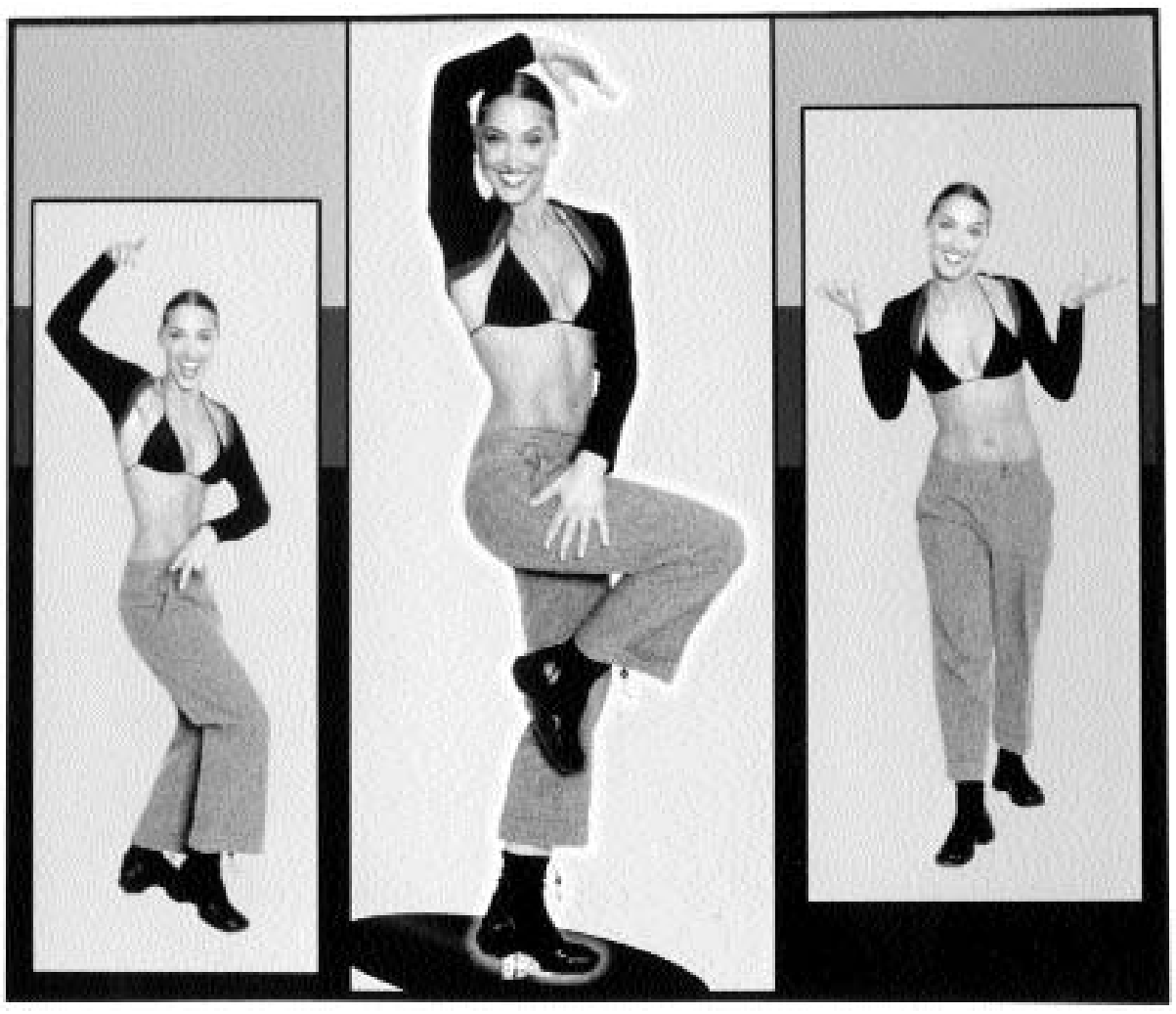
We finance FREE $$$ FOR *ALL* MAJORS!!!!

Are you wondering what is in store for you after graduation? Are you wondering how you can get a jump start over the competition? How does a guaranteed job paying over $33,000 for the first two years sound? What if that job came with guaranteed annual pay raises and promotions that will raise your salary to over $42,000 after two years and over $53,000 after four years? When you obtain these years can you imagine how your resume will look for your future. It will not show that your job was a fly-bye-night position paying $80,000 and after 1-year your career comes to a standstill because nobody would have ever heard of the company. The job I am talking about would give you security, a future, and a company that will always be in business. This job would also come with a tax break on portions of your salary, travel, eligibility to defer your student loans for up to three years, and at least 75% tuition assistance on your graduate degrees.
If this sounds enticing, call Major Wayne Daniels of MIT's Air Force ROTC program at (617)253-4475 or email: Danielsmaj@hotmail.com to find out how to take advantage of this opportunity and secure your future!
This offer is for MIT, HARVARD, TUFTS, & WELLESLEY!

On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston
March 2 – 9
Compiled by Fred Choi

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



UNIVERSAL RECORDS

Alice Deejay graces the stage on March 8 at Axis.

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, 80's. $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, MA (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. 3: Grand Theft Audio.
Mar. 8: Alice Deejay.
Mar. 9: Nullset.
Mar. 25: Lagwagon.
Apr. 1: Sick of It All.

Avalon
15 Lansdowne St.., 617-262-2424

Mar. 8: Xzibit.
Mar. 8: Tha Liks.
Mar. 11: Insane Clown Posse.
Mar. 11: Marz.
Mar. 11: Insolence.
Mar. 12: O-Town.
Mar. 13: Henry Rollins.
Mar. 17: Dropkick Murphys.
Mar. 17: Reach The Sky.
Mar. 17: Lars Frederiksen & the Bastards.
Mar. 17: The Living End.
Apr. 5: Cowboy Mouth.

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. 10: John Edward.
Mar. 11: The Singing Priests.
Mar.17: Kings of New York Comedy.
Mar. 19-20: Barrage.

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

Tuesdays: Open Mic at 8 p.m. (sign up at 7:30). $5.
Mar. 2: Barbara Kessler.
Mar. 3: Lynn Miles.
Mar. 4: Martin Carthy.
Mar. 7: New Faces with Peter Neuendorffer, Blue Goddess, Kieran Ridge.
Mar. 8: Christopher Williams, Rebecca Martin opens.
Mar. 9: Jim's Big Ego
Mar. 10: Cosy Sheridan, Bernice Lewis opens.
Mar. 11: Touchable Stories Benefit Show.

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. 13: The Donnas, Bratmobile, Mooney Sukuzi.
Mar. 22: Kool Keith w/ Smut Peddlers.
Mar. 30: Planetary Group Presents: Amfibian featuring Tom Marshall.
Mar. 31: Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks.

Orpheum Theatre
1 Hamilton Pl. , Boston, 617-679-0810
Ticketmaster: 931-2000

Mar. 3: moe.
Mar. 11: OutKast.
Mar. 20: Jeff Beck.

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

Mar. 4: Ladysmith Black Mambazo.
Mar. 10: BeauSoleil.
Mar. 23: John Gorka.

Tsongas Arena
Lowell, MA
Ticketmaster: 931-2000.

Mar. 15: Pantera.
Mar. 28: Ani Difranco. $26.50.

T.T. the Bear's Place
10 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-492-BEAR

Call for schedule.

Jazz Music

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

Mar. 2-3: Tommy Flanagan Trio.
Mar. 23: Roomful of Blues.
Mar. 23: Bill Summers.

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

Mar. 2-3: Clark Terry.
Mar. 7: Geoffrey Gee.
Mar. 9-10: Ray Barretto & New World Spirit.
Mar. 14: Andre Ward.
Mar. 15-16: Warren Hill & Jeff Golub.
Mar. 18: Joe Sample & Lalah Hathaway.
Mar. 21: Bombay Jim and the Swinging Sapphires.
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. 8, 10, 14 at 8 p.m., Mar. 9 at 1:30 p.m.: Stravinsky: Suite from Pulcinella; Bernstein: Halil, Nocturne for flute, string orchestra, and percussion; Brahms: Symphony No. 2. Bernard Haitink, conductor; Jacques Zoon, flute. Pre-performance talk given by Hugh Macdonald. Mar. 10 performance sold out.

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.

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

Theater

Crazy for You
Thurs.-Sat. Mar. 8-10 at 8 p.m., Sun. Mar. 11 at 7 p.m., Sat. and Sun. Mar. 10-11 at 2 p.m. at the Boston Conservatory Theater (31 Hemenway St., Boston). The Boston Conservatory presents the Broadway hit which celebrates the exuberance of a Broadway determined to ride out the Depression with high style and New Deal optimism. Book by Ken Ludwig, Lyrics by Ira Gershwin, Music by George Gershwin. Tickets: $26 general, $13 seniors, $7 students. For more info or for reservations, call the box office at 617-912-9142.

The Doctor's Dilemma
Through Mar. 14. At the Loeb Drama Center (64 Brattle St., Cambridge 02138), presented by the A.R.T. and directed by David Wheeler, by George Bernard Shaw. London's finest physician is on the horns of a dilemma — having discovered a miracle cure for tuberculosis, should he treat a penniless fellow doctor or save a talented yet unscrupulous artist? A keen-eyed examination of medical morals and malpractice and a witty and compassionate comedy. Call 617-547-8300 or visit <*http://www.amrep.org*> for more information or to reserve tickets.

Mother Courage and her Children
Through Mar. 18: At the Loeb Drama Center (64 Brattle St., Cambridge 02138), presented by the A.R.T. With war raging all around, a desperate woman mockingly nicknamed for her cowardice under fire — struggles to keep her business and her family alive. Hungarian director Janos Szasz makes his U.S. debut in this visionary production, based on Bertolt Brecht's classic masterpiece of struggle and survival. Call 617-547-8300 or visit <*http://www.amrep.org*> for more information or to reserve tickets.

Amphitryon
Mar. 9-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 pm. 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
Mar. 14-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.

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*>.

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 ground-breaking 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*>.

Poland Through the Prism of Andrzej Wajda
Through Mar. 11: The Harvard Film Archive and The National Center for Jewish Film at Brandeis announce a landmark retrospective to honor the Academy Award winning director Andrzej Wajda ("the father of modern Polish cinema") and to celebrate his 75th birthday. The HFA screenings will be held in the Carpenter Center 24 Quincy Street in Cambridge. tickets $7, Students & Srs $5. Visit www.harvardfilmarchive.org for a complete schedule. The National Center for Jewish Films series will be held in the Edieand Lew Wasserman Cinematheque (in the Sachar Center) on the Brandeis campus in Waltham. All tickets $6. For more information or group sales call 781-736-8600 or visit their website at www.jewishfilm.org. No reserved seating.

FRED'S PICK OF THE WEEK

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. At the Institute of Contemporary Art (955 Boylston St., Boston, 02115, 617-266-5152). Admission $6 adults, $4 students and seniors, free to children under 12 and members. Admission free on Thursday evenings after 5 p.m. For more information visit <*icaboston.org*>.

