

McCants Declines Housemaster Position

By Dan Cho

Associate Professor of History Anne E. McCants has resigned as future housemaster for Simmons

Hall and will be replaced by Professor of Toxicology and Chemistry John M. Essigmann and his wife, Ellen, when the new dormitory opens this fall.

The change in personnel was announced Friday by Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict. McCants had served as chair of the Simmons Founder's Group and was

expected to assume the role of housemaster once the new dorm opened in September, 2002. McCants made her decision to step down in mid-December due to personal and professional reasons.

"The increasing demands in my department and also change in my family situation both were compelling me to think long and hard about whether I could do the job properly," McCants said, "especially opening a new dorm, with all of the attendant complications."

The delay in the opening of Simmons Hall, which was originally scheduled for September, 2001, also contributed to McCants' decision to decline the post.

Essigmanns had tough decision

In choosing new the housemasters for Simmons, Benedict consulted McCants, the housemasters and presidents of several other MIT dorms, and Chancellor Phillip L. Clay. In the end, the Essigmanns were offered the position, in part because of a longstanding Institute practice of bringing experienced housemasters into new dormitories.

Proposed Visa Ban Mobilizes Students

By Richa Maheshwari

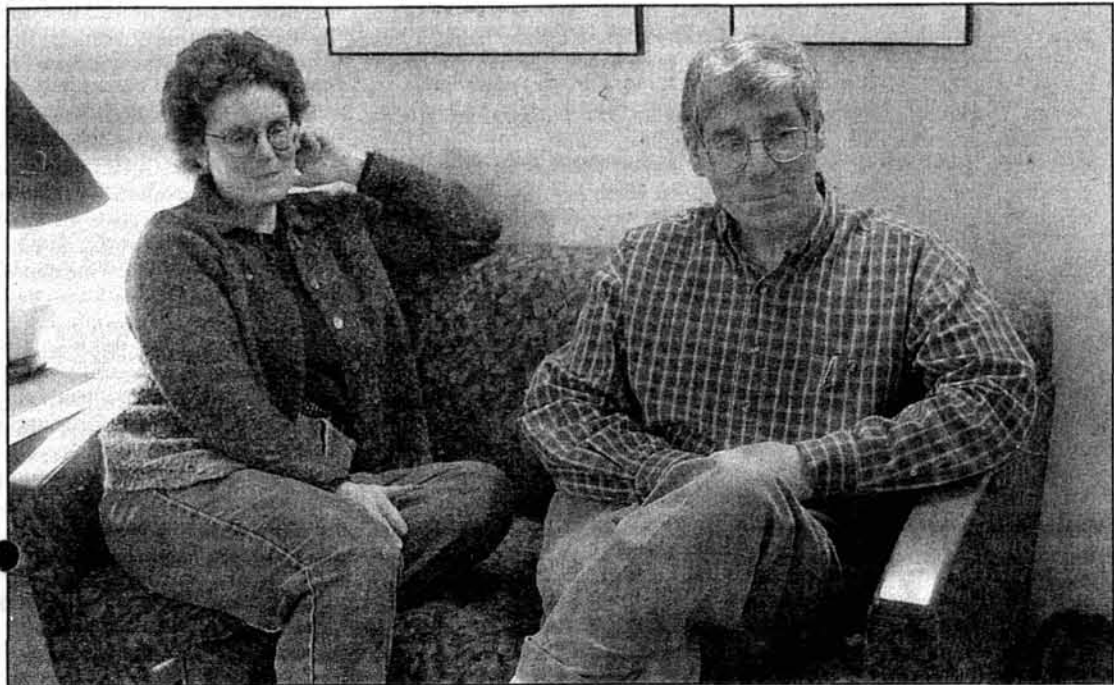
STAFF REPORTER

When Ali Mostashari G was admitted to MIT, he couldn't just send in his admissions reply. He, like other fellow Iranian students, had to undergo four to six weeks of background checks and travel to another country with an American Embassy to get his visa. Although some of his peers were not as lucky, he was fortunate enough to get a student visa. Today he is trying to ensure that others have the same opportunities that he did.

Mostashari, along with several organizations around campus, took action to oppose Section 306 of Senate Bill number S.1749, which states that visas will not be issued to aliens from a country that is deemed a "state sponsor of international terrorism" unless said alien is found to not be a threat "to the safety or national security of the United States" using guidelines to be established by the Secretary of State and Attorney General.

Groups ask Vest to take a stand

On Jan. 15, Nazbeh R. Taghizadeh '02, president of the MIT Persian Students Association, wrote a letter to President Charles M. Vest about her concerns with the bill. On behalf of the club she stated that "we believe the proposed legislation will virtually stop the admission of students and scholars of Iranian descent into the United



TIM SUEN—THE TECH

The Essigmanns, currently housemasters of New House, will be Simmons Hall's first housemasters.

Housemaster, Page 21

Clay Outlines Housing Plan with Ashdown Grads

By Danos Christodoulou

Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 held a meeting to discuss housing undergraduates in graduate student housing Friday, establishing two task forces to handle further planning.

Graduate students involved in the meeting said they were satisfied with the progress made thus far. "I think it was a very positive meeting," said Shunmugavelu D. Sokka G, former president of Ashdown House and a member of the

Graduate Student Council.

One focal point of the discussion was housing upperclassmen in graduate dorms. "We discussed a number of options for housing people from the undergraduate system, [and] one was housing seniors," said GSC President Dilan A. Seneviratne. "We discussed some of the options, nothing in detail."

Clay said that his goals were to eliminate crowding while preserving graduate student communities at the same time. He said that MIT

would "do nothing that would undermine our goals for improving undergraduate education [and] residential communities, which includes the decision not to put freshmen in graduate housing for the crowding solution."

Clay also said that moving undergraduates into Ashdown will be voluntary and he does not consider uprooting students to be a solution.

Concerned parties give feedback

Those most concerned with

plans to use Ashdown House for undergraduates were pleased with the opportunity to give Clay feedback. "[Clay] proposed the solution by listening to everyone first," said Terry P. Orlando, housemaster of Ashdown.

Clay proposed that the two groups will be formed under his direction. The first group will be a short term group: one that will meet over the next few weeks and will attempt to resolve the crowd-

Ashdown, Page 22

MIT Watching Fourth West, But Floor Not Sanctioned

By Kevin R. Lang

EDITOR IN CHIEF

MIT decided yesterday not to take disciplinary actions against the fourth floor of East Campus' west parallel after MIT Campus Police found a marijuana plant in a resident's room on Jan. 9, but residents will be under close watch from MIT in the future.

Assistant Dean Carol Orme-Johnson said MIT is taking three steps toward ensuring a similar incident does not occur in the future. First, "the enforcement of MIT policies around drugs and alcohol is going to be strict and vigilant," Orme-Johnson said. Second, Fourth West residents will be required to attend a discussion about drugs and alcohol. Third, residents have been warned that future incidents will be taken seriously by MIT.

"It's been made clear that they've had their last chance," Orme-Johnson said. She said that no one has been moved off the hall,

other than residents against whom MIT has "compelling evidence."

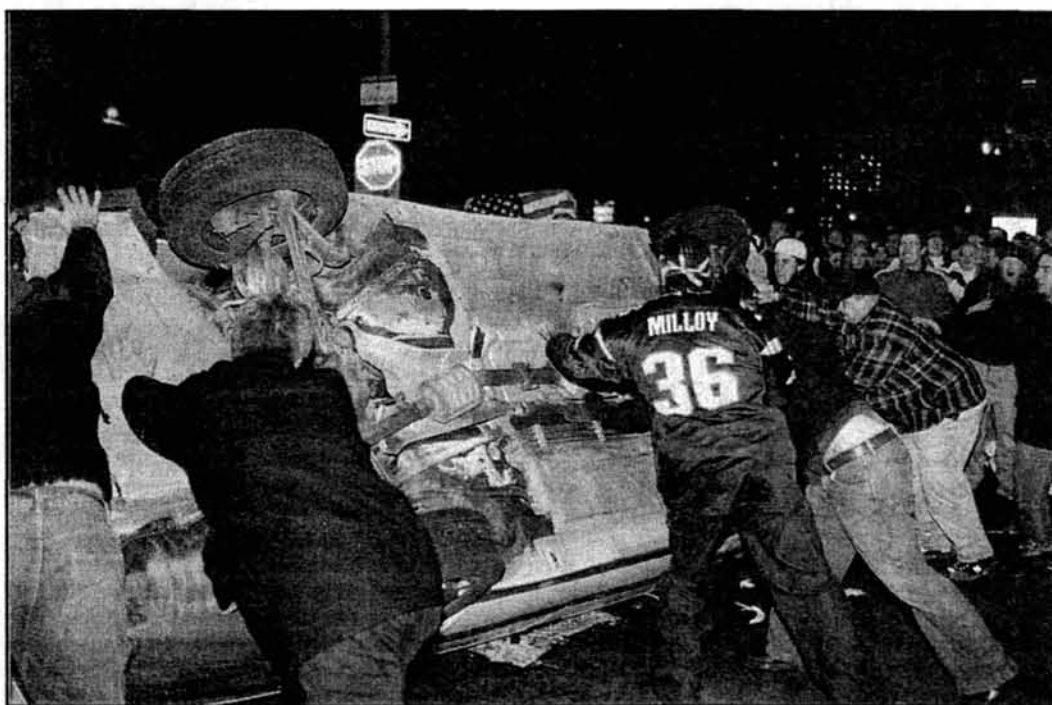
Though Orme-Johnson did not name him specifically, Peter N. Merckx '04 is known to be the student who was found in possession of the marijuana plant on Jan. 9, and he is no longer living on the hall. Merckx's current MIT directory information lists his address as Durham, North Carolina.

Orme-Johnson said that MIT reserved the right to move residents in case of future incidents.

MIT punishes individual, not hall

Orme-Johnson said that the actions taken by MIT reflect the fact that the marijuana plant incident was not characteristic of the entire hall. "I think there are a lot of people on the hall who don't participate or appreciate the lifestyle that a few adopted," Orme-Johnson said. "The floor really hasn't been punished."

Fourth West, Page 17



AARON MIHALIK—THE TECH

Patriots fans overturn an empty BMW on Lansdowne Street Sunday night. Police intervention on Lansdowne was minimal until the car was overturned at approximately 1:00 a.m. The police, some brandishing rubber bullet guns, effectively dispersed the crowd within 20 minutes.



The Tech's 2001
Year in Review is
included as a supplement to this
issue.

COMICS
The Crass
Rat returns.

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NEWS

"Paco Lopez" wins this year's
6.270 competition.

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WORLD & NATION

Judge Rejects Bush Appointee To Civil Rights Commission

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

A federal judge Monday rejected the Bush administration's most recent appointment to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, backing the agency's majority against the White House in an increasingly partisan fight over the agency's role and direction.

In a 20-minute oral ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Gladys Kessler said there was no place on the commission for Peter Kirsanow, a conservative Cleveland lawyer whom Bush named in December, because the term of commissioner Victoria Wilson, an independent who often sympathized with the panel's Democrats, had not expired.

Wilson was appointed in January 2000 by President Clinton to replace a deceased commission member. In Monday's ruling, Kessler found that Wilson had the right to serve a full six-year term even though her letter of commission expired Nov. 29, 2001.

The Justice Department immediately promised to appeal the decision, which would add another round to a political scrimmage that has reached beyond an appointment to a \$9 million federal agency that investigates complaints and issues reports but has no enforcement powers.

Biden Calls for U.S. Peacekeeping Troops in Afghanistan

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The United States should send troops to Afghanistan to help keep the peace after the terrorist-hunting mission there is over, the ranking Senate Democrat on foreign affairs said Monday, asserting that Afghanistan's future might depend on it.

Sen. Joseph Biden (Del.) challenged President Bush's decision to leave Afghan peacekeeping to other countries. He said the failure to establish a solid national government could create a "lawless safe haven for anti-American terrorists."

"Security is the basic issue in Afghanistan," Biden, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a Washington speech. "Whatever it takes, we should do it. History will judge us harshly if we allow the hope of a liberated Afghanistan to evaporate because we failed to stay the course."

Bush told Afghanistan's interim leader, Hamid Karzai, last week that the United States will decline peacekeeping duties but will take the lead in training an Afghan army and police force designed to lend stability to the battered country. The administration pledged \$297 million in economic aid.

Biden and other Democrats have recently been treating foreign affairs with caution, wary of being seen as trying to undermine a president who has received tremendous public support for his handling of the war.

Bar Association Says Prisoners Deserve Legal Protections

THE WASHINGTON POST

Rebuffing an appeal from the Bush administration, the nation's largest lawyers' group resolved Monday that any alleged terrorists tried by military commissions should enjoy legal protections similar to those provided American servicemen in military courts-martial.

Meeting in Philadelphia, the House of Delegates of the 408,000-member American Bar Association voted, 286-147, that those convicted by the commissions should have the right to appeal their cases all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The lawyers' organization also urged consultation on the commissions between the White House and Congress — which so far has taken only a minor role in the process — and said U.S. policy on prosecuting terrorists should take into account the possible impact of the commissions on the treatment of Americans accused of crimes in other countries.

"The resolution basically says that if we have tribunals, let's have them according to the American way," ABA President Robert Hirsch said.

WEATHER

An Early February Freeze

By Kevin R. Lang

EDITOR IN CHIEF

A low pressure system is gaining strength in the Gulf of Maine as it heads to Newfoundland today. This low is sending cold northerly winds across Boston, and these winds will continue through the day. Skies will be partly to mostly sunny, with temperatures climbing into the 20s and 30s F (-6°C to 0°C), but the wind chill factor will still be strong.

Tuesday night and Wednesday will be cold and dry, with strong winds turning to the west to eventually diminish the wind chill. A low pressure system could hit the region by Thursday night, possibly bringing some precipitation.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny and brisk. Highs in the lower 30s F (0°C). Northwest wind 15 to 25 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear and brisk. Lows in the lower 20s F (-6°C). West Wind 15 to 25 mph.

Wednesday: Partly sunny. Highs in the upper 30s F (3°C).

Thursday: Partly sunny. A chance of flurries in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 30s F (0°C).

Russian Minister Responds Skeptically to 'Axis Of Evil'

By James Gerstenzang and Edwin Chen

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush failed Monday to gain Russia's agreement that Iraq, Iran and North Korea constitute what he again called an "axis of evil" bent on spreading terror around the world.

Bush met for about 30 minutes in the Oval Office with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail M. Kasyanov, who afterward expressed skepticism about the direction the president has taken in the new phase of the war against terrorism.

The Bush administration has been eager to promote the success of the U.S.-Russian relationship, in the wake of the president's frequent contacts with Russian President Vladimir V. Putin. But as Bush seeks to carry the fight against terrorism beyond Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and the defeated Taliban regime, he is encountering international realities that might strain Russian support for Washing-

ton's course.

Russia historically has been close to Iraq, and the two countries appear to be developing stronger economic links, especially in the oil business.

Kasyanov made clear that Moscow is less willing than the United States to single out Iraq, Iran and North Korea as renegade nations that might be targeted next by Washington. He said the United States and Russia must "identify dangers, real dangers, rather than imaginary" ones.

Asked whether he thought the threat Bush says the three nations pose is "imaginary," the prime minister avoided a direct answer. Instead, he said that if specific dangers are identified, "we should ... provide evidence to each other and (then) assure all others that those threats really exist."

Kasyanov also expressed a readiness to cooperate with the administration in seeking out such threats.

Kasyanov's comments illustrate the balance Russia is trying to strike in its dealings with the United

States, said Dmitri K. Simes, president of the Nixon Center, a Washington think tank.

While Russian officials do not agree with Bush's "axis of evil" warnings — first issued in his State of the Union speech last week — they do not view this difference as important enough to lead to a split in the increasingly friendly ties between Washington and Moscow, Simes said.

Russia's main priorities, he added, are gaining membership in the World Trade Organization and establishing a comfortable relationship with NATO — goals for which U.S. backing is crucial. Bush's meeting with Kasyanov focused on those two issues, White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said.

At the same time, Russian officials believe it is in their best interests to gain the goodwill of Iraq, Iran and North Korea, said Frank Gaffney of the Center of Security Policy, another Washington think tank. All are potential clients of Russian weapons technology.

Five Palestinians Die When Car Explodes; Israeli Army Blamed

By Marjorie Miller

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM

Five Palestinian gunmen were killed Monday when their car exploded in the Gaza Strip in what Palestinian officials said was a targeted Israeli missile attack and a move to sabotage efforts to broker a cease-fire.

The radical Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine vowed retaliation for the members of its military wing, whose bodies were discovered along with pieces of Kalashnikov rifles.

The deaths followed Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's first meeting with high-ranking Palestinian officials since he took office nearly a year ago. Sharon met Wednesday in Jerusalem with Ahmed Korei, who is the speaker of the Palestinian parliament; Mahmoud Abbas, who is Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's unofficial deputy; and Mohammed Rashid, who is Arafat's financial adviser. The talks were held to search for ways to end the violence

that has torn Israel and the Palestinian territories for 16 months.

Sharon is scheduled to meet Thursday with President Bush in Washington and has said he will ask the U.S. government to cut contacts with Arafat.

Israeli army and government officials refused to comment on the incident. Israel Radio reported that its military sources said the men were carrying an explosive device in the car that apparently went off prematurely.

The radio also reported that two of the dead were wanted for an attack late last year on the Israeli army outpost of Marganit in the Gaza Strip in which three soldiers were killed.

Arafat, whom the Israelis have had under siege at his headquarters in Ramallah for two months, accused Sharon of fueling tensions on the ground with targeted killings.

"The Israeli government does not want to calm the situation," Arafat said. "But it should know that the Palestinian people cannot be shaken or broken."

The car blew up on a rural road near the Rafah refugee camp, close to the border with Egypt. Witnesses said an unmanned drone reconnaissance plane was flying overhead after the blast.

Palestinian officials said four men were killed when Israeli helicopter gunships fired missiles at the car. A fifth man later died of his injuries.

The Democratic Front, a radical faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization, issued a statement that "retaliation will come very soon and will shake the land under the feet of the occupiers." It is one of the Palestinian groups that have carried out attacks against Israel in recent months.

Palestinians accuse the Israeli government of conducting a state-sponsored assassination campaign. Israel says it is acting in self-defense because the Palestinian Authority will not rein in extremists who attack Israel.

Monday's explosion followed a predawn Israeli helicopter strike on a Gaza City industrial compound.

Independent Prosecutor Needed For Enron Case, Senator Says

By Elaine S. Povich

NEWSDAY

WASHINGTON

The chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee said Monday that former Enron chief executive Kenneth Lay will be subpoenaed to appear next week before the panel, and he called for an independent prosecutor to investigate the company, saying the Bush administration is too close to the bankrupt firm.

"This is a culture of government corruption. I've never seen a better example of cash-and-carry government than this Bush administration and Enron," said Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C. "I think we ought to have a special prosecutor."

Lay resigned Monday night from the Enron board of directors, severing his last tie to the company.

Lay had been scheduled to testify before the panel Monday, but he changed his mind late Sunday, cit-

ing statements made by committee members in media appearances. His attorney, Earl Silbert, charged in a letter to the panel that "conclusions have been reached" ahead of Lay's testimony. Silbert did not respond to repeated telephone calls Monday.

"I think it would have been difficult to come and testify," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., chairman of a Commerce Committee panel that was scheduled to hear from Lay. "But he never should have expected it would be a walk in the park."

The Commerce Committee scheduled a vote Tuesday to authorize the subpoena to Lay to appear next Tuesday.

Dorgan charged that Lay reneged on his pledge to come before the committee Monday after an internal report, written by Enron board member and University of Texas Law School Dean William Powers, that criticized Lay for his inattention to

Enron's intricate web of businesses.

In testimony before a House committee Monday, Powers said his inquiry "found a systematic and pervasive attempt by Enron's management to misrepresent the company's financial condition."

