

SEMS Increases Hours, Seeking Viability

By Lauren E. LeBon
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Student Emergency Medical Services, or SEMS, now offers emergency medical transport services seven days a week.

The hours were extended in order to increase call volume and prove to MIT administrators that the service is "financially viable," said SEMS President Michael R. Folkert G.

Previously, student EMTs were on call from 6 p.m. Thursday to 6 a.m. Monday. The service now runs from 6 p.m. to midnight on weekdays, in addition to the weekend hours.

EMS tries to prove worth

SEMS hopes that by expanding their hours of service, more calls will come in. SEMS is making an effort to increase the number of calls to demonstrate that the transport program is not a stagnant one.

"We just want to pick up more calls so we can eventually move on

SEMS, Page 18

Interphase, MITES Eliminate Ethnicity As Criterion in Selection of Participants

By Nathan Collins
NEWS EDITOR

MIT will open two minority-targeted programs to students of all races following a complaint against MIT filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the Institute announced yesterday.

The programs, Project Interphase and the Minority Introduction to Engineering, Entrepreneurship, and Science, known as MITES, will no longer use race as a factor in selection, MIT said in a statement.

President Charles M. Vest said that MIT will "alter the programs in a provisional way" and work in the next year to find a permanent solution.

"I've always been very proud" of the programs, Vest said. "It was very painful to think this all through."

The change comes as universities across the country nervously review their affirmative action policies in light of a Supreme Court lawsuit challenging the admissions policy at the University of Michigan as illegally discriminatory.

Last week, Princeton University announced it would eliminate an 18-year-old summer program intended to recruit minority students because of liability concerns "in the current legal environment," the university said in a statement.

Revised programs to keep goals

"After reviewing the programs



Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine speaks to the Undergraduate Association about changes in the MITES and Interphase programs. The programs, previously open only to underrepresented minorities, will now be open to applicants from all ethnic backgrounds.

and relevant law, MIT decided earlier this year to modify the selection criteria while maintaining the critical goals and purposes of these programs," the MIT statement said.

MIT will work to continue and enhance minority outreach, said Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75.

Clay said he regretted that MIT

is changing MITES and Interphase but that he did not regret having the programs.

MITES has "served very well," he said. "I like to think when you look at the set of our programs," they have done well, he said.

"The goal was always to attract students" who might not have

thought about MIT or might not have thought they could get in, Clay said.

"I'm not sure what an honest university would be doing" if they did not have such programs, he said.

Minorities, Page 13

Sororities Conclude Rush in a New Era

By Tiffany Kosolcharoen
STAFF REPORTER

The Panhellenic Association extended nearly 100 bids last night, bringing the total number of new and potential sisters in line with last year's pledge class.

Panhel Vice President of Recruitment Sara Pierce '03 said that the sororities received about 20 pledges this fall. A total of 126 women pledged sororities the previous fall.

"The spring-deferred recruit-

ment was a new system this year, and it worked well," said Coordinator of Fraternities, Sororities, and Living Groups Kaya Gerberich. "The number of girls joining is less

Panhel, Page 23

UA Hears Student Input For Coffeehouse Space

Students Suggest Renovations, Specialty Foods

By Jia Xing

The Undergraduate Association compiled a list of possibilities regarding the vacant space in the Coffeehouse last night, but came to no final conclusion.

Proposals included establishing new food options or revamping the Coffeehouse's business plan. Although no formal proposals have been made, several local businesses have taken interest in the open space, said Benjamin J. Zeskind '03, speaker of the UA Council.

Thomas Cleary, former Coffeehouse financial manager, supports the idea of renovations for the Coffeehouse. He said that although there have been long-term losses, they were minor and may be fixed by changing the business plan and operation.

Other than a few modifications funded by class gifts and a minor renovation, the Coffeehouse had barely undergone change since opening, Cleary said.

He also said that shutting down the Coffeehouse would be a great loss for both students and workers. He remembered the Coffeehouse as "simply a fun place for students to

work, hang out, and grab a midnight snack. I would be really disappointed to see it disappear to some outside business."

Phillip J. Walsh, Campus Activities Complex director, asked students for their suggestions. The administration will "do whatever the students want to fill the space, as long as there is no cost to MIT," he said.

UA seeks input on possibilities

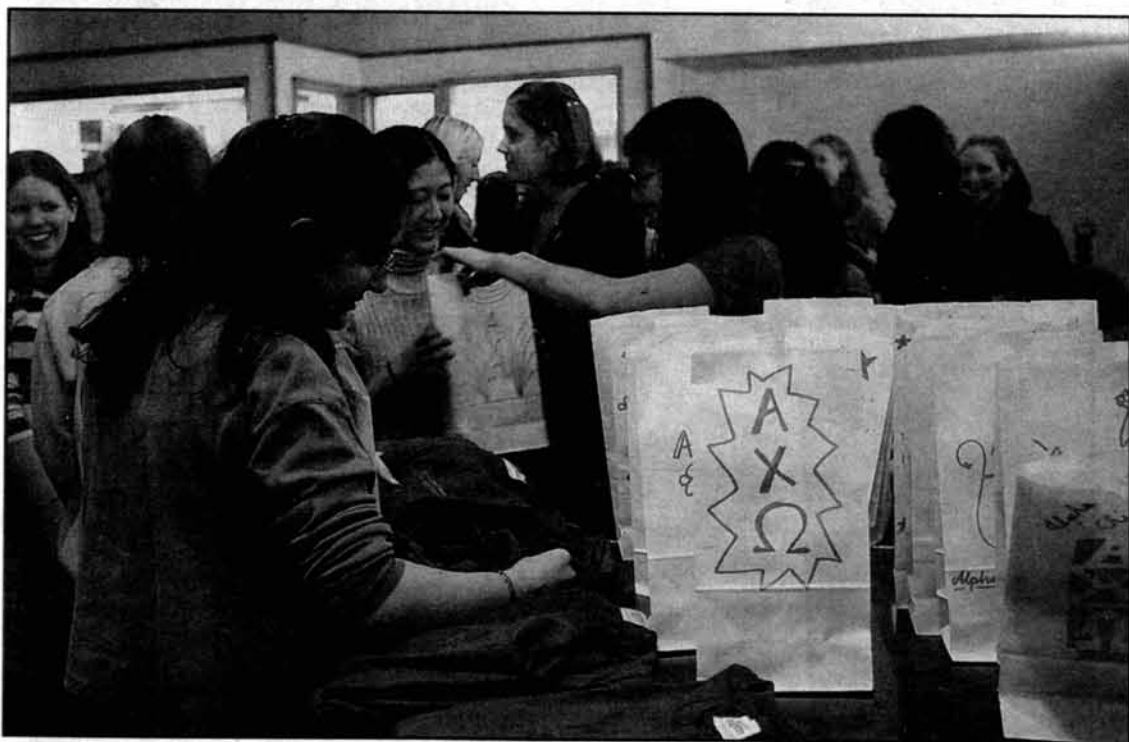
In addition to new offerings and an updated business plan, proposals included more vending machines or added study space.

Suggestions for new foods and drinks included specialty teas, submarine sandwiches, and food from local restaurants. Students at the meeting responded favorably to a suggestion of pearl milk tea, a popular Chinatown beverage.

Details on both revamping the Coffeehouse or new dining options are yet to be considered, and the UA and CAC are seeking student proposals, which Zeskind said could be submitted to <ua@mit.edu>.

The Student Center Committee

Coffeehouse, Page 18



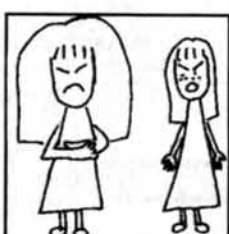
DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH

Ming-Fai Fong '05 hands Janet Zhou '05 a New Member bag while Samira Azarin '06 picks out her bid day T-shirt during Alpha Chi Omega's bid day celebration Monday night.



Charles M. Vest talks about race and MIT.

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Comics

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THE ARTS

The Ptolemy Players enchanted a Killian Hall audience last Saturday.

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WORLD & NATION

Shuttle Fragment Identified As Critical Piece of Left Wing

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

A space shuttle fragment recovered last week has been positively identified as a piece of Columbia's left wing, where sensors recorded a series of temperature spikes and other failures moments before the craft disintegrated, NASA said Monday.

The wing fragment is regarded as the most valuable find in a painstaking hunt over hundreds of miles of territory, but a senior NASA official said it was still too early to tell how the piece would ultimately fit into the puzzle.

"Our own experts are having a difficult time determining what some of these objects are," said Michael Kostelnik, who oversees the space shuttle and space station programs.

Hopes for another significant find were dashed Monday evening. Early in the day, field investigators reported that they had located one of five "general purpose computers" responsible for flying the shuttle. But it turned out to be another type of wreckage, not a "GPC."

Colleges' 'Percent Plans' Don't Increase Diversity, Study Says

LOS ANGELES TIMES

College "percent plans," which guarantee admission to top high school students and have been lauded by President Bush as race-neutral alternatives to affirmative action, do not make a significant difference on their own in maintaining ethnic diversity, according to two reports released Monday.

The studies by Harvard University's Civil Rights Project analyzed the experiences of public universities in California, Texas and Florida as each has struggled to achieve racial diversity without explicit racial preferences in affirmative action plans. But for those race-neutral alternative percentage programs to work, they must be combined with outreach, financial aid and support programs that are often race-conscious themselves, targeting underrepresented minority communities, the reports contend.

As the U.S. Supreme Court revisits the affirmative action issue this spring, taking up two cases from the University of Michigan, the Bush administration has called on the court to replace race-based affirmative action in the nation's colleges and universities with "race-neutral" approaches that offer admission to a percentage of top students in each high school regardless of their racial or ethnic heritage.

Congress Considers Bailout For Fishing Industry

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

At a time when President Bush is trying to promote job growth, Congress is poised to spend money to put a number of West Coast fishermen out of business.

Lawmakers say it is for the fishermen's own good — as well as for the fish.

To lure the fishermen out of the water, Congress might buy as much as half of the fleet used to catch groundfish, a species that lives near the ocean floor. The idea is that by reducing competition, the chances will improve for the remaining fishermen to prosper and for the depleted stocks to return.

The \$10 million that would go toward the buyout is one of many items aimed at aiding financially struggling industries that have been packed into a massive spending bill before House and Senate negotiators. Other measures that could win approval include \$88 million for sugar-cane growers, \$53 million for tobacco growers and \$17.5 million for Gulf Coast and South Atlantic shrimpers.

Baghdad Will Allow Planes To Aid Weapons Inspections

By Maggie Farley

LOS ANGELES TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

Baghdad agreed Monday to allow weapons inspectors to use surveillance planes in Iraq in a last-ditch show of cooperation before a crucial inspectors' report on Friday, and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan SM '72 called a private meeting of the Security Council for Thursday to talk about the humanitarian effects of a potential war.

Friday's assessment by chief inspectors Hans Blix and his nuclear agency counterpart, Mohamed ElBaradei, will be crucial in determining whether to use force against Iraq or continue inspections aimed at uncovering any banned chemical, biological or nuclear weapons programs.

Two veto-holding members of the Security Council, France and Russia, along with Germany crafted a joint communique Monday saying that "there is still an alternative to war" and that peaceful means to disarm Iraq have not been exhausted.

But the United States and Britain are drafting a second resolution authorizing military action in case

the inspectors report that Iraq is not cooperating fully, and could present a draft as early as next week, diplomats say. That makes the timing of Annan's briefing on what will happen "the morning after," as he put it, all the more significant.

"I think he has the feeling the situation has become dangerous," said Iraqi Ambassador Mohammed Douri. "As the United Nations, they have to prepare themselves."

U.N. planners have been examining the possibilities that as many as 500,000 people could be injured or traumatized by a war in Iraq and that more than 2 million refugees could need care. Epidemics of cholera and dysentery are regarded as likely. Roads, bridges, ports and railroads could also be ruined, making it extremely difficult to deliver relief supplies.

Douri hand-delivered a letter from his government to Blix's office Monday, accepting the use of U.S.-made U-2 spy planes, French Mirages and Russian Antonovs for aerial monitoring. The letter reversed an earlier stand by the Iraqi government that it could not guarantee the safety of U.N. pilots if they

flew in "no-fly" zones patrolled by British and U.S. aircraft. "The letter has no instructions, no conditions at all," Douri said.