March 2, 2001

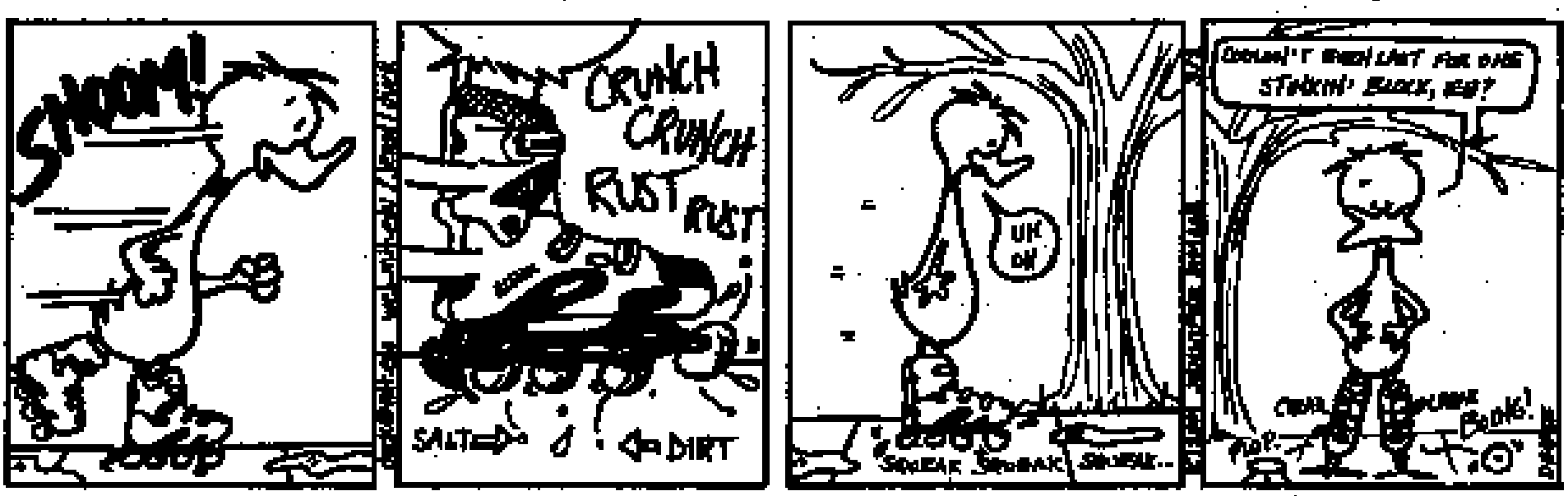
COMICS FUN PAGES

The Tech

Page 9

Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase



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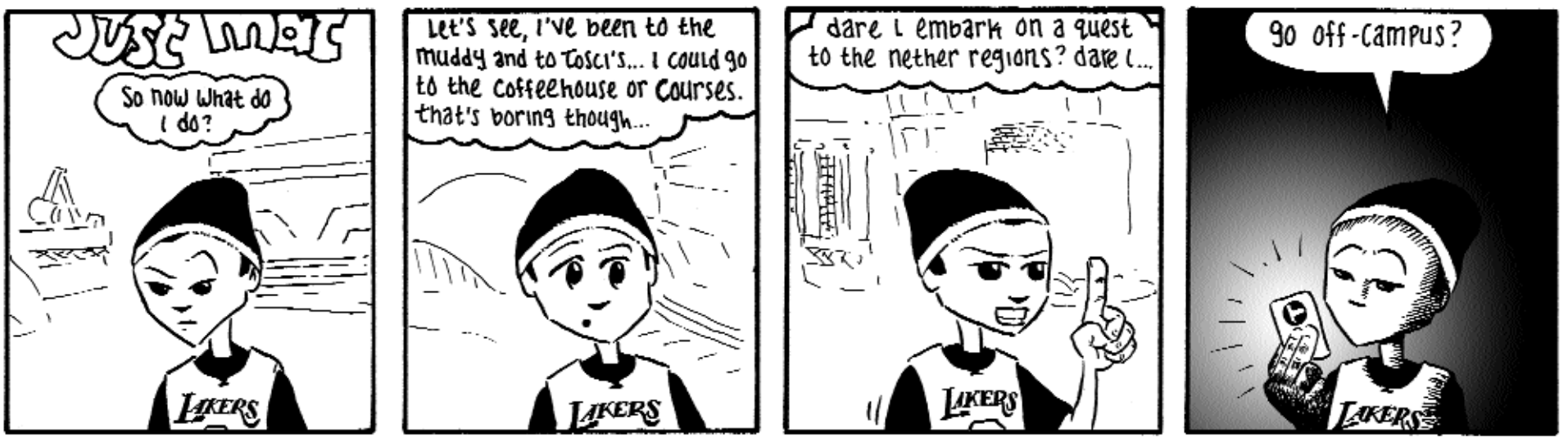
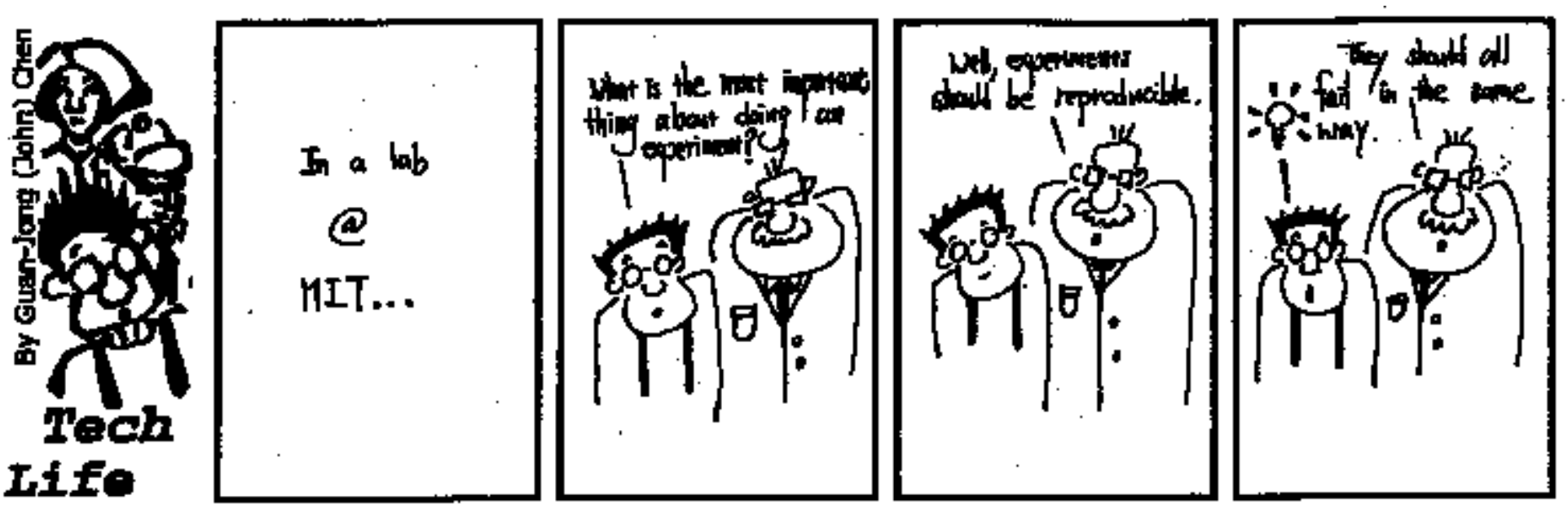
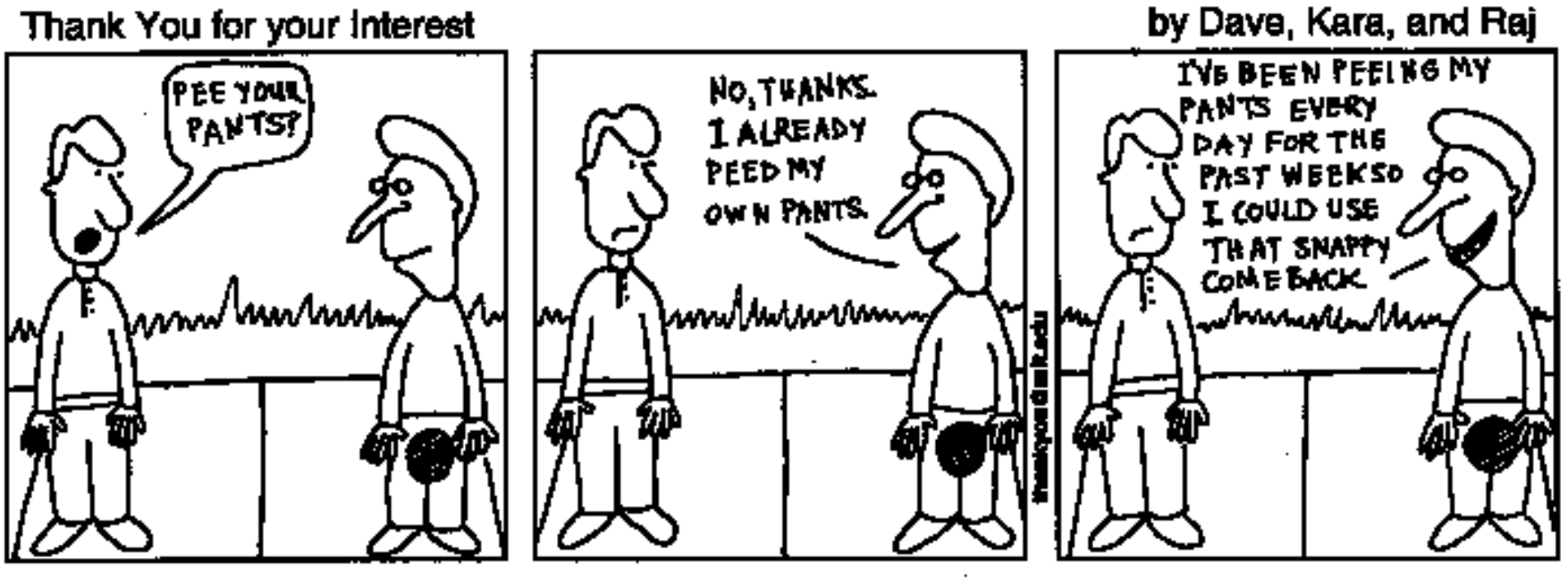


INSTITVTE MADNESS!

BY ALISON WONG





QUESTION OF THE WEEK

The UA wants to know:

What do you think are examples of the most/least effectively used spaces at MIT?

Submit responses to ua@mit.edu or use our comment form http://web.mit.edu/ua/www

Paid Advertisement

strip in
American University
ran 2/6 p18
2x3

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page XX

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

TechCalendar

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

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

Friday, March 2

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. – **FileMaker Pro User Group.** free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – **"Haptics: Hands, Brains, and Virtual Environments".** free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: ME Seminar Series.
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **MacVicar Day.** Teaching Demonstrations. free. Room: Grier Room 34-401. Sponsor: Provost's Office. MacVicar Fellows.
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. – **Discerning God's Will about my Relationships.** Lisa Lamb will speak on dealing with the issues faced by graduate students in their family/friend/romantic relationships, and how God fits into these relationships. free. Room: Student Center West Lounge (W20-201). Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.
8:00 p.m. – **MIT Guest Artist Series: Artis String Quartet.** Peter Schuhmayer, violin; Johannes Meissle, violin; Herbert Kefer, viola; Othmar Muller, cello. Haydn's *Quartet in C Minor*, Op. 74, No. 3 "The Rider; Berg's String Quartet, Op. 3; Webern's *Five Movements for String Quartet*, Op. 5; Zemlinsky's *String Quartet No. 3*, Op. 19. free. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

Saturday, March 3

1:00 p.m. – **ToBGLAD Week - GABLES Lunch.** It's ToBGLAD (Transgender, Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Awareness Days) Week at MIT. Monthly lunch for MIT BGALA (Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Alums). All members of the MIT community are welcome. MIT BGALA will be holding board member elections (we have several open seats) during this month's lunch. One of the activities discussed for this year is a dinner event during graduation week. Royal East Restaurant, 782 Main St., Cambridge. Phone: (617) 661-1660. Sponsor: LBGT Issues Group. MIT BGALA.
8:00 p.m. – **Festival Jazz Ensemble: The Music of Guillermo Klein.** Guillermo Klein, guest composer and conductor. Fred Harris, director. World Premiere of a new work by Argentine native and NYC based composer, Guillermo Klein, for Jazz Ensemble and String Orchestra; Klein's *El Espejo*; Mingus' *Haitian Fight Song*, *Sue's Changes*; Nelson's *Emancipation Blues*. Pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. $2 at the door. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

Sunday, March 4

1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – **Ballroom Dance Lessons.** Mambo/Salsa 1 at 1p.m., Cha-Cha 2 at 2p.m., Tango 3 at 4:30p.m. Free social dancing from 3:30-4:30p.m. $1 to $5. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Ballroom Dance Club.

Monday, March 5

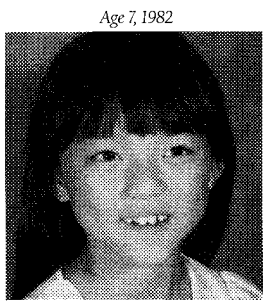
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – **ToBGLAD Week - Meet the Bunch Lunch.** It's ToBGLAD (Transgender, Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Awareness Days) Week at MIT. A brown bag lunch for faculty, staff, and students to get to know each other. Come for the whole 2 hours, or just stop by for lunch, a snack, or a quick hello. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Bring your own lunch. free. Room: West Lounge (W20-201). Sponsor: LBGT Issues Group.
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – **Web Publishing Overview (Formerly HTML Demo).** This three-hour lecture/demonstration session gives an overview of the electronic publishing process as it works at MIT, focusing on: how to code files using HTML tags (HTML is the HyperText Markup Language, the standard for publishing on the Web), how to upload files to the Athena system for delivery through MIT's primary Web server, web.mit.edu. Special attention is paid to issues affecting websites at MIT (MITnet rules of use, Athena file conventions, special services available on web.mit.edu, etc.). free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **"Projective maps and invariants of symplectic 4-manifolds."** free. Room: 4-159. Sponsor: Differential Geometry Seminar. Department of Mathematics.
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. – **Aga Khan Lecture: The Historical Imagination: The Place of Mimesis is the Study of Islamic Architecture in Iran**. free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture.
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – **ToBGLAD - Gay at MIT: A Student Panel**. It's ToBGLAD (Transgender, Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Awareness Days) Week at MIT. Students speak out on a panel about what it's like to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender at MIT. Hear about students experiences being out and about inside and outside the world of MIT. free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: LBGT Issues Group.

Tuesday, March 6

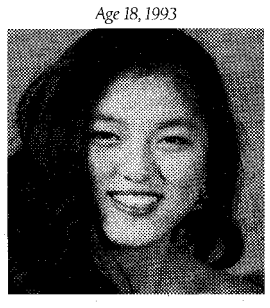
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – **The Discovery of the Electron and the Atomism Debate.** Dibner Institute Lunchtime Colloquia. free. Room: E56-100. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – **Excel User Group.** free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. – **Alexander Lobkovsky.** Refreshments will be served at 3:30 PM in Room 2-349. free. Room: Room 2-338. Sponsor: Physical Mathematics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – **MTL VLSI Seminar Series.** The Design and Analysis of the Clock Distribution Network for a 1.2 GHz Alpha Microprocessor. free. Room: 34-101. Sponsor: MTL VLSI Seminar.
4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – **Gas Turbine Seminar Series.** TBA. free. Room: 31-161. Sponsor: Gas Turbine Laboratory.
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – **"How Do People Think About the Norms of War? Insights from a 1999 Survey in Core Conflict Areas".** Mr. Holleufer is Head of the People on War Project, International Committee of the Red Cross, and Visiting Fellow, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health. This is a session of the Inter-University Seminar on International Migration. free. Room: E38-615. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.
4:30 p.m. – **"A Two-State Solution in the Holy Land: Is There Still Time?"** A session of the Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar. free. Room: E51-095. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – **ToBGLAD Week - The State of LBGT Politics in Massachusetts.** It's ToBGLAD (Transgender, Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Awareness Days) Week at MIT. Join openly-gay Cambridge State Representative Jarrett Barrios and activists from the state in a discussion about issues facing the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities in Massachusetts. Don't miss this important discussion. free. Room: TBA. Sponsor: LBGT Issues Group. Q: The Journal of Sexual Orientation and Public Policy at Harvard (http://www.qjournal.org).
6:30 p.m. – **Fourth Felix Candela Lecture. "What Can Structures Do for Architecture?"** Talk by Mamoru Kawaguchi, structural engineer; professor, Hosei University, Tokyo. free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Department of Architecture.

Crossword Solution

from page 10



Age 7, 1982



Age 18, 1993

Elizabeth Suto.

Killed by a drunk driver on February 27, 1994, on Bell Blvd. in Cedar Park, Texas.

If you don't stop your friend from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

U.S. Department of Transportation

This space donated by *The Tech*

Candidates Attack, Parry in UAP Debate

UA Debate, from Page 1

student representation and involvement in the UA. They said that the Shulman administration has been "sugarcoating" interactions with the administration and not involving a diverse enough range of student interests.

Rao said that his year off from the UA since his election bid last year has allowed him to take a step back and see the problems with the UA. His ticket said that it would work on issues of mental health, confidential medical transport, online learning, residence-based advising, and the freshman program.

Devereaux and Neizmik acknowledged that more student input is necessary but cited recent efforts for input including an online web feedback forum, the UA's Question of the Week box in *The Tech*, and UA office hours.

The dark horse ticket of Creighton from Tau Epsilon Phi and VP candidate Margaret V. Stringfellow '03 from Senior House functioned as their own sideshow to the debate. The ticket characterized the UA as mired in committees and said their highest priorities would be to increase the frequency and range of Safe Ride runs and bring back social activities such as UA Heart-to-Heart, the Infinite Buffet, and the Millennium Ball.

In the question-and-answer period Spring Weekend organizer Satwiksai Seshasai '01 said that the UA is already working on a new Millennium Ball this year called the Odyssey Ball, to which Creighton responded, "So that part's easy."