"There's no question that virtually everyone from the board of directors down" knew that interlinked partnerships were used to "offset its investment losses with its own stock," Powers said in his prepared statement.

The devastating report may have an impact on other Enron officials who have been asked to testify to Congress. Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has scheduled a hearing Thursday, has said that he expects Enron's former chief financial officer to refuse to testify, but that the company's former chief executive would appear.

Bush Administration Proposes Security-Laden Federal Budget

By Eric Pianin
and Bill Miller
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Concerns about homeland security permeate virtually every facet of federal spending as the Bush administration moves to redefine the government's mission in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the fiscal 2003 budget released Monday shows.

While police and firefighters, border security agents, bioterrorism experts and intelligence agencies understandably were among the biggest gainers in the new budget — which contains nearly \$38 billion for domestic security activities — agencies that once had only the

most remote links to homeland security are being showered with funds for that purpose.

The Agriculture Department, for example, would spend \$146 million on various programs to protect the nation's food supply from threats ranging from terrorists to insects. The little known Commerce Department Bureau of Export Administration would receive \$30 million more than in fiscal 2002 to make sure that potentially dangerous materials exported to other countries don't end up in the hands of terrorists.

The Interior Department would be given \$884 million over last year to protect national monuments and parks. The Small Business Adminis-

tration would get millions more for its disaster loan program to assist in case of renewed attacks, and the U.S. Customs Service would boost revenue for homeland security activities by raising passenger fees for those traveling by air or sea.

Bush's budget plan for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 shifts resources from other areas to double spending for homeland security — from \$19.5 billion this year to \$37.5 billion in fiscal 2003.

Budget and government experts say that while many of these expenditures are to be expected in the face of repeated government warnings of more terrorist activity, some caution that spending could get out of hand.

Afghan Interior Minister Aims for National Police Force

THE WASHINGTON POST

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan expects to have a national police force working in about a year that would be drawn from all provinces, including those now ruled by warlords, Interior Minister Yonus Qanooni said Monday.

"We need to make the Afghanistan security forces self-sufficient," Qanooni said. "All the provinces and all the ethnic groups of Afghanistan will be represented in the police force."

Afghanistan's interim central government faces a major task in trying to extend its control across a country in which the fall of the Taliban merely allowed some regional warlords to reclaim power over their former fiefdoms. Fierce fighting erupted last week in Gardez, south of Kabul, when a local council objected to a provincial governor named by the national government.

Qanooni described the fighting as a "local problem" and asserted: "I'm very sure that what happened in Gardez will not be escalated and scattered throughout the country. It was a local situation, and there were hands of foreign countries. The situation is now under control."

Data Recovery Experts Predict Enron Records Not Gone Forever

NEWSDAY

MASHANTUCKET, CONN.

Andersen accountants may have worn out their delete buttons in an attempt to destroy Enron Corp. electronic documents amid the collapse of the energy giant, but that doesn't worry the computer forensics experts charged with bringing the documents back.

To be sure, the amount of data they must sift through — estimated at 268 terabytes, roughly 10 times the amount of data stored by the Library of Congress — is unmatched by any computer crime investigation. Tens of thousands of e-mails and other documents must be electronically recreated from the hundreds of computer hard drives from which they resided. But those working on the investigation, and those familiar with similar ones, say the chances are good almost all of it will be restored.

"Basically, anything on the drives we'll be able to see," said Andy Rosen, president of ASR Data of Cedar Park, Texas, one of the companies involved in the case. "We typically enjoy a very high recovery rate."

Rosen declined to answer any specific questions about the case, but sources close to the investigation said ASR is working at the behest of Andersen on the case.

Eric Thompson, founder and chairman of Provo, Utah-based Access Data Inc., which is providing forensic software to Rosen for use in the investigation, said even encrypted or password-protected e-mails and documents that had been erased won't escape the reach of his software, which is used by law enforcement and corporations globally. Thompson said he's traveling to Enron this weekend to set up the software.

Americans Vote Bush Should Not Tap Into Social Security Revenue

By Ronald Brownstein
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Although Americans express resounding approval of President Bush's performance at home and abroad, an overwhelming majority would rather cancel later stages of his signature tax cut than tap Social Security revenue to pay for other government programs, a Los Angeles Times Poll has found.

With war, the recession and the tax cut's cost straining the government's bottom line, the White House on Monday released a new budget that projects Washington must divert \$1.73 trillion in Social Security money to fund other programs from 2002 through 2012. But in The

Times' survey, fully four-fifths of Americans — including more than two-thirds of Republicans — say they would rather defer future tax cuts than use Social Security money that way.

Those findings might be the most ominous clouds for Bush in a political environment defined mostly by his extraordinarily broad support.

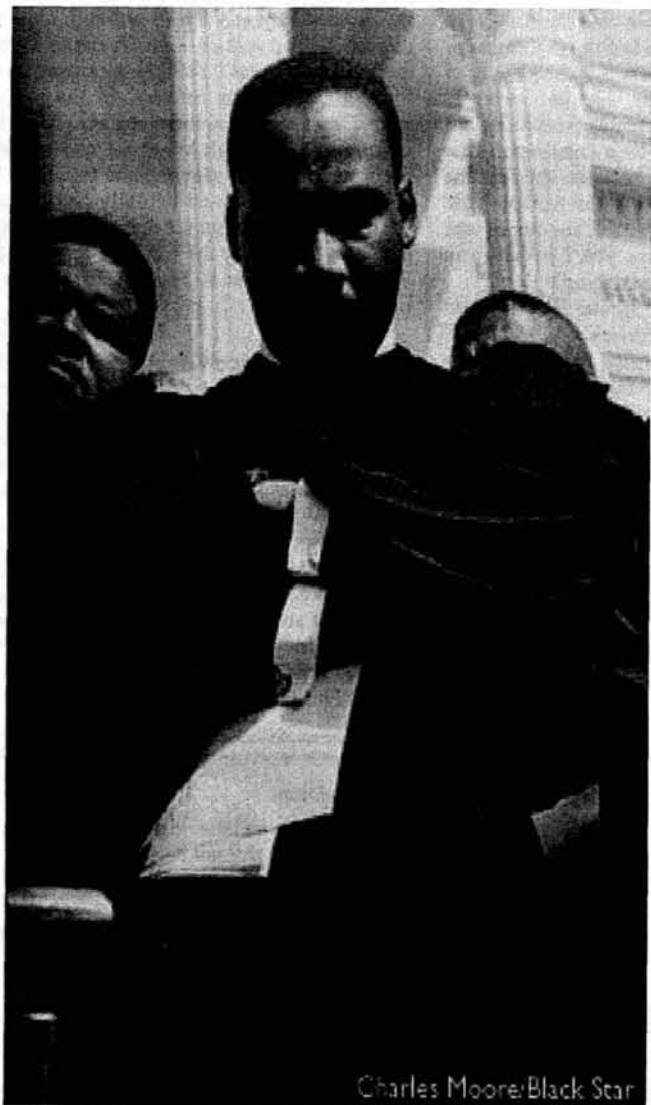
Congressional Democrats charge that Bush's tax cut, more than any other factor, obliterated the anticipated federal budget surpluses and forced the government to dip deeply into Social Security revenue — barely more than a year after a 2000 campaign in which both parties pledged to set aside that money in a "lockbox" to reduce the national

debt.

So far, the poll suggests, Democrats have not pinned the blame on Bush for the reversal: Substantially more Americans blame the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 than the tax cut and Bush's policies for the return of federal deficits. And more Americans express faith in Bush than congressional Democrats to revive the economy. But on a series of questions, a majority of Americans indicated an openness to reconsidering the tax cut — something Bush has pledged will not happen.

The Times Poll, supervised by Polling Director Susan Pinkus, surveyed 1,545 adults from Jan. 31 through Feb. 3.

"From Dreams to Reality: The Illusion of Full Inclusion"



Charles Moore/Black Star

"Success, recognition, and conformity are the bywords of the modern world where everyone seems to crave the anesthetizing security of being identified with the majority."

-Martin Luther King, Jr., Strength to Love, 1963.

Come see the Martin Luther King Installation in Lobby 10

Friday, February 1 – Monday, February 10

Come voice your opinion at a Discussion on Race Relations

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

4-370

7-9pm

FREE FOOD

OPINION

Ramifications of the Shin Lawsuit

The lawsuit filed on Jan. 28 by the family of Elizabeth H. Shin '02 was a major shock to the MIT community, not so much out of surprise as for its potential impact. With the suit filed by the family of Scott S. Krueger '01, MIT quickly settled and moved on — by housing freshmen on campus, MIT could ensure that no freshman would ever again die following a fraternity pledge event. With the Shin lawsuit, however, MIT cannot distance itself in the same way — no one can guarantee that students will not commit suicide in the future.

Editorial

In a letter to the MIT community, President Charles M. Vest writes that MIT will “respond to these unfair and inaccurate allegations in court,” which indicates that MIT will fight the lawsuit. If MIT loses or settles this suit, all universities will be pressured to contact parents quickly, pushing the boundaries of confidentiality laws. In addition, students, knowing that their parents are likely to be contacted, might be more hesitant to seek help. Vest mentions students who “insist that information be withheld from their parents as a condition for accepting help,” something which has not yet been discussed in the Shin case. A settlement or Shin family victory would burden doctors in such situations, forcing them to put liability ahead of students’ privacy rights and medical interests. *The Tech* applauds Vest for defending students’ needs in his letter.

In addition, malpractice, which the Shins allege, is

unclear at best in a case of mental health care. One cannot possibly predict the outcome of notifying a student’s parents about mental illness, despite a seemingly obvious diagnosis in hindsight. Shin actively sought the help of friends, faculty, administrators, and mental health professionals at MIT, but apparently she did not seek the help of her parents, even though MIT Medical encourages students to involve their parents in treatment. Shin’s family could have asked her to sign a confidentiality waiver, but apparently they chose not to take this initiative, leaving the decision entirely to MIT faculty, administrators, and medical professionals.

The Tech certainly understands the Shin family’s feelings and reasons for filing suit against MIT; the grief from the loss of their daughter is clearly reason enough to seek answers and explanations. If the Shin family is sincere about improving MIT’s mental health system and preventing future suicides, however, they should announce how some portion of the \$27.7 million they might win from MIT would be applied to mental health initiatives, much in the same way a scholarship fund was established in the Krueger settlement.

President Vest should be commended for defending those at MIT who tried to help Elizabeth Shin, but more importantly, he should be commended for considering the impact on the MIT community in addition to the legal ramifications of the Shin lawsuit. MIT should remain steady in its resolve to stand up for students, even if it means fighting for our rights in a courtroom.

Letters To The Editor

Patriotism Not Always Ignorant

In “Fear of the Flag” [January 30], Stephanie W. Wang made the unfair accusation that anyone who displays an American flag is doing so because they are “afraid of social stigma and political condemnation.” She clearly believes that all patriotism is “ignorant patriotism,” and this is a gross error.

I have a flag — in fact I had a flag before flags were “in.” This doesn’t mean I agree with everything done in the name of America. It means I support the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. And most importantly, it means I share a sense of community with other Americans, along with all the responsibility that entails. Wang only points out the “extra courage to commit hate crimes” that can be inspired by the flag. But what about the acts of kindness and service it can inspire?

Patriotism is a powerful force that can be directed toward good or evil. We need to put our effort into directing it toward good, not endeavoring to stifle it. If you don’t support current U.S. policy, write a letter or stage a protest. That’s the patriotic thing to do.

Edward A. Faulkner '03

Stephanie Wang [“Fear the Flag,” January 30] refuses to believe that Americans’ profuse displays of their flag since September 11 stem from love of their country and their countrymen. Oh, no. This is “forced patriotism.” American consumers are demanding patriotic decorations because they “are afraid of what will happen to them if they don’t demand.”

Forgive me if I’m not convinced. Though I consider myself deeply patriotic, I haven’t purchased or displayed a single patriotic decoration since September 11; I don’t live in fear. But perhaps MIT is an exceptionally tolerant community. Well this Thanksgiving and Christmas when I was back in my small, conservative hometown I noticed that my family didn’t display a single flag (or any other patriotic decoration) on their house or car, although many other people did; my family wasn’t afraid either.

But perhaps there are some people who are just scared to criticize the government because everyone around them is so patriotic. Ms. Wang wrote that she saw a deluge of

flags in San Francisco and a small American flag stuffed in the glove compartment of her parents’ car. As anyone who has read her column will attest, San Francisco and her parents have obviously failed to bully her into a patriot, nor did they scare her into refraining from criticizing. She may have been uncomfortable being around patriots, but being uncomfortable is not the same as being coerced.

The worst thing about Ms. Wang’s farcical allegations is that they trivialize the evil of real forced patriotism in the world’s many undemocratic countries, places where people do not have the freedom of speech Ms. Wang enjoys but does not fully understand.

David Milovich '04

Parental Responsibility

I am greatly disturbed by the lawsuit which the parents of Elizabeth Shin are filing against MIT, and the article in *The Tech* [“Shin Family Files Wrongful Death Lawsuit,” January 30] which reported it on Wednesday. It seems to me the parents are failing to take responsibility for their role in their daughter’s death.

The Shins’ statements that they thought Elizabeth “thrived in a challenging environment,” the failure to mention the high school incident in the timeline, and the parents’ attempt to blame MIT Mental Health for not calling them, point me to a conclusion that Elizabeth wanted to die because she felt she could never be the daughter her parents expected. If one cannot fulfill the hopes and dreams of those who gave you life, how can your life be justified in continuing?

The decision by MIT Mental Health not to call her parents was therefore a wise one. If her parents had been notified about her problems, they could have either talked to her about it, which would probably embarrass her and only add to her stresses, making her death even more imminent.

In my mind, the only way this lawsuit will be justified is the money is then donated to a scholarship fund which will pay MIT students’ tuitions without requiring that they maintain a high GPA or any other form of stress, and that will free them from the burden of being put through school by their parents, to whom they already owe their lives themselves.

Dawn Perner '01

A Different View On Agostini v. Felton

In “Snow Falling On Churches,” [January 30] Dan Tortorice misrepresents or misunderstands the *Agostini v. Felton* decision. The Supreme Court was addressing the issue of public school teachers providing remedial classwork with a curriculum established by the city, not the church, for economically depressed students, supported by federal funds. In effect, the parochial students were suing for access to federal funds which had been allocated for them but placed in the hands of the city. They were not suing for a part of the city education budget. The only way *Agostini* would support the plowing of church lots would be if the town received federal funds to provide snow plowing for, say, all non-profit organizations. To selectively make church lots the only non-public resource plowed with tax dollars is certainly not supported by *Agostini*.

Continuing his argument, he states, “By plowing the lots of all religious institutions the government is not taking a stance on religion. It does not say it is good to believe in God; rather, it says that if you wish to worship God we respect that and will do what we can to let you exercise that choice.” Well, many people chose to go to the gym on Sunday. Or the sex toy store. Or a meeting at their local ACLU. If the government truly isn’t taking a stance on religion, why is it not plowing the lots of these places (some of which actually pay taxes)? Why is the government not doing “what [it] can to let [me] exercise the choice” to spend my Sunday as an escort at Planned Parenthood by plowing its lot?

Susan Buchman '01

Errata

Wednesday’s article “Shin Family Files Wrongful Death Lawsuit” [Jan. 30] incorrectly spelled the surname of MIT’s lawyer. He is Jeffrey Swope, not Jeffrey Swopes.

The article “Ashdown Fighting Clay Plan” incorrectly spelled Chancellor Clay’s first name. His name is Phillip, not Philip.

Opinion Policy

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

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Might, Right, and Disinterest

Ken Nesmith

Our war on terror has been successful. We quickly and effectively dismantled the Taliban government, and though the daunting task of laying the foundation for a functional nation lies before us, by most measures we've been exceptionally successful in Afghanistan.

In our response to the attacks of Sept. 11, we've acted forcefully and decisively in punishing those who attacked our society. In doing so, however, we've perpetuated a framework of international relations that can be described concisely as "might makes right." The infrastructure existed for the United States to judiciously and deliberately pursue justice through a system of international law and trial, and the means to prosecute those involved in the attacks were available to us. We chose not to do so.

In this case, the identity of the guilty parties was not ambiguous. With that information and the indisputable fact that our country had been attacked in hand, we did a perfectly understandable and arguably rational thing: we struck back, hard. In primitive terms, we, the king of the global jungle, responded to the vicious pecking of a small, angry animal by swatting it firmly away. We affirmed our role as a powerful figure not to be attacked or questioned.

That violent, reactionary behavior is simple, fundamental to social dynamics, and is consistent with the history of international relations. Truthfully, it doesn't pose many practical problems for me right now. I am, after all, an American, and therefore on the side of the might, and the corresponding right.

Worrying about the cesspool of primitive moral standards in which we are standing is little more than a whimsical thought exercise for me and most Americans. When I rise from my desk and step into Boston, I will still live in a local world of abundance and comfort as a student at an elite university in a nation that exists at the apex of materially defined standards of living. I have the luxury of pursuing whatever life I wish as well as the freedom to

think of nothing more than where to go for dinner and what shirt to wear.

The conclusions and ramifications drawn through discussing and contemplating the pain of a world living, in majority, in a state of struggle, pain, and poverty dissolve as soon as my mind allows it. Nothing in my life, and nothing in the lives of most Americans, provides them any cogent argument for sincerely worrying about such things in the same way that that eternally masterful debater, reality, does for those whose role in the new global economy is to do little more than exist in the face of vicious obstacles to that simple goal.

Having been so blessed, reason would suggest that we Americans are pretty much set for life. In the near term, this is probably the case. It seems unlikely that some fundamental, global shift in international political, economic, and military power structures will unseat the United States and us, its citizens, from this comfortable throne. Barring some disruptive global disaster, the real threat lies quite a ways down the road, when our vision of global freedom and capitalism becomes a reality.

The mess of corruption, dictatorship, oppression, and warfare that still wracks much of the world will eventually be cleared — so goes the optimistic theory — by the uplifting hand of economic exchange based on personal freedom. By pursuing an international policy designed to promote democracy and free trade, even if our means sometimes obscure our aim, we seek to achieve a new era of American as well as global prosperity.

However, as potential powers that currently lie in various states of disarray experience a revolution in growth and prosperity, harnessing their tremendous human and natural capital efficiently and effectively, we will slowly come to find ourselves, a model to the world for freedom and economic strength, not the exception, but the rule. Our power will be matched, and perhaps matched many times over, by nations worldwide.

Conflict, obviously, will always be a part of human relations, and even if we attain that global prosperity, conflict will still occur. The important question is how it will be handled in that new age. Nothing in history, especially recent history, suggests that any other method of dispute resolution than "might makes right" will take hold.

In the past year, after we shunned the opportunity to validate a new framework of international law and order, our embrace of bloodlust instead took us further down a bleak path of violence and destruction. Though some laud the controlled, purposeful manner

pay no respect to our sovereignty or dignity, and we will have no recourse.

Should we lose our status as the world's leading superpower, our complaints would suddenly carry no more weight than the ones we ignore now. It would be a new experience for us to not have our way, and have nothing to do about it but stomp indignantly as we succumbed to the interests of more powerful nations, just as others must do now when faced with our pressures.

No longer would we worry about which neat weapons to use and how close we could keep our casualty count to zero in conflict; we'd worry if we could do anything at all. Such a loss of power would mean quite a different role for us in the global jungle.

The primeval precedent that we've reinforced and our failure to create a new, more civilized one has wrought consequences more immediate than vaguely predictable future conflict. Now, virtually any time any military action is to be justified, it is done under the pretense of responding to terrorism. India and Pakistan are at each other's throats, each armed with nuclear weapons. Israel and Palestine are as pathetically at violent odds as ever. Arms are flowing freely, destabilizing theaters worldwide. We're looking for new nations to attack after our cakewalk in Afghanistan, even as the task of rebuilding Afghanistan defies easy solution.