The ambassador said that in a meeting with inspectors over the weekend, Iraqi authorities handed over 24 more documents dealing with the destruction of deadly VX toxins and anthrax, and 18 empty chemical warheads that inspectors recently discovered.

Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, has addressed the inspectors' three key issues by consenting to the spy planes, by pledging to pass legislation next week banning weapons of mass destruction and by encouraging more private interviews with scientists, he said. Iraqi officials also offered to allow the inspectors to drill into the ground at the sites where chemical and biological weapons were reportedly destroyed and analyze the findings.

In Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein added a postscript to the letter, saying that British and U.S. aircraft in the "no-fly" zones should not carry out air raids on Iraq while the United Nations is conducting surveillance flights.

Possible War in Iraq Uncovers Deepening Divide Within NATO

By Ken Fireman

NEWSDAY

WASHINGTON

The trans-Atlantic rift that erupted over Turkey's request for NATO assistance in case of war in Iraq mirrors much deeper fissures that threaten the continued relevance — and perhaps the whole future — of the 53-year-old alliance.

On one level, the dispute reflects widespread public apprehension in Europe about the Bush administration's determination to wage war over Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. This is especially strong among citizens in France and Germany, the NATO members who, along with Belgium, vetoed the Turkish request, but pollsters have found it prevalent throughout Europe.

On another level, however, the

rift over Turkish aid exposes fault lines among European governments, if not its citizens, over Iraq. As U.S. officials cheerfully note, eight European governments signed a statement last week rejecting the French-German view and endorsing Washington's position; Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld asserted Monday it is the governments that cast the veto that are isolated within NATO, not Washington.

On an operational level, Rumsfeld argued that the veto would have no impact. He said the Turkish request would be met "through a different mechanism of NATO," or entirely outside it if necessary, and that the dispute would not delay a U.S. assault on Iraq should President Bush order one.

But Bush acknowledged broader consequences, saying, "It affects the alliance in a negative way when

you're not able to make a statement of mutual defense."

Indeed, the diplomatic ripples may be hard to contain. Most immediately, it indicates that France and Germany are hardening rather than easing in their opposition to a new U.N. Security Council resolution authorizing a military strike against Iraq. In fact, French President Jacques Chirac and another opponent of military action, Russian President Vladimir Putin, jointly reiterated Monday that Iraq should be disarmed through peaceful means.

More broadly, the inability of NATO to reach consensus on the most pressing international problem of the moment is certain to revive questions about its relevance a dozen years after the demise of the superpower it was created to oppose the Soviet Union.

WEATHER

A Winter that Begg for Hibernation

By Greg Lawson

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The weather community is abuzz with the possibility of near record cold here in New England later this week. The National Weather Service is predicting a likely high temperature less than 10°F (-12°C) for Thursday in Boston and a low of 0°F (-18°C). Thursday and Friday's frigid temps will set in as yet another likely snow-bearing disturbance passes over our area. An intense, deep trough of cold, arctic air plunging down the east coast with a persistent blocking system over the northern Atlantic means the jet stream has sharp curvature as it veers from nearly northerly flow to our west to nearly southerly to our east. The curvature, combined with sharp temperature gradients, gives a setting ripe for instability. One such instability, a short wave, is forecast to form and grow as it plows right over us tomorrow morning and afternoon. The snow squall should be short lived with cold, clear air being ushered in to replace it.

So essentially, we have a shift in large-scale patterns to blame for this week's weather. But what led to the shift in pattern? It is a difficult question to answer, but it is definitely consistent with most of the current climate indices. We are in a moderate El Nino phase, meaning the equatorial ocean waters off Peru are anomalously warm. Statistically, this means the eastern seaboard experiences anomalously low temperatures. Linking the equatorial Pacific Ocean to New England remains an elusive task.

Extended Forecast

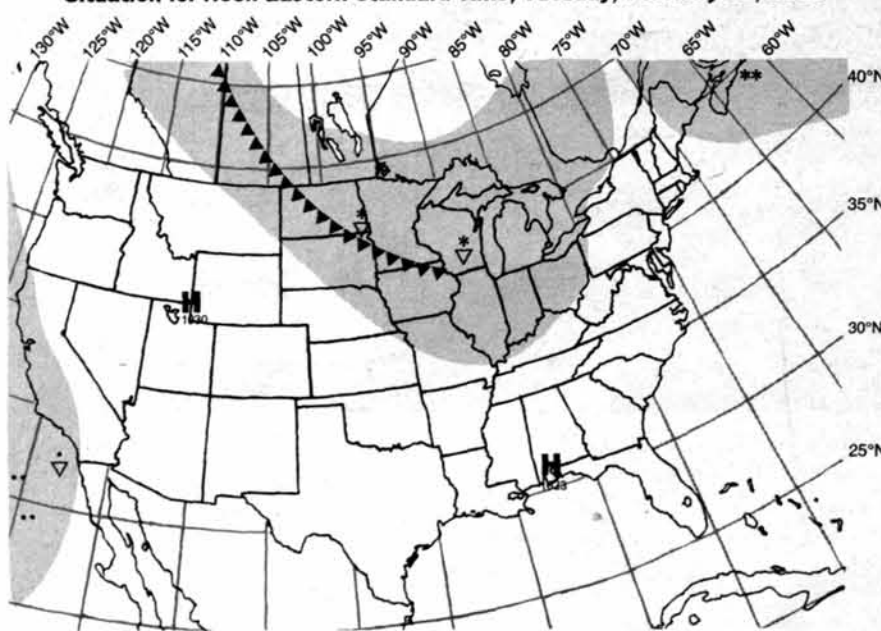
Today. Clear and cold. Breezy northwesterly winds. High 22°F (-5°C)

Tonight. Clouding up. Low 19°F (-7°C).

Wednesday. Milder and snowy. Snow ending early afternoon. Cold air sets in. Windy. High 33°F (1°C). Low 11°F (-12°C).

Thursday. Clear and frigid. High in between 12 and 15°F (-11 to -9°C). Low between 3 and 5°F (-16 to -15°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, February 11, 2003



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow *	Fog
L Low Pressure	--- Warm Front	Light *	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Moderate **	Haze
	▲▲▲ Stationary Front	Heavy ***	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Americans Shouldn't Be Held Without Counsel, Lawyers Say

By Henry Weinstein
LOS ANGELES TIMES

SEATTLE
The American Bar Association on Monday overwhelmingly passed a resolution opposing a Bush administration anti-terrorism policy that bars U.S. citizens jailed in this country as "enemy combatants" from conferring with lawyers.

By a nearly 5 to 1 margin, the ABA's House of Delegates approved the resolution, which also states that such individuals should be "afforded the opportunity for meaningful judicial review of their status," subject to the requirements of national security.

So far, only two U.S. citizens have been publicly declared "enemy

combatants."

The Bush administration, which contends that permitting lawyers to consult with such wartime detainees would interfere with efforts to gather intelligence information, sent U.S. Attorney John McKay of Seattle to argue against the measure.

"Importing criminal justice standards to the area of national security is a radical proposition," McKay said. "The president is charged with protecting national security. ... This question is ultimately about public policy, not the Constitution."

Miami attorney Neal R. Sonnett, who heads the ABA's task force on terrorism and took the lead in supporting the resolution, said the 400,000-member organization

stands with Bush in the battle "to root out those who would harm our nation. But we can't lose the Constitution in the process."

"If someone is designated as an 'enemy combatant,' they have to be able to go into court and say: 'You've got the wrong guy,'" Sonnett said. "We want the administration to hear from us that there has to be a balance," so that individual liberties are not violated in the name of protecting national security.

Albert Krieger, who heads the ABA's criminal justice section, said that if the resolution had failed, "We would be acknowledging there is nothing wrong in creating the disappeared — not in Argentina, but here in America."

Officials Urge Public Precautions Against Potential Terrorist Attack

By John Mintz
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Top federal officials on Monday issued their most pointed advice since Sept. 11, 2001, on precautions the public should take against terrorist attacks, warning that every home should be stocked with three days worth of water and food in case of a strike with chemical, biological or radiological weapons.

They also recommended that families consider designating a room where they will gather in the event of such an attack and have on hand duct tape and heavy plastic sheeting to seal it, as well as scissors, a manual can opener, blankets, flashlights, radios and spare batter-

ies. The officials said they believe the al-Qaida terrorist network is particularly targeting New York and Washington.

Ranking officials of the Department of Homeland Security told reporters at a briefing that Americans must take some personal responsibility for protecting themselves, but stressed that people should not feel panicked or abandoned by government.

"We see information on citizen preparedness as prudent planning," said Gordon Johndroe, the department's spokesman. But given al-Qaida's interest in obtaining weapons of mass destruction, he added, "it's appropriate for citizens to be informed about how to

respond to a terrorist attack, much as people have prepared for years to be ready for tornadoes, hurricanes or floods."

"You have to talk to your family, and plan how you're going to communicate with each other" after a devastating terrorist attack, said David Paulison, the U.S. Fire Administrator, who is a top civil defense planner for the new department. For example, he said, families could designate a third party with whom telephone messages can be left.

While much of the information in Monday's briefing has been previously offered to the public on government Web sites, the news conference was an effort to emphasize it.

Administration Wants to Relax Toxic Emission Curbs

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Bush administration is proposing to relax measures that curb toxic emissions from a variety of industries including pulp mills, automakers, petrochemical plants and steel mills.

Under a new set of rules drafted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the affected businesses could opt out of the current requirement to reduce toxic fumes from their plants to the maximum extent possible. In some instances, those controls can eliminate virtually all emissions harmful to people's health, but businesses contend they cost too much and provide little health benefit.

The emissions at issue are not hazardous because of smog-forming potential, but because they can damage the brain, a developing fetus or lead to cancer.

In their place, the EPA would allow businesses to revert to an older method of reducing risk by studying emissions from a source and applying less rigorous controls. But environmentalists and others say that approach allows toxic releases to continue and is at odds with the national Clean Air Act.

Although the change is subtle, it is significant for people exposed to emissions from industrial facilities and for hundreds of businesses.

Congress Seeks to Raise FBI Funding to \$4.3 Billion

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Congress is preparing to increase funding for the FBI this year despite a blistering Senate critique last month that questioned whether taxpayers have gotten their money's worth from \$1 billion in budget increases for the bureau since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The Senate version of a more than \$390 billion government-wide spending bill, which was passed last month, proposed cutting the FBI's budget in 2003 by at least \$206 million, and a little-noticed report accompanying the measure called for the "total re-creation" of the law enforcement agency. The report also urged the bureau to consider bringing more nonagents into top management, and suggested that elite units such as the hostage rescue team may have outlived their usefulness.

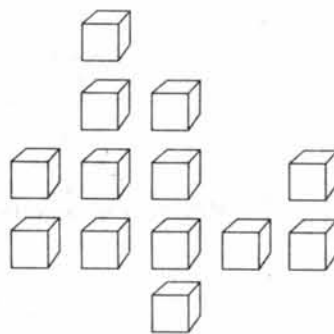
But House-Senate negotiators who are close to completing a compromise version of the huge spending measure have agreed to provide nearly \$4.3 billion to the FBI, about \$45 million more than President Bush had sought, congressional sources said. A Democratic aide, noting that there was little enthusiasm for FBI budget cuts against a backdrop of new threats to the nation's security, said, "Given what's at stake right now, you give them the money."

Senior House members in both parties say they are pleased with FBI changes begun in the past year. The White House appears to share that confidence.

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OPINION

RSIT Punted



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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January and monthly during the summer for \$45.00 per year. Third Class by The Tech, Room W20-483, 34 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Third Class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Permit No. 1. POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. Telephone: (617) 253-1541, editorial; (617) 258-8329, business; (617) 258-8226, fax. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2003 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Charles River Publishing.

The past year saw a radical departure from a MIT's time-tested residence selection system, a system that granted freshmen a power to survey and select their living quarters unique among college students. The process left nearly all parties frustrated. Fraternities and independent living groups struggled to manage an intense, multiweek rush during the first month of the classes. Houses received a fiercely unequal distribution of pledges, and more freshmen deplored this year than ever before. Theme houses struggled to attract as many residents as usual.