Creighton challenges Rao

Perhaps the most lively part of the debate was the cross-examination period, when Creighton had the opportunity to "prove" that the Rao/Agarwal ticket should not be on the ballot. Citing an obscure UA election rule requiring all petition signatures to be gathered on UA paper and requiring the papers to be stapled with UA staplers, Creighton repeatedly questioned Rao, "Should you be on the ballot?"

Rao said, "I think students want more candidates on the ballot" and "it depends on how you interpret it."

Creighton's questioning followed an insinuation in his opening remarks that Rao was responsible for Creighton's appearance before the Dean for Student Discipline and the UA Judicial Board.

In fact, in an e-mail to the mit-talk mailing list last night, Next House resident Raj S. Dandage '02 said he filed the complaint against Creighton and Stringfellow. Dandage said the team was over 100 signatures short and that placing them on the ballot would set a "dangerous precedent."

In their cross-examination periods, Rao and Devereaux focused almost exclusively on each other. Rao questioned why the UA took so long to act on TEAL and why the UA failed to represent MIT before *The Boston Globe*.

Rao also criticized Devereaux's unwillingess to reach out to her constituents. "You want students to come to you, when you should be going to the students," he said.

Devereaux, who appeared the most restrained of the candidates in her attacks, quizzed Rao about specific UA policies and relations with other student governments.

The debate was hosted and moderated by *The Tech*.

Online voting begins at 10 p.m. on March 4, and paper balloting is on March 9.

Creighton Likely To Be Reinstated

By Brian Loux
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Undergraduate Association Judicial Review Board voted Wednesday night to remove Rhett Creighton '02 and Margaret V. Stringfellow '03 from the UA presidential ballot. However, the ticket has acted quickly and will most likely be reinstated on the ballot.

The decision stemmed from a petition sent to the UA Election Commission claiming that Creighton and Stringfellow's petition for candidacy contained too few signatures to be valid, and that according to the UA constitution, their ticket must be dropped from the ballot. Next House resident Raj S. Dandage '02 said in an e-mail to mit-talk yesterday night that he in fact filed the complaint.

The ruling said that the commission also holds the right to place them back on the ballot if they attain a sufficient amount of signatures and find that it would not place an undue burden on the election committee. The Election Commission also reserves the right to allow the ticket to participate in debates and other election activities, the Judicial Board ruling stated.

Judicial Board Chair Sandra C. Sandoval '00 stated that "the initial complaint was that the ticket was put on the ballot unconstitutionally. We looked at the Election Code ... and made a decision that we thought was based on the Constitution and the stipulations of the Election Code. We decided that [the ultimate decision of putting the ticket back on the ballot] rested in the hands of the Election Commission, not Judboard."

Creighton said that he felt the incident was "a little unnecessary. To resolve the issue, I had to speak to the Election Commission, then [Assistant Dean] Carol Orme-Johnson, then Judboard, then the Election Commission again, who had already made a decision on the matter." Creighton called the decision of Judboard to give the Election Commission the ruling on the matter a "fair" and "understandable" conclusion to the incident, and added that he was happy to be back on the campaign.

Both presidential/vice presidential tickets of Sanjay K. Rao '02/Jyoti Agarwal '03 and Jaime E. Devereaux '02/Allison L. Neizmik '02 sent messages to the *mit-talk* mailing list Thursday morning supporting the retention of the Creighton/Stringfellow ticket on the ballot.

Creighton said that the team has already handed in their new petition with 430 signatures, leaving their readmittance once again up to the Election Commission.

Second Thoughts?

- *Having second thoughts if medical school or graduate school is right for you at this moment?*
- *Have you considered working at a top phamaceutical company for a few years before heading back to school?*
- *Work on process research for biologicals such as HIV vaccines, vectors for gene therapy and biocatalytic systems.*

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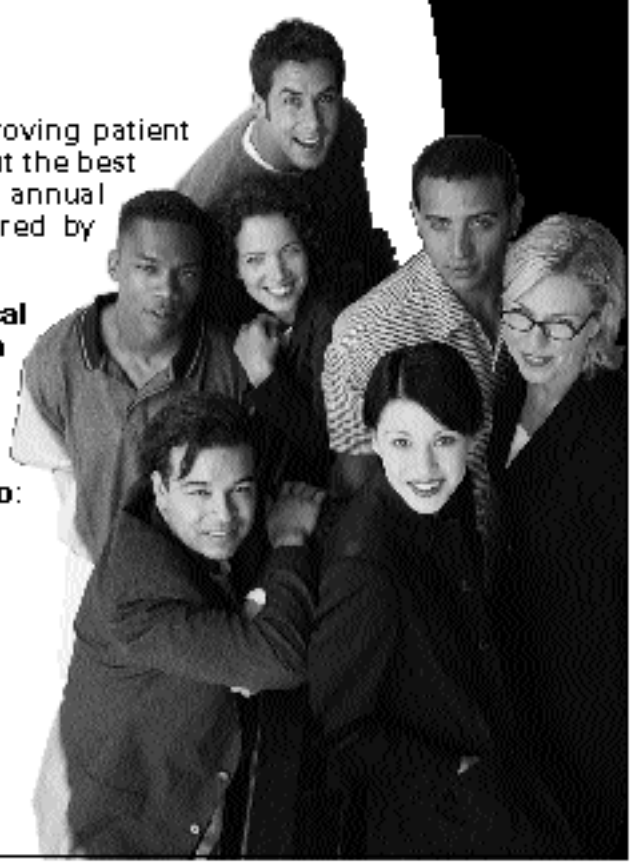

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SEPHIR HAMILTON—THE TECH

Gus Solomons '61 tells how he went from an MIT architecture degree to pursue a career in New York City as a choreographer and dancer at an event in Du Pont last night. In October he received MIT's first Robert A. Muh Award, which honors a graduate for noteworthy contributions in humanities, arts, or social sciences.

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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

2001 UAP/VP Elections

Experience, Goals, and Commitment

Jaime Devereaux and Allison Neizmik

Why should you vote for Jaime Devereaux and Allison Neizmik for UA President and Vice President? The answer is clear: we have the experience, goals, and commitment necessary to create a successful year for the UA and its members, all undergraduate students.

1) Experience. We have worked for over two years on improving the quality of life for students here at MIT. Our experience within the UA includes membership on the Committee on Student Life, Committee on Housing and Orientation, Student Committee on Educational Policy, and Nominations Committee. We have been involved at the Institute on the Student Center Strategic Planning Committee, the Transitions Group, the MacVicar Advisory Committee, the UA/GSC Strategic Capital Planning Committee, and the Alcohol Education Working Group. They both currently serve on the UA Coordinating Committee.

Jaime became involved in the UA as a representative for MacGregor on the UA Council, our representative government. She worked on SCEP, CHO, and NomComm and is currently serving as the Speaker of the UA Council.

Allison began in the UA as a Class of 2002 Social Chair and is currently the UA Public Relations Chair. She served on CSL and SCEP, and also chairs the UA Student Center planning committee.

We've advocated for students on a number of issues this year alone. These include TEAL and the reading room, increased funding for student groups, the student response to the Pass/No-Record report, alcohol policy and medical transport, and mental health at MIT. It takes time and effort to truly know how decisions are made here and how to fight effectively for students, and we have gained a wealth of necessary knowledge doing this.

2) Goals. We will ensure that student government works *for* students. We will create avenues for student input and expand those that already exist. Using the faculty and administrative contacts we've built this year, we will hit the ground running as advocates for student positions.

With a strong presidential team and the support of the student body, the UA can look forward to a number of accomplishments: more funding for social events through the Class Councils and Large Event Funding; helping to implement changes in MIT's alcohol policy; expanding usage of the MIT Card; ensuring effective use of the newly opened Transitions space; and improving faculty/student advising are projects we have already begun. New projects such as SafeRide expansion, Student Center and Walker Renovations, and student input gathering to plan for the upcoming changes in the dining system offer exciting opportunities for students to make a difference in the upcoming year.

3) Commitment. We are committed to making the UA more accessible as a resource for students, emphasizing the fact that every undergraduate can and should approach their representative, or any other UA officer, with questions or concerns about Institute issues. We have already realized some distinct steps in that direction: broadcasting UA Council sessions and developing better communication networks between councilors and their constituencies leaves a visible impression of what an active student government can do for students.

On the other side, we want to know what concerns all undergraduates have. In our current roles in the UA, we have already begun to gather student input on issues through the online UA comment form, the Transitions comment sheets, and the new UA Question of the Week in *The Tech.*

We constitute a diverse team, coming from different areas of campus and with different backgrounds and interests. We will use our strengths and experiences as student advocates to represent the needs, concerns, and ideas of all undergraduates to bring about positive change on our campus.

Promote Ideas, Student Organizations

Rhett Creighton and Maggie Stringfellow

We hope to bring a variety of ideas to the Undergraduate Association so that it does a better job of representing the campus-wide ideas of the undergraduate student body. We hope to increase the number of recognized student activity groups.

Student organizations are a very important part of MIT. They are a place for students to express their talents and ideas; we hope to keep expanding the options that people have to do this.

Here is how we stand some issues that are important to us:

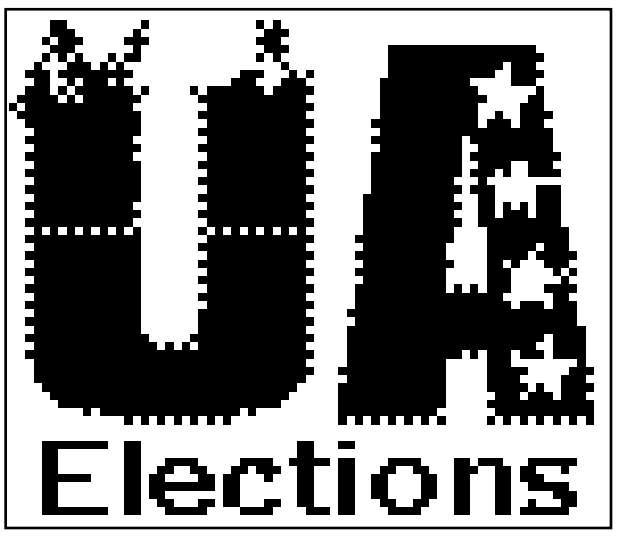
1) Anonymous Medical Transport. The petition of last fall demonstrated that this is a campus-wide concern. We will try very hard to see that anonymous medical transport becomes a reality at MIT.

2) UA Heart-to-Heart. We can't comprehend why anyone would kill this. MIT is supposed to be the most wired university in the country. How could we not have a computer dating service on Valentine's Day? We will absolutely make sure this is brought back.

3) Millennium Ball. We feel that the Millennium Ball was a very successful school-wide party. This event united the entire student body more than anything else. We are strong advocates of an annual "Millennium" Ball.

4) *The Mass. Ave. Bridge.* Crossing the bridge is awful, and waiting half an hour to cross it is a waste of MIT students' already scarce time. We hope to initiate an "express" SafeRide that ferries students across the bridge and back to MIT.

5) ILTFP. We support all forms of student freedom. We will not stand for anyone sacrificing any part of MIT to save face with the press or for any other petty reason. As UA President and Vice President, we will have many opportunities to talk with Chuck Vest and other MIT administrators, acting as representatives of the student body. We intend to hold the values of "ILTFP" throughout our term.



Electronic voting will be begin on March 4 after the Class of 2002 debate, and will end on Thursday, March 8. Paper balloting will be held on Friday, March 9, and election results will be announced on March 10 at noon.

A Strong, Effective UA Working for You

Sanjay K. Rao and Jyoti Agarwal

To MIT Undergraduates:

Demand passionate student advocates. Demand an effective student government. Demand an administration that will listen to your ideas and improve your life.

It is time for the UA to work for each of you and represent you effectively to the administration. It is time that your views and opinions were not just left to discussions but formed into actions carried out by an efficient and truly concerned leadership.

We present to you a different UA that is proactive and dynamic in creating Institute-wide, policy-driven change. We bring to our UA experience, action, energy, passion, student advocacy, and concrete ideas.

Hi, my name is Sanjay K. Rao and I am a junior at MIT. In the past I have served as a UA Councilor, a UA Cabinet Member, Sophomore Class President (Class of 2002), Freshman Class President (Class of 2002), a member of the UA Nominations Committee, a member of the UA Student Committee on Educational Policy, a member of the UA Subcommittee on Faculty Student Relations and Advising, and a member of the MIT Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Committee.

Hi, my name is Jyoti Agarwal and I am a sophomore at MIT in Alpha Phi. I enjoy working with students on campus-wide events including the Habitat for Humanity Sleep Out and the upcoming Concert for Humanity. I am a member of the 2003 Class Ring Committee, a Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity, Director of Alpha Phi Campus Activities and Internal Events and a member of the UA Committee on Faculty Student Relations and Advising.

Most importantly, we would like to help create a UA that listens, represents, and responds to students' concerns while working effectively with the administration. While the UA has been successful in its work on the TEAL initiative, their list of accomplishments for the year is below our expectations.

Our advising system, the freshman program, Pass/No Record, renovation of the reading room, and other issues on campus need active direction. Further, the UA still has not delivered solid plans to address issues such as Anonymous Medical Transport, MIT's Mental Health system, and preparation for the 2002 housing changes. Student groups including class council still receive little support other than money from the UA.

Demand better. Both of us have experience working with the administration and will be your active student representatives on these and other issues.

In addition to actively working on the issues around campus, we have a number of ideas to improve student representation and student life. For example, we would like to create a UA Committee devoted to student representation.

Additionally, we would like to create the "SafeRide Express" which travels across the Mass. Ave. Bridge every 15 minutes, and to expand the Tech Shuttle's route so that it travels between FSILGs and campus in the morning and afternoon.

Further, we would like to create a new UA Government Relations Committee that will work with local and national governments and students, dorms, and FSILGs to resolve issues that affect MIT students.

These are just a few ideas that we hope to work on. We are pretty down-to-earth people and would really like to work with you and address the issues you care about most. If you are looking for experience, dedication, advocacy, ideas and an effective UA that works for you then vote for Rao/Agarwal for UA President/Vice President. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at: <*sanjay@mit.edu*> or <*jyoti@mit.edu*>. For a detailed platform statement please visit: <*http://www.voteRao.com*>.

After This Election Is Over

Jason H. Wasfy

On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States with only 40 percent of the popular vote. Southerners began to talk openly of secession, and South Carolina would withdraw from the Union six weeks later. After the election, Sen. Stephen Douglas, who challenged Lincoln most strongly in the North, realized that this bitter, less-than-decisive election would threaten the nation's fabric at a very precarious time. Douglas — who was one of the new president-elect's most visible detractors — said, "Partisan feeling must yield to patriotism. I'm with you, Mr. President, and God bless you."