As our attentions continue to shift towards predictable domestic partisan quarrels, the war on terror shrinks in prominence. A recent poll stated that Americans prefer that our politicians focus on these domestic issues rather than international conflict by a ratio of three to one. Unfortunately, we'll one day lose the luxury of casual disinterest and will instead face the long-term consequences of the simple philosophy we refuse to abandon.

Right now, we're still quite mighty, and all else is of little genuine concern to us. I'm off to grab dinner and catch a film. That was a fun thought exercise.

Sadly, though we will someday not be the mighty, might will continue to make right ... it would be a new experience for us not to have our way, and have nothing to do about it but stomp indignantly as we succumb to the interests of more powerful nations.

in which we built a tenuous coalition before striking back, others realize that this coalition is neither significant nor powerful in its resolve.

Currently strained by our treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, as well as our haphazardly evolving plans to attack other nations we don't like, the most powerful bond uniting this coalition has been Bush's thoughtful decree that "you're either with us or against us."

Sadly, though we will someday not be the mighty, might will continue to make right. We are doing nothing to shift away from that hopeless paradigm. Someday, our newspapers will indignantly editorialize about the atrocious, arrogant behavior of other nations that

The Redundancy of Racism

Philip Burrowes

Last Wednesday, Gene Ray received something most MIT professors never will: a lecture hall packed with attentive students. With all due respect to the Time Cube's "ineffable Truth," his single most amazing accomplishment may have been to get the mostly white crowd to laugh at a joke with the punchline, "... and I'm going to hate you honkies." Amidst the ensuing collective convulsions of joy, one person was compelled to comedically respond: "White power!" There was little discernible response to the comment, and the audience kept guffawing for several more seconds, but no doubt some thought such an outburst was unwelcome. Not because the audience was supposed to maintain some level of decorum, but because the phrase "white power" is obviously racist, right?

Often companion to that opinion is the idea that "black power" is not only a relatively innocuous phrase, but that it is even a positive statement. Most people who think that way will never articulate their reasons for it, but that does not stop the rest of the population from asking the obvious question. Why, exactly, is a phrase's utility wholly dependent on the point of view for its speaker? Perhaps the question begins expanding to other similar phenomena, and soon people are wondering why there can be "black" magazines, "black" television, "black" jokes, etc., but substituting

"white" for "black" would make them racist. There are any number of explanations of this which may try to explain the situation in practical terms without addressing the historical antecedent. Market success of these "black" enterprises allows them to succeed. Black people have concerns distinct from the rest of the population, so they are better served by specially tailored means. Capital flow from

What comes to mind when imagining 'history'? Seeing a black person yet? Chances are, unless your family is not far removed from some other nation, you haven't even envisioned a non-white person yet.

blacks to non-blacks is making the black community poorer, so it is important for them to support fellow blacks.

Without questioning the veracity of any of these statements (yet) it should be obvious that none of them answer the question of why this is the case. Quite simply, the reason "black" is used to qualify specific items is because the assumption otherwise is that they

are white. Economic and political power has been and is concentrated within the hands of people who happen to be white (to be distinguished from white people), and so any institution is automatically perceived as serving those interests. Lest this seems like more "black power" posturing, simply think of what comes to mind when imagining "history." Seeing a black person yet? Chances are, unless your family is not far removed from some other nation, you haven't even envisioned a nonwhite person yet. In other words, the reason few people say "white power" is that it's redundant.

Nowhere exists an immutable assertion to constantly remind black people that, no, they are not born into a position of impotence. If anything, the only inclination black people receive of their position is from the outside. Turn on a television and see another black person becoming a chalk outline thanks to police, watch black athletes in arenas surrounded by white spectators, or quickly scan the United States Senate. As a result, the white people laying claim to their "power" seem like little more than sore winners.

So you understand the point that black people might feel systematically underrepresented, so they over-represent themselves elsewhere (let's assume; one probably can't just take another's word for it). You should furthermore understand this does not give *carte blanche* for actions which would be reprehensible for other groups. If the overwhelmingly

white House of Representatives, for example, should favor white people for the sheer fact that they are white, the Congressional Black Caucus would be neither obligated to nor excused for favoring blacks. Along the same lines, it would be wrong for a television network, a musician, a clothing company, etc. to be construed as important solely because of the number of black people involved.

Herein lies the real problem with "black" products: reinforcing the notion of "black." Simply promoting someone because of race gives us another Clarence Thomas. Choosing, however, between what is of black-interest and what is not implies that there are concerns which it would be aberrant for black people to have, thereby supporting the idea that are inherent differences between (and thereby the existence of) races. While it is understandable to let black people know they exist, being too extreme one way or another is ultimately racist.

Gene Ray, at this point, might be inclined to point out there are other races, although he would choose a definite number. In a nation which is nearly 90% either white or black, should both groups dedicate themselves to self-representation (albeit the former indirectly), the other 10% are left all the more excluded. Undoubtedly it would be fairer if enterprises on all sides realized that were in fact no sides, or that at least they are not so clear-cut. Still, it is better that black people empower themselves than leave "power" synonymous with "other."



Viva Ayiti

Michael Borucke

I just spent the past three weeks in Ayiti (Haiti) doing research for my thesis. One of the problems affecting the country is the lack of clean, drinkable water for its citizens. Being the poorest country in the western hemisphere, Ayiti has no infrastructure to treat its wastewater. People get their water from mountain springs, wells, or by collecting rainwater in cisterns. The water contamination is reflected in the high incidence of gastrointestinal infections.

Ayiti's poverty comes into play again as such easily remedied illnesses are the cause of a high percentage of child mortality (of course, contaminated water and the sicknesses that follow could be remedied with a little U.S. support and technology, but our government is focusing their humanitarian efforts in other directions: see defense contractors).

It was with this depressing, albeit rudimentary, understanding that I went to Ayiti to find microorganisms in the water. I half-expected to encounter a grim population, but I found no such expression on the faces of the people. Too busy with the activities of daily life, not once did I sense any self-pity. Instead there seemed to be a pride about being Haitian.

At every collection site we visited, children gathered around us inquisitively looking at our equipment and our pale faces. Everyone had a smile. A few people took the opportunity to brush up on their English and struck up a conversation with me (I didn't make an attempt to learn Creole). People asked about where I live, did I have siblings, what did I think of Haiti. Several times people told me, "I am happy to be talking to you." The comment struck me as

odd, not because I haven't heard (or said) the U.S. version, "Nice talking to you," but because the sentiment was actually genuine.

The lack of cynicism and hostility in Haitian society was the biggest shock I experienced. Not once in Ayiti did I feel unwelcome. There were no bad feelings for a person from a country whose military had invaded Ayiti dozens of times, whose government backed the brutal Duvalier regime, whose racist immigration policy had consistently denied political asylum to Haitian refugees and sent them back at a time when atrocities

The lack of cynicism and hostility in Haitian society was the biggest shock I experienced. The warm manner in which our group was received probably came from the idea that we were guests in their country. Being proud of their country, they wanted us to have a good experience while in Ayiti.

in Ayiti were being carried out.

The trust and respect I was accorded while working was a little startling. Who was I to deserve this trust? All I knew how to do was push a few buttons and record measurements. I had no solutions to offer, not even any good ideas to improve water quality. In hindsight, though, the warm manner in which our group was received probably came from the idea that we were guests in their country. Being proud of their country, they wanted us to have a good experience while in Ayiti. The manner in which I, a foreigner, was treated while in Ayiti is probably what I'll remember most.

It makes me somewhat ashamed at how foreigners are treated in this country — with

suspicion and contempt. Here, foreigners are either made scapegoats as the source of America's problems or made the outright enemy of the state. With regards to Ayiti, a mainstream belief in this country is that Ayiti is the source of AIDS, a belief as racist as it is false. Maybe this behavior doesn't apply to you, personally. I just know I have never gone out of my way to make someone from another country feel as welcome as I felt in Haiti.

You could wonder about the reasons for the difference in attitudes between the two countries. My friend said he thought the less people have the more they give and vice versa. I can see that. If I didn't know better, I'd say my experience in Haiti gave me the impression that the less people have the happier they are, the pain of hunger and sickness aside.

In its drive to turn the world into the new Mall Of America, the U.S. is currently pressing Ayiti to embrace the prescription of globalization and privatize their state-run industries. Even though privatized schooling has been a detrimental experiment, there seems to be too much power not in the hands of private corporations. Aristide is trying to resist this plan for the New World Order, but given the enormous economic power of the U.S., he won't be able to hold out for long. The IMF is currently withholding aid to Ayiti ostensibly in reaction to the claim of corrupt Congressional elections.

No doubt you may hear this situation described in another, more U.S.-friendly manner. The U.S. does not force its will upon other countries; we only want to do what is best for the people and their economy. We simply suggest a manner by which to attain this end, for you see, the U.S. government, U.S. economists, U.S. intellectuals, and the U.S. media all understand how to solve Ayiti's problems better than the Haitian government, let alone its people. If they should choose to go another route, which is their right, so be it. Just don't expect any monetary help from the world's financial institutions.

Give Us the Whole Truth

Guest Column
Michael J. Salib

There's been a lot of talk lately about the Shin family's wrongful death suit and what it means for MIT. But amidst the press conferences and the legalese, I think a few basic facts have been lost.

It is important to realize that the "specific chronological facts" are merely a description of what the Shin family claims happened. We're only hearing one side of the story here. The Shins get to hold a big press conference and say whatever they want, whether it's true, false, or complete speculation. MIT can't publicly refute those claims (even if they're complete fabrications) because of medical confidentiality laws.

There's no incentive to tell the truth here, but there are plenty of disincentives: greed and grief are powerful emotions. In our legal system, the truth can only emerge after both sides have had their say and presented their evidence. Until MIT makes its case, we can't just assume that the Shins are right. If they were really interested in justice they would release the medical records to the public (or press) so that we could evaluate them for ourselves. Why haven't they done so? What are they afraid of?

The Shins are desperately hoping we won't notice a few inconvenient facts. For example, this is a civil case. If the district attorney believed MIT had committed a crime (such as manslaughter, negligence, or reckless disregard for human life), they would have prosecuted MIT in a criminal court. That is a lot more serious; lose a criminal trial and you go to jail, lose a civil trial and at worst you lose money. The standard for conviction is usually lower in civil courts ("reasonable doubt" versus "a preponderance of the credible evidence"), but prosecuting these crimes is the district attorney's job. If this is such an open and shut case, as the Shins claim, then why isn't the DA prosecuting?

For that matter, why are the doctors named in the suit still practicing? If what the Shins are saying is true, then a complaint to the state medical board should have ensured that these physicians were stripped of their licenses to practice medicine. Perhaps the Shins didn't bother to file a complaint. After all, even if the board believes you, you won't get any money from them. Or perhaps they did file a complaint and the licensing board didn't believe them. Winning before a licensing board is easier than winning in court; there are no pesky rules of evidence to deal with.

The inconvenient facts don't end there. We're being presented with a story that doesn't quite fit together. For example, the Shins

complain that although they knew their daughter was hospitalized at McLean Hospital in February of her freshman year, they didn't realize she was suicidal. But McLean is a psychiatric hospital; how could you know your child was at a psychiatric hospital for a week and not find out why? People don't go to psychiatric hospitals for paper cuts. Elizabeth's entry into a psychiatric hospital seems especially worrying in light of the problems she had with depression before coming to MIT.

A large chunk of the Shins' complaint was that MIT didn't tell them what was happening ("Silly Institute; medical privacy laws are for kids!"). The doctors couldn't legally talk to them. But, if they asked their daughter to sign a confidentiality waiver, the doctors would have answered all their questions. I've actually done this; all it takes is a signature. Why didn't the Shins ask to speak to their daughter's doctors when she was hospitalized for a week at a psychiatric hospital? Why didn't they ask her to sign a waiver so they could talk to those doctors? If she refused, there still

It seems that some of the 'facts' being presented in the suit are sheer speculation; but one must construct a coherent story in order to win the public relations game. With enough bad publicity, the Shins can bully MIT into paying them anything they want, regardless of truth or justice.

remains a simple solution: stop paying for school. Give her a choice between medical confidentiality and tuition.

The bottom line is that I don't think the Shins are telling the whole truth. It seems that some of the "facts" they're presenting are sheer speculation. That's not necessarily unethical; it's what you have to do — construct a coherent story in order to win the public relations game. That is the real battle the Shins are fighting. With enough bad publicity, they can bully MIT into paying them anything they want, regardless of truth or justice.

So if the Shins aren't telling us the whole truth and nothing but the truth, what really happened? We know that she was very smart and that she was suicidal. Unfortunately, when brilliant people want to kill themselves, they tend to be all too successful.

Beyond the facts of the case, there lies something that is quite disturbing. The Shins

imply that if there was anything MIT could have done to prevent the suicide, they should have done it. That sounds like a perfectly reasonable argument except for the fact that it is insane. Imagine if MIT did everything possible to prevent traffic accidents on campus. It's an impossible goal and trying to meet it will only exacerbate the problem. Our goal should be to minimize, not eliminate, suicide. That means that no matter what, there are going to be suicides and although each one is a terrible tragedy, we shouldn't destroy medical confidentiality and turn this place into a prison to prevent suicides. I'm an adult. I should be treated like an adult. Although it may appear that treating me like an infant is a good way to keep me from committing suicide, it's not a solution to the problem. Treating me like an infant is a pretty colored Band-Aid that makes you feel better without fixing the problem.

I'm not saying MIT's Mental Health services and Counseling and Support Services are not sub-par. But that is not what the Shins are alleging. They're saying that MIT's facilities are substandard. Somehow I doubt they would have seen better medical care at a random state university with 40,000 students and four staff psychiatrists.

I really hate the idea of defending MIT, even temporarily until they can make their case, but I'm just so sick of watching vultures line up for the legal gravy train. That \$27 million the Shins want is coming out of my pocket (and yours) and I really don't think that is fair. I didn't have anything to do with this girl's death and I don't see why I'm being punished for it. If the Shins want to be millionaires I suggest they work hard rather than use their daughter's suicide as a cover for stealing from MIT students.

I'm really sorry that this girl had her life snuffed out at such a young age. She seems like the kind of person I would have really liked. I feel for her parents; losing a child is the hardest thing anyone can face. The fact that it was a suicide makes it even worse. I sympathize with these people, I really do. But I won't write them a blank check just because they experienced a terrible tragedy.

Michael J. Salib is a graduate student in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Proud Patriotism

Guest Column
Daniel D. Burkey

Stephanie Wang's opinion piece ["Fear Of the Flag," January 30] is one of many that has surfaced in *The Tech* in the months since Sept. 11 that has questioned the motivation and sincerity of much of the apparent patriotism that has surfaced (or perhaps resurfaced) in the wake of those terrible attacks.

Every time I read one of those pieces, I am left with a varied mix of both anger and sorrow: Anger, because I don't enjoy being labeled a "blatant jingoist" because of my desire to display an American flag, and sorrow, because I can't help but feel for people who have such a patently cynical view of America and its citizens.

Sept. 11 was probably the darkest day that the current generation has had to face. More than 2800 lives were extinguished in a few hours for really no other reason than irrational hatred. I know that I, like others, felt helpless and powerless in the hours, days, and weeks that followed.

But I also felt that I needed to do something. So, I stood in line to give blood; I sent a donation to relief efforts; and I went to the flag shop in Arlington and bought an American flag, which I put in my window at home. Then I bought one and affixed it to the rear window of my car. Then I bought another one as a lapel pin and wear it proudly on occasion.

I did these things not because, as Ms. Wang suggests, I was "afraid of social stigma, political condemnation, and perhaps most of all, cultural exclusion," but rather because I felt that displaying the flag proudly was a symbol of national unity in a moment of tragedy, as well as a sign of respect for all those who lost their lives tragically and needlessly. I did not consider it "superficial support," as Ms. Wang puts it, but rather a simple gesture that was well within my capabilities.

I do not see this reemergence of patriotism as a necessarily bad thing, but rather as something that has always been present in America from the start. Granted, the current generation has not had much exposure to it. During the sixties and seventies, in the quagmire of Vietnam and government scandal, it became unfashionable to be supportive of the nation in general and the government in particular. Now, with an event like that of Sept. 11, an attack on American soil unlike any since Pearl Harbor, the nation and its citizens returned to what they knew to be right, American or not: being supportive and unified as a people in a moment of horror and sorrow. The way that many of them chose to do that was with a display of the flag, and in that respect, it most certainly does symbolize freedom and all that is right with this country.

I do not wish to see anyone's rights trampled, or freedoms denied. I do not support those who would use the attacks on our country as an excuse to persecute or ostracize others who are different or of a differing viewpoint. That is not what America is about, nor what the flag stands for. Ms. Wang was correct in that her first amendment rights allow her to express her opinions. What I take exception to is her unfair generalization that many of the displays of patriotism and national pride in the preceding months have been forced or falsely motivated. I know that mine have not. I believe that her observations represent the exception, rather than the rule, regarding this reawakening of national pride. I, for one, choose to have a more positive attitude about the motivations of my friends, neighbors, and citizens at large. As for Ms. Wang, I am again left with a sense of sorrow that she has chosen so cynical and pessimistic an outlook concerning what can be regarded as a rediscovery of civic pride. Ms. Wang's First Amendment rights allow her the choice of not displaying the flag, taking offense at those who do, and expressing that opinion in print, but she should also be prepared for a response when she makes sweeping generalizations about the motivations of millions of Americans.

As for me, I'll continue to proudly display my flag, not because I am a nationalist, or a jingoist, or any of the quasi-pejorative terms that Ms. Wang saw fit to throw about, but simply because it is one of the simplest ways that I can show my support for my country and its founding principles and pay my respects to those lives lost.

Daniel D. Burkey is a graduate student in the Department of Chemical Engineering.

Liquor, Tobacco, and Ginseng

Akshay Patil

Korea:

There's something disconcerting about being on a plane full of Korean people. This is probably not due to the fact that they are Korean, but rather to the fact that I am not. Cities, states, countries full of people of the

The airport at Incheon gave me what I like to consider a small glimpse into Korean culture. The terminal was full of stores, and it was only after considerable searching that I found a food court of sorts. Koreans apparently take their duty-free shopping very seriously. There's an entire store full of neatly tagged plastic bags containing items purchased during flight time.

Of interesting note: all the stores have their prices in US dollars. Only

hour's worth of rearranging luggage.

The poor Korean Airlines flight attendants are going around with their "Normal/Hindu/Vegetarian/Kosher" checklist; putting stickers on just about everyone's seat. You'd think they would have learned by now to default to "Hindu" (i.e. Indian food) or vegetarian on the Seoul-Mumbai leg.

An hour before we land, the entertainment systems start showing Indian music videos. For all you in the United States who think that the "Tunak Tunak Tun" qualifies as "comedy," please understand that while it is a rather bad Indian music video, it is still

say "FOREIGNER" on it. People here wear collared shirts when dressing Western, regardless of situation or stature. A normal dress shirt, well worn, is the standard fare ... often with sleeves rolled up and always with the top one to three buttons undone. On occasion you'll see a nondescript polo shirt, but never a T-shirt.

During my trip, I took a twenty-four hour train ride as my family made its way from Mumbai to a city named Gwalior. Before getting on the train, my mother informed me that I have a choice: I can either fast for the twenty-four hours, or I can do what most of my family is doing: take a pill that will induce constipation. "Why would anyone in their right mind voluntarily bring constipation upon themselves?" you ask. The answer is: toilets.

Not the lack thereof, but the overall condition. Even natives would rather force constipation (not a pun) upon themselves than deal with a toilet on an Indian train. Since I consider hunger a preferable alternative to bowel unpleasantness, I've decided to just not eat for twenty-four hours. What a wonderful world we live in.