Editorial

Frat boys and ILGers weren't be the only ones to struggle with the process; dormitory residents, working to maintain and build community and character, had to accommodate individuals with commitments to living communities quite distant from their MIT-assigned bedrooms and semi-mandatory meal plans.

Dormitory residents resented a severely curtailed dorm rush in which only 85 freshmen relocated after arriving at MIT. The freshmen weren't happy, either. A post-orientation survey found that overall, they were merely "somewhat satisfied" with the residence selection process. Certainly there remains plenty of room for improvement.

We engineers all expect any system-wide change to produce a few bugs on its first run. Everyone knew there would be kinks in the new system, and now it's time to work them out. The Residence System Implementation Team was assigned to do exactly that. To this point, they have failed.

The RSIT clearly states its purpose on its Web site: "The charge of the Implementation Team is to create and enact the specific policies and programs needed to transition into the residence system described in the Design." (That ominously capitalized "Design" refers to Tufts President, MIT alumnus, and former Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow's famous 1999 residence report.) This team, composed of student and administrative representatives from every imaginable cubicle and corner of campus, had the task of putting together the program for this

year's rush, analyzing the good and the bad, and addressing problems encountered. The Jan. 13 draft of the RSIT report reveals that the team did not complete the tasks assigned to it; in MIT parlance, the RSIT punted.

The report, a blandly descriptive summary of 2002 residence selection, contains mostly survey data, minimal analysis, and zero prescription. The report concludes that the following tasks assigned to RSIT "need resolution," i.e., were not addressed: what will happen during rush ("the appropriate and desirable length and structure of the residence orientation program"), and when it will happen ("the timeframe for the formal aspects of the FSILG recruitment process"). A Dorm-con petition to reestablish a traditional dorm rush goes unmentioned. The team also failed, again by their own admission, to address the issue of room-squatting in dormitories, as well as ways to support theme houses that suffered under this year's system.

The team concludes with a bald plea for someone else to do their work for them. What of the committee's central task, crafting those specific policies and programs to transition to the new residence system? It is their "hope" that "those who have responsibility for specific aspects of the housing process will make use of the wealth of information to persist" in making rush work. While it is merely the RSIT's hope, and may or may not be the administration's fancy, it is cold necessity for the all MIT living communities, who should not and perhaps cannot carry the burden of another haphazard residence selection like that of 2002.

Rush 2003 is fast approaching. Calendars need to be set, strategies formed, and plans finalized. It appears that the administration is running rather behind schedule. Were the student body left to their own to manage residence selection procedures, they would likely not have a problem. Because the administration has chosen to forcibly involve itself in that process and has summarily failed to manage responsibilities it assumed, students, communities — MIT — will suffer.

Keith J. Winstein has recused himself from this editorial.

Letters To The Editor

Racist Israeli Policies Inspire Resentment

I read Richard Kraus' column "Anti-Semitism in Egypt" [Feb. 7] with interest. If there is an increase in anti-Judaism anywhere in the world, it must be reported.

However, I disagree with his remark that "... under Israeli administration, living-standards for the Palestinians rose rapidly." Kraus wanted to leave the impression that the Israeli illegal occupation of Palestine was (and is) a "blessing" for Palestinians who are quite incapable of self-rule. Without going into the details of Israel's brutal human rights abuses in the occupied territories both before and after the current Intifada, I would like to ask if Kraus if he is in favor of the entire region of modern day Israel, Gaza and West Bank merging into one country with full democracy. If the Israeli government is such a blessing for Palestinians, why not give Palestinians full citizenship rights and have a complete democracy in a united country? Zionist racists are, of course, fearful of the possibility of a government in which Jews are not the majority.

We must acknowledge that Israel, because of its fundamental Zionist founding, is an outright example of a racist state, and its actions in Palestine are leading to an increase in anti-Judaism elsewhere.

Bilal Zuberi G

China, not Taiwan, At Fault

I would like to address some of the errors

in William Li's column, "Bad Politics, Bad Business" [Feb. 4]. He incorrectly states that Taiwan "separated" itself from China in 1949. The Nationalist Party (KMT) under Chiang Kai-Shek fled to Taiwan after being driven out of China by the Communists, and for the next several decades the KMT sought to retake China. Meanwhile, the people of Taiwan were forced to live with a government that they had quickly grown to hate. They were promised a better life under Chinese rule after having lived as second-class citizens under Japanese rule. Unfortunately, this did not happen, and the people of Taiwan ended up lamenting that life under the Japanese was better than life under the Chinese.

Li also incorrectly suggests that Taiwan is the problem in China-Taiwan relations. The problem is that the Chinese Communist Party continues to use its power to unfairly manipulate the international political scene in order to force Taiwan into submission. For example, any U.N. Security Council Resolution that benefits nations having diplomatic ties with Taiwan is almost certain to be vetoed by China.

China claims that Taiwan is an integral and inalienable part of China. However, before World War II, neither the Nationalists nor the Communists believed that Taiwan was a part of China.

Frederick W. Chen G

MASLab Coverage Insufficient

After inviting *The Tech* to cover the 3rd annual MASLab/6.186 IAP robotics competi-

tion, we were disappointed to find that the coverage was limited to a single photograph with no article to accompany it. We believe that the MIT community would have been interested in the work of the 40 participants. As a smaller and less well-known course, we are accustomed to being overshadowed by our 6,270 colleagues, but the enormous disparity in coverage was disappointing.

The MASLab robotics competition is unique, asking students to build a sophisticated robot to navigate an unknown environment using computer vision as a primary sensor. Students use high-performance hardware, including a 300 MHz x86 embedded PC and a robotics controller designed by the MASLab staff. Our contest was a huge success, with over 200 people attending and every team scoring at least one point — quite a feat in this difficult contest! Congratulations to team 10, with Eric Tung, Lanya da Silva, and Lindsay Price, whose robot "B.O.B." won with an impressive 12 points.

MASLab hopes to grow in size next year. Interested students should e-mail <maslab@mit.edu> for more information. We look forward to reading *The Tech's* coverage of next year's MASLab competition.

Edwin B. Olson G and the MASLab Staff

Erratum

A front-page caption Friday incorrectly identified the swimmer in the photograph. She is Kirstin M. Alberi '03, not Georgene M. Hilb '04.

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.

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

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

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

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

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North Korea Claims One of Our Own

Guest Column
Alice Suh

"While I was there, three women delivered babies on the cement floor without any blankets. It was horrible to watch the prison doctor kicking the pregnant women with his boots. When a baby was born, the doctor shouted, 'Kill it quickly. How can a criminal in the prison expect to have a baby? Kill it,'" says Lee Soon-ok, a North Korean prison camp survivor.

"When I was 10 years old, we were put to work digging clay and constructing a building. And there were dozens of kids, and while digging the ground, it collapsed. And they died. And they buried the kids secretly, without showing their parents." This horror story is from Kang Chol Hwan, imprisoned when he was nine years old for political statements made by his grandfather.

The real crisis in North Korea today is not what Kim Jong Il's nuclear program, it is his treatment of North Korean citizens. Last month, satellite photos confirmed the existence of at least a dozen political prisons and thirty forced labor camps. Eyewitness accounts tell of horrors that rival Stalin's gulags and Pol Pot's killing fields. These camps are vast—at least two camps are larger than the District of Columbia—and today hold an estimated 200,000 political prisoners. Those who escaped have testified that up to a quarter of the prison population died each year under horrific conditions. The camps are continually refilled with others deemed disloyal to the government, along with three generations of their families. Children are imprisoned for their grandparents' words.

Yes, this is heartbreaking. But why should time-strapped MIT students care about this? Because in 1987, one of their own was taken. Jae Hwan Lee was a first-year MIT graduate student on vacation in Austria when he was allegedly kidnapped by North Koreans. In 2001, North Korean officials announced his death in a political prison camp but released no further information. No one at MIT was aware of his death when I contacted them—not President Vest, not former President Paul Gray. No one has made a public statement about this. No one has publicly pressed North Korea to release the details surrounding his death.

Lee was a South Korean graduate student in his first year at MIT's Sloan School of Management. Euihwan Kim (ScD '89), then the presi-

dent of the Korean Graduate Students' Association, did not know Lee personally but said he remembered hearing that "he was very smart, very bright...[it was] rumored that an MIT professor went to a conference and scouted him for grad school."

After a three-month tour of Europe with other college students, Lee returned to the United States on July 17, 1987 and stayed at his uncle's home in New Jersey. Lee then left three days later, claiming he was going to a concert in Vienna. This was the last time Lee was seen outside of North Korea.

On August 12, Lee appeared on North Korean television and radio, announcing his defection to North Korea. The business school student claimed he was "disillusioned with the South Korean society...and with the capitalist world where corruption and immorality prevail."

North Korea has a history of abductions dating back to 1953. South Korea claims that 487 of its citizens are being held against their will in the North. In a stunning confession made last September, North Korea publicly apologized for kidnapping thirteen Japanese, but has so far remained silent about the South Koreans.

When Lee appeared in North Korea, US and South Korean government agencies were naturally concerned. His family and friends at MIT did not believe that he had willingly defected. Lee was from a wealthy Christian family, the son of a South Korean congressman and member of the ruling party.

Paul Gray, then the president of MIT, recalled that there had been contact between MIT and the State Department in the days after Lee announced his defection.

President Gray said that he had contacted "several members of the congress whom I knew well enough. One was a member of a House or Senate committee East Asian affairs." Gray did not wish to reveal the name of this congressman, saying only that he was still a part of the Massachusetts delegation to Congress today. There was little more that could be done, he said. "All you could do is pass it along to the congressperson and if they don't succeed, you don't hear any more."

The KGSA also wrote letters to Massachusetts congressmen, including Senator Ted Kennedy.

They may have had some delayed impact. Senator Ted Kennedy has recently been an outspoken voice for North Korean refugees, inviting survivors of prison camps (such as Soon-Ok Lee) to Congress to testify about their experi-

ences.

Of the MIT community's response, Kim said, "I think most MIT students were indifferent, except for KGSA." Even KGSA was very active at first, meeting with the president and the family, but their efforts slowly waned as they exhausted all possible courses of action.

After 1987, news of Lee was scarce. North Korean journalists reported at a 1988 Red Cross meeting that Lee had gotten married and was living well in the North.

In 1999, the National Security Agency learned that Lee was being held in a detention center for political prisoners. South Korea's intelligence service also told Lee's family that North Korea had broadcast over loudspeakers across the demilitarized zone that Lee was a defector.

"I was puzzled," said Gray. "The North Koreans claimed he defected and then they said he was in a concentration camp. It doesn't make any sense." Soon after, Lee's family again contacted the president of MIT, now Charles Vest.

"His family did indeed write to me," Vest said, "asking for MIT's assistance in seeking his release from prison in North Korea. After seeking advice on best avenues to pursue this, I contacted the Department of State and raised the issue of North Korea's treatment of Mr. Lee with them."

Their efforts, however, were futile. On February 15, 2001, the North Korean Red Cross was instructed to inform their South Korean counterparts of Lee's death. They gave no details as to when, where or how he died. Lee's death, unnoticed in the United States, was reported in the following days by South Korea's Yonhap news agency, BBC broadcasts and Channel News Asia. *The New York Times* later reported his death while interviewing Lee's parents in an article on Nov. 18, 2002 about the Korean kidnappings.

Euihwan Kim believes that MIT should make a public statement about Lee's death. Our only excuse for not acting before was that we didn't know. We didn't know that North Korea had vast concentration camps. We didn't know of the testimonies of survivors, of the infanticides and forced abortions, the live burials, the biological testing, the molten iron poured down the throats of religious believers. We didn't know an MIT student could die in such a place, that Jae Hwan Lee died in such a place.

MIT, now you know. President Vest, now you know. Will you not speak?

Alice Suh is a senior in Course 9.

Speak Up For Peace

Guest Column
Martin Hunter

I am writing to urge the MIT community to take a more active role in calling for a peaceful resolution to the conflict with Iraq.