That gesture has become one of the most enduring symbols of reconciliation in the face of a common threat. Al Gore used that quote in December when he conceded his election to George W. Bush.

Last spring after the UA election, student government at MIT faced a similar task. Those of us who ran in that election (those three elections, to be precise, because of the re-runs) had endured a longer-than-expected ordeal marred by controversy, bitterness, a broken vote-counting computer, and confusing election rules. The mess of rule violations and re-run elections provided an avenue for defeated candidates to appeal endlessly to the UA Judicial Board long after the election ended.

But none of us took that route. The other candidates for president and vice-president believed as I did that we needed to sacrifice our own ambitions for the good of the undergraduate student body. Since none of these avenues for appeal would likely have reversed the outcome of the election, we sent out messages of reconciliation instead of firing off appeal after fruitless appeal. Some of us, myself included, approached Peter A. Shulman '01 and Mendel Chuang '02 and asked them how we could best continue to serve the UA under their leadership.

If the 2001 UA Presidential Election turns out to be as messy as last year's race, the losing candidates should follow last year's example. That's not to say that they should challenge and appeal elections decisions when they see fit, particularly if they feel wronged. I have the utmost confidence that Sandra C. Sandoval '00 — a woman of great ability and integrity — and her Judicial Board will deal fairly with complaints.

But if this election ends with vague cracks of doubt about the legitimacy of the election after it ends, a scenario that now seems likely, the losing candidates should think twice before undercutting the legitimacy of the winners by filing endless appeals.

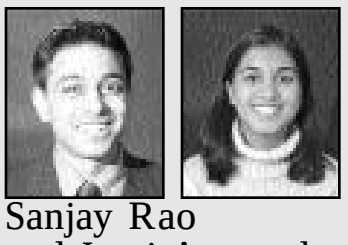
I don't mean to imply that the situation that faces the UA now is nearly as dire as the situation that faced the United States in 1860. This is just student government at MIT, after all, not a national government about to face its most trying military conflict. And no one at MIT has ever seriously doubted the legitimacy of the UA or of its leaders. But students at MIT need to continue working for a more pro-student education policy and deeper resources for student life. And to do that, we need to ensure that the 2001 election produces student leaders without lingering doubts about their legitimacy or their mandate.

My expectations are for a hard-fought race that will explore the role of the UA in the broader context of student advocacy and that will touch on a whole range of policy positions. The race may be tough. It should be. But once the race is over, no matter how messy the election may have been,I hope that all the candidates remember the very real challenges that we students face here at MIT. And I hope they also remember how important a strong UA will be in beginning to tackle those challenges.

SCORECARDS

Rhett Creighton and Maggie Stringfellow

Jamie Devereaux and Allison Neizmik



Sanjay Rao and Jyoti Agarwal

Vote

PHOTOS BY JAMES CAMP AND SAPHIR HAMILTON

Philip Burrowes

Rhett is not a psychopath. This may seem like damningly faint praise, but it is important to realize that he is neither a maniac nor incompetent. While he admittedly is more ebullient than the other candidates, this is hardly a detriment. Furthermore, he seems both sincere in wanting to incorporate previously unheard voices into the UA. The fact of the matter is he would also alienate a substantial sample of people involved in the UA, as stodgy or unwanted as their opinions may be (and that's no way to talk about your professors anyway).

Maggie is a jazz musician, which is always fun.

I personally have a problem with people who consider meeting residents of Random Hall an experience. The Fantastic Four Freak Dorms (Bexley, East Campus, Random, and Senior Haus) are not so special. Who cares if you finally got to meet a few of the rumored weirdos while out on the campaign trail? Aside from the special ethnic composition of Bexley (and the fact that it has highest quality of dorm: reputation of dorm ratio I could ever imagine) they're all pretty ordinary. New House or an ILG is honestly more interesting.

They have a quasi-professional air to them (including a relatively nice web site: <*http://www.voteRao.com*>) that would impress if only it didn't seem so unctuous. Yes, they have a wide platform that seems to appeal to most people, but what is it about "The Freshman Program" or "Faculty-Student Relations" that they can address beyond the level which sounds good to say while running for office? What have they done besides serving as parts of bodies that seem like they Probably-Did-Something-But-Who-Can-Tell-Nowadays? The ticket at least sounds great; Rao/Agarwal would make an excellent U.N. acronym.

Rao/Agarwal

While "experience" does not translate into either knowledge or ability, the lack thereof is pretty much synonymous with ignorance. The dilemma lies in coordinating some sort of procedural knowledge with a substantive understanding of its effects. Basically, by loose interpretation of disjunctive inference (assuming there are only three choices), I must opt for Rao/Agarwal.

Mike Hall

Rhett and Maggie are the greatest assets to this election. As Maggie said at Wednesday's debate, they are the representatives of those without significant representation in the Undergraduate Association. That fact alone makes them legitimate candidates, JudBoard edicts be damned.

If he tried, Rhett could be an effective leader. He's popular and can play to a crowd. He also did his homework and offered a sensible platform.

At the same time, I can't shake the feeling that Rhett's running as a gimmick. Additionally, his main goals involve simple issues (Heart-to-Heart, for example) that he could address without being UAP.

Jaime and Allison's platform focuses on three points: experience, goals, and commitment. Because of their service this year in high-level UA positions, they beat the other tickets hands down on the first and third points. Their goals are generally in line with the platforms of other candidates, which is fine by me.

The concern I have with these candidates is their distance from the general student body. Jaime's my neighbor on the famed Fourth Floor Beltway. Will she venture off the Beltway to meet with real students? Given her reliance on a "web form" and other UA reps for student feedback, I fear that she'll never turn onto the exit ramp.

Sanjay has earned my respect by coming back to run again this year. It takes guts to face the same student body (and newspaper) that turned him down before. He's also brought a fresh perspective with him after a year looking at the UA from the outside. He's also more likely than Jaime to elicit student opinions on key issues and to act on them.

Legitimate questions remain, however, about Sanjay's conduct during the campaign. He was not as honest as possible in his dealings with his opposition and the media. Additionally, Jyoti evokes memories of James "Who am I? Why am I here?" Stockdale. Her posted qualifications are insufficient at best and misleading at worst.

Rao/Devereaux

These two are the best of what's around. I believe that Rhett and Maggie aren't serious candidates and that Jyoti is unqualified. That leaves one outsider and two insiders. Of those two, I pick Jaime as my insider because I believe she's done more for the UA than has Allison.

Sanjay's UAP because he's the classic "Mr. Outside." He'll talk to students and get them more involved. Jaime's UAVP because, as a "Ms. Inside," she's be more adept at improving the UA from within.

Ken Nesmith

Creighton and Stringfellow bring a tornado of fresh air to the traditional UA scene. They are disgusted with the predictable, buzzword-laden banter of campaigning that fails to translate into action. They hope to upset what they see as the stagnant, foul marsh of student government through aggressive pursuit of concrete, obtainable, student-oriented objectives such as an upgraded Safe Ride service, more "Millenium Balls," AMT, and the return of UA Heart-to-Heart. Their election, while unlikely thanks to their radical presentation and ignorance of pressing UA issues, would dramatically transform campus politics by fostering interest among traditionally underrepresented students.

Jamie Devereaux and Allison Neizmik, longtime Stratton Center insiders, can claim more hands-on experience in student government than any of the other candidates. These battle-hardened veterans of administrative wars and collaborations alike are familiar with the ins and outs and stay-the-hell-aways of the clunky bureaucratic web of deans, chancellors, committees, boards, councils, and the like. Their hard work over the past year made itself evident in the debates as they deftly parried aggressive cross-examination blows from Sanjay and Jyoti, while their affable personalities were revealed in their warm banter with the crowd and their fellow candidates.

Sanjay Rao and Jyoti Agarwal offer a polished package of admirable goals and objectives that they seek to achieve through tightened, efficiency-oriented management of the burgeoning UA infrastructure. Rao, after serving consecutive terms as 2002 class president, spent the last year outside of student government and insists that this has helped him to understand just how ineffective and irrelevant the UA remains in the eyes of most undergraduates. These candidates, like Creighton/Stringfellow, wish to refresh the stale slate of UA politicians, although somewhat less drasticly.

Devereaux/Neizmik

While Rao and Agarwal would bring genuine change to the UA, for whatever small amount that that's worth, Devereaux and Neizmik, thanks to their depth of experience, commitment to the betterment of student life, and strong relationships with the school's adminstrators, make ideal candidates for UA President and Vice President.

Kris Schnee

Rhett Creighton showed up to debate in a "High Weirdness Zone" T-shirt and rainbow suspenders. He yelled, stood on his chair, made nonsequitors, and lobbed a frivolous complaint against Rao while asking Jaime Devereaux how nice she was. He does not appear to take this campaign seriously. At least his presence provided some contrast to the UA insider culture.

Devereaux has experience in the UA and has important skills and administration contacts. She can do the job, but is she the best one for it? A relative outsider like Rao could bring fresh insight to the UA, and break the present trend of each UA president anointing the next.

Rao has some UA experience, but his ticket's reputation is questionable. Did he make as frivolous an attempt to stop Creighton's campaign as Creighton claimed? Rao denies he did, but someone apparently did. Agarwal claims she was on a committee, when her participation was limited to receiving e-mails. Rao also failed to give a straight answer to a simple question. Can we trust him to be straightforward with us as president? Maybe.

Rao/Devereaux

The split ticket chosen by *The Tech* offers a compromise between incumbent experience and outsider input. Rao's people skills make him well-suited to the president's role, while Devereaux can get things done without being in the limelight.

Christopher D. Smith

Rhett Creighton and Maggie Stringfellow want to do something to shake-up the monotony of personality and stasis of thought within the UA. This is good. Wednesday's debate demonstrated that they don't yet know what exactly constitutes a shake-up. This is bad. Creighton and Stringfellow are well-meaning in their goal, which includes providing much-needed adequate representation for students who live east and north of the Mass. Ave. divide. However, their repetitive insistence that the UA Heart-to-Heart program be reinstituted left those of us who live east of Mass. Ave. feeling cold and mocked.

Jaime Devereaux and Allison Neizmik demonstrated impressive familiarity with the latest UA initiatives and the current state of student-administration relations. Especially impressive was Neizmik, whose breadth of involvement in the Shulman administration's projects of the fall was exceedingly clear. This, though, proved confusing. Indeed, at times, Neizmik seemed to overtake her equally experienced presidential candidate, Devereaux, inspiring fantasies of a much more compelling Neizmik-Devereaux ticket. Despite their impressive institutional knowledge, neither Devereaux nor Neizmik seemed to grasp the urgency of the next UAP and VP being civic leaders more than technocrats. On summation, they left us wanting more.

Sanjay Rao and Jyoti Agarwal seemed to show a strong grasp of the present and future plight of Ulysses Undergraduate. In particular, Rao was a living model of the wonders that a year of sober reflection can do for the student office-holder. His criticism of the UA's current preoccupation with small initiatives was apt, and his stated belief that MIT student government was capable of more bold and relevant things inspired agreement.

Rao/Agarwal

Sanjay Rao and Jyoti Agarwal effectively bridged the gap between the Creighton and Devereaux tickets, presenting a compelling alternative of diverse student activist experience, practical new goals, and even that rarest of traits — populist vision. For this, Rao-Agarwal wins my vote.

Veena Thomas

The "other candidates." The other tickets don't appear to take them seriously. Blame Creighton's rainbow suspenders and their campaign promises of reviving UA Heart-to-Heart and the Millennium Ball. It would be easy to write off these candidates. Yet look closer, and you'll find the most honest, passionate ticket. Creighton rightly complains that the UA has become a closed culture, and he wants projects to concretely impact students' lives in some way. Don't worry, he has serious things planned too: expanding Safe Ride and CMT. At last, a breath of fresh air.

At first glance, nothing could beat this ticket of "UA insiders." In this case, however, too much experience makes them an unattractive ticket. Both have lost touch with students outside the UA. I asked them point-blank, "How would my life be different if the UA didn't exist?" Their answer: TEAL would be in the reading room, and we wouldn't have UA committees. Shouldn't the UA do more than move programs from room to room? And what do all those committees do — bud off and form new committees? Electing this ticket would perpetuate the same ineffective UA we've seen this year. It's time for a fresh perspective.

This ticket claims they can provide the perfect combination: one UA insider, someone with "an outside perspective" (read: little experience). The ticket appears very presidential. Maybe a little too presidential: during the debate, Rao hedged on a simple yes/no question.

Agarwal boldly advertises that she's on a UA committee (read: she blanched herself to the mailing list just before postering). I can do without such political maneuverings. The dizzying array of committees they've planned for their administration doesn't attract me at all. I want to see real action.

Creighton/Stringfellow

Send a message by voting for them too. The current UA represents only the UA, not the rest of the student body. Remember the "Save the Dot" protest? It worked. No committees, just passionate students committed to a cause. See passion in the current UA? I didn't think so. This ticket got me excited to vote just when I thought it was hopeless. If all those people who feel ignored by the current UA vote for Creighton/Stringfellow, we'll see real change in the UA next year. What do we have to lose?

Jyoti Tibrewala

Creighton and Stringfellow bring a new face to the ballot this year. They represent the portion of the student population they claim current and past administrations ignore. Creighton's primary reasons for running are the above along with his belief that the student body wants someone who isn't already entrenched in the system; the risk one runs with this is losing touch with the student body.

They also come in with some interesting-sounding ideas — I'm a freshman, so you'll have to excuse my enthusiasm here — such as the return of campus-uniting events such as UA Heart-to-Heart and the Infinite Buffet. Unfortunately, most of Creighton and Stringfellow's focus seems to be on social events and bashing their opponents.

Devereaux and Neizmik are the typical ticket in this year's race. Both have been heavily involved with the UA for years, and they made a point of mentioning it. The answer to almost every question included at least one mention of projects already up and running that they have plans to continue. While it is certainly an asset to the ticket to have so much experience with the association, it isn't always such a good idea to flaunt it. Devereaux and Neizmik managed to convey that they have plans to continue current projects but that they are hard-pressed for ideas that would belong wholly to their administration.

Unlike Creighton and Stringfellow, the Rao/Agarwal ticket carries past UA and campus-wide involvement. Also unlike Creighton and Stringfellow, these two candidates actually seem interested more in the issues than in social events. Agarwal pointed out the current administration's failure to deliver plans addressing such issues as anonymous medical transport, MIT's mental health system, and preparation for the changes in the housing system in 2002.

Rao and Agarwal stressed increasing student input on all matters and also increasing student involvement with the UA in general. They were also passionate about new initiatives, such as the creation of an executive council containing members of the various student government groups on campus to be more effective in dealing with the administration.