Most cars in India lack side-view mirrors. Those that do possess these appendages keep the mirrors in the fetal position: eternally tucked in, close to the car's body. These extensions serve only as nuisances to the driver who would have to attempt keeping these vestigial organs from hitting the pedestrians, bicyclists, other motorists, and livestock that inhabit the streets of India.

In addition, the rear-view mirror of a car is also little more than a decoration for the automobile. Most often, this instrument is found at a seemingly random rakish angle someone left it in when they last used it to comb their hair.

For those of you who think that the 'Tunak Tunak Tun' qualifies as 'comedy,' understand that while it is a rather bad Indian music video, it is still most definitely an Indian music video. It's a different culture, used to seeing different things.

In place of these instruments, Indian motorists use what is perhaps the most useful and versatile device found in their cars/trucks/rickshaws: the horn.

Rather than require their brethren to stay informed of their surroundings, the Indian motorist announces his presence loudly and repetitively using his Egyptian brake-pedal. It is an unwritten traffic law that whenever within a ten-foot radius of something, one must honk. Upon doing this, one may drive on, now assured that every person on the road will, like the cows, ignore him. Unlike cows, however, human habitants do move out of your way if you drive directly at them. Thus, accidents are, for the most part, avoided.

*This is part of a travel journal kept during a trip taken by the writer this winter (Dec. 26 to Jan. 12).**



same ethnicity, an ethnicity different from yours, is nothing terribly new.

You learn about them, hear about them, and see them on TV. But for some strange reason, it doesn't occur to you to think about these people actually populating things like airplanes. I associate airplanes with America. I'm used to looking around and seeing a hodgepodge of different cultures and whatnot. I'm used to hearing the

the food establishments priced things in Won. Is this for international convenience, or because they expect only foreigners to actually buy anything?

The most interesting feature/glimpse was the multi-purposed stores in Incheon Airport.

In the United States, these stores usually boast "Liquor & Tobacco". In Korea, they add a third drug of choice: their storefronts proudly proclaim "LIQUOR TOBACCO GINSENG". Hilarious.

India flight:

Getting on a plane full of Indian people is bit unsettling as well. Not nearly as much so as an airplane full of Koreans, but again, this is probably due to the fact that I am not Korean. I am, however, Indian. Indians are a louder, more stubborn race of people compared to

Koreans. Less inhibited. We talk to each other and we'll talk at whatever volume we damn well please. If your luggage doesn't fit in the overhead compartment ... well, then we'll make it fit. Even if it involves an

most definitely an Indian music video and is really not that different from many popular videos you'll find in India at any given time. It's a different culture, used to seeing different things.

I have to admit that when they showed Korean music videos in the airport, I found myself giggling at Koreans rapping. I'm not used to it, and so it strikes me as comical to see four skinny male youths wearing "ghetto" apparel and angrily rapping in Korean with the occasional "ho" or "bling bling" thrown in. Both belong in that all encompassing category of "When cultures collide."

An interesting note is that in the Indian music videos, you rarely see the main characters kissing. There might be a full minutes of nothing but an attractive young couple standing somewhere, passionately stroking each other's face. The influence of Western culture apparently does have limits.

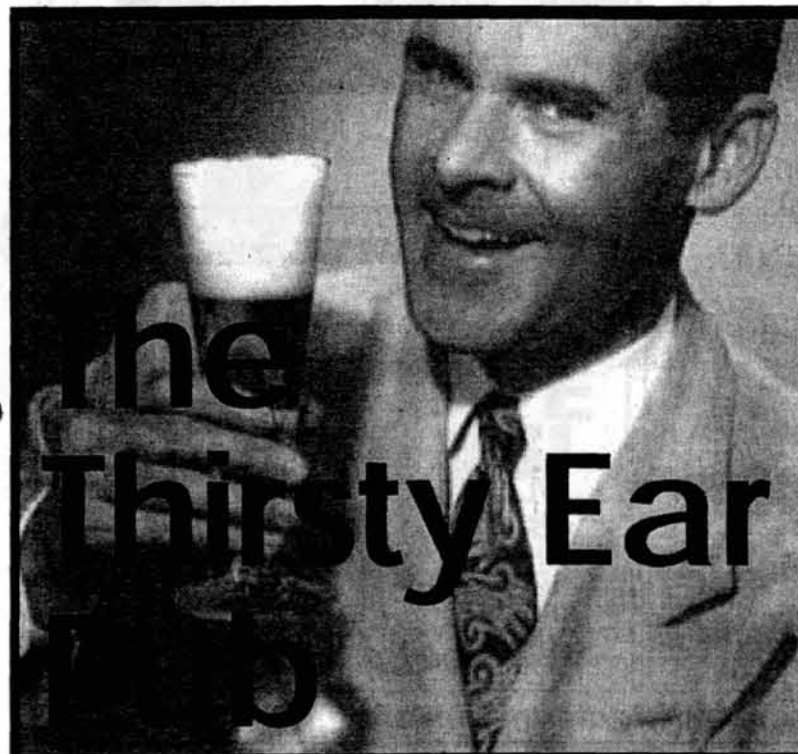
India:

In India, no one over the age of sixteen wears T-shirts. It's the law. I am a member of a renegade group of maybe a hundred or so adults wearing T-shirts at the moment. The rest of India's grown population distinctly has collars. My T-shirt might as well

Before getting on the train, my mother informs me that I have a choice: I can either fast for the 24 hours, or I can do what most of my family is doing: take a pill that will induce constipation. Why would anyone in their right mind voluntarily bring constipation upon themselves, you ask?

The answer: toilets.

intercom messages in English and only English; maybe Spanish too, on occasion. Instead, on this the 14.5 hour flight, the language, like the people, is Korean. The broken English comes afterwards.



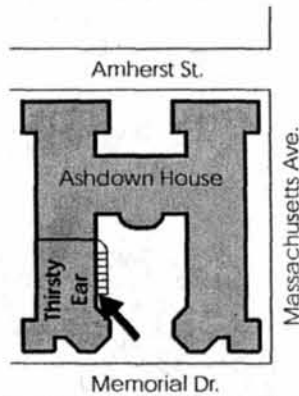
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web.mit.edu/thirsty-ear



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the crass rat



INTEGRALFORCE

AHWONG.



Captain Rocket

Darkest Majanader, Andrew Mauer, Jennifer Pish

Scratch 'n Sniff:
Newspaper



MICROCOSM by S. TAG

WILL EVERYONE PLEASE STAND UP FOR A MOMENT?



DUDE, WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU'RE A BEAVER, RIGHT?



THEN SHOULDN'T YOU GET EXCITED WHEN WOOD IS NEARBY??

ONLY WHEN IT'S STRONG ENOUGH FOR A RAM BUT PH-BALANCED FOR A WOMAN.

HUH?!?



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MAN-HATING SUPERVISOR

HAVE ANY OF YOU MEN DONE ANYTHING TO JUSTIFY YOUR PAY?



I ATTENDED AN ALL-DAY MEETING BUT LATER FOUND OUT I WAS IN THE WRONG ONE.



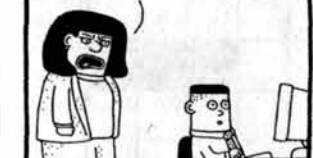
ACTUALLY, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN THIS MEETING EITHER.

THE DOOR WAS OPEN.



MAN-HATING SUPERVISOR

YOU'RE FIRED FOR BEING A MAN.



NO ONE HAS EVER CALLED ME A MAN BEFORE! THIS IS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE!



STOP ENJOYING LIFE!!

I'M A MAN!



by Scott Adams

MAN-HATING SUPERVISOR

THE MEN HERE ARE OBVIOUS TO MY ABUSE. WHAT DID YOU DO TO THEM?



I SIPHONED OFF THEIR SELF-RESPECT AND KEEP IT IN VIALS IN A STORAGE ROOM.



THIS IS NO FUN. I QUIT.

DO YOU WANT TO YELL AT THE VIALS WITH ME?



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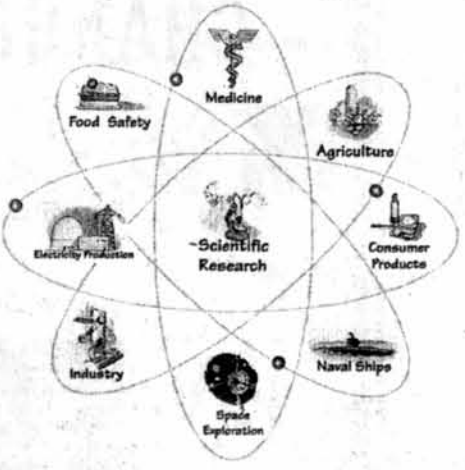
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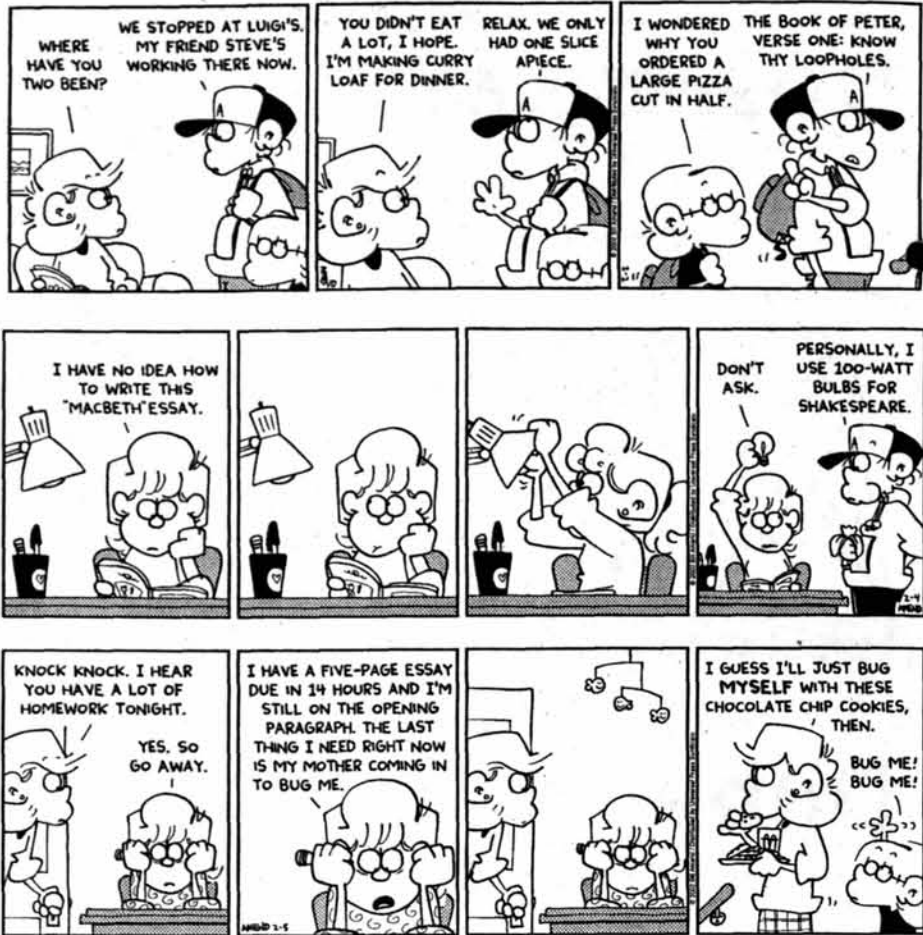
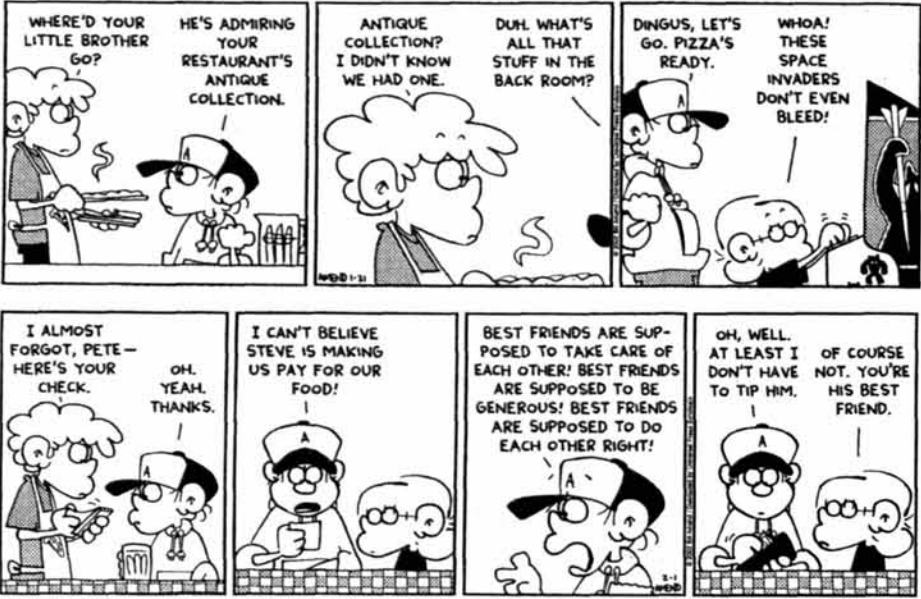
The five major disciplines are:

- Energy Technology and Resources
- Plasma Science and Fusion
- Radiation Science and Technology
- Biomedical Applications
- Imaging Technologies

To start right away please contact:
Prof. Andrew Kadak
kadak@mit.edu, x 3-0166

FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 27

- ACROSS

1

Fifty percent

5

Containers for Amontillado

10

Man or Wight

14

Jai follower

15

Invalidate

16

"SNL" piece

17

Granny

18

Steps over a fence

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Locust

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Timid

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Captain Queeg's ship

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Part of UPS

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Sullen

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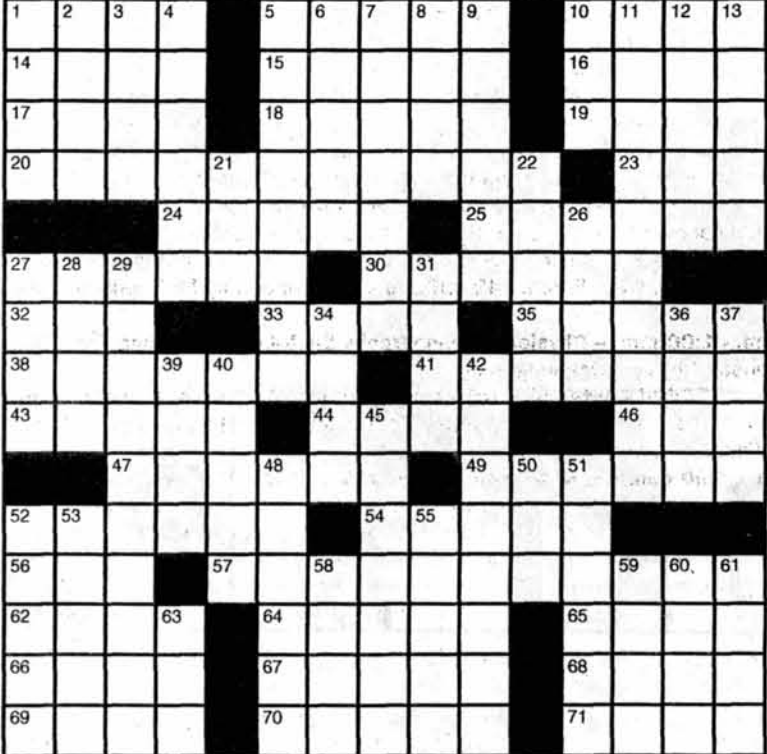
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Before, in poetry

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MIT Faculty Club, 50 Memorial Drive

Resume Drop Date: February 8

Firmwide Interviews: February 20



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THE ARTS

CD REVIEW

Tastes of Rachmaninoff

A Compilation of Passion

Roy Esaki
STAFF WRITER
Essential Rachmaninoff: 15 of His Greatest Masterpieces
Decca Music Group
Released Jan. 15, 2002

Self-respecting musicians and serious music connoisseurs generally eschew “best of” compilation albums. Such albums pander to an amateur audience, they say, with a hodgepodge of clichés selected for their easy accessibility and familiarity. For the rest of us well-intentioned, casual listeners interested in broadening our musical literacy and libraries, a well-done compilation can be a nice addition to one’s repertoire and a gateway to a more serious collection.

Essential Rachmaninoff, an album in Decca’s Essential compilation series, features two and a half hours of salient works of the Russian composer and pianist. The fifteen eclectic works included in the album range from the expected classics, *Piano Concerto No. 2* and *Rhapsody On a Theme of Paganini* (both of which start off one of the two CDs in the album), to more esoteric selections from *Suite No. 1 for Two Pianos* and *Vespers*.

Some compilation albums, catering to a less musically scrupulous and budget-minded audience, rely on generic or nameless orchestras and performers; in such cases, one is not paying for a musical interpretation or artistic performance, but is instead buying a generic representation of the notes and gist of a work. With *Essential Rachmaninoff*, however, most of the tracks are superb, reflecting the fact that Decca had an extensive range of recordings from which to create this compilation. Many of the works are by noted performers:

pianist and composer Vladimir Ashkenazy performs piano *Concertos Nos. 2, 3, and 4* together with either the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, a prestigious Dutch orchestra, or the London Symphony Orchestra. Other performers include cellist Julian Lloyd Webber, soprano René Fleming, and tenor Vladimir Mostovoy.

The performances themselves are technically well-executed, and each performance develops the musical potential of each work to its fullest. From neophyte to seasoned listener, one cannot help but appreciate the passion, energy, and mystique that is Rachmaninoff.

The compilation’s version of *Liebesfreud*, arranged and played by Rachmaninoff himself, is a gem worth mentioning. Because the piece is recorded from a 1926 Ampico piano roll, Rachmaninoff’s actual performance is recreated and recorded with his vigorous flair intact. It is quite remarkable to be able to listen to Rachmaninoff’s own playing with such astonishing clarity.

The album amply demonstrates the blaring passion and technical virtuosity immediately associated with Rachmaninoff. *Piano Concerto No. 3*, popularized by the movie *Shine*, serves as a prototypical Rachmaninoff piece, although it may not be of the greatest musical value. Importantly and commendably, however, this album also includes his lyrical and non-instrumental works. The St. Petersburg Chamber Choir sings *Nyne Otpushchayeshi*, one of Rachmaninoff’s vespers, choral hymns that are rarely included in an introductory Rachmaninoff compilation. The vesper demonstrates a more subtle and intimate form of Rachmaninoffian emotion, while *Vocalise*, sung by René Fleming, conveys an imploring, incisive passion that balances the comparatively brutish fervor of the piano concertos nicely.



The album ambitiously includes such a range of various compositional styles and works that continuity and context is sacrificed for variety. Consequently, the overall feel of the album is fairly fragmented. For example, *Piano Concerto No. 2* is the only large-scale work for which all movements are included. Only the first movement of the third concerto (which happens to be the familiar crowd-pleasing standard, incidentally) is presented, and only one movement each for *Symphonies No. 1, 2, and 3*, and *Piano Concerto No. 4* are present. For the listener to truly appreciate the movement, it

must be heard in the context of the entire work, for which another album must of course be bought. The emerging Rachmaninoff fan would have a duplication of these movements, though it can be very beneficial to hear the same music performed by different groups.

Essential Rachmaninoff is a highly recommended to anyone interested in investigating, dabbling in, or learning about Rachmaninoff. Each piece is musically respectable and enjoyable in its own right, but the true value of this collection is in its comprehensive overview of the passion of Rachmaninoff.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★1/2

Warning: Do Not Compare to Dumas

Period Flick Goes Over the Top

By Eric Chemi
STAFF WRITER
Written by Alexandre Dumas (novel) and Jay Wolpert (screenplay)
Directed by Kevin Reynolds
Starring James Caviezel, Guy Pearce, Dagmara Dominczyk, Richard Harris, Luis Guzman
Rated PG-13

What starts off as a tale of a French sailor and his beautiful love quickly turns into a story of betrayal and backstabbing, ani-

mosity and affliction, glory and grandeur, and, finally, revenge and retribution.