MIT has in the past acted forcefully on moral and social issues which transcended its elite reputation in science and technology. Students and faculty alike played important roles in the 1960s in opposing the Vietnam War. In the 1980s, MIT joined in the campaign for divestment from investments in South Africa, a global campaign which proved instrumental in bringing down the Apartheid system.

More recently, I was moved by the way the MIT community came together for support and discussion in the week following

It is essential that we confront the issue and clarify our position, and that we do it now.

the terrible events of Sept. 11, 2001. The large gathering facilitated in Killian Court filled an emotional gap many of us needed to bridge, and provided a rare opportunity for students, faculty and staff to interact closely with each other at a personal and vulnerable level. Feelings were shared, and complex issues and implications of the terrorist attacks were processed in the small-group discussions in Killian. In my own group, a professor from Iran, administrative assistants, undergraduate students, and a member of the MIT Board who had lost a friend in the attacks all contributed their views and insights. The wall of writings later set up in Lobby 10 served a similar purpose, providing an invaluable channel for healing and expression, as well as argument and discussion.

By contrast, however, I find a disturbing lack of conversation on campus about the current rush for war on Iraq by the Bush Administration. We are facing a very serious situation. We are being asked to accept the unprecedented possibility of a unilateral, pre-emptive military strike on another nation by the United States — a move which is expected to cause enormous civilian casualties in Iraq, and possibly of U.S. military personnel as well; a move which will likely exacerbate, rather than mitigate, the threat of terrorist attacks on the United States; a move which may trigger chemical, biological and even nuclear warfare; a move which may initiate another World War. And yet, with a few notable exceptions on campus, like the teach-ins organized by the MIT Social Justice Cooperative and the Technology and Culture Forum, there is little concerted effort to deal with these questions as a community.

My wish is for a deepening and continuing dialogue on these issues to take root on campus. The problem is complex, and fraught with uncertainties. The peaceful path may not seem so clear to many, and some may even outright defend the Bush Administration's approach. It is essential, however, that we confront the issue and clarify our position, and that we do it now. I encourage everyone, for example, to sign on to a nationwide petition opposing a war with Iraq, which was set up online by MIT professor Nancy Kanwisher at <http://www.noiraqattack.org>. But we must also be increasingly creative and forceful, to find new ways of making our vision heard and acted upon. We must let our voice be heard in the mainstream media. We must let our Representatives know where we stand. We must initiate the dialogue they are not giving us.

The world is living a time of escalating violence and rhetoric of war, and we must find ways to redirect that course and restore hope and faith in humanity. We are certainly responsible to meet and resolve this challenge in our individual lives; lasting change can only be rooted in deep personal transformation. However, as members of the broader MIT community, we are also blessed with a tremendous pool of human resources and potential. It is our duty to make use of that.

Martin Hunter is a staff scientist in the spectroscopy lab.

For Whom Will You Protest?

Ken Nesmith

MIT will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy this week. As we face rapidly escalating foreign policy crises, we would do well to keep his words from his famous letter written from a Birmingham jail to eight clergymen from Alabama: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," King wrote, explaining that he could not "sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned" about wretched injustices enacted elsewhere. King lived with forceful intolerance of injustice everywhere.

Consternation and protest over the coming war with Iraq continues. A massive rally is planned after Valentine's day in New York City. Poets refused a First Lady-sponsored White House poetry event to express their dissent. France and Germany still oppose war; elements of international disapproval remain.

Sadly, little attention is paid to the injustice Saddam does to the Iraqi people. Most objections lead with harsh condemnations of U.S. motives and methods and follow with tangential concerns that we'll be dropping bombs on innocent Iraqi citizens. Objectors in America froth with anger over Bush administration hawkishness and demand that we just leave Iraq alone and well-inspected. Our sanctions, they say, have done enough to hurt the Iraqi people. They don't need our bombs too. This respect for the safety of the Iraqi people is the only legitimate source of objection, while perpetual resentment of the American government extended to yet one more issue is not.

If protesters have time between rallies, they might like to consider what Iraqis think about all this. A column in the Feb. 5 edition of *The New York Times* offers the perspective of Barham Salih, a Kurd living in the north of Iraq, the co-prime minister of the regional government there. He supports war against Saddam for

one simple reason: "the desire of my people to be free from repression and to plant the seeds of democracy in soil that for too long has been given over to tyranny." What protester living in a free society would have the gall to protest the achievement such a desire? Plenty, I'm sure, although their energies are surely driven by halfway justifiable resentment of the U.S. government rather than a genuine consideration of this case for war on its own merits. They would likely jump to point out that we support oppressive governments sometimes, as if that either legitimated Saddam's actions or delegitimated our attack. It does neither. Violent repression is always bad, and it, not American government, should be the object of any protest.

This gulf war is portrayed as a war for oil, waged against the Iraqi people. The administration's motivation for war, we're told, is not liberation of Iraqis or nonproliferation, it is oil and regional control. The end of our action, however, is not objectionable: liberation of an oppressed nation is not a bad thing. While we have lent more than our share of support to Middle East dictators, a war to oust one should be welcomed.

The position that we are waging war 'against the Iraqi people' is not tenable. Objectors point without fail to the U.S.-imposed sanctions as the cause of death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children. They fail to recognize that Saddam used revenues from oil sales not to address these domestic problems, but instead to pursue military development. What could he have done? We can again turn to Salih for insight. His regional government has used oil revenues not for weapons, but for education and health. It has been a successful policy.

Really reaching now, objectors insist that Iraqi society cannot support Western democracy, by which they mean democracy. Cultural and institutional structures and traditions, they insist, eliminate the prospect of a thriving civil society. One more time, let's turn to Salih to see

how his fellow Arabs, steeped in their own non-Western culture, handled the prospect of freedom: "We have a free and diverse news media, with hundreds of newspapers, magazines, and television stations. We respect the rights of minorities...We have tripled the number of schools and doctors since 1991, and infant mortality is at its lowest level ever in our region." Freedom, liberty, life, 3; protesters, 0.

Citizens like Salih have been subject to the violent, repressive policies of the Iraqi government for decades. Saddam pursues ethnic cleansing against Kurdish Iraqis on a scale worse than the action Israel pursues against the Palestinians, but he receives minimal attention for his crimes both in the international and activist communities relative to Sharon in Israel. Both should be harshly condemned for their unjust and immoral violence. Once again, though, protesters choose to attack government policy rather than to stand up against oppression anywhere and everywhere.

The citizens of Iraq would be helped tremendously by cessation of Saddam's rule, and although any resident of Iraq risks torture or death if he speaks out to that effect, the preference is visible in other ways that reflect the will of large numbers of people. Real estate markets are booming as buyers realize the huge potential for growth in a post-Saddam Iraq. Currently useless properties in and around Baghdad and the rest of the country are the future sites of new commerce, growth, and investment, and their value is therefore skyrocketing. Similarly, properties on the border of Iraq and Kuwait have risen radically in value as residents anticipate the prospect of a free, open border and commerce across it. Reporters write of the excitement in the street over a new era for the nation and the region.

Protesters often cast themselves as defenders against government and corporate conspiracy and oppression, fighting a battle for the weak and unheard. They would do well to at least lend token consideration for those they seek to defend. Look for slogans like "Down With Saddam," or "Democracy Not Tyranny," at protests this week. I don't think you'll find many.

Little attention is paid to injustice Saddam does to the Iraqi people.

THE ARTS

EAT THIS

Letters from the Riviera

Part 1: The Nice Market

By Winnie Yang

STAFF WRITER

The author realizes that some readers may find rhapsodizing about fruits and vegetables a bit much, but really, the perfect bulb of fennel deserves nothing less.

I raise a hand to shield my eyes from the dazzling sun as I step out from the dim, narrow, cobble-stoned alleys of Nice's Vieille Ville (Old Town) to the wide berth of the Cours Saleya. Every day (except Monday), this avenue fills with stalls and vendors plying local produce and wares which, in January, in the Côte d'Azur, means rows of beautiful apples like the delicately-hued pink lady, crisply sweet, with just a hint of acidity and perfect for eating out of hand, or a dull, gray-yellow-mottled variety of reinette, whose grainy flesh is more suitable for cooking.

Most of the patrons here are cooks from the many fine restaurants around town and older locals who have shopped for provisions here daily for decades. They are long accustomed to the extraordinary quality of the fruits and vegetables immaculately displayed here. We are not, and we stop at each stand with mouths agape, beckoning each other to hurry to the next booth and the next to witness the gastronomic and agricultural marvels on display.

We point excitedly at the dozen different types of potato available: only one basket holds the russets that dominate the American market back home, while nearly half here are reserved for a rainbow of heirloom potatoes and fingerlings, ranging in color from creamy-white to mauve to midnight blue, each with its own texture and flavor. Virtually the entire Allium genus lines the shelves above, in a host of colors and shapes, the likes of which I've never seen before (such as the banana shallot, or the pint-sized, bell-shaped grelot onion). And these are real, live baby carrots, dewy tops still attached (they were pulled just this morning), not a plastic bag

full of whittled-down impostors.

In the adjacent tent the cheerful vendor (complete with handlebar mustache and hat askew, naturally) shows off a stack of cages full of plump hens and rabbits who seem quite happy to share the dinner table with the gorgeous endive across the way. Another holds a score of bins filled with cured olives, pickled vegetables, fresh and roasted nuts. There's honey from the nearby hills of Provence, preserves from neighboring villages in the Alps, and olive oil that's proba-

imported mush we'll have in the States well into May. Don't get me wrong — there's still enough cabbage and root veg here to remind me that it's winter yet, and I harbor fleeting fantasies of the first tender asparagus of spring and regret that I'll miss the summer appearance of the celebrated charentais melons from the Provençal village of Cavaillon.

I wish desperately I had a kitchen to return to this afternoon, so I could grab handfuls of these perfect leeks, these beautiful white beans in their violet-speckled pods,

sels, rouget (red mullet), daurade (sea bream), baby octopus. I settle instead for breakfast, pointing to a tomato-basil-cheese fougasse (a crusty, ladder-shaped flavored bread) behind the glass at one stand and hungrily eyeing the hand-made sausages, cured meats, and piles of cheeses a few yards away. I pass a large, steaming paella pan and can't resist the delicious aroma wafting from the yellowish crêpe spread on its surface — it's socca, a savory chickpea pancake served with a dusting of freshly ground black pepper and a Niçois specialty. And for dessert: a little eye candy.

Perhaps the most spectacular part of the daily commerce on the Cours Saleya is the famous flower market, and half of the plaza is devoted to blooms and their merchants. One can purchase a vividly-hued bunch of carnation buds, lilies, tulips, or roses for a pittance (though cuttings strewn with tiny, bright yellow puffs mimosas are a particular favorite) or gather camellias and cabbage roses. There are branches of citrus fruits tied with festive ribbons and potted kumquat trees ready to be taken home. The stunning arrangements lining the stands look good enough to eat (and many sport signs that warn, "Ne Touchez Pas!"). All these intense colors, worthy of a Fauvist, are brilliantly displayed in the candy stall: jewel-like confits of clementines, kiwi, ginger, peaches, and melon; hand-painted, life-like marzipan bananas, peppers, eggplants, frogs and lizards; and virtually incandescent glacéed cherries, plums, and apricots.

For a taste of Nice, look for tins of Alziari extra virgin olive oil at Formaggio Kitchen (244 Huron Ave., Cambridge, and 268 Shawmut Ave., Boston). One of the most celebrated producers from the area, this family makes oil from the first pressing of the niçoise olive. Its fruity smoothness is perfect drizzled on fougasse (or whatever crusty bread you have lying around), salads, and fish.

Socca is quite easy to make; for a recipe, write to Ms. Yang at <winyang@alum.mit.edu>.



Now, this is one really nice market.

bly traveled five miles at most from grove to market. A table spills over with perfect specimens of cèpes, black trumpet mushrooms, and chanterelles, a bit of damp, loamy earth still clinging to them.