Rao/Agarwal

Their creative energies have the right focus, and their ideas have the potential to significantly improve the quality of student life at MIT. Creighton and Stringfellow lost my support because all they seem interested in is finally being noticed. Devereaux and Neizmik, both of whom have been involved in the UA for quite some time, fail to draw my attention because of their inability to produce new ideas for the future.

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Week @ MIT March 3 - 10

http://web.mit.edu/lbgt/ToBGLAD.html

Through April 8 (Tues-Thurs, Sat, Sun: 12-6pm, Fri: 12-8 pm, Closed Monday)
Inside Space: Experiments in Redefining Rooms List Visual Arts Center

Saturday, March 3
1pm
BGALA Lunch
Monthly lunch of MIT's bisexual, gay, and lesbian alumni group. All members of the MIT community are welcome.
Royal East Restaurant,
782 Main Street

Monday, March 5
12-2pm
Meet the Bunch Lunch
Brown Bag Lunch with faculty, staff and students. Come for the whole 2 hours, or just stop by for a snack or a quick hello. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Bring your own lunch.
West Lounge (W20-201)

Monday, March 5
7-9pm
Gay at MIT: A Student Panel
Come and hear openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual students share their experiences being out and about inside and outside the world of MIT. Don't forget to bring your questions!
Room 4-237

Tuesday, March 6
6-8pm
The State of LBGT Politics in Massachusetts
Don't miss this important panel discussion, with openly gay Massachusetts State Rep. Jarrett Barrios and Liz Malia along with local activists, about political issues facing the lbgt community in Massachusetts.
Room 4-163

Wednesday, March 7
8pm
Tres Vidas
World premiere of a chamber music piece for singing actress and chamber music trio (The Core Ensemble) depicting the lives of Frida Kahlo, Rufina Amaya, and Alfonsina Stomi. Call 253-2826 for information.
Killian Hall

Thursday, March 8
8-10pm
Rainbow Study Break
Take a break from a week of hard work and relax with some fun and refreshments at this low-key study break.
Talbot Lounge (East Campus)

ToBGLAD Events are Sponsored by: Amnesty International, Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Alums (BGALA), GaMIT, The LBGT Issues Group, List Visual Arts Center, MIT Council for the Arts, MIT Rainbow Coffeehouse, Music and Theater Section, Q: The Journal of Sexual Orientation and Public Policy at Harvard Sloan LBGT, Women's Studies Program

Six Named MacVicar Fellows for Teaching Excellence

MacVicar, from Page 1

"Our committee was very impressed with all the nominees. There really are some strong and innovative teachers at MIT," said Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine, who chaired the committee that recommended this year's winners.

This year's selection process operated slightly differently than in the past. According to Redwine, the committee didn't directly choose the winners. Rather, they advised Provost Robert A. Brown, who made the final decision.

"It's a semantic change to reflect the changed role of the committee," Redwine said.

As usual, any member of the MIT community could nominate a faculty member for the award.

"One aspect of the nominations that's very important is student input," Redwine said.

The award carries with it an annual allowance to "assist each Fellow in developing ways to enrich the undergraduate learning experience," according to a press release from MIT spokesman Robert J. Sales.

This year's winners will become MacVicar Faculty Fellows who serve a ten-year term. The fellows meet during the year to discuss educational ideas and policies.

Fellowship winners chosen

The MacVicar Fellowship is designed to recognize faculty members who have made a significant contribution to teaching at MIT. They come from many different departments and have taken a variety of approaches to further education.

"All six of the awardees were extremely well qualified and richly deserved this honor," Redwine said.

"All six of the awardees were extremely well qualified and richly deserved this honor," said Dean Robert P. Redwine.

Mayes said she was "deeply surprised and honored" upon hearing she was chosen.

"We made extensive efforts to revamp the curriculum" of the undergraduate laboratory in materials science, Mayes said. She made the experience more hands-on for students, allowing them to make discoveries on their own, she said.

Boyce has also received two other similar awards: the Joel and Ruth Spira Teaching Award and the Keenan Award for Innovation in Undergraduate Education. She has also received several awards for her research, which relates to the mechanics of materials, with an emphasis on the physics of polymer deformation.

The events are in honor of the late Margaret MacVicar, a physics professor and founder of the UROP program.

Some of Mindell's research has taken him over and under seas. As an assistant professor in the Program on Science, Technology, and Society, he has accompanied students on expeditions to Italy, Israel, Turkey, and Maine. Since 1990, Mindell has assisted in nine deep-sea archeological expeditions. He also designed part of Jason, an undersea robot.

Nepf adds the MacVicar award to the teaching awards she has won three times from her department. Nepf has created a series of television shows for high school students dealing with environmental issues.

Sonenberg has been the director of MIT Theater Arts since 1996. A member of the the Comparative Media Studies Admissions Committee, she has extensive experience in stage, television, and film productions. Sonenberg won the Baker Undergraduate Teaching Award five years ago.

Vandiver was the founding director of the Edgerton Center. The Center was created in 1992 to give students hands-on experiences. From 1984-1989, Vandiver was the director of the Experimental Study Group, a program that teaches undergraduates in small, self-paced groups. He has been the Dean for Undergraduate Research since 1999.

Awards part of MacVicar Day

The awards ceremony will begin the fifth annual MacVicar Day, which features events related to teaching and learning at MIT.

Four lectures will be held, including an explanation of the Edgerton Center by new MacVicar fellow Vandiver and a demonstration of the Technology Enabled Active Learning project by one of last year's MacVicar fellows, Professor of Physics John W. Belcher.

Afterwards, there will be a panel discussion called "Are We Succeeding?" featuring Redwine.

The events are in honor of Margaret MacVicar, who helped to advanced the cause of teaching and learning as Dean for Undergraduate Education until her untimely death in 1991 at the age of 47. A professor in the physics department, she also founded MIT's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

Rima Arnaout contributed to the reporting of this story.

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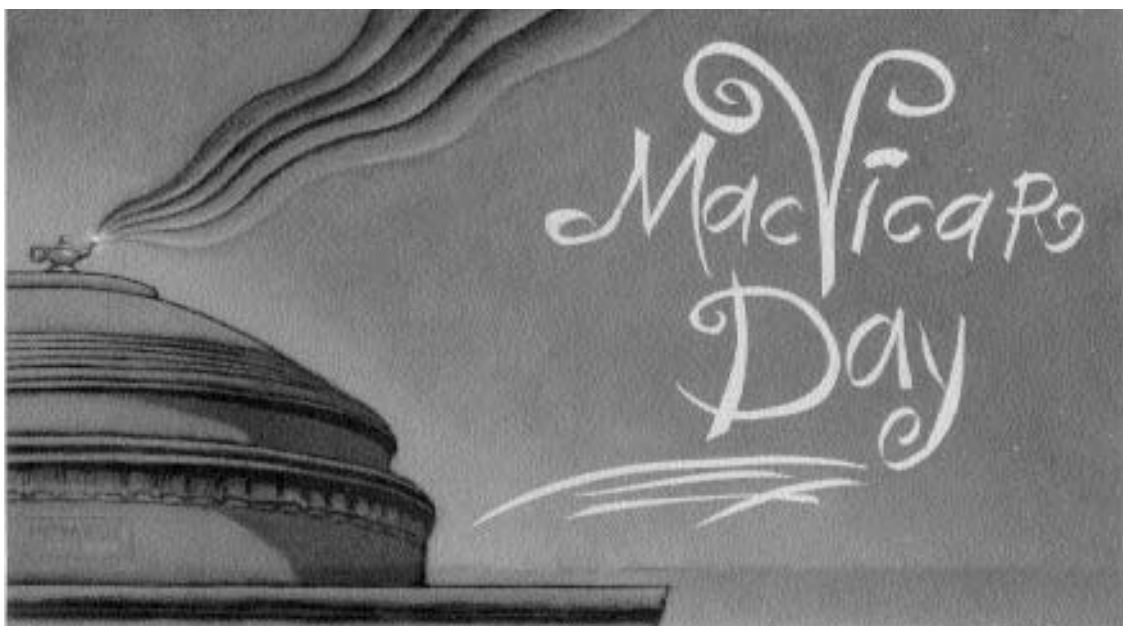

New Teaching/New Learning at MIT
Friday, 2 March 2001

Participate in Active Teaching/Learning
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Room 34-401 Grier Room

What Goes On In the Edgerton Center?
Kim Vandiver
and the Edgerton Center Staff

FORCE FIELD! Visualizing the Unseen With Modern Animation Techniques: The TEAL Project
John Belcher

Can Technology Transform the Way You Learn Japanese and French?
Shigeru Miyagawa and Gilberte Furstenberg

Inciting the Learning Process: Can Solving Complex Problems

Are We Succeeding?
Panel Discussion
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Room 34-101 Edgerton Hall
Chaired by Robert P. Redwine
Dean for Undergraduate Education

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Administration Will Match 2002 Council Proceeds to Habitat

By Dana Levine
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The Class of 2002 Council announced last night that several MIT administrators have agreed to match the donations to Habitat for Humanity raised by the Saturday's Naughty By Nature concert.

"The Offices of the President, Provost, Chancellor and Executive Vice President will — as a group — provide a 2 to 1 match of the funds you raise at the concert for construction of the [Habitat for Humanity] house," said Vice President and

Secretary of the Corporation Kathryn A. Willmore in an e-mail to Sudeb C. Dalai, president of the class of 2002.

The idea for administrative sponsorship of the event came from a discussion last week between Dalai and Willmore. "I had a discussion with her and suggested that they support this or one of several other suggestions," Dalai said.

Dalai submitted a proposal on Tuesday which asked for matching administrative support, and learned last night that a much stronger level of support had been granted. "It took a little bit of work to write the proposals that were necessary, but the turn-around was fast," he said.

Dalai believes that this shows that students may gain administrative support for their programs by simply talking to administrators. "If you place faith in the administration and are willing to trust them, they are definitely willing to support students," Dalai said. "This is kind of a change of pace for administrative support of students."

Event will be campus-wide

Dalai and Class of 2002 Vice President Sonia Garg hope that this event will draw students from all segments of the MIT community. The concert includes performances by several campus groups and Naughty By Nature. "We're hitting a lot of different areas of campus and working towards the same goal," Garg said.

Garg hopes that this success will encourage more groups to seek support for campus-wide events. "It's much more encouraging for students like us who want to have campus events," she said. "We would like to see large community events like this happen again, or more often."

Habitat hopes to build MIT house

The event's organizers hope to meet their goal of raising $5,000 from the sale of concert tickets, which would allow a $10,000 donation by the administrators. This will go towards the $65,000 required to build a MIT Habitat for Humanity house.

"MIT Habitat is dedicated to building this house by themselves. Having MIT students' name on a house would really say a lot about us," Garg said.

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The Council for the Arts at MIT Grants Program
is accepting applications for its next deadline
March 9, 2001

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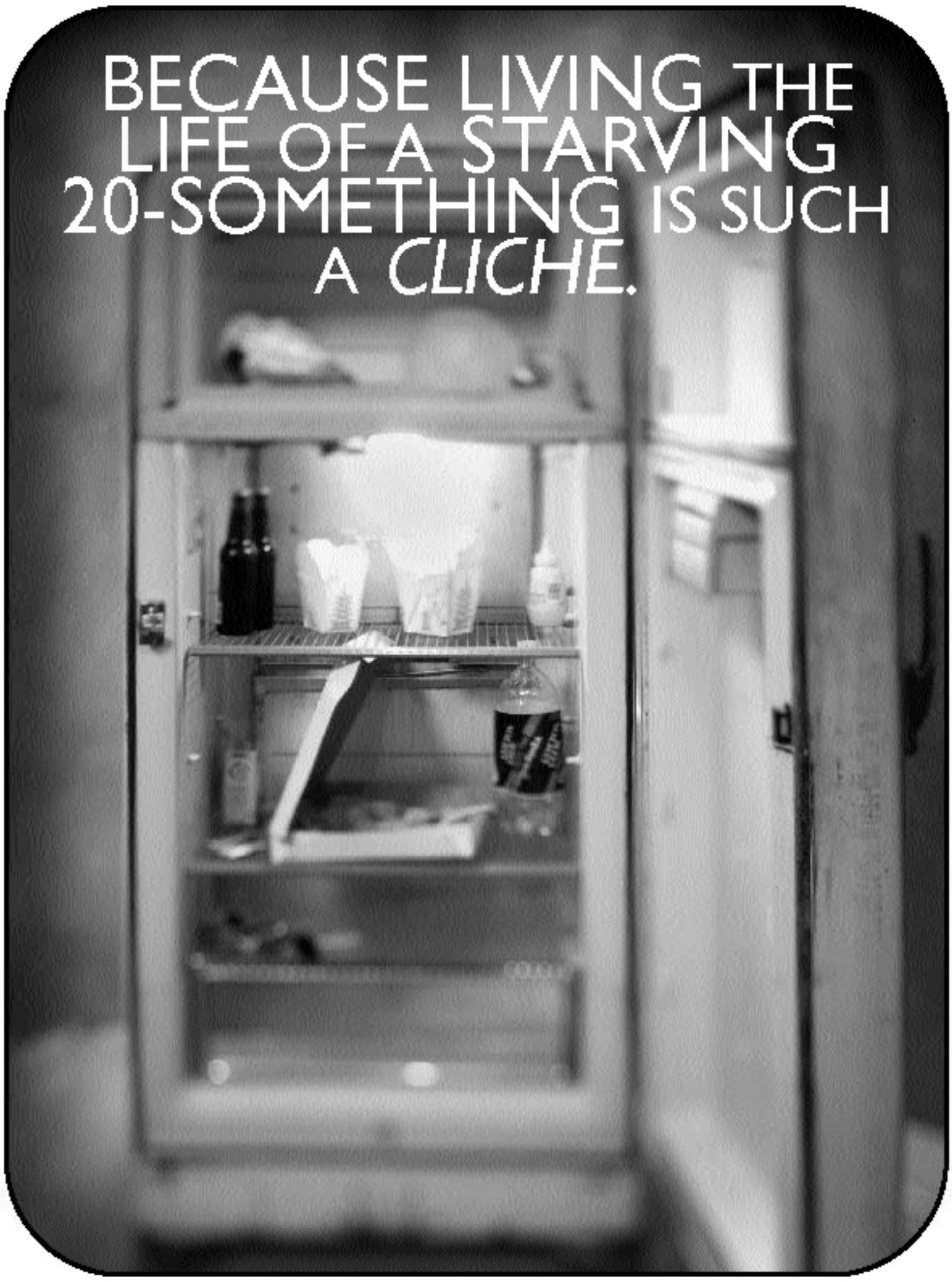
You may also submit your application from the web, at:
http://web.mit.edu/arts/grantform.html

The Council for the Arts at MIT is a volunteer group of alumni and friends established to support the visual, literary, and performing arts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Since its founding in 1972 by MIT President Jerome B. Wiesner, the Council for the Arts has worked to "to foster the arts at MIT....[and]... to act as a catalyst for the development of a broadly based, highly participatory program in the arts." Appointed by the President of MIT to three-year terms, Council members serve as advocates and advisors to MIT's Associate Provost for the Arts.