Edmund Dantes (James Caviezel), an illiterate sailor from Marseilles, is comfortable with his life and intent on marrying the beautiful Mercedes (Dagmara Dominczyk). Unfortunately, the captain of his ship falls ill while at sea. In haste to save the elderly man’s life, Edmund and a small group sail ashore on the infamous island of St. Elba, where ex-emperor Napoleon Bonaparte is being held captive. In exchange for the services of Napoleon’s physician to save the dying captain, the exiled dictator

makes Edmund deliver an “innocent” letter to one of Napoleon’s friends back in Marseilles.

After Edmund’s group heads back to France, a stunning turn of events changes his life forever. He is chosen to replace the dead captain in an unexpected promotion. Jealously seizes those around him, who devise plots to have him arrested.

Soon Edmund finds himself wrongly imprisoned under charges of treason, while the government informs his family that he has been executed. With the help of another inmate (Richard Harris) at Chateau D’If,

Edmund manages to escape after thirteen years of torture. From there, an adventure begins that takes Edmund across the world as a pirate, revenge-seeker, member of high society, and in the end, a family man.

The main problem with this movie is its title. The film does not in any way measure up to the original Alexandre Dumas classic, which the movie banks on. It’s almost as if the movie has nothing to do with the book itself, which sets the film up to be a huge disappointment. The film and movie are completely different in their plots after Edmund escapes from prison. Anyone who has already read the book will probably feel like walking out within the first hour.

Of course, this opinion only applies to people who have read Dumas’ version. For those who have not, this film is a decent action movie. A good pick as a rental or maybe at matinee price, this film should not face the undue challenge of being compared to the book. But again, if you have not read the book, many of the twists and turns in the plot will come as surprises. The scenery is definitely spectacular; the contrasts between stone-walled prisons, wide Mediterranean beaches, and the grandeur of gorgeous Parisian mansions will delight those with such taste.

Much of the plot is far-fetched. For example, the morning after Edmund’s escape from prison, he is washed ashore to the grim delight of thieving pirates. Edmund is promptly given a knife and ordered to give the pirates entertainment by battling with the group’s most skilled knife-fighter. It’s not realistic for a rested pirate to lose to a man who has just woken up after being washed ashore the morning after he escaped from a prison where he spent thirteen years. But of course, this is fiction and fortunately the result of the fight will still manage to surprise viewers, and it actually serves an extremely important purpose in the story.

Another scene in which grandeur and decoration is overly abused is the new Count’s introduction to his high-status guests at his new palace. With fireworks in the background, the Count flies in on a hot air balloon with acrobatic dancers scaling down from ropes hanging from the balloon. At least the budget-busting scene can be deemed somewhat appropriate as it ties in nicely with the overdone costumes and ornamentation of the evening party.

In general, the movie has some humorous parts and charming surprises with quality action scenes. This decent film is possibly worth a viewing, but I recommend you read the book instead.



A vengeful Dantes (Jim Caviezel, right) faces off against Count Mondego (Guy Pearce, left) in *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★1/2

All You Need Is Love

Father Offers Lessons on Love, Life

By Ashley Robinson
STAFF WRITER

Written by Kristine Johnson and Jessie Nelson
Directed by Jessie Nelson
Starring Sean Penn, Michelle Pfeiffer,
Laura Dern, Dakota Fanning
Rated PG-13

I Am Sam is one of those rare movies with the ability to transcend the screen and step into your heart. As corny as that may sound, expect to watch this movie with a box of tissues in hand.

The story centers around a mentally challenged father, Sam Dawson (Sean Penn), and his fight against the state for custody of his daughter Lucy (Dakota Fanning). Abandoned by Lucy's mother shortly after her birth, Sam raises Lucy to the best of his abilities. As Lucy grows older, her father's disability hurts her in the classroom and the playground. Fearful of becoming more intelligent than her own father, she pretends that she cannot read beyond the level of Sam's favorite book, *Green Eggs and Ham*, by Dr. Seuss. The kids at school add to Lucy's burden by teasing her, calling her Dad a "retard."

At Lucy's eighth birthday party (the date she officially becomes more mentally competent than her father), a well-planned event turns into a catastrophe with Lucy ending up in foster care by the end of the day. Distraught and confused, Sam turns to Rita Harrison (Michelle Pfeiffer) for legal counsel. Although Sam's hourly wage at Starbucks does not allow for Rita's exorbitant price, she accepts his case pro bono.

Although Sam has the intelligence of a seven-year-old, it is he who teaches about the power of love. His vocabulary limited, he explains his life lessons through the lyrics

of The Beatles. What will move your soul about Sam Dawson is his unconditional and unbreakable love for his daughter. While other parents happily drop their children off at day-care, Sam genuinely enjoys taking Lucy to the park to ride the swings. His incapacity to live life at a normal pace allows him to cherish the moments with his child that most other parents miss.

Sam spreads his philosophy to others without even trying. When Sam first encounters Rita, she is a self-absorbed lawyer whose main concern is to impress her colleagues. Although she craves a close relationship with her adolescent son, her material wants prevent a strong bond between them. Like many parents, she attempts to fix their relationship by buying him an excessive amount of toys. However, witnessing Sam's battle for his daughter, she realizes that toys and games will not make her son happy in the same way simply spending time with him will.

Even Lucy learns a thing or two from her father. As most young children would be, Lucy is embarrassed by her father's random outbursts. In one scene she is nearly reduced to tears as her father literally throws a temper tantrum because he can't order his favorite

Michelle Pfeiffer and Sean Penn star in New Line Cinema's drama, *I Am Sam*.

LOREY SEBASTION—NEW LINE CINEMA

Denny's "rooty tooty" at Big Boy's. However, Lucy eventually realizes that her Dad's difference is the best gift in the world.

Sean Penn delivers a flawless performance in *I Am Sam*. Sam Dawson conveys more emotion than most able-minded people have the capacity for. Sam is supported by a group of mentally challenged friends who create a support group with routine activities like Wednesdays at IHOP and Thursday movie nights. Pfeiffer adds to the film, personifying the current-day social ill of parents spending

too much time in the office and not enough time with family. Dakota Fanning finishes off the main cast with big blue eyes, rosy cheeks, and a great performance as Lucy. Her innocence and honesty made it easy to feel Sam's determination to win back his "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds."

This film is more effective than an overpriced meeting with a psychiatrist. You will laugh, cry, and realize how many simple joys in life you overlook everyday. And most importantly, don't forget your tissues.

THEATER REVIEW

Once Upon A Mattress

MIT's Regal Production

By Amy L. Meadows
STAFF WRITER

Presented by MIT Musical Theatre Guild
Music by Mary Rodgers
Lyrics by Marshall Barer
Produced by John van der Meer '72
Directed by Tom Garvey '82
Music Directed by David Zych '00
La Sala de Puerto Rico February 7, 8, and 9,
at 8 p.m.

When I was a little girl and my mother read me the fairy tale of *The Princess and the Pea*, I never imagined it could be like *Once Upon A Mattress*. With a princess who calls herself "Fred," a power-hungry queen, and a whiny, bratty Prince, the humorous play left me wondering what I ever found charming in those classical fairy tales.

Prince Dauntless the Drab (Jesse Cox '03) wants desperately to marry. Unfortunately, his controlling mother, Queen Aggravain (Tanis O' Connor '02), has sent home the last twelve hopefuls with a chicken as a consolation prize. Enter Winnifred the Woebegone (Cinda Lavelly), the outspoken contender who immediately captures Dauntless' love and Aggravain's hate. A passel of other courtly characters strike further blows to the classical concept of refined behavior: the devious old wizard (Daniel J. Katz '03), the pregnant lady-in-waiting (Caitlin Q. Marlow '03), and the easy-going jester (Charles R. Floyd '03) and minstrel (Rogue Shindler).

Many aspects of the production are richly detailed and appropriately geared so that together they reach synergy. Melissa Breglio, the set designer, provided a magnificent backdrop for the action. The first thing the audience saw upon entering the theatre was a giant Snow White-style storybook. Once the play began, the storybook split in two, one half going to each side behind the castle. With purple trimmings and lights, the white castle stretched from floor to ceiling in La Sala.

In addition to the set design, the costumes were creative and appropriate for the play. Everything from the courtiers' gowns to the jester's outfit was striking and unique. The knights' outfits even doubled — thanks to the wonders of Velcro — as cheerleading costumes for Princess Winnifred. The dress worn by Lady Larken (Marlow) did, however, look

suspiciously like the one on the "MIT Arts" posters up around campus.

The orchestra and choreography provided further support to the production. The orchestra's delightfully regal horn section (including Catherine E. Howell '03, Matthew A. Lehman '85, William J. Andrews '04, Bob Piankian '72, and Esther Horwich '77) not only accented the production but set the tone for many of the scenes. The choreography made smooth, natural transitions from the action, especially in "Very Soft Shoes" and "Shy." Once the choreography got into full swing with "Spanish Panic" and "F-R-E-D, Fred!" it provided a means to get to know the leading lady, Princess Winnifred, better.

As played by a vivacious Cinda Lavelly, Princess Winnifred is the opposite of most of the conceptions of the storybook princess; she swims moats, she is loud, and she is brave. Lavelly's gestures and voice filled the stage throughout. Her sarcastic tone fit lines like, "All right sheep, I'm ready when you are," when she could not sleep or the comment that Cinderella had help from "that crazy lady with the wand." Lavelly's was a sparkling performance that brought *Once Upon A Mattress* to the next level.

Jesse W. Cox '03 played Prince Dauntless, a spineless mama's boy for much of the play. Cox throws some great temper tantrums during the first act. However, as his feelings for "Fred" blossom, he grows more and more independent and silences his mother's criticisms in the end; Cox restrains his emotions until then, releasing them in a torrent of anger and rage.

The supporting actors also gave consistently strong performances in their own roles. David Brackman '83, as King Sextimus the Silent, pantomimed his way through the two acts, mainly chasing Lady Mabelle (Marissa Jacovich '05) through the castle in many of the scenes. Even the interpretations of his gestures by the other characters provided comic relief. Queen Aggravain (Tanis A. O'Connor '03) played the scheming, devilish mother of Dauntless, determined to see him not get married. O'Connor's obnoxious queen and her broken spirit at the end were right on target.

MTG's *Once Upon A Mattress* dazzled with humor and innovation at every turn and effective set, orchestra, choreography, and costumes. Unique characters and their actors made the play entertaining, while the performance of Cinda Lavelly was that of a true virtuoso amid a great production.

MOVIE REVIEW★★★

Le Grand Loup Effrayant

Uneven Pacing Mars Avant Garde Action

By Eric Chemi
STAFF WRITER

Written by Stéphane Cabel and Christophe Gans
Directed by Christophe Gans
Starring Samuel Le Bihan, Marc Dacascos,
Emille Dequenne
Rated R

Set in the landscape of a picturesque French countryside, *Le Pacte des Loups*, as the movie is known in its native language, has everything a viewer would want in an international film. A scientist-turned-soldier named Gregoire (Samuel Le Bihan) befriends Mani (Marc Dacascos), a kung fu-fighting Iroquois tribesman, during Gregoire's travels in North America. Eighteenth-century French nobility order them to destroy the supernatural Beast of Gevaudan that has been terrorizing towns and villages, attacking women and children along the way.

The beast, a monster of African descent, is trained by an eccentric, woman-chasing maniac (Vincent Cassell) who sometimes has one arm and sometimes has two. The beast's power is abused by a power-hungry priest named Sardis and his cult of mask-wearing nobles and drunken, profane hoodlums who are trying to overthrow the French royalty. Of course, the film is entirely in French with subtitles, making all of this somewhat difficult to understand until the very end.

Early on, it is evident that royalty does not intend to destroy the beast, but would rather have citizens believe that the beast is dead and that they are no longer in danger. This unscrupulous desire leads to political struggles between Gregoire and the military commander placed in charge of the hunt.

The film continues with various romantic pursuits, including one throughout the story between Gregoire and Marianne de Morangias (Emille Dequenne), daughter of a local aristocrat. Once both of them are revived after their apparent deaths, it is no surprise that they should spend the rest of their time together sailing the seas to far and away places.

The special effects are definitely new to a viewer of primarily American films. The beast's first attack is a striking example of this difference. The sudden pauses within the scene and the looped sequences of the

victim being smashed against a cliff leave images that resonate for several minutes and continue to linger in the back of the mind for the duration of the film. The scenes reiterate the deadliness of the beast and the danger of the task at hand.

The movie has its share of weaknesses, including a slow first hour. The seemingly simple task of organizing a group to hunt the beast proves to be a daunting assignment. They are sidetracked by fighting between Mani and a group of ravaged hoodlums, who appear every so often throughout the film. The pacing of the film is further weakened by the agonizingly drawn-out efforts of the hunting party to kill every normal wolf running in the wild, despite Gregoire's and Mani's insistence that a beast with iron teeth cannot possibly be a normal wolf. The film necessarily relies mainly on its second hour to make up for the lackluster start by moving the plot along at a quicker but less understandable pace.

Visually, the beast casts the impression that it was designed and developed under the guidance of a ten-year-old with some serious social issues. When it makes its first appearance midway through the movie, one cannot help but feel a jaw-dropping sensation, saying to oneself, "What an ugly, horrendous-looking thing." If Stan Winston (*Predator*, *Jurassic Park*) didn't design it, it certainly looks like he did.

The brotherhood, on the other hand, carries much less impact. I almost laughed when the members of the beast-based religious cult were all standing together wearing their masks. They looked like children dressed in bad Halloween werewolf costumes. It was quite a strange sight indeed.

In general, the fight scenes are too random and don't lend themselves well to the overall flow of *Brotherhood*. For that matter, they're overly graphic as well. This flick is certainly not for the squeamish, as blood flows freely in both the battle scenes and every time Gregoire dissects a dead person or animal.

In the end, this movie is going to leave viewers either loving it or hating it. If an evening of horror, *avant-garde*, suspense, romance, and mutant doggies sounds like your cup of tea, then you might consider spending a couple hours with the brotherhood of the wolf.

Charm School Teaches MIT Some Manners Over IAP

By Vijay Shilpiekandula

Nerds are aliens here. Geeks are unheard of. Societal protocols, manners and etiquette are child's play.

Feature

Thanks to Charm School, held last Friday, the students, staff and faculty of MIT are now models of poise and perfection.

MIT's fun-filled way of honing interpersonal skills came back with a bang this year for yet another afternoon of vibrant activity. A crowded Student Center saw participants learn how to butter up big shots, negotiate their salaries in an interview, dress appropriately for a cousin's wedding, and ask someone for a date.

"It's silly, that's why it's there," said Professor of Literature Travis R. Merritt, who nine years earlier founded this "nerdy carnival" to teach MIT students "how soup is eaten by moving the spoon away from the body."

Students earn charm credits

"Call me Dr. Dr. Gray from now on," quipped Tony Gray, a residential life associate and PhD, who was busy all afternoon teaching scholars how to choose "the appropriate punch to length ratio" while telling a joke. Gray had to rush through 12 other classes in the evening to receive his PhD in Charm.

Diplomas were awarded at the

end of the day in the commencement ceremony, which featured performances by the Chorallaries and the MIT beaver. Six credits fetched a Bachelor's degree, eight a Master's, and twelve a PhD.

"A PhD in Charm sounds as nerdy as it can," said Harsh Anand Verma G, who preferred to earn a Master's degree instead. Verma, the proud owner of a certificate declaring him a "Master of Charm," said he felt sorry for his roommates who would now have to bear all his nitpicking at the dining table.

Flirting 101: prime attraction

In this Charm School class, groups of men and women brainstormed to make a list of things that they do not like about the opposite sex.

The findings of this class ranged from something as flippant as "she giggles excessively 30 hours a day, 50 days a month, 20 months a year," or "he bites his nails too often," to something as profound as "he doesn't look in the eye."

There were complaints about the class nevertheless. "Don't they have advanced classes [in Flirting]?", enquired an enthused Suddhasattwa Sinha G. Sinha wondered if he could "choose this as my minor."

Community enjoys change of pace

"MIT has six schools from now on," declared President Charles M. Vest in his commencement address,



Chris Macminn '05 and Farhan Merali '05 are educated in the social graces at the Manners Café, one of the events at last Friday's Charm School.

emphasizing the significance Charm School acquired over the years.

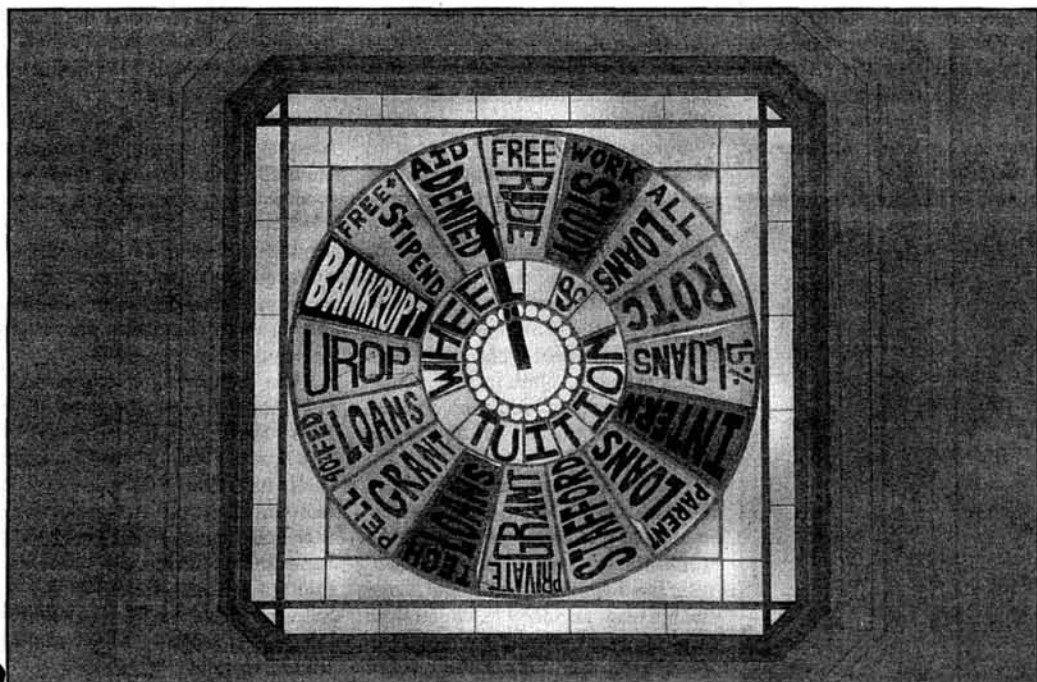
"The curriculum will soon have an 'effective communication' requirement," Vest said. "Charm is the ability to get an answer without asking any question."

Vest said he hoped that the skills acquired at Charm School would help everyone sail through grueling thesis presentations at MIT.

"What's most appealing is the fun of seeing many otherwise busy people cut loose," said Hooria

Komal '04.

"It's a nice relief," said Mariana A. Recalde '05. Recalde, who took her 18.02A finals that morning, and won the first prize (women's) in the fun round of modeling held as part of the Fashion Show.



The "Wheel of Tuition" appeared on the Lobby 7 skylight Sunday night. Prizes on the "Wheel" vary from a free ride to denial of financial aid.

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MIT Department of Facilities

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Vassar St. Utilities

The crosswalk at Vassar St. from Building 38 to 44 is blocked due to drain work. A new walk has been constructed according to ADA requirements, crossing from Building 36 to 45. Pedestrians should use this new walk and not cross through the construction zone.

Stata Center

Occupants of Building 36 may experience some noise and odor as work continues. Mitigation for construction equipment exhaust fumes in Building 36 is being implemented.

Memorial Drive Traffic Signals

Work continues on Memorial Drive around the Endicott and Wadsworth Street intersections. The traffic signals are expected to be operational by February 8.