The tomatoes are a testament to the wonders of this area's growing capabilities (the south of France boasts two to three growing seasons a year): juicy, firm, and bright with tomato-yness, leagues beyond the insipid,

stuff my woven shopping tote just like the locals with artichokes and freshly-picked mesclun (a once humble mixture of greens first created by Franciscan monks north of the city proper which has now become a \$12-a-pound staple of yuppie salads the world over). I am almost tempted by the fish purveyors, as I survey their stands, teeming with the entire contents of the Mediterranean: sea bass, monkfish, John Dory, mus-

FOOD REVIEW

A Different Kind of Bar

Le Méridien's 'Chocolate Bar' Tantalizes

By Amy Lee

The Chocolate Bar

Saturdays, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m., until the end of May

Le Méridien Hotel

Adults: \$23.00

Children 5-12: \$12.00

Children 4 and under: Free

Willy Wonka and his creepy Oompa-Loompas can move over, because Boston has a much tastier version of a chocolate factory.

The all-you-can-eat Chocolate Bar buffet at the Boston Le Méridien Hotel, held every Saturday from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. in their Cafe Fleuri, provides over 25 different indulgent desserts to satisfy even the most severe sweet tooth. The desserts, all of which contain chocolate in some form, attract anywhere from 300 to 500 people each weekend.

I went into the Chocolate Bar a bit skeptically, thinking that even though chocolate is the elixir of life, there was no way such an overhaul of sugary sinfulness could be worth a week of spartan grocery money. However, after entering the restaurant and gazing at the six tables covered with various beautifully presented cakes, tarts, mousses, eclairs, cookies, and more, I changed my mind.

The restaurant was arranged so that two connected tables were filled with various

cheesecakes, tarts, cakes, and pies, while one table each was dedicated to breads, cookies, heated chocolate items, and a crêpe station.

I started off with the cake-dessert table, filling my plate with small portions of unusual items like white chocolate crème Brûlée and a piece of sugared lemon peel-topped "Douce Fusion," a Lemon bavarian cake with scented chocolate ganache. Among other chocolate creations, there was also a New York style marble cheesecake, a "Diplomat" tart covered with berries, kiwi, and pineapple, powdered cocoa-covered truffles, and miniature praline and milk chocolate paris brests.

The bread table was less tantalizing, but that was unfairly the fault of being scrutinized after my stomach-led vision had already investigated about a dozen chocolate cakes. Next to a toaster were small bowls of cream, jam, and melted chocolate, to put on the distinctive chocolate-takes of normal bread fare. Placed on the table were chocolate chunk scones and chocolate peanut butter sandwiches, along with slices of chocolate brioche loaf, chocolate banana bread, spicy pumpkin white chocolate bread, and apricot chocolate bread.

The heated chocolate table had a two-tier stand in the middle, filled with white chocolate eclairs and milk chocolate-dipped strawberries. Around the stand were three metal vessels, filled with Mexican chocolate soup,

molten chocolate, and chocolate bread pudding.

That table is definitely for the extreme chocoholics. The vat labeled Mexican chocolate soup turned out to be filled with melted dark-as-midnight pure chocolate, while a quick glance at the chocolate bread pudding revealed what looked like flaky pastries saturated with rich chocolate.

For obvious familiarity reasons, the cookie station didn't get very much business, even though the large gooey dark chocolate cookies and thick nutty white chocolate cookies looked tempting.

The crêpe station, on the other hand, was highly popular. The chefs make the chocolate crêpe in front of you as you choose what items you would like folded inside. Some of the choices include M&Ms, white chocolate, mixed berries, strawberries, bananas, grated nuts, and velvety whipped cream.

Almost everything fulfilled my idea of a chocolate paradise, with one of the biggest surprises being the strange looking chocolate bread pudding, made of croissants. The slightly bitter chocolate is peculiarly well balanced by the almost creamy texture of the buttery croissant.

The best things, however, were the desserts which incorporated fruits. It's still really pricey to buy any of the summer fruits (especially strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries) right now, so being able to delight in a combination of chocolate and berries was gratifying.

One of my favorites was a slice of a rhubarb tart, dipped on the sides with white chocolate, and beautifully finished with a strawberry placed on top. I'd never had rhubarb before, so I was interested to see

how it would taste.

The white chocolate on the sides doesn't really complement the tart, and it flaked off when I tried to cut the tart into bites, so it is easy to ignore. The tart itself, however, is delicious, with the tender rhubarb coinciding nicely with the harder pastry crust. The rosy strawberry was covered in white chocolate and then drizzled with dark chocolate, providing a deliciously sweet tartness to finish everything off.

The crêpe station was also definitely a winner. The crêpe is strangely fluffy in texture, but the slightly bitter chocolate worked well with the lightly sweetened cream and tangy berries that I chose.

On the other hand, some of the desserts were either overwhelmingly rich or strangely bland. The chocolate peanut butter sandwiches, which look like small brown buns, are waiter-please-refill-my-cup-three-times dry, and aren't as good as a free trick-or-treat Reese's Peanut Butter Cup.

The dark chocolate pizza, decked with blueberries and raspberries, is also far from gratifying, since the pizza portion has both a strange potato-bread texture and a flat taste. The Cocoa passion duo Gelée looked tempting in all its chocolate glory, but doesn't have a distinguishing taste to match its excessive richness.

All the same, with so many delectable choices, the Chocolate Bar provides enough desserts to pamper anyone's stomach.

Bottom Line: Although it's not yet the chocolate Shangri-la, the Chocolate Bar is worth the splurge in both calories and money, and is a lot more appealing than both the smell of Necco and the taste of a Scrumdilyumptious bar put together.

THEATER REVIEW

Flower Drum Song

A Bold New Story of Asian America

By Patrick L. Purdon

Flower Drum Song
Virginia Theatre, New York
Written by David Hwang
Directed by Robert Longbottom
Starring Lea Salonga, Jose Llana, Randall Duk Kim

Late night cable television can reveal a world of untold treasures. Just after the New Year, I sat in my California home flipping through channel after channel of amazing grilling machines, toll-free psychic savants, and fool-proof instant-millionaire schemes.

Buried in this treasure-pile of fantastic refuse, I discovered something truly remarkable. Turner Classic Movies was showing *Flower Drum Song*, a musical-film from 1961 based on the popular Rogers and Hammerstein production. In typical American musical theater style, I witnessed dynamic, talented people dancing and singing jazzy scores mixed with a funny plot on a backdrop of vibrant settings.

But dig this: The characters and performers were virtually all Asian-American. Asian Americans telling stories of romance, heartbreak, and laughter. Asian Americans sharing passionate kisses. Asian-American men playing strong romantic lead roles. Asian-American people speaking and singing in perfect American English. Asian Americans telling a tale of family bonds and generational conflict. Asian-Americans portrayed as "real" Americans in every way.

I ran upstairs and woke up my mom to watch the rest of the show with me. "I remember hearing about this show when we lived in Hong Kong, (in Cantonese) 'fah-gu-gaw,' but I've never seen it before," she said. I had never seen it before either, and in fact, after 25 years of living in this country, I had never seen anything remotely like it.

American popular culture has had a long history of constructing the "Asian" person as a perpetual foreigner who

can never become a "true" American. In real life, this constructed stereotype encourages overt acts of discrimination that can be justified in terms of the foreigner label (e.g., go to Google and type in "Wen Ho Lee," or "Congressman David Wu Department of Energy..." Get it?). I was amazed to learn that forty years ago people had dared to tell the story of Asian America a different way. When I learned that Tony Award-winning playwright David Henry Hwang had re-written *Flower Drum Song* and that it was showing on Broadway, I took the first chance I could get to go see it.

Flower Drum Song is the story of a 1950's Chinese-American community in San Francisco's Chinatown. The original story was a best-selling novel by C.Y. Lee, which was later adapted by Rogers and Hammerstein into the musical comedy and movie. The musical and movie centered on the mixed-up love lives of Wang Ta, a first-generation Chinese-American seeking freedom from his father's old-world traditions; Mei-Li, a fresh-off-the-boat immigrant from China sent to fulfill an arranged marriage; Sammy Fong, a swingin' rat-pack-



Ta (Jose Llana) and Mei-Li (Lea Salonga), both first-generation Chinese-Americans, find love while trying to build a new life in the United States.



JOAN MARCUS

The seductive Linda Low (Sandra Allen) leads a dance at Club Chop Suey, a Chinese Opera house cum American-style cabaret in Broadway's *Flower Drum Song*.

like nightclub owner betrothed to Mei-Li; and Linda Low, a sexy showgirl working at the nightclub.

While the original *Flower Drum Song* had popular appeal for its beautiful music and its talented cast, academics disliked it for its surface-level depictions of Chinese culture and its assimilationist model for Chinese America, which suggested that the road to legitimate "American-ness" lay in the total abandonment of Chinese cultural forms.

Fast-forward to present-day, and enter the creative team of David Henry Hwang, Robert Longbottom, and David Chase. Hwang and company kept much of the original music, but completely re-wrote the story. Mei-Li, played by Lea Salonga, is now the daughter of a Chinese opera boss who comes to California to escape Maoist political persecution. Ta, played by Jose Llana, remains the central character, but is amplified to become the moral center of the story, within and around whom the dialogues of cultural conflict and transformation play out. Linda Low, played by Sandra Allen, is sexier, more exuberant, and more independent than the original.

Together with Ta's father, Wang (Randall Duk Kim), and Madame Liang (Jodi Long), a talent agent with a talent for orientalism, they transform Wang's failing Chinese opera house into a swinging night club whose dance show brings fame, fortune, big-time laughs, and moral confusion.

The new *Flower Drum Song* is sexier, funnier, more hip, and more deeply feeling than the original. The story of the immigrant experience is told with touching immediacy: When Mei-Li emerges from the crowded, inhuman hold of a freight ship to finally see the blinding sunlight of the "Gold Mountain," the hopes and dreams of distant cousins who came before are captured in a moment that wells up with visceral intensity.

When you're done choking back tears (and I ain't no mamma's boy neither), you'll be laughing your tail off. The show-tune numbers "Grant Avenue," "Chop Suey," and "Gliding Through My Memoree," are hilarious, thanks

largely to the comic sensibilities of Randall Duk Kim and Jodi Long.

Embedded within these comic routines is a satirical deconstruction of race where stereotypes are appropriated by the very people being stereotyped and then exaggerated to reveal their folly. Laughter and tears give way to raw sex appeal whenever Sandra Allen graces the stage (Yow!). Her sultry rendition of "I Enjoy Being A Girl" re-invents the song, making a statement of independence and self-determination. Broadway fans accustomed to elaborate song and dance routines will not be disappointed.

The vocal talents of Lea Salonga and Jose Llana shine in songs such as "Love, Look Away," and "Like a God," while the dance skills of the multi-talented cast are highlighted in "Fan Tan Fannie."

A remarkable feature of the show is how it manages to deliver pointed social commentary without being preachy. This is partly because of the show's warmth and humor, but also because of excellent acting on the part of the entire cast.

If the show falls short anywhere, it may be in how it fails to make mention of the deeply-rooted but little-known history of Chinese Americans in California. For instance, we know that Ta is a first-generation Chinese American, and that Mei-Li is a new immigrant from China, but we know little about Linda Low's background. If we were to imagine her ancestors as immigrants from the 19th century, even a brief glimpse into her past might have reminded the audience of Chinese America's long-standing history.

Nonetheless, the show represents a tremendous breakthrough in storytelling about the Asian-American experience. The humor, energy, and artistic excellence of the show make it worthwhile for people of all backgrounds.

And if you think Broadway is too far away, it isn't. For fifteen dollars I rode the Chinatown Bus to New York, and the driver made it there in 3 hours and 30 minutes, leaving plenty of time to see the show and enjoy one of the finest cities in the world.

CLASSICAL REVIEW

A Russian Musical Sandwich

Ptolemy Players: Spicy, Yet Filling

By Bogdan Fedeles
STAFF WRITER

Ptolemy Players
Killian Hall
Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.

One of the few student-only chamber music groups at MIT, the Ptolemy Players enchanted a diverse audience last Saturday, with their programmatic performance of chamber music by Russian composers. The ensemble struck a wonderful balance in terms of choice of music, interpretation, and the overall length of the concert.