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Faculty Approve Space Swap for Center of Physics

Physics Center, from Page 1

the headquarters of the physics department, which is on the first floor of building 6, and the materials science department headquarters on the fourth floor of the same building. The new Green Center will house the department's headquarters, the Center for Theoretical Physics, education offices, seminar rooms, and undergraduate and graduate labs, Kastner said. The Center will also house the physics reading room, whose current location in building 26 will be used for the Technology Enabled Active Learning program.

Professor Subra Suresh, head of the department of materials science, said that the renovations will be an "even exchange: there is no net gain or loss [of space]." He said that faculty in both departments voted on and approved of the planned changes, and that the renovations will "tie in" with overall departmental goals. Among other improvements that will take place, the materials science department will renovate and add to its labs on the Infinite Corridor.

Physics graduate student Gaetano Bertoldi, who is part of the Center for Theoretical Physics (CTP) in building 6, said he hoped that "the new physics reading room will be even better than what we have now," and he anticipated "new office spaces" with "nicer rooms." He felt the relocations would be beneficial to the Condensed Matter Theory (CMT) graduate students who "need more office space than [CTP students] do."

Dru Renner G, another CTP student, believes that the changes are "definitely better for the physics department" because it is "really spread out." He thinks the "neatest idea" is for the two theoretical physics groups, CTP and CMT, to be in one area, because it allows for "intellectual consultation."

Still, said Renner, "losing the physics reading room is a big concern." He said that the relocated physics reading room, which Kastner said "probably won't be as large as the old space," will have "no windows and not all of the books and journals" as the reading room has now. The new temporary reading room will be on the third floor of building 4 past the student common area.

Though the time needed to implement the changes will be "hard to predict," Suresh remains enthusiastic about the swap with the physics department. He said that a faculty committees in both departments considered three different architectural firms and have already chosen one.

"Plans are moving along," he said.

Rima Arnaout and Naveen Sunkavally contributed to the reporting of this story.

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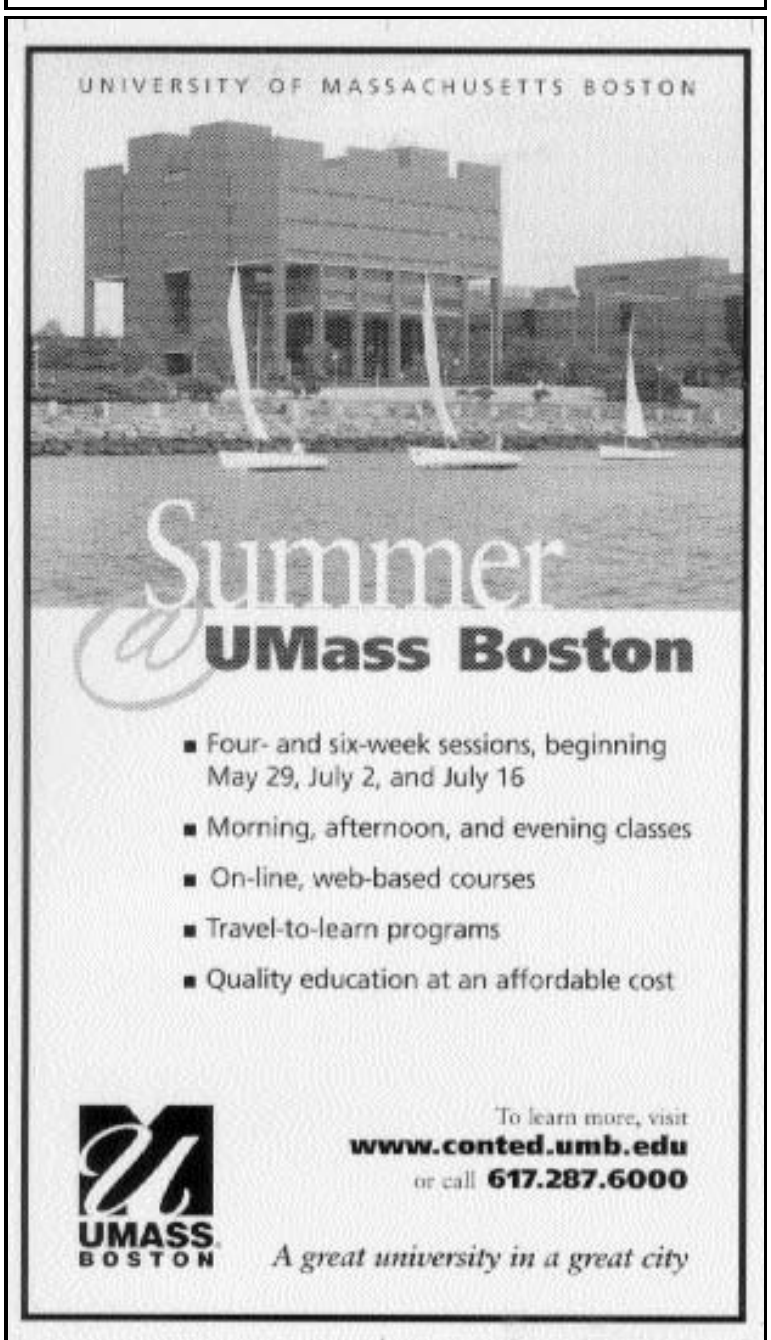

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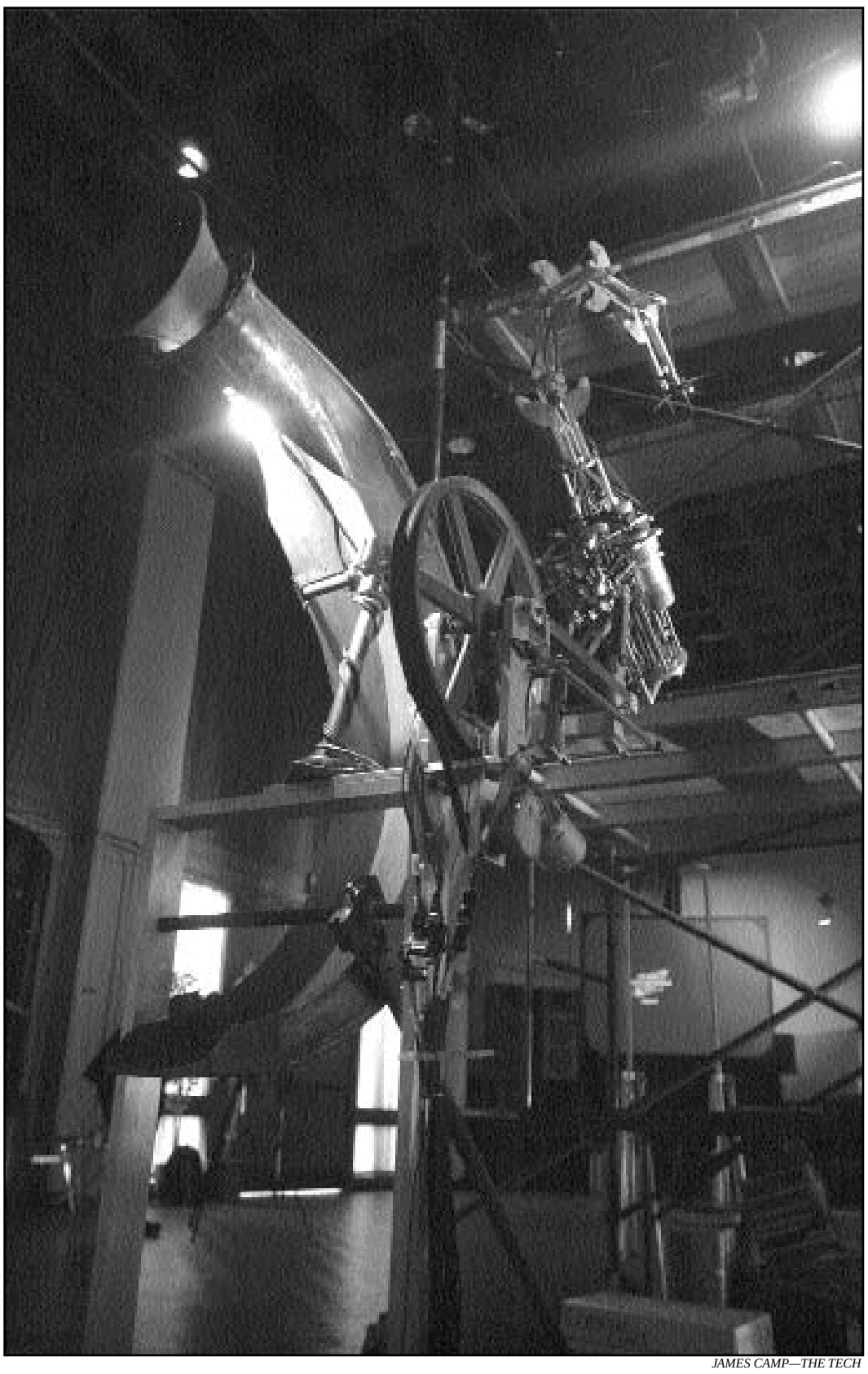
Shannon Helped Lay Foundations for AI

Shannon, from Page 1

that could solve a Rubik's Cube, a chess-playing computer, and an electronic mouse that could run a maze. His work helped create the field of artificial intelligence, the attempt to make machines make decisions like people would, and he serves as an inspiration for a generation of computer scientists.

Shannon was born on April 30, 1916. In 1936 he earned a SB in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Michigan. He came to MIT as a visiting professor in 1956. From 1958 to 1978, he was MIT's Donnor Professor of Science. In 1978, he became a professor emeritus.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; his son, Andrew M. Shannon; his daughter, Margarita Shannon; a sister, Catherine S. Kay; and two granddaughters. Services and burial are private.



JAMES CAMP—THE TECH

"Dirty Rat," a work by Aaron Edsinger, was one of the most attention-grabbing exhibits to grace La Sala de Puerto Rico in Tuesday's "Collision," an exhibition of art and music put on in part by the MIT Dance Mix Coalition.

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CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

SPORTS & FITNESS CENTER
The pouring of concrete foundations will cause noise and disruption to the surrounding area. Soil excavation continues causing heavy truck traffic in and near the Kresge parking lot.

70 PACIFIC STREET (GRADUATE HOUSING)
The installation of sheeting and removal of land fill may cause noise, dust and disruption to vehicular traffic.

DREYFUS CHEMISTRY BUILDING
Demolition in the basement includes removal of mechanical room machinery. Torch-cutting to aid in the removal of equipment may cause an odor that could permeate to the upper floors of the building.

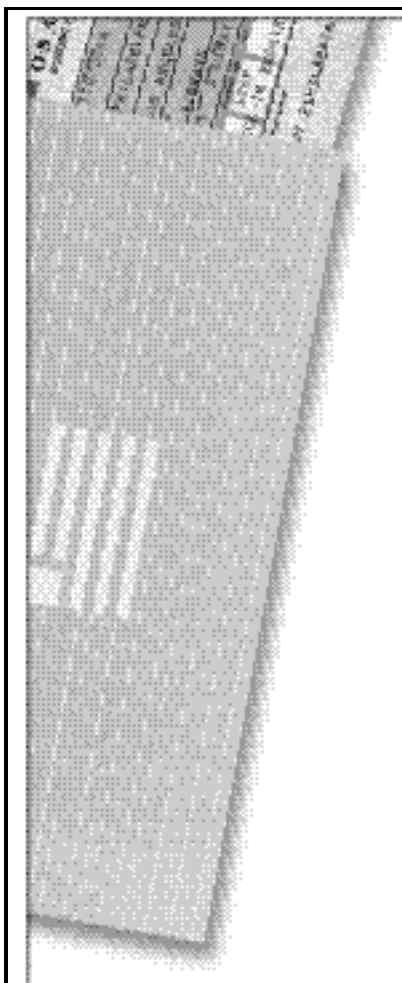
STATA CENTER
A new crane is being used for lowering reinforcing steel to the bottom of the excavation. For safety purposes, each time the crane moves materials over the workers on site, an air horn will be sounded to warn workers below.

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
Due to construction, the MBTA bus stop located across from 77 Mass. Ave. is relocated to the corner of Mass. Ave. and Memorial Drive. Also, the main crosswalk in front of 77 Mass. Ave. has been temporarily relocated 100 feet South towards Memorial Drive. Handicapped access to the main building will be provided at the Amherst Street crosswalk only.

SIMMONS HALL
Placement of a concrete base may cause disruption to vehicular traffic.

LIFE SAFETY
Installation of a fire protection water pipe near Kresge Auditorium may disrupt daytime vehicular traffic and cause noise, vibration and dust.