70 Pacific Street

Glazing, interior framing, and interior drywalling continue.

NStar Transmission Line project

NStar is installing a 115 kv transmission line along Memorial Drive from Pleasant Street (near Howard Johnson's) to the Longfellow Bridge. This work is now underway and will continue through the winter. Lane restrictions may cause traffic delays.

Simmons Hall

Installation of waterproofing, insulation, and windows is in progress. Excavation of the west end of Vassar St. for utility installation continues. This may affect traffic flow.

Zesiger Sports & Fitness Center

Roof work, dry wall framing, rough plumbing, and fireproofing continue, with special precautions regarding generation of noise. Accesses to W34 and Kresge Auditorium may be congested as construction continues.

For information on MIT's building program, see <http://web.mit.edu/evolving>
This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities.

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'Paco Lopez' Captures 'Gold' in Grueling 6.270 Finals

By Amerson Lin

"Paco Lopez" triumphed over "Keep Your Eye on the Gold Chain" and "Smash & Grab" to win this year's Autonomous Robot Design Competition (6.270) last Thursday in 26-100.

The competition was charged with tension, especially in the last two rounds where the evenly matched finalists, "Paco Lopez," "Keep Your Eye on the Gold Chain," and "Smash & Grab" were caught up in a round robin that resulted in a two-point victory for "Paco Lopez."

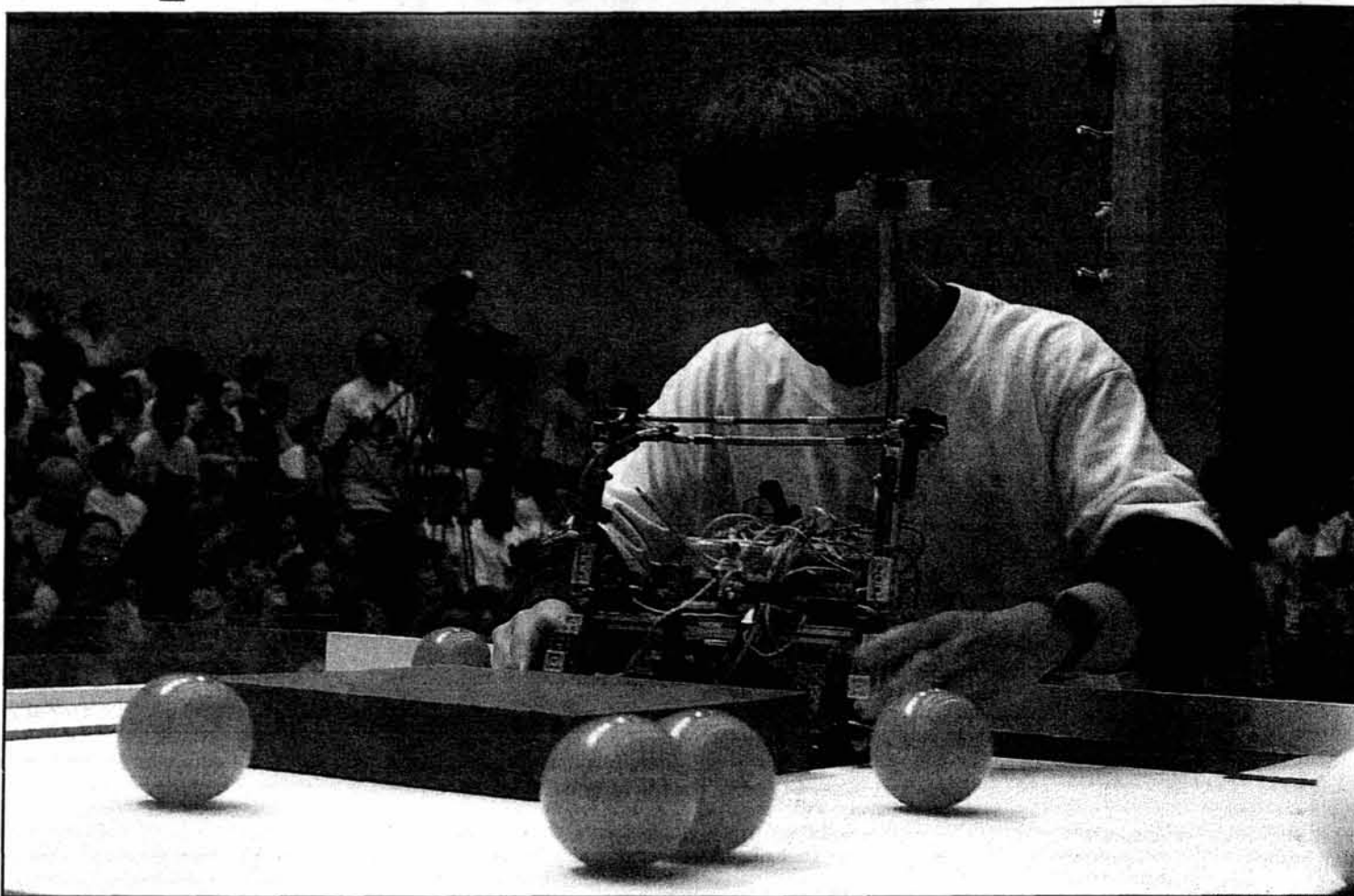
Alexis R. Disieno '05, Brian K. Foote '05, and Patrick L. Korb '05, the "Paco Lopez" team, used what they called a process of trial and error to decide on a strategy which allowed them to elevate balls over obstacles.

"We also watched footage from past competitions to decide on our winning strategy," Disieno said. They initially wanted to attack their opponents, but later felt that they would sacrifice too much in doing so.

This year's task was to collect colored balls and place them into holes on the playing field. Underneath the holes stood tubes, and the point value of each ball depended on its height in the tube.

Runners-up proud of their work

Benjamin P. Walker '03, Jeremy Z. Walker '04 and Paul K. Youn '03, members of Smash & Grab, felt that they were extremely fortunate reach the final round. Their robot featured a mini-car that would detach itself and move to block the opponent's hole. Suffering a slight malfunction in the round robin, the team felt the problem could have happened at an time and thus considered themselves lucky to reach the final round.



Stephen Hou '03 concentrates on final adjustments to his robot, "Phoenix Claw."

Team 31, "Keep Your Eye on the Gold Chain," comprised of Matt N. Stolbach '02, Maxwell E. Planck '04 and Arthur T. Mak '05, was the third team to make it to the last round of the competition. "No team can expect to come this far," Mak said. "Having done so, we were overjoyed."

"The fun and learning we had from the competition was more than worth the time we spent on it," Stol-

bach said.

Length of competition a factor

Thursday's final round lasted for more than four hours, but nevertheless 26-100 was packed as usual as students cheered on their friends. Todd Wager, a residential advisor from the Chi Phi fraternity, said, "I'm just here to give moral support to my two teams."

Because of its length, the compe-

tion became something of a survival of the fittest toward the end, as robots started to show signs of circuit board failure and fatigue. It was mainly due to the fact that the batteries were drained and at times contestants did not have sufficient time in between rounds to recharge.

The mock competition and preliminary rounds, which were held earlier in the week, definitely helped participants and organizers to fine-tune their robots and rules to allow for an exciting finale. From feedback based on the preliminary round, the organizers decided to add another rule that would give allowance to cases where balls were stuck around the hole. In such a situation, the score would be counted as though the balls had gone through the hole.

Similarly, many teams changed their strategies based on the performance of the other robots during the preliminary round. Dacheng Zhao '03, from the team "Balls Out," said that his team decided to switch from a strategy of getting four balls in quickly to one where their robot would get the two easiest balls in first and then move on immediately to prevent their opponent from scoring. On the other hand, teams with robots that performed relatively well such as "Lego My Eggo" decided to stick with their initial plan and hope for the best, with consistency being their winning strategy.

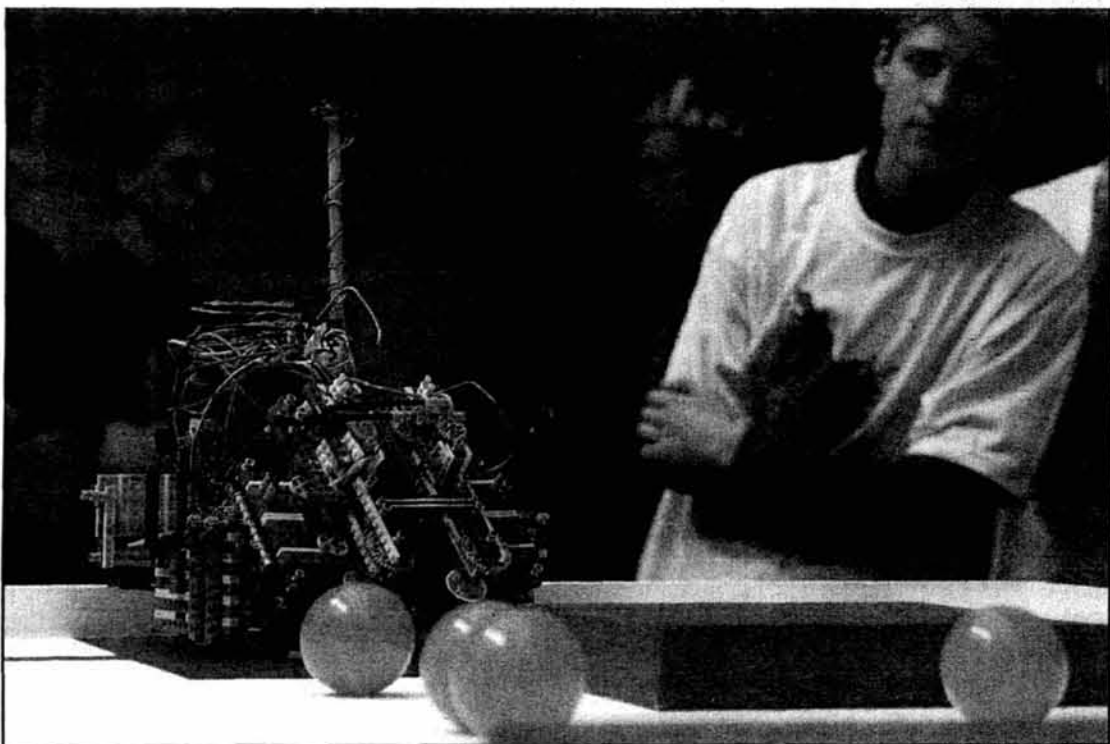
Robots entertain crowd

This year's 6.270 competition was not just a display of intellect

and strategy but also a showcase of creativity and humor. The placebo robots entertained the crowd as usual, with a dancing robot and a walking chicken/Yoda delighting the audience. In another demonstration, "Tricyclotops," the brainchild of Billy F. Waldman '05 and Andrew T. Marsh '02, was brought back into the playing field because it featured one of the most interesting locomotion systems of the contest. Their robot could lie down, spin around and even do a flip. It was knocked out of the competition in an earlier round due to servo failure, but organizers felt that it deserved to be displayed to the audience.

The organizers also awarded a prize for their favorite robot, team 29's "Stupid Chicken." Sean Lie '03, Steven Chan '03, and Buddhika N. Kottahachchi '02 made a robot that would get the two easiest balls in the goal quickly, and then head to the center of the the ramp to release two rollers that would block the holes to the tubes. "I was thankful that my contraption finally worked when it mattered," Chan said.

In another match between "Twitchy & Scratchy" and "Smash & Grab," the robots ended up in what audience member Matthew J. Webber '05 described as a "bizarre mating dance." The two robots, both featuring smaller "baby bots" that would detach themselves and head towards the opponent's side to block the hole, ended up in a writhing mess because wires extending from both vehicles became entangled.



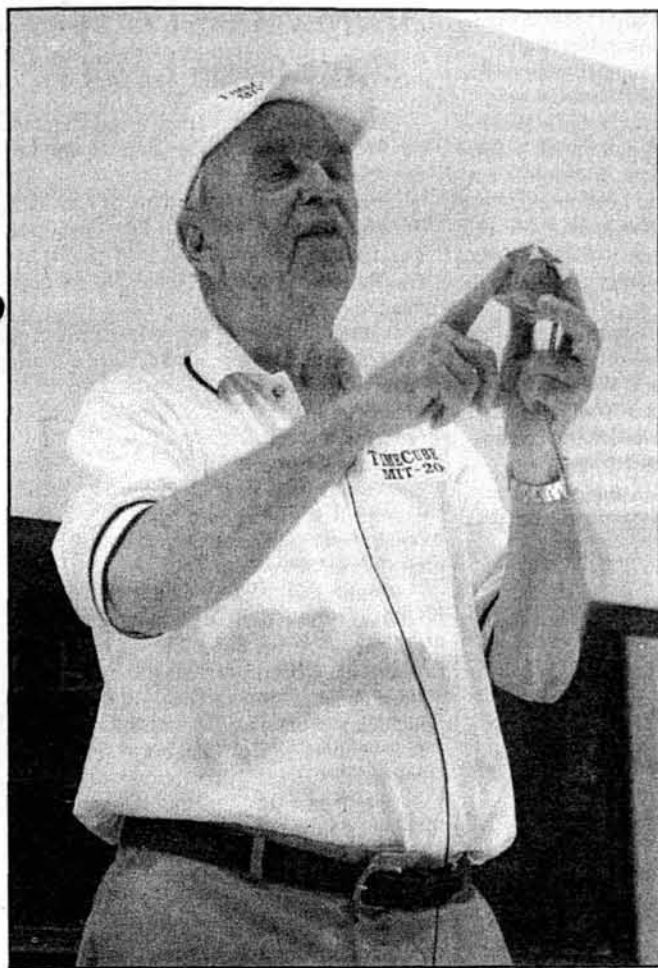
An anxious Brian Foote '05 looks on at his robot, "Paco Lopez," during the penultimate round of this year's 6.270 competition. "Paco Lopez" would go on to win.

Crack Our Tough Stories.

Drop by one of our weekly news meetings,
Sundays at 5pm
in Student Center Room 483.

<join@the-tech.mit.edu>





JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Gene Ray presents his Time Cube theory to a packed 10-250 audience last Wednesday. Ray is offering a \$1,000 prize to anyone who can disprove his theory. On his Web site, <http://www.timecube.com>, Ray claims to be "wiser than all gods and scientists" and declares visitors to be "educated stupid."

MIT's Actions Designed To Avoid Future Trouble

Fourth West, from Page 1

She stressed that MIT was looking to ensure that residents take such incidents seriously to prevent them in the future. The decisions announced yesterday were reached following discussions between deans, housemasters, the Graduate Resident Tutor, and residents.

Emilie M. Croisier '03, one of the hall's co-chairs, declined to comment on behalf of the hall regarding MIT's actions.

Fourth West GRT Solar C. Olugebefola G and East Campus housemasters Julian K. Wheatley and Marjorie Nolan-Wheatley also declined to comment.

Fire alarms led CPs to hall

Campus police found a marijuana plant in Merck's room on Jan. 9 after responding to a fire alarm. Two days later, a beer keg was found after a second fire alarm on the hall, but the keg was empty and not registered to any resident.

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Progress Made on Campus Dining

The latest proposal for next year's dining plan includes strictly voluntary participation and a greater degree of competition among on-campus venues.

News Briefs

"I think it's a good plan," said Jennifer M. Farver G, a member of the Campus Dining Board. Campus Activities Complex Director Phillip J. Walsh said he thinks "people will be pleased with where things ended up."

Under the latest proposal, "participation will be completely voluntary," said Vikash K. Mansinghka '04, another member of the

board.

"Competition will be introduced by seeking more than one contractor, [effectively] dividing one existing Aramark into as many as three," said Kirk D. Kolenbrander, chair of the Campus Dining Board. The current proposal was created by Campus Activities Complex Director Phillip J. Walsh and Director of Campus Dining Richard D. Berlin III, based on a set of recommendations released by the Campus Dining Board in December.

The board will incorporate recommendations from Walsh and Berlin into a new proposal, which will then be made available to the community and discussed at a town hall meeting in mid-February.

Aramark cuts evening hours

The board's recommendations last Decem-

ber also included "[moving] toward operations that are financially self-sustaining," Kolenbrander said. Aramark operations lost over \$2 million during the 2001 fiscal year.

Accordingly, this term both Walker Memorial Dining Hall and Lobdell Food Court will close at 3 p.m., a drastic reduction of hours. Walker and Lobdell were "losing a lot of money," Berlin said. He said Lobdell averaged between 50 and 70 patrons each evening, not nearly enough to make the food court profitable.

Both Courses, in the Student Center, and Pritchett, in Walker Memorial, will still be open during dinner hours. Walsh noted that an added benefit to closing Walker and Lobdell for dinner was the possibility of using the large spaces for other activities.

—Jennifer Krishnan

Arrow Street Crêpes May Come to MIT

Arrow Street Crêpes may be moving into the Toscanini's Ice Cream store in the Student Center.

Brady C. Pisha, manager of the MIT Toscanini's store, said that there had been negotiations but no official decision. Owner Gus Rancatore could not be reached for comment.

Vikash K. Mansinghka '04, a member of the Campus Dining Board, said having Arrow Street Crêpes on campus would be beneficial because it would provide "more breakfast and lunch options."

Arrow Street Crêpes serves both dessert crêpes and meal-style crêpes, with ingredients such as cheese and eggs. Representatives of Arrow Street Crêpes could not be reached for comment.

Campus Activities Complex Director Phillip J. Walsh declined to comment specifically about Arrow Street Crêpes, but did say "there have been very substantive discussions about ... ways to achieve our goals," including promoting the well-being of current vendors while "[making] things more competitive."

Walsh said the CAC and dining vendors involved in the negotiations were "close to having something people will be happy about."

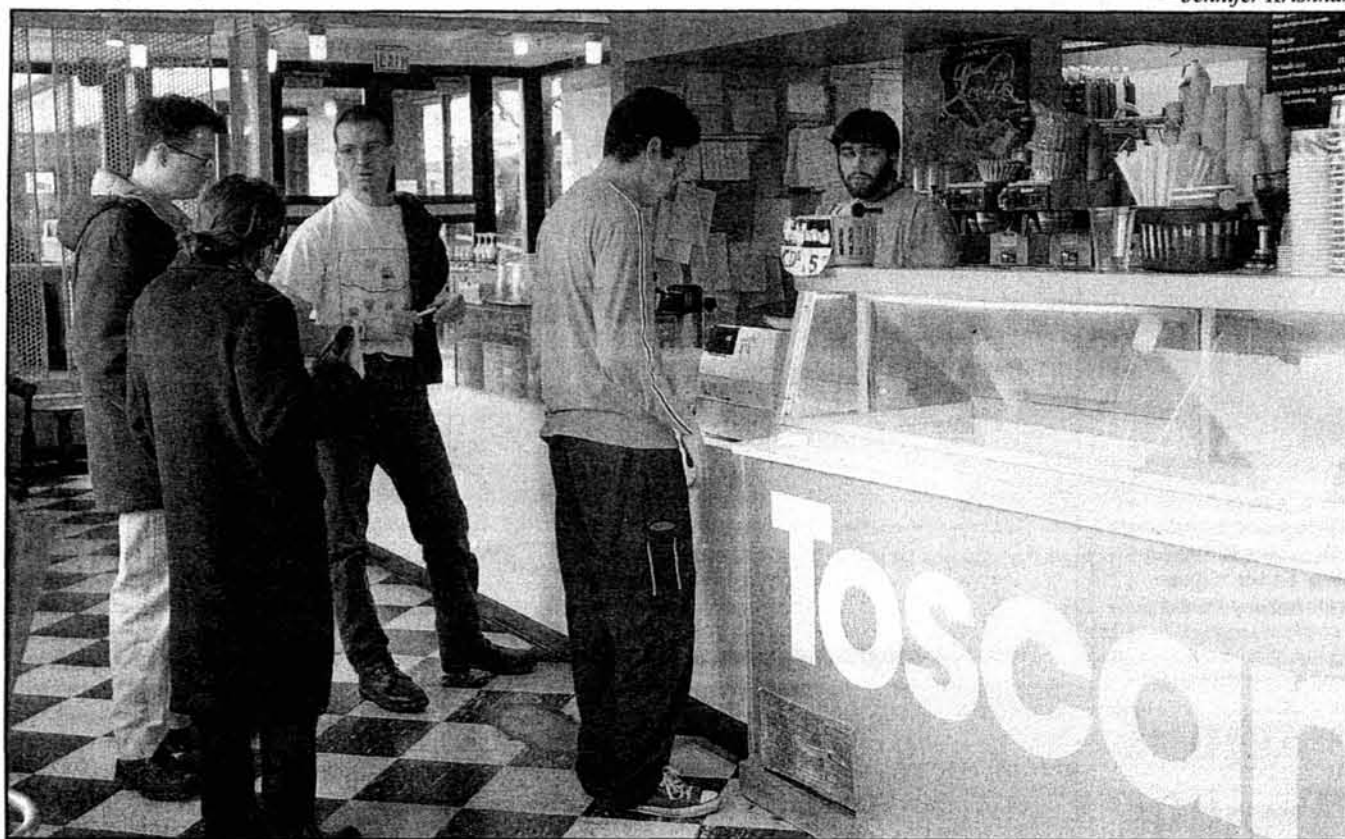
Tosci's to stay out of Transitions

Last fall, Walsh said negotiations were underway concerning the possibility of moving Toscanini's into the Transitions lounge abutting LaVerde's.