The program was comprised of lesser known pieces by Sergei Tanayev and Karen Khachaturian mixed with two pieces by the more famous Prokofiev and Rachmaninoff, everything framed by two string quartets of Shostakovich (hence the title on the program notes "The Shosti Sandwich"). Given the character of Russian music, the pieces performed followed one another harmoniously, almost like movements of one unifying piece, summing up a very cohesive program. And this remarkably well-chosen program received a remarkable performance.

The concert developed as a musical experience polarized between the intimate sonority of the string quartet and the dramatic expansion of the piano. The first and the last piece, movements from string quartets by Shostakovich, defined the musical archway of the entire evening, under which every

other piece became a column. The first movement of Shostakovich's *String Quartet No. 5, Op. 92*, opened the program, with its unsettling sonorities and the repeated wandering motif in the viola part.

The four string players handled the piece admirably. The ensemble work and the good musical cohesion proved a good understanding of the piece and rendered its performance excellent.

By symmetry, the last two movements of Shostakovich's *String Quartet No. 3, Op. 73*, concluded the evening. Another four, perhaps even more engaged string players delivered an incredible performance, full of fire and pathos. The subtleties of the unsettled slow movement surfaced gracefully, and in good taste, balancing the rhythmic wildness and sonoric expansion of the last movement, played with force yet very precisely.

The meat of the concert featured an amazing display of pianism. Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise, Op. 34*, became, in Ptolemy Players rendition, much more than a romantic vocal exercise. The warm voice of the tenor (Daniel Casasanto G) well captured the simple beauty of the melody, yet it was the careful, very musical piano accompaniment (Youssef M. Marzouk G), that gave contour to the piece.

Sergei Tanayev's *Trio for Piano, Violin and Cello, Op. 22*, highlighted a crystal clear technique and a good musical taste of the pianist (Jon R. Yi G), leaving the slightly unpolished string parts, in the middle ground. Yi gave the audience a

good glimpse of the spirit of Russian music in its late Romantic phase, and although Tanayev's music is less known in the West, he delivered the piece with a good level of familiarity and beauty, in a solid, well-thought performance.

The other less known piece, Karen Khachaturian's *Sonata for Violin and Piano, Op. 1*, received a solid, memorable performance as well. Karen Khachaturian, the nephew of the more famous Aram Khachaturian, although a living 20th century composer, relies heavily, at least in this early piece, on a tonal approach when using Russian folk-like motifs and themes.

However, the modern harmonic language is already insinuating, especially in the piano part, with many dissonances and avoided cadences. The bright and joyful violin part received a forceful, brilliant performance, joined by a well-played, although at times too loud, piano part.

Prokofiev's *Sonata for Flute and Piano, Op. 94*, is the other duo performed by the Ptolemy Players. The witty character of Prokofiev's music was admirably rendered through the piano part (Yukiko Ueno-Egozy), where the soft touch, sparkling technique and musical intensity contributed to the overall enjoyment of the piece. The flute counterpart (Ole Mattis Nielsen G) was engaging and pleasant, carefully mixing the piercing brilliance with the softness of the whisper. While in the second movement the flute sounded less involved, it picked up momentum to deliver in the third.

Overall, this Ptolemy Players' concert was a very comfortable experience, long enough to get a good taste of the Russian musical spirit, (which can be even enhanced by some intriguing quotes on the back of the program notes,) yet concise and fervent. Given the high quality of these student performances and the striving for originality and peculiarity, we should be looking forward to Ptolemy Players' next concert, in September, which will feature music from Vienna's second school.

INTERVIEW

Matthew McConaughey and Me

An Afternoon Tête-à-Tête

By Allison C. Lewis
ARTS EDITOR

On Monday afternoon, I spoke on the phone with Matthew McConaughey, who stars alongside Kate Hudson in the new romantic comedy *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*. The actor has charm, a sexy Southern accent, and a just-one-of-the-guys personality.

He spoke about his new film, different from a typical romantic comedy. Both characters have a goal: Ben (Matthew McConaughey) is supposed to make Andy (Kate Hudson) fall in love with him; Andy's supposed to get rid of Ben. "Men have been trying to figure out women since the beginning of time," he says. "This is [a story] about playing games ... the battle of the sexes."

The two actors had a blast with the film, McConaughey tells me. "Kate is really talented and really natural," he says. "She does every take different ... she has great timing. She's very relaxed and very playful. There's chemistry between us on screen ... it's easy to be attracted to her."

How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days may be a chick flick, and McConaughey admits, "Romantic comedy is not the first thing I want to see." Even so, the movie is "still for dudes," he says.

"Guys and girls dig it," he continues. "It's a whole lotta fun, and you ain't gotta think of nothin'."

But surely there is something we can learn from the film? Lots of dating no-no's, for instance. According to McConaughey, a girl's number one dating faux pas is asking a guy, "What are you thinking?"

"You gotta have your own time," he says. "There's you, there's me, and there's we." So if a guy is deep in thought, "Let us be."

So what does he do when he's not role-playing? "I love to travel ... to countries where they don't speak English."

When he's not traveling, he's a homebody at his Hollywood abode, or he's working on his beloved, two-year old ranch in Texas. "Decorating and landscaping is my hobby," he says. And though he loves Hollywood, he's a true Texan. "I can still talk to strangers there," he says. "It's a state that holds up and digs into its own identity. It holds onto traditions that work. It [also] progresses. [Living on the ranch] gets your body clock on the right time ... you can do anything you want or nothing at all."

But acting is McConaughey's first love. He once wrote in his diary that acting is like all the "ologies". Psychology, physiology, biology, etc. He continued to explain: "I like to do all kinds of things," and acting is apparently his way of doing them. So what's the next "ology" for McConaughey?

"I feel a bit of a hippie coming on," he tells me.

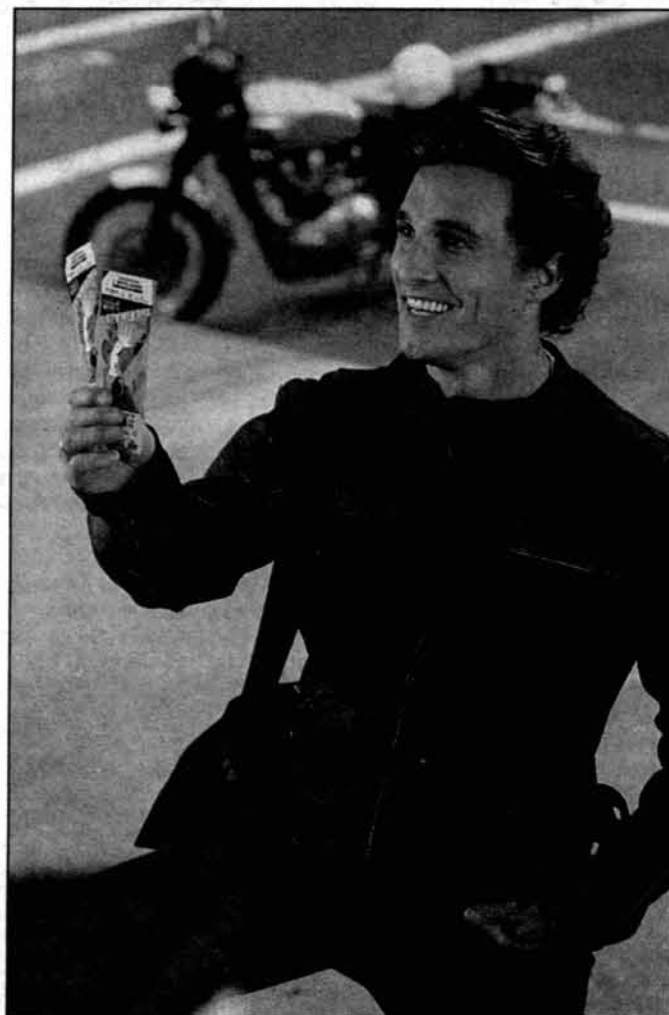
Maybe we'll next see him in a *Dazed and*

Confused-ish role. And with whom would he like to work? "Susan Sarandon," he says.

What does he think of being so much in the public eye? "It gives an opportunity to take a stance on public issues. We don't live in an ideal world," he says. But before he makes his opinions public, he "does a lot of homework."

He also doesn't give too much thought to what people say about him. "There are good bad reviews and there are bad bad reviews. The good ones are very critical, very constructive. The [writers of the] bad ones don't have critical right. They just like to hear themselves talk. They were just having a bad day."

But how could any day be bad with Matthew McConaughey on the phone? I'll admit it. I have a bit of a crush.



JOHN CLIFFORD—PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Matthew McConaughey's latest role is in *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*.

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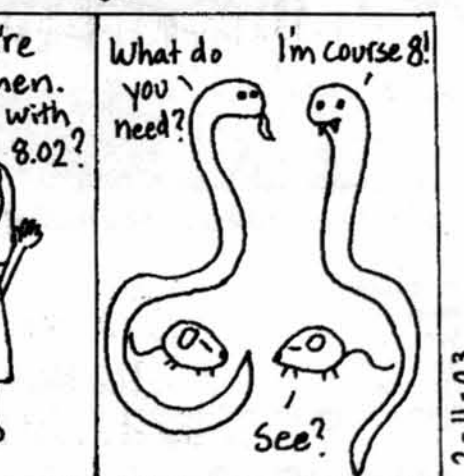
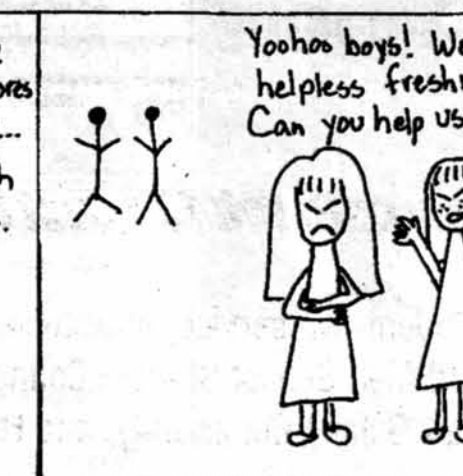
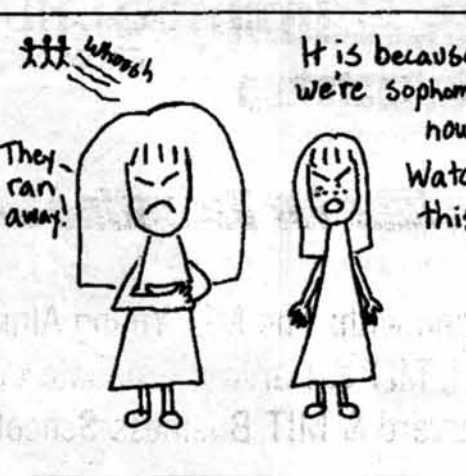


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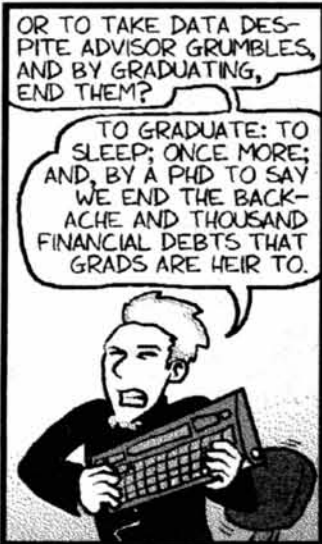
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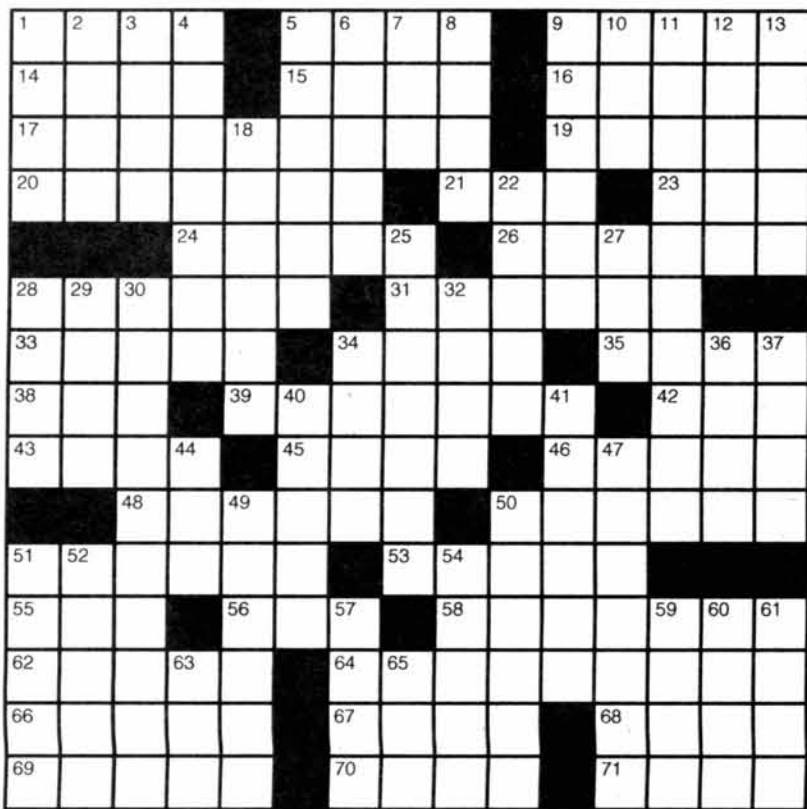
-Jpeng

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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 20



- 1 Cradle call

5 LP flaw

9 Hemispherical roofs

14 Nuncupative

15 Salsa dipper

16 First name of a plane

17 Casino cast of a kind

19 Admit

20 Neighbor of Ethiopia

21 ___ kwon do

23 Choose (to)

24 Tall and lean

26 Hi-fi's successor

28 Revolves around

31 Hold in high regard

33 ___ Jaw, Sask.