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



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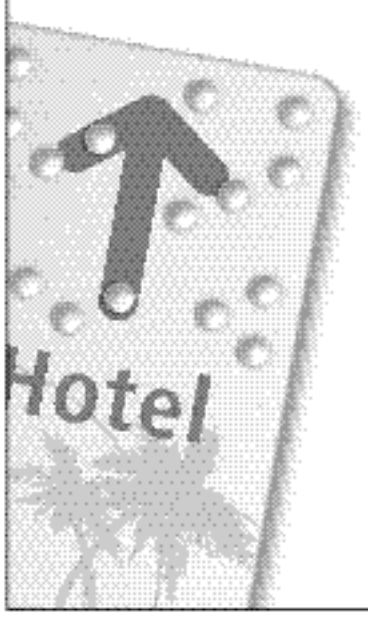

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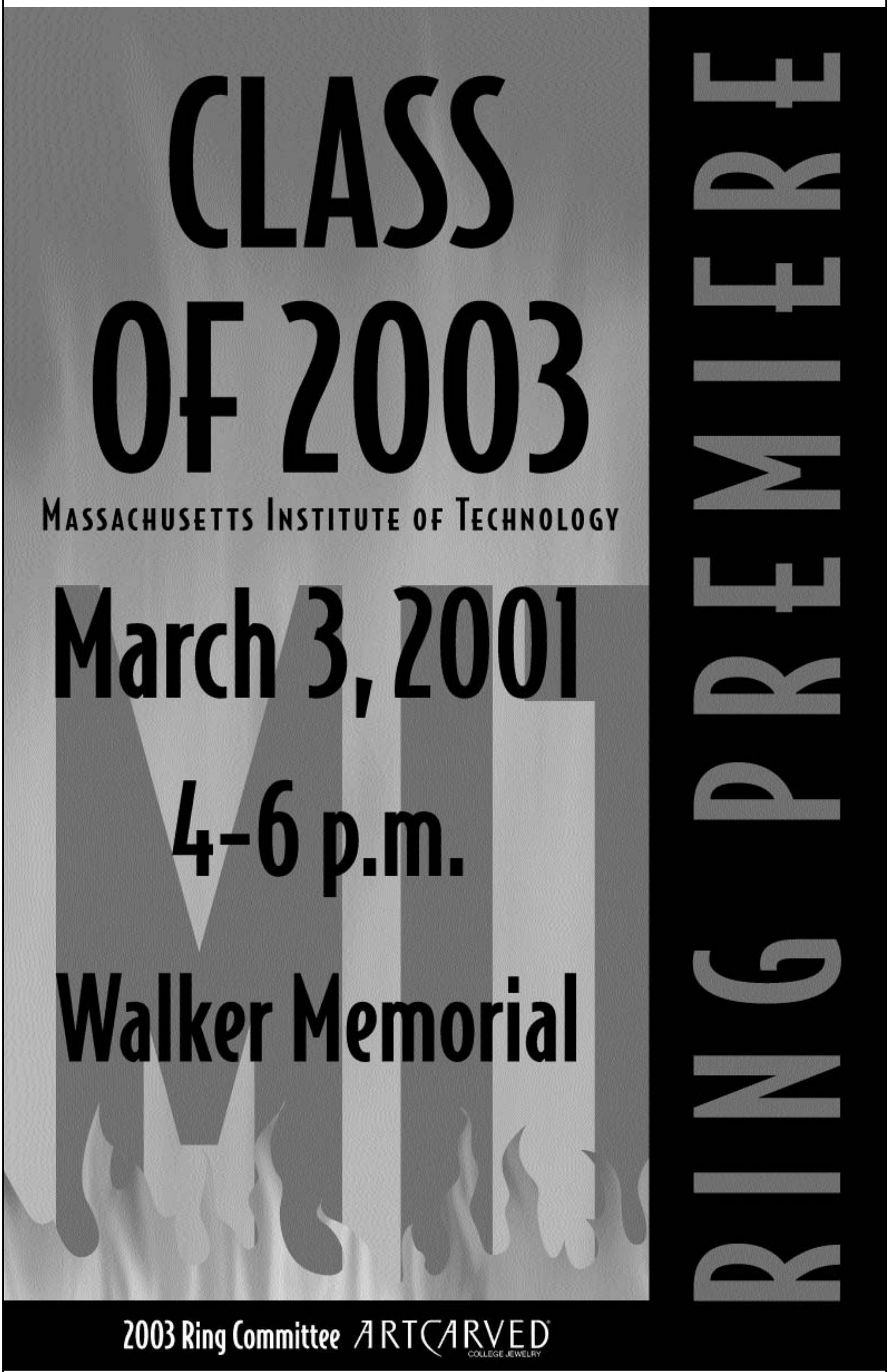
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Men Narrowly Defeat Vermont

By David Hu
TEAM MEMBER

Last Saturday, just one week after a heavy loss to Springfield College, the MIT men's gymnastics team competed against the University of Vermont in their last meet of the season. A loss would leave MIT with a losing season, but a win would give MIT a winning season and an opportunity to compete at the USA Gymnastics National Collegiate Championships.

The Engineers earned their highest score of the year to beat Vermont by one-third of one point, 160.1 to 159.8.

"I don't know how this happened," said Noah Riskin, coach of the team.

The Engineers began the meet on floor exercise, tumbling with power and control. Captain Luke A. Massery '02 received an 8.30, the highest score for either team. David Yin '01 ended his routine with a spontaneous new element: a twisting, hand-flapping back somersault to prone fall.

On pommel horse, the Engineers swung their worst this season. Starting with David L. Hu '01, a domino effect began in which every man missed his mounting skill, which determines much of the team's score.

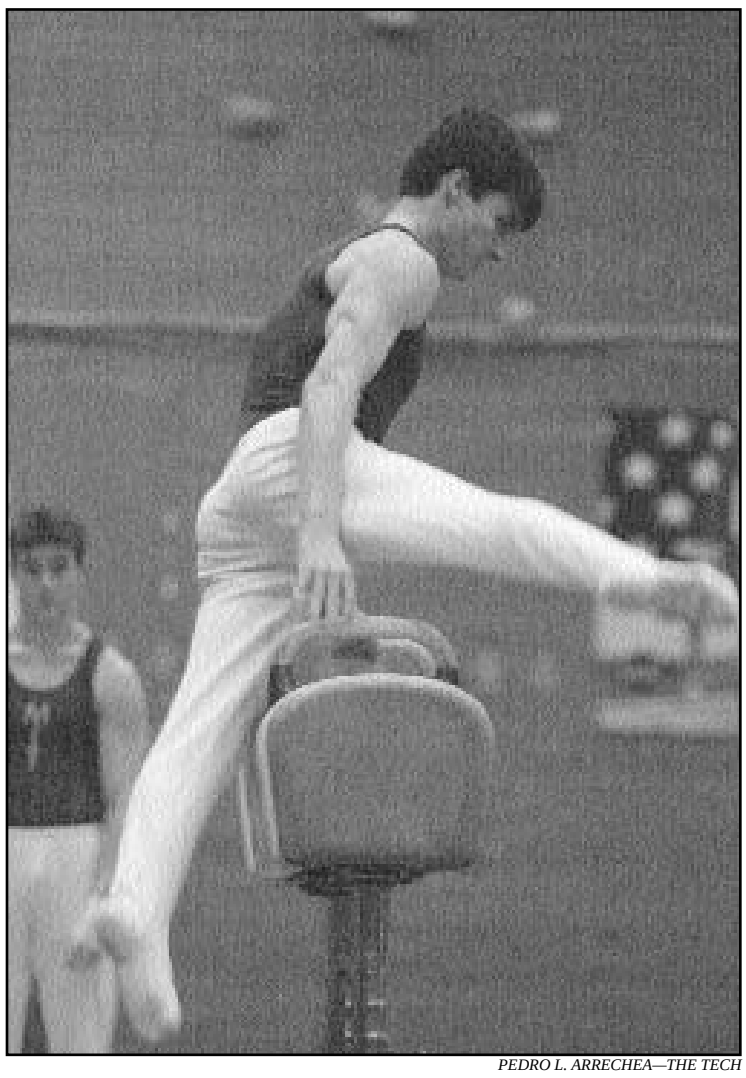
The Engineers' final pommel horse score was four points lower than last meet's score, and it was seemingly enough to put the meet out of the Engineers' grasp.

After the disaster on pommel horse, Riskin gathered the team together. "Don't think about Nationals," said Riskin. "In the grand scale of infinite time and the universe, it won't matter." He paused, and from the eye of the huddle, the crowd seemed silent.

"Don't think of that small stuff. It will make you anxious, and you can't be tentative or hesitant if you want to do these skills," said Riskin. "You've got to go all the way, let it all out. That's gymnastics."

During the remainder of the meet, the team took its time. The team again made mistakes, such as in "stutzes" on parallel bars, taking steps on dismounts, and landing awkwardly, said Riskin. But for the first time this season, the team didn't look back and performed cleanly and mindfully.

Damian M Engen '03 scored a total score of 45.95, garnering the meet's highest all-around score and highest individual scores on pommel horse, vault, parallel bars, and high bar. He successfully completed his Yager release move, a somersault and regrasp of the high bar and was called "Division I quality" by members of the audience.



PEDRO L. ARRECHEA—THE TECH

Patrick R. Griffin '04 maneuvers on the pommel horse during Saturday's meet against the University of Vermont. MIT won 160.1 to 159.8.

Patrick R. Griffin's '04 diligently practiced "pike-through" and "tsukihara" pleased the crowd, as well has his ability to control his famous swing of the still rings. He scored a 40.95, the second-highest score for MIT. When asked if he "had a good meet," the usually self-critical Griffin paused and responded, "Yes, I did."

Massery set a personal record with a total score of 40.20. Massery's immense control both on and off the apparatus was noticed by an anonymous Rhode Island coach, who left a note "for Luke."

However, Saturday's very close win was owed in large part to Mammy G. Sterling '03. Sterling performed several new advanced skills on rings and high bar, including a double back somersault dismount. More admirably, under the urgings of Riskin, he learned these skills on his day off, when he, like a true Engineer, arrived at gym "to cram."

The most touching point of the day's meet occurred when Gary Bruening, Vermont's coach of 15 years, approached Riskin at the end of the meet. In the previous four years, Bruening's team had consistently trounced the Engineers. Now, Bruening asked Riskin, "what's your secret?"

The mottos of the men's gymnastics team throughout the years have been "do something right," "just stay on" and "care." For the past years, this team has competed against bigger, stronger, recruited gymnasts, while still garnering the most hand-over-mouth giggling from NCAA judges. Now, pending financial approval from the athletics department, this same team, for the first time in four years, may very well qualify for Nationals this year at UC-Davis.

"The men's concentrated work and support of one another throughout the season has made for well-done, good-quality gymnastics," said Riskin. "We must keep the edge on, for we know how easily things fall apart. In fact, next week, you'll experience levels of intimacy with the pommel horse never imagined."

Women's Gymnastics Falls to Rhode Island

By Eduardo Ovalle
TEAM COACH

The Anchorwomen from Rhode Island College invaded Du Pont Gymnasium sporting a four point advantage in the rankings over the Engineers, and although both teams struggled a bit during the meet, the final outcome of the meet was a true reflection of where the two teams stand: RIC 175.10 to MIT 171.70.

MIT marched into this meet with a Hawaiian theme, wearing some hand-made flower leis put together by the team members.

The Engineers began the meet on vault while RIC started the meet on what is traditionally a difficult event, bars.

MIT got off to the early lead with a 42.60 vault set to RIC's 40.85 bars score. The first rotation was sloppy for both teams as RIC squandered their opportunities to score higher by having to count several falls off the apparatus. The cleanest vaults for MIT came from Amy M. Shui '02 with a score of 8.55 and Carrie Garceau '03 with 8.575.

The teams switched events and RIC began to pull away. MIT did not help their own cause as both Garceau and Deborah J. Dryer '03 struggled with their routines. Even though Sonja J. Ellefson '01 posted a meet-high 9.35, the team score amounted to a 40.10.

In the meantime, RIC was scoring a 43.925 on vault to give them an 84.775 to 82.700 lead at the halfway mark.

The host team moved to beam as the visitors took to the floor exercise. The Engineers started off strong with three solid routines by Elizabeth A. Ellingson '01, Shui and Dryer.

Garceau had a beautiful routine going, but struggled with one small balance check and fell. Cindy Chung '04 had an equally impressive routine working until she fell on her difficult side somersault skill. Ellefson really struggled on the event and, the team settled for a 44.225 total, which was the second highest of the season.

RIC was dancing and tumbling well on floor as they amassed a 45.825 total highlighted by Sajdah Amhad's 9.50. The only thing that would save MIT now was for RIC to suffer a disaster on beam. Although they had to count a fall, RIC still managed a higher total on beam than MIT with a 44.50 while the home team was busy trying to dance and tumble to some high scores.

Dryer was the third up on the event and she suffered what seemed like a knee sprain on the knee that she had reconstructed last year. The injury took the wind out of the sails of the MIT team and suddenly making the meet close did not matter much anymore.

Garceau, Chung and Ellefson finished out the meet with an 8.9, 9.15 and 9.575 respectively.

MIT's last home meet of the year will be this Friday at 7:30 pm in DuPont Gymnasium. It will be senior night as the team will be saying 'Goodbye' to their seniors. Among them, school record holder on every event, Sonja J. Ellefson '01. Ellefson is currently ranked in the top five nationally on floor, bars and the all-around. The meet will be against Springfield College and it's one that you don't want to miss.

Nordic Heads to Idaho

Skiing, from Page 28

15 seconds.

The women's 7.5-km classic race began just an hour later, and Yates again earned third place. The men claimed another second-place team score in the classic race, completing the weekend second overall behind the team's rival, Clarkson University.

Next weekend, the team will be heading to Boise, Idaho to compete in the USCSA National competition from March 5–10, hosted by the Bogus Basin cross-country site.

Hong, Monson to Harvard

Squash, from Page 28

incessant cross-court drives to the back corner eventually won the match for her.

Hong, Monson to play at Harvard

MIT's number-one player, Eric A. Hong '01, will compete in the men's Individual National Tournament to be held this weekend at Harvard University. Monson will compete in the women's tournament, posing the formidable task of competing against other women for the first time in the season.

Goela may also compete in individual nationals, pending the rankings of the tournament committee. Hong has competed in the tournament in previous years, while this year will be Monson's first.

Tae Kwon Do Club Places Fifth in Meet

Tae Kwon Do, from Page 28

kwon do, and Christina is a former junior National medalist. They won all of their matches and helped coach the team on a chaotic and stressful tournament day."

The MIT Sport Tae Kwon Do Club was started last fall by Chuang and Park in response to the MIT community's demand and need for an organization that teaches, trains, and competes in Olympic-style tae kwon do. As the most widely practiced and standardized form of tae kwon do worldwide, it is unique in its rules of competition and emphasis on its sport aspect. In the northeast during this past decade, a lively and passionate community has sprung up around Olympic-style competitions among schools such as Cornell, Harvard, Princeton, NYU, Yale, and many others. MIT has now joined this community and made its name known.

When asked of his impressions on the team, Chuang commented, "the club performed extremely well, especially given how new many of them were to tae kwon do competition. Most of the team members have been doing tae kwon do for only about a semester, and they were competing against much more seasoned and experienced competitors from other schools."

ELIZABETH KIM

Daniel S. Robey '04 executes a roundhouse kick to his opponent, adding another point to his 4-1 victory.

Chuang said that he hopes the team will perform better as they gain more experience and the club grows.

Two days after the competition, the team began to train again in preparation of their next competition on April 8th at Yale University.

Fencers Look Forward to IFAs

Fencing, from Page 28

dropped the foil bout 5-3, leaving the teams tied at 1-1 with epee left.

Southpaw Neal K. Devaraj '02 faced Mark Dembitz in a heated battle that ended at a score of 4–3 as time expired. The win gave Brown the win.

Men take third places in individuals

The men had a tougher time with the Individual Finals, as fencers from each of the three weapons managed third place finishes behind fencers from Brown and Boston College.