Pisha said such a move will almost certainly not occur. Tosci's requires a large supply of water, he said, and Transitions does not have any plumbing. Since the Student Center is "one big block of concrete, ... we'd have to rip up too much cement to make it cost-effective," Pisha said.

"The Transitions space was never fully built to have plumbing," Walsh said. "It becomes far more expensive" than originally imagined to relocate Toscanini's.

—Jennifer Krishnan



Students buy ice cream and coffee from Toscanini's, located on the first floor of the Stratton Student Center.

TIM SUEN—THE TECH

The School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Congratulates

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Tiffany Kanga '04
Timothy Kreider '04
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Veronica Lois '03

Katrina Lust '03
Erin Mellencamp '03
Megha Padi '03
Alexander Phillips '03
Nirupama Rao '04
Margeaux Randolph '04
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MIT Group Promotes Alternative Medicines

By Pey-Hua Hwang
STAFF REPORTER

On Feb. 3, the MIT and Harvard Yan Xin Qigong Associations held a banquet to celebrate a successful conference from Dec. 8 to Dec. 9, 2001 which was attended by over 500 scientists and over 200 scientific papers and experimental reports were presented.

Provost Robert A. Brown, Vice President of Research and Associate Provost Alice P. Gast, and Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert, all sent their support for this novel form of medical health treatment. Colbert even said that he would "recommend Yan Xin Qigong and as a possible Physical Education class."

Yan Xin Qigong is an ancient method for healing and fitness. Its practice in Asia dates back 3500 to 5000 years. The rudimentary principles, which literally involve "working with energy" can be found in acupuncture, traditional Chinese medicine, the martial arts, and many health disciplines.

What differentiates Yan Xin Qigong from other alternative medicines is that it has been subjected to many scientific experiments and has proved effective in reducing the poisonous effects of hydrogen peroxide and keeping neural cells from aging among other positive effects. Yajun Sang G said "this is the only qigong to my knowledge that pays attention to scientific research."

Researchers praise practice

Dr. Ming Dao, Conference Co-Chair Advisor of MIT Yan Xin Qigong Association, opened the speakers list by commenting on the success of the conference and reading the messages of support from the various MIT deans. He then turned over the speaker to Ms. Na An, a lab manager in the MIT Biology Department who gave a personal testimonial about the positive effects of qigong on both her mental and physical health as well as on the mental and physical health of her family.

"My husband's 30 year habit of drinking," she said, "was completely reversed."

Dr. Denise O'Hara, a principle research scientist at the Genetic Institute, gave a presentation on some of the various scientific testing that been performed on Yan Xin Qigong using treated and untreated tissue cultures and the exciting results. The ability of the Qi to kill cancer cell lines while leaving healthy cell lines untouched was particularly notable.

Deans support research

Associate Dean for Graduate Students Blanche Staton and Assistant Director and International Student Advisor Maria Brennan also spoke and voiced their support of the technique. "I'm looking forward to learning about [Yan Xin Qigong], and I'm sure you'll be around to teach me," she said.

Dr. Yan Xin first visited Boston in the summer of 1990. Invited by research groups on life science at MIT, he delivered academic lectures on life science technology. Later he was invited a number of times to give academic lectures and conduct experiments at Harvard University.

Interested researchers from various departments of Harvard Medical School and MIT, including the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, the Harvard School of Public Health, and MIT's Biology Department attended the recent Harvard-MIT Yan Xin Life Science Technology Research Conference. One of the most important announcements to the researchers at the conference was the successful killing of 21 types of cancer cells by Yan Xin Life Science Technology serial product XY-Yang Sheng Su, a powder supposedly treated with Qi, and the external Qi of Yan Xin Qigong.

In a world where antibiotic resistance continues to increase and carcinogens are omnipresent, Yan Xin Qigong may become a new avenue to explore, with MIT researchers potentially leading the way.

Essigmans Going to Simmons

Housemaster, from Page 1

"They're two of our most experienced housemasters," Benedict said. "They've done excellent work there. They've established a sense of community."

The Essigmans spent over a week considering the offer, and they announced their decision to New House residents last Thursday.

"We had very mixed feelings about it because we were so close to the New House community," John Essigmann said. Yet the Essigmans were drawn to the chance to observe and help guide a fledgling dorm community.

"When you take normal housemastering and throw on top of it the challenge of moving in and helping students form a community, I think it's the kind of thing that becomes irresistible," John Essigmann said.

Simmons' shaky beginnings

The change in housemasters is only the latest transition in the leadership of Simmons Hall. Two weeks ago, the Founder's Group was dissolved and a Steering Committee consisting of students and Graduate Resident Tutors was formed.

Neither Benedict nor the Essigmans were concerned that the many recent changes would cause a disruption in the planning of Simmons Hall. Undergraduate Founder's Group members Vikash Gilja '03 and Ross E. Benson '03 are serving on the new Steering Committee. Furthermore, although McCants will no longer serve as housemaster, she remains interested in the planning and dorm life of Simmons Hall, and intends to become a house fellow for



TIM SUEN—THE TECH

Professor Anne McCants, housemaster of Green Hall, has declined the position of Housemaster at Simmons Hall.

the new dorm when it opens.

"One of the beauties of the housemaster system, if it's working well, is that you can have transitions from one housemaster to the next ... it's not dependent on a specific individual, but rather on the combination of institutions that are in place and the individuals who step up to fill them," McCants said. "I don't anticipate any problems."

Also announced on Friday were the associate housemasters for Simmons Hall, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Muriel Medard '89 and her husband John Simmons '90. Both Medard and Simmons hold undergraduate and graduate degrees from MIT. Medard has

been a professor in the department since 1995.

Meanwhile, a committee is being assembled to select a new housemaster for New House. The committee will be chaired by Professor of Mechanical Engineering Bora Mikic, housemaster of Next House, and will include student leaders of New House.

Benedict predicts that the search will proceed swiftly, aided by an already existing group of potential applicants formed during housemaster selection for the new Sidney and Pacific graduate dorm.

"We already have some candidates in the pool" said Benedict. "We're hoping that we can speed this one up."

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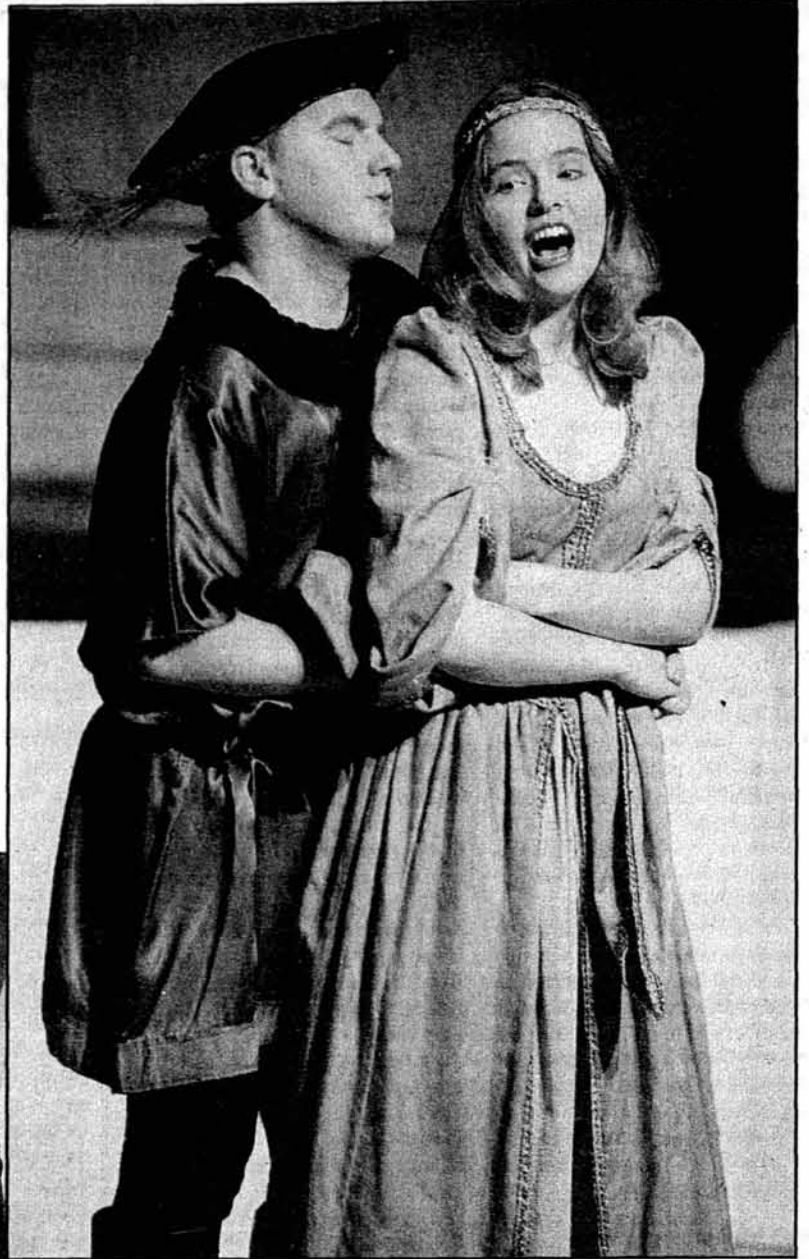
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Once Upon A Mattress



Top Left: Spanish Panic Dancers (Mike Chiesi and Steph Sharo Chiesi G) perform a duet.

Above: Sir Harry (Greg S. Pollock G) comforts Lady Larken (Caitlin Q. Marlow '03).

Left: The Court Jester (Charles R. Floyd '03) and Minstrel (Rogue Shindler) guess at the meaning of the expression of the mute King Sextimus (Dean Brackman).

All photographs are from the Musical Theatre Guild's Once Upon a Mattress, playing in La Sala De Puerto Rico.

Photography by Wan Yusof Wan Morshidi

Plans to Use Graduate Housing for Crowding Problem Still In Works

Ashdown, from Page 1

ing issue. The short term group will be chaired by Clay himself and will include Matthew S. Cain '02, president of the Dormitory Council, Jennifer M. Farver G, president of Ashdown House and co-chair of the GSC Housing and Community Affairs Committee, Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict, Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert, Orlando, and another housemaster to be named.

"The long term group will be broader, i.e. it will have FSILG representatives, faculty committees, the chair of the faculty, as well as student leaders and plain faculty," Clay said. "The thing ... is to have a committee that has a long range view so that issues that come up in the future ... will go to this committee."

Mixed feelings about decision

Farver was pleased by the outcome of the meeting but expressed disappointment by the fact that undergraduates are likely to move into graduate dormitories. "We are disappointed that graduate student beds will be used to house undergraduates, but we are pleased that our concerns about disruption of

graduate student communities have been heard," Farver said.

She also raised concerns about the problems still facing graduate students. "There is still a severe shortage of graduate housing on campus," Farver said.

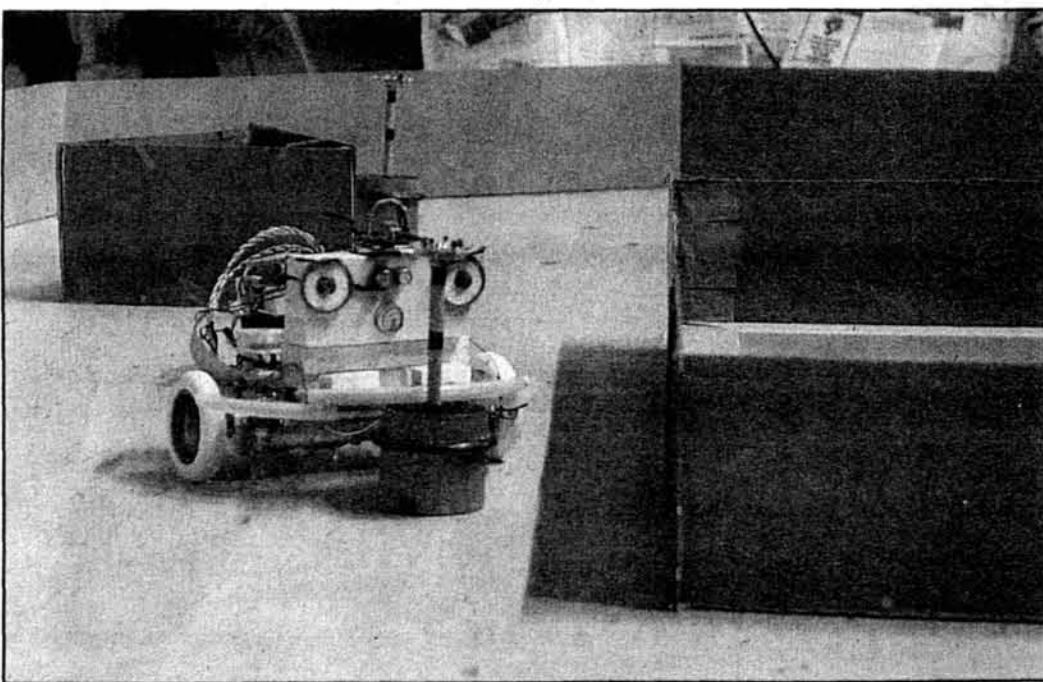
"It was very productive and that was because it had more open discussion," Senevirante said, "but it should have happened earlier before the e-mail went up."

Regarding plans for the future, Clay said, "I reminded the group that we are adding housing, not subtracting. So next year there will be a new dormitory for undergraduates, Simmons, and a new dormitory for graduate students."

He said that there would be 600 more beds for graduate students next year, subtracting the 150 or so that will be taken by undergraduates from the 750 that will be added by the 70 Pacific Street dorm.

"That's not 750, but its not taking away, either," Clay said.

Considering the project's future, Clay said, "I don't want to suggest it's going to be easy because we will have to try to anticipate all of the moves and all of the ways people think about the issue and try to come out with something that works."



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

A robot made by "The Smarties," which consisted of Margaret M. Cheng '04, Jimmy Cheung '04, Albert Lin '04, and Nancy Sun '04, computes its position and slowly navigates around the floor during the final competition of MASLab (6.186), a student-run robotics course taught over IAP.

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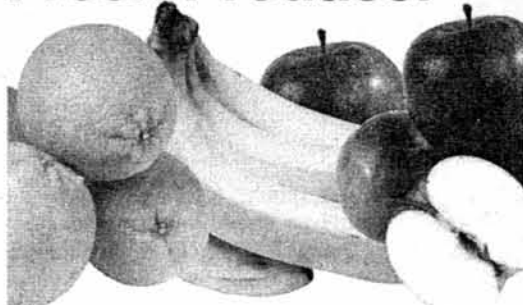
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MIT Student Groups Take Petition to Vest

Visas, from Page 1

States and will make it practically impossible for us to visit our families and participate in conferences abroad.”

The Middle Eastern Club and the Social Justice Cooperative joined forces to address these issues and posted an online request to Vest to take a stand on this issue last Thursday. Within two days, over 400 MIT students signed the petition to show their opposition toward the bill, with many calling the measure an example of racial profiling. Many students encouraged MIT to take a stand against the bill as it did with the 6-month moratorium on visas that was suggested in September.

In response to the letter and petition, Vest wrote that “all our leading higher education associations have endorsed this compromise bill.” The Senate is expected to adopt this bill without amendment.

Student clubs voice opposition

“This bill makes everyone from certain nations guilty until proven innocent,” said Mehdi Yahyanejad G, president of the MIT Middle Eastern Club. “And how are people supposed to go about proving their innocence? The words right now are vague, and our fear is that they will be abused.”

Mostashari agreed, arguing that politics was already interfering with science too much.

“It is unfair to have political intervention with scientists where communication is necessary,” Mostashari said. “Many people are already denied visas. New bills should be less restrictive as opposed to more.”

“There is no correlation between the people from these countries being responsible for international terrorism,” said Hazhir Rahmandad

G, vice president of MIT Persian Students Association. “A bill like this could be counterproductive because right now students from Iran or other countries are educated here and can share the ideals of democracy with the nation they are from.”

MIT, students wait and see

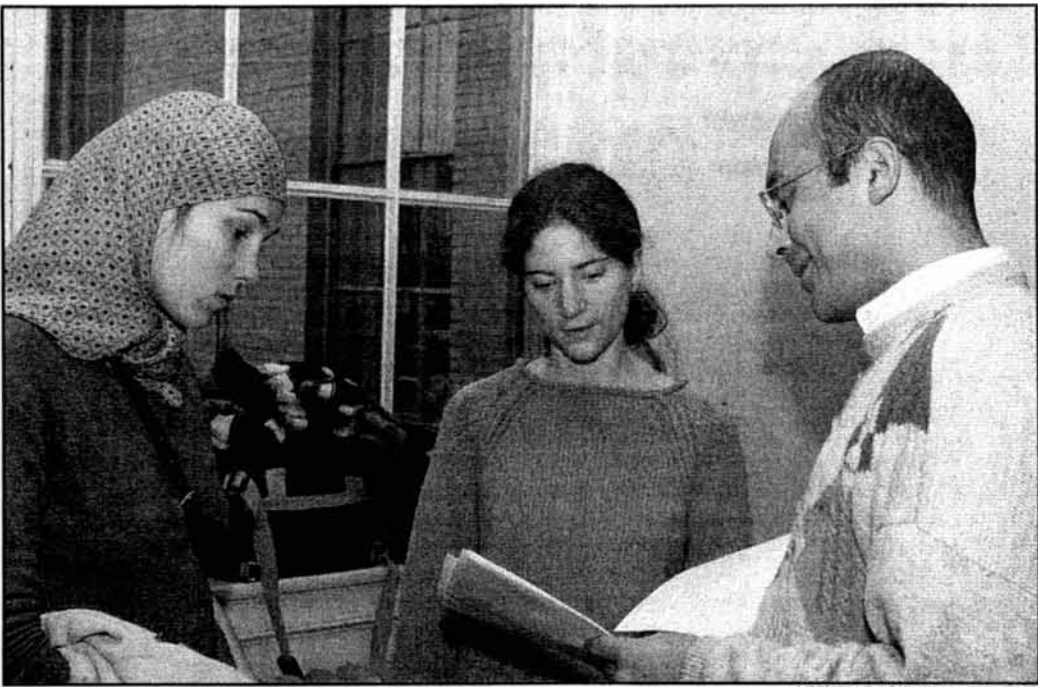
Although MIT is not taking a stance opposing the bill, Vest wrote in his letter that “as the new statute is implemented, the national organizations that represent all universities and colleges will continue to seek and support implementation measures that will sustain the openness of our system for students and scholars engaged in legitimate study and research.”