34 Two of a kind

35 Bread purchase

38 Well-suited

39 Finch cousin

42 Springsteen's birthplace?

43 Fish catchers

45 Month of Sundays

46 Fall flower

48 Eavesdrop

50 Novelist Greene

51 Go-betweens

53 "Mack the Knife" singer

55 Moody or Silver

56 Hand-woven tapestry

58 Boston suburb

62 Sculptor of organic shapes

64 Deadpan look

66 Slalom turns

67 Smooth comparative

68 Kettle covers

69 Achievements

70 Bullring cheers

71 Village People hit
- DOWN

1 Velvety plant

2 Florence river

3 Lady's address

4 Acid neutralizers

5 Big mugs

6 Whitewater vessel

7 Winter hazard

8 Washington daily

9 Take out

10 Undivided

11 Chatterbox

12 Bolt to hitch

13 ___ Domingo

18 Thrills

22 Jetson's dog

25 Day 365?

27 Moray

28 Muscat sultanate

29 Clue weapon

30 North Atlantic dolphin

32 British knights

34 Book increment

36 Out of port

37 MacDonald's home

40 Soft touch

41 More cautious

44 Immoral deed

47 Bloodsucking pest

49 Underscore

50 Frat boys

51 Packing a rod

52 Gander's mate

54 Twistable joint

57 Lhasa follower

59 Corey of "Murphy's Romance"

60 "Back in Black" rockers

61 Tableland

63 Burned by the sun

65 Tanker's cargo

ChessMate

Checkmate in Two



White to Move

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Solution, page 21

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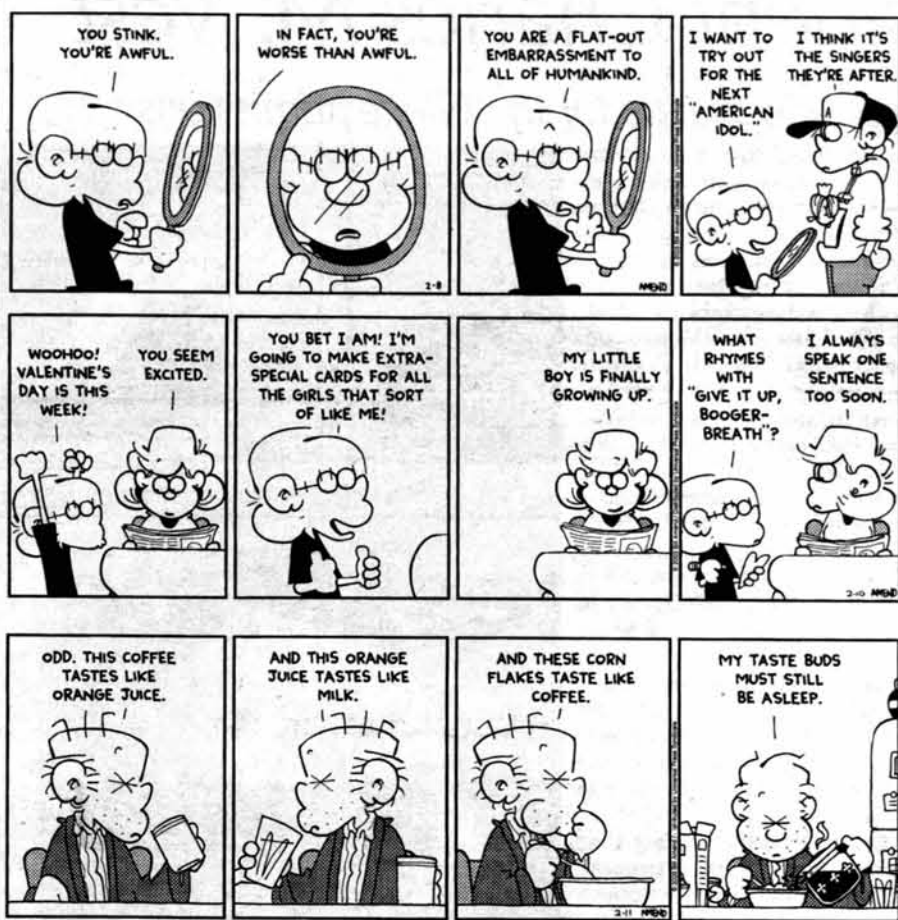
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Events Calendar

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

Tuesday, February 11

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - English Conversation Classes Registration. For international women, classes are offered at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. Classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. from February 13 through May 8. Please see website for details. Room: Bush Room 10-105. Sponsor: MIT Women's League.

10:45 a.m. - Campus Tour. Student Led Campus Tours are approximately 90 minutes long and provide a general overview of the main campus. Please note that campus tours do not visit laboratories, living groups or buildings under construction. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Campus tours start at the conclusion of the Admissions Informations Session. The Campus Tour begins in Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

11:55 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - VCPIA Lunch Meeting. Weekly lunch meeting sponsored by the MIT Venture Capital & Principal Investment Association. free. Room: Tang Center. Sponsor: MIT Venture Capital and Principal Investment (VCPI) Association, MITEntrepreneurshipCenter.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Orientation to Computing at MIT. This seminar provides basic information about the MIT computing environment, presented in language accessible to anyone. Topics include: help resources, supported operating systems, supported software and recommended hardware, the campus network (MITnet and more), security issues and how to address them, telephones and voice mail, computer-related health issues. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Methodological and Ethical Issues in Researching the Political Activities of Refugees. Mellon-MIT Program research presentation, hosted by the Inter-University Committee on International Migration. free but RSVP requested (lunch provided). Room: E38-615. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.

2:45 p.m. - Campus Tour. free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

4:30 p.m. - America As Seen Through Arab Eyes - Polling the Arab World After September 11th. The Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar. free. Room: E51-095. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.

5:00 p.m. - Student Origami Competition/Exhibition. Submit 10 x 20 cm pieces to the Office of the Arts (E15-205) by 5pm. Creative paper choices and original designs encouraged. No glue or tape allowed. Judges include Erik Demaine, Mark Demaine, Anne LaVin and Jeannine Moseley. Works due by 5 p.m., Rm E15-205. free. Room: E15-205. Sponsor: MIT Japan Program. Office of the Arts Special Programs, office of Erik Demaine.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Toastmasters@MIT Evening Meetings. 77 Mass. Avenue, Cambridge, Building 2, Room 2-131. free. Sponsor: Toastmasters.

6:15 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Interactive Cinema: Experiments in Content and Dynamic Form. MIT Club of Boston Seminar Series lecture. Interactive Cinema: Experiments in Content and Dynamic Form. Ms. Davenport is a member of the Media Lab research staff. Room: MIT Faculty Club. Sponsor: MIT Club of Boston.

7:00 p.m. - Women's Basketball vs. Babson College. free. Room: Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

7:00 p.m. - MIT Western Hemisphere Project: February Open Meeting. We hold informal sessions throughout the year to discuss events in the news and to work on Project activities. If you want to just chat about these things, or if you want to join in and help organize, we'd love for you to attend. Free. Room: MIT 4-231. Sponsor: MIT Western Hemisphere Project.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - International Film Club Film Seminar. Educational Film Screening. free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: International Film Club.

Wednesday, February 12

10:45 a.m. - Campus Tour. free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance

Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - TSM Backup Service Quick Start. Learn how to download, install, and configure TSM (formerly ADSM), a program for backing up your files to a secure server over the network. (The backup service itself has a small monthly fee; the software is free to MIT users.) Discuss your TSM questions with technical staff. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Rainbow Lounge Open. MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgendered members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours. free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbgt@MIT.

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Choice of Major Fair. Come get information about MIT majors from fellow students. Also find out about major departures and minors. free. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico, 2nd floor, Student Center. Sponsor: Academic Resource Center.

2:45 p.m. - Campus Tour. free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - BIOTECH: Innovative Financing Strategies - Past & Present. Keynote Speaker: Jim Mullen, CEO, BIOGEN. Case: Paratek Pharmaceuticals. Panel: Ted T. Ashburn, M.D., Ph.D., Oxford Biosciences, Eileen Coveney, LEK Consulting, and Stu Barish, Leerink Swann. This event will be held in building 10 room 250 (10-250) on the MIT Campus, 77 Mass Ave, Cambridge, MA. Registration fee is \$20 for Forum Members and Mass Biotech Members and \$25 for Non Members. THERE IS NO PRE-REGISTRATION FOR THIS EVENT. Registration begins at 5:30 at the door. For more information visit our website: <http://www.mitforumcambridge.org> or call 617-253-8240. Registration fee is \$20 for Forum Members and Mass Biotech Members and \$25 for Non Members. STUDENTS FREE WITH ID. Room: Building 10 Room 250 (10-250). Sponsor: MIT Enterprise Forum of Cambridge, Inc. Sponsored By: Foley Hoag Co-Hosted with: Mass BioTech Council.

7:00 p.m. - Wrestling vs. Western New England College. free. Room: Wrestling Room. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Executive Summary Panel. Business Plan Executive Summary panel discussion. free. Room: TBA. Sponsor: MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition.

7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. - HTC Film Series. Theme is documentary films, more information to come. free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Art.

8:00 p.m. - Weekly Wednesdays @ the Muddy Charles Pub. Meet your fellow social graduate students at the Muddy Charles Pub located in the Walker Memorial Building. What will be there for you? \$1 drafts, a variety of beers, wines and sodas, lots of free wings, Sox on the screen. Bring IDs. free. Room: Muddy Charles Pub. Sponsor: Edgerton House Residents' Association, MITEntrepreneurshipCenter, TechLink, Wing It.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - IFILM Film Seminar. Screening of a movie followed by a discussion. free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: International Film Club.

8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. - Swing Dancing. No partner required. Beginners welcome. free. Room: Student Center 2nd floor. Sponsor: Lindy Hop Society.

Thursday, February 13

10:45 a.m. - Campus Tour. free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

12:00 p.m. - MIT Chapel Concert: Liber unUsualis. Melanie Germond, soprano; Carolann Buff, mezzo-soprano; William Hudson, tenor. Forgotten Flyleaves-Music of 13th & 14th c. England. Much of the music of medieval England has been rescued from the bindings of dozens of non-musical manuscripts. Folios of once-popular music were split up and used as flyleaves or endpapers for collections of sermons, day-to-day accounts, letters, and scholarly writings. The compositions that have fortuitously survived are mostly liturgical or ceremonial pieces performed in monasteries, colleges, and cathedrals. In this concert, Liber unUsualis resurrects some of these truly beautiful compositions sung some 700 years ago for

scholars, monks, and kings. free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Windows XP: Quick Start. This Quick Start will provide a demonstration and discussion of the new features in the Windows XP environment. This includes the new Start menu, the new Control Panels menu, the Desktop Cleanup Wizard, taskbar grouping, new Themes and Appearances, and the new Help. XP windows now also include tasks panes, new Tile and Film-strip views, enhanced grouping options for displaying file icons, and new customization features. Tour these features and learn how to reset your desktop to the Classic (Windows 2000) environment. This Quick Start is intended for end users, not system administrators. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Conversational English Class. free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Rainbow Lounge Open. free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbgt@MIT.