Chadwick, last year's foil champion, finished third, with Andre D. Van Horn '01 sixth.

In sabre, Richard D. Burstein '02 continued to excel in post-season competition following last year's IFAs, defeating teammate Miller and placing third overall. Miller finished fourth.

Brown continued to dominate men's epee, finishing 1-2, followed by Devaraj in third and Paul J. Thordarson '01 in fifth.

Men's epee and sabre saw 1-2 finishes in the second string competition, as Matthew R. Levy '04 (epee) and Anthony P. Reinen '03 (sabre) took gold ahead of teammates Brendan P. Miller '02 and Arjun R. Narayanswamy '02.

Leading the way in foil was Douglas J. Quattrochi '04 in second, followed by Timothy R. Kreider '04 in 4th.

On the women's side, Michelle A. Nadermann '03 captured the gold in epee and Lisa M. Bell '04 silvered in foil. Both Rayka Yokoo '02 (foil) and Sasha R. Manoosingh '03 (sabre) finished fifth.

This weekend MIT fencers will face their best-in-class rivals at the IFA Championships, held at Harvard University's Gorman Track and Tennis Center on Saturday and Sunday. IFAs, one of the most challenging collegiate fencing competitions in the nation, sets MIT against 13 schools, including top 10 ranked Princeton, Yale, Columbia, St. John's, and UPenn, along with local rivals BC, Brandeis, and Brown. This post-season matchup is a precursor to the NCAA Northeastern Regionals on March 11th, from which fencers are selected to go on to the Division I National Championships.

SPORTS

A Mixed Decision For Fencing Teams

By Evan Efstathiou
ASSISTANT COACH

Last weekend MIT fencing reclaimed one title and relinquished another in a thrilling Men's and Women's New England Championships at Smith College.

MIT took the New England title for best men's and women's combined teams ahead of Brown, BC, and Tufts.

In their first championship event of the postseason, MIT women shined with 69 wins to pull ahead Brown and University New Hampshire to retake the New England title, their third title in four years.

Women's fencing finished the season at a near-perfect 18-3, dropping by mere touches to Duke, Cornell and Harvard during the regular season. The men's team matched their 1999 season record of 14-5, inspired by victories over rivals including Harvard for the third consecutive year and an upset over Duke at the MIT Invitational.

Women succeed in individuals

The women reigned in the individual finals, led by returning New England champions Caroline M. Purcell '02 and Dianne K. Allen '01, and by a solid performance by newcomer Clarissa Y. Smith '04.

Purcell finished the day 11-0 in the team event and 8-0 in the finals. Purcell is now undefeated at New Englands for the last two years.

Jennifer A. McKeehan '01 and Priscilla del Castillo '04 followed closely behind Purcell, qualifying to the finals and finishing third and fourth, respectively.

In the foil finals were Dianne K. Allen '01 and veteran Jade Joan Hon '01. Hon had overcame injuries during the season and rallied her teammates to victory in the team event. Hon beat out opponents from UNH, UMass, BC, and Brown to take third in the finals and earn the MIT straight "T" distinction in her final year of fencing.

The biggest surprise of the day was Smith, who squeaked into the finals with a 5-5 record at the A strip. Once there, Smith blazed through her opponents to finish 7-1 and tied for first with 2000 All-American Sarah Hobstetter. For the tie-breaker, the epeeist faced Hobstetter for the third time that day and went touch for touch in the bout, taking a 4-3 lead before dropping the last two touches to place second.

Also in the epee finals was Jennifer A. Lue '03, who finished fifth.

Men fall to Brown in tiebreaker

The MIT men, fresh off two consecutive championship titles, finished the day in a dead tie with Brown University at 60 wins. Under a new tie-breaking format, the top MIT sabre, foil, and epee fencers had to face off against the top three fencers from Brown.

Leading the way was Philip W. Miller '01, who trounced the sabre champion from the finals in a decisive 5-2 bout.

Oliver J. Chadwick '02, last year's New England foil champion,

Fencing, Page 27

Nordic Skiers Take Second Place

By Marissa Yates
TEAM MEMBER

Battling snowy weather, slippery roads, and steep back-country hills, the MIT Nordic ski team traveled to Jericho, Vermont for the USCSA Regional Championships last weekend.

Saturday morning, the team awoke to temperature in the 20s, welcoming sunshine, and a few inches of freshly fallen snow. The trails at the Ethan Allen Biathlon Range were neatly groomed, and the conditions were nearly perfect for racing over the hilly terrain.

The women's 10-km freestyle race set off the weekend, and the only female racer from MIT, Marissa L. Yates '03, captured third place.

Immediately following the women's race, the men set off to tackle the 15-km freestyle race. Derek G. Southwell '01 led the MIT team with a strong fourth place finish. Following Southwell, Timothy G. Garnett '02, Christopher M. Testa '03, and Samuel T. Coradetti '02 crowded in as a pack of skiers and finished within ten seconds of each other to capture eighth, ninth and 10th place.

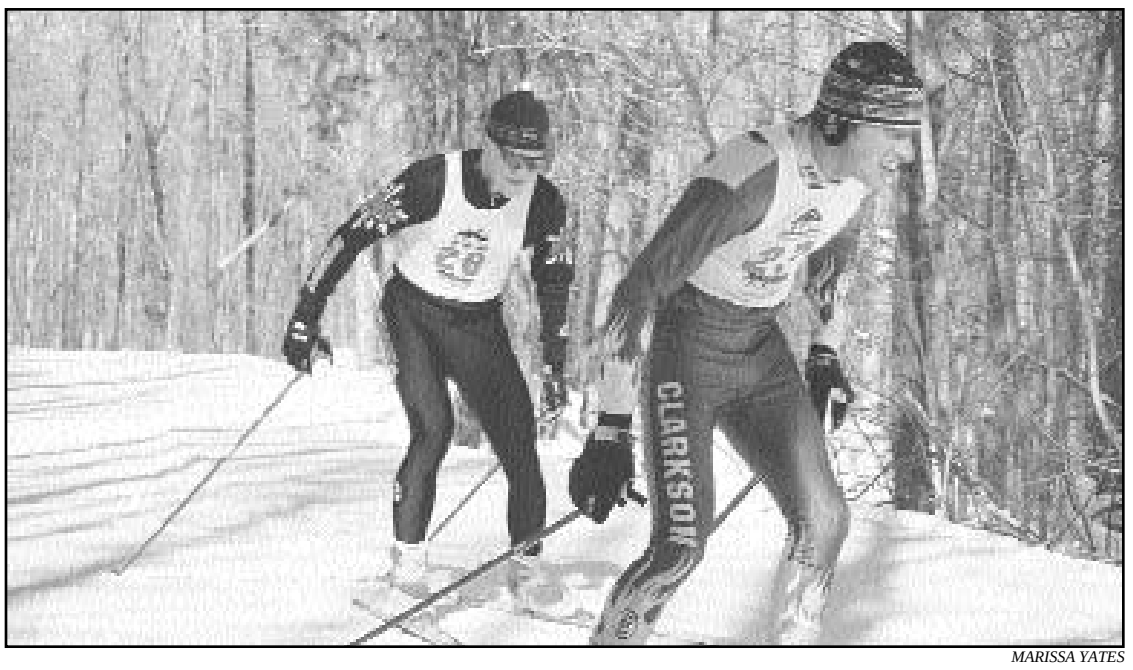
Garnering four top-ten finishes, the men's team took second place in the freestyle race.

Saturday's beautiful weather disappeared overnight, and gray skies and windy weather prevailed by 9 a.m. Sunday. As the men prepared for the 10-km classic race, the precipitation fluctuated between wet snow, sleet, and rain. These conditions complicated the waxing process, forcing the men to quickly apply klister and sprint to the start of the race.

Again, as in the freestyle race the day before, Southwell led the men's team with a fourth place finish. Finishing less than 15 seconds behind his teammate, Testa earned sixth place.

After missing his start by nearly 45 seconds, Coradetti secured a ninth place finish with his pure strength in double poling, even over the toughest hills on the course. Following closely behind, Garnett snatched 12th place, again within a pack of skiers separated by less than

Skiing, Page 27



MARISSA YATES

Derek G. Southwell '01 competes in the 15k skate race on Saturday. Southwell overtook his Clarkson opponent to finish fourth in the race.

Track Team in All New England Meet

By Lila French
TEAM ALUMNA

Last Friday and Saturday, the MIT women's track team competed in the All New England Championship meet at Tufts University. The team scored 10 points, placing them in a tie for 20th place out of 31 schools from Divisions I, II, and III.

In the weight throw, Princess Imoukhuede '02 continued her string of outstanding performances by placing 2nd with a throw of 55'6 1/2". She is currently ranked third in NCAA Division III Nationals in this event.

In the shot put, Imoukhuede threw a respectable 40'7". She will have one more opportunity next week to improve her personal best of 41'5 3/4" the 7 inches necessary to qualify for Nationals.

In the pole vault, Vanessa Li '02 placed seventh with a jump of 10'6 1/2". She is currently ranked 9th nationally.

On the track, two varsity records fell. Martha W. Buckley '04 blazed through the mile in 5:18.72. The 4x800 team, made up of Chi-An Wang '01, Kimberly J. Seluga '02, Melanie L. Harris '01, and Buckley, ran a time of 10:04.49 to just nick the varsity record.

Freshman multi-event athlete Nydia M. Clayton '04 ran an excellent 8.59 in the 55m high hurdles. She is currently ranked 13th nationally.

This weekend the team will compete in the ECAC Championships at Boston University.

Tae Kwon Do Club Competes in First Meet

By Elizabeth Kim and Christina Park
TEAM MEMBERS

Last Saturday 19 MIT students each fought hand-to-hand against students from eight other colleges.

The MIT Sport Tae Kwon Do Club, only five months old, competed in its first intercollegiate tournament, hosted at John Jay College in New York City. Though entering as underdogs with sixteen of its members never competing before, the Engineers confidently set aside their fears and inexperience and earned fifth place out of nine schools.

The day began with the poomse (forms) competition, in which tae kwon do students perfect their skills and highlight the beauty of the "art" side of martial arts. Each competitor performed a choreographed set of blocks, kicks and punches, and was given a score based on their demonstration of power, grace, balance, and agility. Jack C. Kwok's '01 crisp and powerful forms proved that practice makes perfect, and he took 3rd place out of 40 yellow belts in his division. "I was very excited about the tournament and did my best to prepare for it," said Kwok.

In the sparring competition, the divisions are broken down into black belts, color belts and white/yellow belts, and schools form teams of three (consisting of a lightweight, middleweight, and heavyweight). The respective weights spar two-round matches against each other and winning two of the three rounds advances the team in a single elimination fashion. Points are scored by executing a strong kick that displaces the body, or demonstrating a controlled kick to the head.

MIT's overall ranking in the tournament received a boost from the women's black-belt sparring team (Alice S. Chau '04, Maria E. Stiteler '03, Christina S. Park '02), who reached the finals and finished in second place.

Chau showed a lot of heart, toughening up in the face of asthma to land multiple head kicks to her opponent.

Despite her lack of experience in competition, Stiteler also proved to be resilient, refusing to give up in her match and finishing strong.

Against Cornell, Park figured out her opponent's strategy early on and adapted her own to control the match 5-1.

The women's yellow belt sparring team (Jessica C. Huang '03, Elizabeth S. Kim '01, Melissa M. Barbagelata G) also contributed to MIT's score, winning third place in their division with a cumulative record of 4-1.

Huang used her height and flexibility to her advantage, easily winning her first match with several kicks to the head.

With a burst of energy and determination, Kim came back from a 2-0 deficit of the first round to score two points in the second round and win by decision of aggression.

Barbagelata's strong kicks and intimidating spirit joined those of her teammates', facing no problems in her first match against U Penn.

The men's teams faced stiffer competition. Despite a valiant effort by David A. Wilson '04 and a 7-0 win by Chinedum O. Osuji G, the men's black belt team was eliminated in the quarter-finals, lacking a lightweight. The men's yellow belt teams faced tough competition as well, but they did not lose heart or momentum in fighting their best.

Head Coach Dan Chuang (third degree black belt, U.S. Cup Team member), said, "The team was really anchored by its two captains, Christina Park and Chinedum Osuji, both of whom were able to share their wealth of experience in coaching the team."

Chuang further noted that "Chinedum is the 1998 National Collegiate silver medalist in tae

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Squash Finishes at 23rd

MIT Wins One Match, Loses Two at National Championship

By Robert Aronstam
TEAM MEMBER

The varsity squash team won its final match in the national tournament to claim seventh place in the C division of the competition. With 8 teams in each division, the seventh-place finish translates to a national ranking of 23rd. This ranking is down from MIT's 16th-place ranking last season.

Despite strong individual performances, MIT was unable to win its first two matches at the tournament. On Friday morning, Colby easily defeated MIT by a score of 8–1. This victory matched Colby's near sweep of MIT during the regular season.

The outgunned MIT squad was hindered further by a revamped Colby lineup that included a player who did not compete against MIT in the regular season.

MIT's next loss came at the hands of Vassar College in the Saturday match. Despite the 6–3 loss, MIT had a few highlights. Rita E. Monson '04, the only female in the competition, easily defeated her opponent in the number eight match.

Monson maintained control of the court, running her opponent from side to side relentlessly. Her drives to the backcourt prevented her opponent from making any offensive shots, and eventually forced him to make an error.

Naveen Goela '03 provided another notable match, in an unconventional five-game win. In squash, an individual game is decided by a tiebreaker when the game is tied at 14–14. The player who reached the score of 14 first is given the choice of a 1-point or 3-point tiebreaker. The 3-point option is most often chosen, in order to prevent a fluke shot from deciding the game, and is nearly always chosen in fifth-game tiebreakers.

Generally, players don't wish to allow a single point to decide the outcome of a match that has consisted of well over 100 points. Goela, however, didn't feel compelled to follow this convention in his match. Goela called for a one-point tiebreaker in the fifth game, shocking his opponent. Fortunately, Goela dropped a winner into the corner, preventing any second-guessing of his decision.

MIT victorious in final match

MIT broke the losing streak by defeating Connecticut College in the Sunday match. The Engineers pulled out four 3–2 matches, sealing a win that duplicated a home win against Connecticut College during the regular season.

Monson had a particularly thrilling five-set victory. Pounding the ball with power and precision, Monson turned in one of her finest performances of the season. Though her opponent was often able to match her shot for shot, Monson's

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, March 2

Women's Gymnastics vs. Springfield College, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 3

Fencing, IFA Championships (at Harvard) 10:00 a.m.
Indoor Track & Field, ECAC Championships (at Boston University)
Squash, NISRA Individual Championships (at Harvard)