Vest could not be reached for further comment on the issue.

“We were hoping that the administration would say that these students are important to us, and take a stand on this bill no matter how politically disadvantageous it is,” said Julia K. Steinberger G of the MIT Social Justice Cooperative. “But, it looks like the bill will pass. It is more important than people give it credit for. Universities are meant to be open places for communication through all countries and having restrictions is terrible.”

Since the bill relies on “standards developed by the Secretary of State” these standards must first be made. MIT students are now submitted to the fact that the bill will pass, and various organizations are discussing ways in which the implementation of the bill can be made as astringent as possible.

“We now want to learn how to cope with this legislation to ensure that it does not result in a lower number of student visas granted to students from these countries,” Rahmandad said.



Almee Smith G and Julia Steinberger G from the MIT Social Justice Cooperative and Mehdi Yahyanejad G from the MIT Middle Eastern Club prepare to deliver a petition to the office of President Vest. The petition calls for MIT to oppose a pending a bill in Congress that would prohibit issuing visas to students from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, and Cuba, all designated as state sponsors of terrorism.

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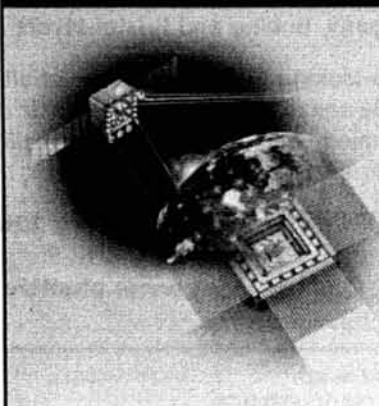
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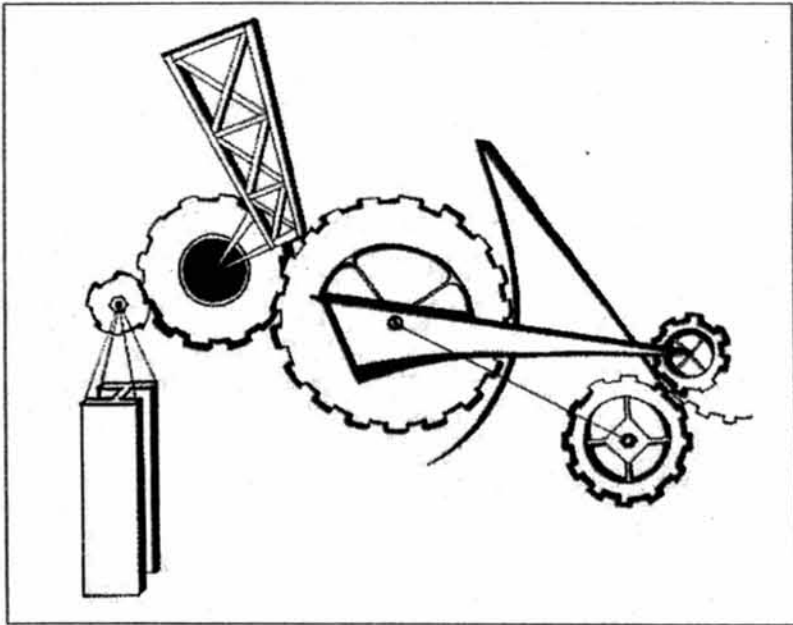
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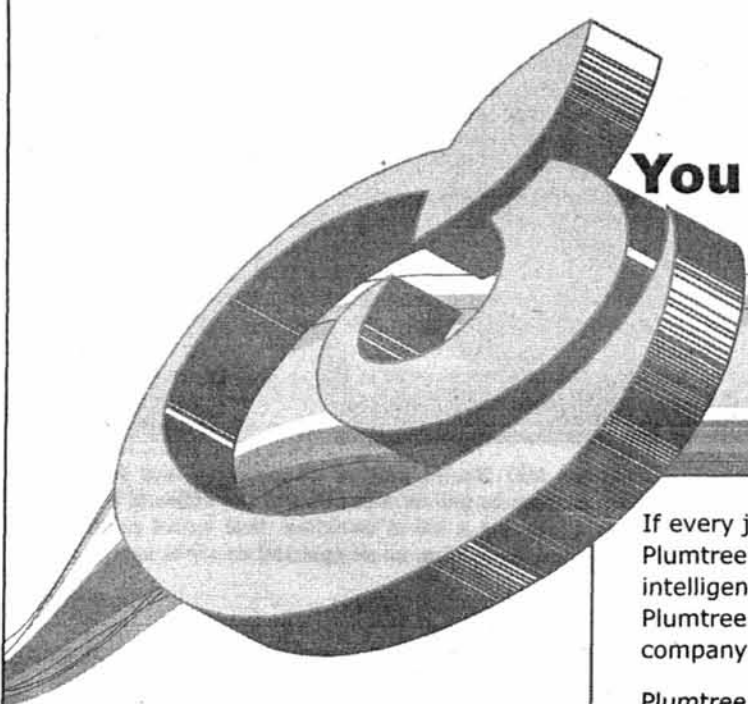
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Buckley Breaks Own Record for Mile Run

Track, from Page 28

placed her eighth overall.

Back on the track, the distance crew took command, with Martha W. Buckley '04 finishing in third in the mile with an ECAC-qualifying time of 5:18.46. Buckley's finish topped her own school record in the event by 0.26 seconds. Also running the mile was Mealani K. Nakamura G, who finished with a solid 6:02.88 to place ninth overall.

Distance runners struggle

Running on a banked track was beneficial to the sprinters but tough for the 5000m runners. Nancy J. Benedetti '05 and Jessica Karnis '05 ran 25 strong laps around a high-banked track to finish in sixth and seventh places respectively.

In the 200m dash, Kuo finished in ninth and qualified for the New England Division III Championships in 28.06 seconds. Shauntel L. Poulson '05 finished in tenth with a personal best time of 28.36 seconds. In 12th place was Sandra S. Quinlan '05, who slaughtered last week's personal best time with a 29.33. In the 800m run, Meredith N. Silberstein '05 led her heat for the first lap and held on strong to knock five seconds off her personal best. Silberstein finished in tenth in 2:32.61, just missing the New

England Division III qualifying mark.

Relay team hits new season best

The last event on the track was the 4x400m relay. Since BU's track has only four lanes, the 4x400m relay started with a California start. Having never started without blocks before, Kuo took off with the gun, keeping her competitors behind her for the first curve so as to avoid traffic. After her second lap around the track, Kuo passed the baton off to Tweedie, who ran a fast second leg. Running third leg for MIT, Silberstein ran an excellent 400m before passing the baton to MIT's star miler, Buckley, who proved herself to be one of MIT's fastest quarter milers. Buckley brought the baton home in a season best time for MIT.

This coming Saturday, MIT is hosting the MIT Invitational, a last chance qualifier before championship season begins. The meet will be held at the indoor track of the Johnson Athletic Center at 12:00 p.m.

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Solution to Crossword

from page 10

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February 4, 2002

To Members of the MIT Community:

As you probably know, the parents of Elizabeth Shin have filed a wrongful death civil suit against MIT for their daughter's death in April 2000 in an MIT residence hall. The suit alleges that Ms. Shin committed suicide by setting herself on fire and charges breach of contract, medical malpractice, and negligence on the part of MIT doctors, staff, and members of our Campus Police.

It is a sad fact that in today's litigious society, the very individuals who do the most to help our students can find themselves the targets of such claims. We grieve for Elizabeth Shin and try to understand the depth of her family's anguish, but we will defend those at MIT who labored hard and appropriately to help her. We are extraordinarily grateful to them, and the Institute will of course provide them with legal services and our support during the litigation.

A number of people have asked us why MIT has not discussed the case more fully in public. There is obviously much more to the story than what the lawyer and the public relations firm hired by the family are saying in court papers and in statements to newspapers and television. The place for MIT to respond to these unfair and inaccurate allegations is in court, and not in the media. More complete facts will come out as the legal process continues.

That process will allow us to explain the critical need for confidentiality and trust between our students and the MIT staff members who care for them, whether in the Medical Department, the Dean's Office, or the residential houses. The quandary that they face is balancing students' legal and medical privacy rights with the obvious interests of parents in knowing how their sons and daughters are doing. This quandary is worked through on a case-by-case basis by professional judgment of how best to help each student. Such judgments are especially complicated when students insist that information be withheld from their parents as a condition for accepting help. We strongly encourage our students to involve their parents in their lives, and in almost all cases that is what happens.

For now, our response to the media has been a statement issued by Jeffrey Swope of the law firm of Palmer & Dodge, which most press reports have included:

The death of Elizabeth Shin was a tragedy — for this bright young woman, her family and friends, and all those at MIT who tried to help her. But it was not the fault of MIT or anyone who works at MIT. According to information provided by the family's own lawyer, she had suffered from serious emotional problems that began at least as early as high school.

Many people at MIT had offered as much help and support as they could to her. While MIT regrets the need to do so, it will defend against the claims that have been brought against it and the members of its community who had tried to help her.

In the meantime, I hope you will support those in our community who have been touched most closely by this matter and that you will continue to care for all those with whom you work, study, and live here at MIT.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Vest

Charles M. Vest

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SPORTS

Women's Gymnastics Beats SUNY-Brockport Squad

By Eduardo Ovalle

TEAM COACH

MIT's Womens' Gymnastics team beat Division III rival SUNY-Brockport at home on Saturday, but the Engineers fell to Division II University of Bridgeport. Although Bridgeport won the meet outright with a 180.525, MIT beat Brockport with a season high 177.125 to 175.775 to garner their third win of the year.

SUNY-Brockport came to MIT ranked fourth in the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association and sporting a record of 8-1. However, they came into the meet with one of their best all-arounders on the bench with a sprained knee. The weekend before at Wilson College, Brockport had scored a full seven points higher than MIT, so even with freshman star Jordan Christiano out of the meet, the Golden Eagles did not expect MIT to put up much of a fight.

MIT began the afternoon with a fairly solid vault total of 43.30, while Bridgeport started the day with a 43.125 on bars. In the second rotation, Brockport put up a 44.50 on vault with strong performances from Carrie Santore (9.125) and Jessica Bowman (9.025).

MIT then took to the bars where

freshman standout Merritt S. Tam scored a meet high 9.20 and Carrie Garceau '03 posted a season-high of 8.75. The third rotation saw Brockport swing a 42.35 bar set while Bridgeport vaulted to a 44.775. At the half-way mark, Bridgeport led Brockport 87.90 to 86.85, with MIT (86.20) close behind.

Chung makes strong return

MIT really made their mark on beam in the fourth rotation, with Cindy Chung '04 making her return to the line-up with a 9.025 to lead the way. Strong performances from freshmen Ashley R. Rothenberg (8.95), Whitney E. Watson (9.20), and Tam (9.40) helped MIT to a season-high 45.175 on the apparatus.

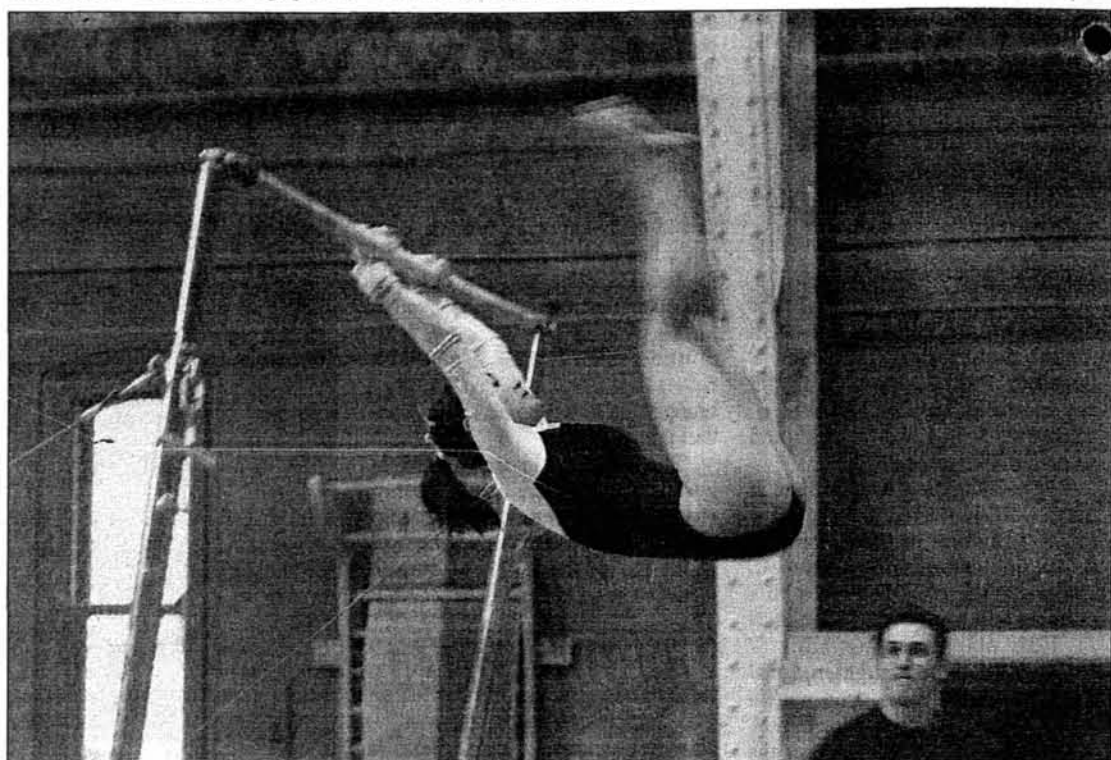
In the same rotation, Brockport increased their lead by scoring a 45.275 on floor on the strength of Santore's 9.325. Bridgeport took to the floor while Brockport went to beam on the fifth rotation, and while Bridgeport lit up the mat with a 46.925 set, Brockport opened the door for MIT by falling off the beams five times. All MIT had to do in the last rotation was stay clean, and despite a fall from their best floor performer, the engineers still posted another season high score with a 45.75 on the floor exercise. Bridgeport finished the

meet on beam with a 45.70.

Tam won the meet on both bars and beam and took second in the all-around behind Bridgeport's

Kate Warner, 36.675 to 36.625. Warner took the floor exercise with a 9.55 and teammate Stephanie Pink won vault with a 9.20.

MIT's next meet is at home on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 2:00 p.m. against Division I opponent University of Vermont.



ERIC J. CHOLANKERIL—THE TECH

Marybeth C. Garceau '03 performs her routine on the uneven bars, scoring a season high of 8.75. MIT ended the day second in Saturday's tri-meet, finishing ahead of SUNY-Brockport and behind the University of Bridgeport.

Dartmouth Shuts Out Squash 9-0

By Robert Aronstam

STAFF WRITER

Dartmouth College shut out the squash team 9-0 last Wednesday, but the team rebounded to beat Fordham

8-1 on Saturday. MIT fell to the higher-ranked Dartmouth squad, while the team easily topped much lower-ranked Fordham.

Although MIT had a few good performances against Dartmouth, they were unable to secure a single match even though Dartmouth played without their top two players. The top two Engineers were the only players on the squad who fared well. Kunal K. Surana '03 and Simon C. Bradbury G both stretched their opponents to five games, but both fell short.

Both players fought back from fifth game deficits and nearly came

up with wins. After falling behind 5-1, Surana won six more points in the game before finally faltering. His two errant drop shots at the end of the game secured his loss.

Bradbury had an even steeper uphill battle in his fifth game. He fell behind 8-0, but refused to surrender without a fight. After being wrong-footed on the first match point, Bradbury quickly spun towards the left side of the court. This caused him to temporarily lose sight of the ball as it began to die in the back corner. Remarkably, he still managed to flick the ball high off the side wall to the front wall, thus continuing the point. Such gutsy efforts allowed Bradbury to score five unanswered points before eventually losing the match.

MIT easily defeats Fordham

Traditionally, Fordham has been

one of MIT's weakest opponents. MIT continued their history of success against Fordham with a solid victory. Each of the eight wins was a three-game affair. In five of the wins, the MIT player surrendered five points or fewer.

The victors of these blowouts were Bradbury, Naveen Goela '03, Robert A. Finn '02, Rodney E. Huang '03, and Steve S. Liu '04. Their scores were 9-0, 9-1, 9-2; 9-0, 9-1, 9-0; 9-1, 9-0, 9-4; 9-4, 9-0, 9-0; and 9-2, 9-1, 9-1, respectively. Surana, Tyler B. Horton '03, and Robert A. Aronstam '02 were the other winners.

The squash team returns to action with a home match against Tufts on Thursday. Since only two spots in the rankings separate the two teams, the result of the match is sure to have significant implications on the national tournament seeding.

Women's Track Finishes Fifth at Greater Boston

By Adeline Kuo

STAFF WRITER

This past Saturday, MIT's women's track team placed fifth at the Greater Boston Track Meet. The event resurfaced at Boston University this year after a decade-long hiatus.

Competitors at the meet included Division I schools BU, Harvard, and Northeastern, Division II school Bentley College, and Division III school Brandeis University. Northeastern (122) and Harvard (116 1/3) battled for first and second places respectively, while BU (32), Bentley (29), MIT (28 2/3), and Brandeis (28) fought for third through sixth.

ished in fifth in 7.82 seconds.

Throwers have strong meet

Scoring from the throwing cage were Princess Imoukhuede '02 and Akua A. Asa-Awuku '03. With two second place finishes, Imoukhuede was the team's highest scorer of the day. In the shot put, she put a distance of 40'9" to qualify for the All-New England Championships. More impressive in the weight throw, Imoukhuede tossed the 20lb weight 51'5" to once again qualify provisionally for the NCAA Championships. Asa-Awuku also performed well in the weight throw, as she finished in fifth with 43'3.75" performance, which qualifies her for the ECAC Championships.

In the horizontal jumps, Nalini Gupta '05 was MIT's sole scorer. Gupta jumped 15'10.25" in the long jump for a sixth place and New England Division III qualifying finish. Then, returning in the triple jump, Gupta exemplified her jumping skills with a 35'3", ECAC-qualifying fifth place finish. Nyenke also performed well in the triple jump, as she finished in eighth with a New England Division III qualifying jump of 33'6.75".

MIT had some success in the vertical jumps as well. In the pole vault, Catherine A. Tweedie '04 and Vanessa Li '02 each finished in a three-way tie for sixth place, with an All-New England qualifying jump of 10'0". High jumper Emily Schwartz '05 once again qualified for the New England Division III championships with her 4'11.75" jump, which

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Nyenke hits qualifying mark

Starting off the meet on the infield were the 55m hurdlers and sprinters. Chinwe P. Nyenke '04 ran a personal record trials time of 9.48 seconds in the 55m hurdles to qualify for the finals. In the finals, Nyenke was pulled to a faster time by her Division I competitors, finishing fifth in 9.43 seconds and qualifying for the New England Division III Championships. Colleen A. Horin '05 smashed her personal best in the hurdles, narrowly missing qualifying for the New England Division III Championships with a time of 9.66 seconds. She placed eighth overall.

In the 55m dash, Adeline L. Kuo '02 out-leaned a sprinter from Brandeis to qualify for finals in 7.76 seconds, just missing the ECAC qualifying mark of 7.74 seconds. In the finals, Kuo ran amidst Division I sprinters and fin-



ERIC J. CHOLANKERIL—THE TECH

Regina M. Sullivan '05 (1) blocks a shot as Michele C. Verticchio '02 (17) and Cara L. Toretta '04 (16) aid in the effort. The women's hockey team lost 6-0 to Sacred Heart University last Saturday.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, February 5

Men's Basketball vs. Coast Guard, 7 p.m.
Men's Volleyball vs. Roger Williams, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 7

Squash vs. Tufts, 6:30 p.m.
Men's Volleyball vs. University of New Haven, 7:00 p.m.