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Weight Watchers at Work! free. Room: Women's Lounge-Room 8-219. Sponsor: Weight Watchers.

2:45 p.m. - Campus Tour. free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - LCS Dertouzos Lecture. Converting Cycles into RASS (Reliability, Availability, Serviceability, Security). free. Room: 34-101. Sponsor: Laboratory for Computer Science.

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - China's HIV/AIDS Crisis: Social, Political, and Economic Factors. In addition to discussing the underlying drivers of China's HIV/AIDS crisis, Dr. Gill will report on the findings of a January 2003 senior-level delegation he co-organized to Beijing at the invitation of the Chinese Minister of Health. Gill will present recommendations from those meetings on how the United States and China can strengthen HIV/AIDS-related cooperation. free. Room: E38-714. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Physics: The architecture of complexity: From the topology of the www to the cell's genetic network. Networks with complex topology describe systems as diverse as the cell or the World Wide Web. The emergence of these networks is driven by self-organizing processes that are governed by simple but generic laws. The analysis of the metabolic and protein network of various organisms shows that cells and complex man-made networks, such as the Internet or the world wide web, share the same large-scale topology. I will show that the scale-free topology of these complex webs have important consequences on their robustness against failures and attacks, with implications on drug design, the Internet's ability to survive attacks and failures, and our ability to understand the functional role of genes in model organisms. For further information and papers, see <http://www.nd.edu/~networks>. free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Physics Department.

6:30 p.m. - Transgender People Representing Themselves. Panel discussion with Dr. Nape WasteWin, Patrick Califia-Rice (author of "Sex Changes: The Politics of Transgenderism"), Christopher Lee (Director of Tranny Fest: Transgender & Transgenre Film Festival in San Francisco and XXX), and will be chaired by Nancy Nangeroni, an MIT Alum, who hosts GenderTalk on WMBR radio. Co-sponsored by Council of the Arts, Office of the Arts, Comparative Media Studies, ARCADE, the Campus Committee on Race Relations, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Speakers Series. free. Room: Rm 10-250. Sponsor: Women's Studies Program.

8:00 p.m. - Hamlets. \$8, \$6 students. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Dramashop.

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Coffee Hour. Food and drink - an Ashdown tradition. free. Room: Hulsizer Room (W1). Sponsor: Ashdown House.

10:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. - Movie Night. Movie and food - free for all! free. Room: Big TV Room (W1). Sponsor: Ashdown House.

11:59 p.m. - Campus Disc Golf. Do you like tossing a disc? Do you enjoy friendly competition? Or if you're just up for midnight antics, then come on out! Meet outside the Student Center on the front steps, and don't forget to bring a disc! Don't hesitate to come, newcomers are always welcomed - We meet every Thursday at midnight. Questions, contact Daniel Turek, macgyver@mit.edu. bring your own disc!. Room: Student Center steps. Sponsor: Campus Disc Golf.

Diversity at MIT

Campus Profile — President Charles M. Vest

Vest discusses MIT's commitment to keeping race as a factor in college admissions

By Eun J. Lee
FEATURES EDITOR

President Charles M. Vest has been a voice for MIT in national discussions on race and openness in institutions of higher education, particularly in science and engineering. Vest is also active in race relations on campus; he formed the Committee on Campus Race Relations in 1994. Next Friday, Vest will represent private universities across the country at a Washington press conference defending the University of Michigan's use of race in admissions.

TT: Why does MIT feel that affirmative action is still necessary, and what will have to happen for it to be phased out?

Vest: This is a topic where it's hard to be succinct, but let me at least try. The very term "affirmative action" is sort of a flash point because everybody carries their own definition and their own mental model. Some are very technical, legal, mechanical — counting numbers, checking boxes. Other people, closer to the perspective I have, simply believe that institutions need to think overtly about the nature of their student bodies and the state of our society and to try to improve it. So let me start from that perspective, and I'm going to talk about the Michigan case for a minute because MIT is going to play a role in this.

As you know, in 1978, the Supreme Court decided a case called *[Regents of the] University of California v. Bakke*. ... By a very narrow decision, they chose not to [strike down any consideration of race in the admission of students] and they promulgated a decision, written by Justice Powell, that said universities and colleges may consider race as one of many factors, and that's the absolute key phrase — one of many factors — in structuring a class and admitting students. This is often called ... "race sensitive" admission policy, and that is a philosophy and a policy base that we do follow at MIT. To us, that is the important thing — that the government not take away from us the right to consider race as one of many factors when we admit students.

Now, because of our belief in this and because our policies are consistent, we are filing an amicus brief on behalf of the university, and I will represent the private universities of the country at the press conference next Friday in Washington when a huge number of friends of the court briefs will be announced.

We want to make the following points in our brief. Number one, that we concur with the University of Michigan that the diversity of a student body is a positive factor in the quality of education and experience of all students on the campus. That is a very fundamental point that will be made by virtually everybody associated with that side of the case. In addition, we want to make clear that we believe that this is also true in education that emphasizes science and engineering and that we have a responsibility to build the diversity of the United States work force in science and engineering and the future leadership of these fields. Consequently, we will be joined, that is, we will have other institutions signing our brief. ...

So if you look at MIT, we get this huge number of almost equally qualified young

men and women applying, if by qualification you are referring to their SAT scores and grades and class ranks. Imagine the task of having to accept 15 percent or so of that group. We don't want to rob people of their identities, and race and culture and economic status and whether you're from a big city or a little town — all these things are important components of who these students are and what they have to offer and what advantages they've had or obstacles they've overcome ... Risk-taking and demonstrable passion for particular intellectual pursuits, all of these things we try to take into account as we read the cases and decide who we'll actually offer admissions to.

One of the other points that we will make in our brief is that one of the most fundamental academic decisions a faculty makes is who should study in their university, and we don't believe that it's appropriate for the federal government to take all of these important factors that define people and remove one of them and say "you can consider everything, but you can't consider this." So that's why we do these things. And if one wants to use the term affirmative action for that, so be it, but we think race consciousness along with consciousness of many other factors is what we attempt to do and what we, I think, do pretty darn well.

Race continues to matter in America. We all wish that weren't the case, but it is. I don't know how to answer the question "when will the need go away." I think we'll know when we've finally arrived at that point, but what I cannot accept is people just pretending that we have arrived at that point and that we can now neglect it, because I don't believe we can.

TT: Some opponents of affirmative action argue that it's wrong because it causes "reverse racism" and that people who are not minorities are put at a disadvantage. Do you feel that is the case with MIT and the students that it offers admissions to?

Vest: ... The fact is that when you array this whole pool of thousands of young men and women who apply to [colleges], you are really trying to judge them as individuals and consider all of these characteristics. Now if you want to build a class that has reasonable [geographic] representation ... and you want to have some reasonable distribution of race in the pool, then by definition, the probability that an individual who meets one of those criteria will be admitted is going to be higher than the probability of an individual who does not meet that criteria — just because you have a large pool defining some of those sets and smaller pools defining the other sets.... The real point is that [admissions are] subjective. We don't have a quota, we don't have a formula, we don't assign points, but these are factors that we think about and I think if you were to look at the whole structure of a class, you would see that they are very diverse in this broad set of things.

The Tech: What is MIT doing in response to tighter restrictions post-Sept. 11 in support of its international scholars?

President Charles M. Vest: I'd like to divide that into two parts. We'll think of it as local and global. Locally, we have tried to do

several things. One is to be sure that our international students are aware that we as an institution care about them and are concerned. On a practical level, we've tried to make as much accurate information be available to them through our foreign students and foreign scholars office. ... Many people have been just working simply to get facts out and make sure that people understand their rights. ... If anybody in the process of these interviews is treated in a way that they believe is not appropriate, they should let us know. So we're trying to be helpful. We also try to raise awareness. We've had a number of meetings of graduate students. Not only the international students, but all of graduate students, because we want people to be aware, be concerned, and understand that we are there to support them.

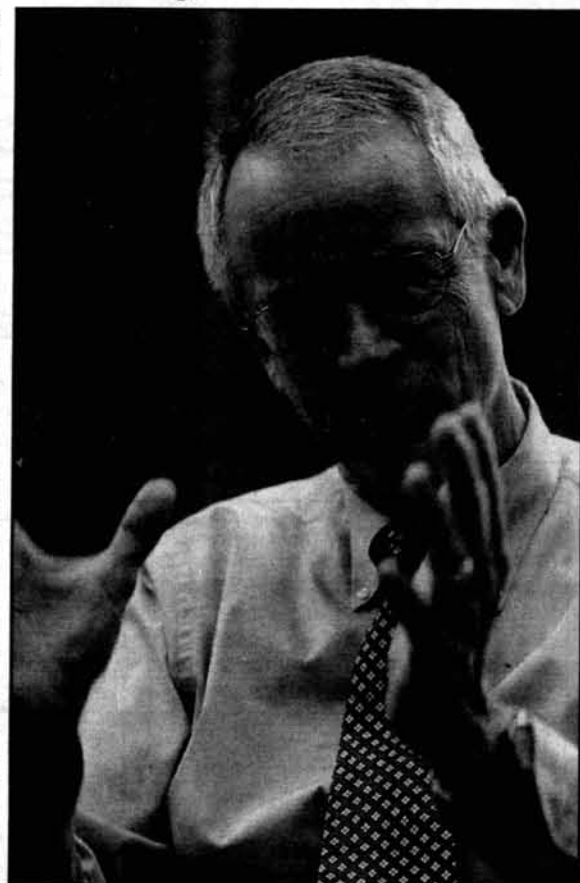
More globally, we have tried to state as clearly and as frequently and as effectively as we can on what we believe the underlying issues to be, both in terms of the openness of our campuses to foreign students and scholars but also to the important issues of the openness of scientific information. There have been two particular mechanisms for simply stating this. One is my annual president's report that was on the topic of openness this year. Secondly, we had a very important committee report from the committee chaired by professor Sheila Widnall looking more at the issue of openness and security of the campus in terms of scientific information and in particular, that group reiterated the belief that we should not do classified research on our campus. Interestingly, that group was conceived well before Sept. 11, but it turned out to be even more relevant and more timely than we had anticipated.

Both of these documents have been well circulated in Washington. I have written two op-ed pieces, one in *The Washington Times* and one in *The Wall Street Journal*, that address both pieces of this issue, both the scientific information and also openness to international scholars. Our basic belief is that it is the legitimate role of the United States government and particularly the State Department to decide who is granted a visa to enter the country, but once students are in the country and on our campus, we want the campus experience to be the same for them as it is for any other student.

That's the separation that we are trying very hard to maintain. ... We've all spent a lot of time in Washington talking to people in the administration, talking to people in Congress, talking to Congressional staffers, trying to keep our perspective out there, trying to do all that we can to get people to see both sides of these issues. The problem is that the scientific community has one view of the world and the community and the Department of Justice and so forth that is responsible for security has another. It's really trying to maintain a respectful dialogue between these two that is very, very important. I believe that we and the whole higher education community have a lot of positive impact in terms of the continued openness toward foreign students.

I think things might have been much worse had it not been for very concerted efforts across colleges and universities. The issue now is going to revolve around an even more complicated issue still, which is the definition of so called "sensitive but unclassified information" — the parts of the [USA] PATRIOT Act [of 2001] and the Presidential Decision Directive back in October 2001 that talk about limiting access to certain international students to what they call "sensitive areas of study."

To me, the most complicated and dangerous issue in all of this is going to be how the government defines and deals with that term. So far, I think they are taking a lot of time. They are consulting pretty broadly. I think they're trying to think these things through, but now that the new Department of Homeland Security is coming into place, there will be a new cast of players and we're not sure



AARON MIHALIK—THE TECH
Institute President Charles M. Vest discusses diversity with *The Tech*.

where it will go.

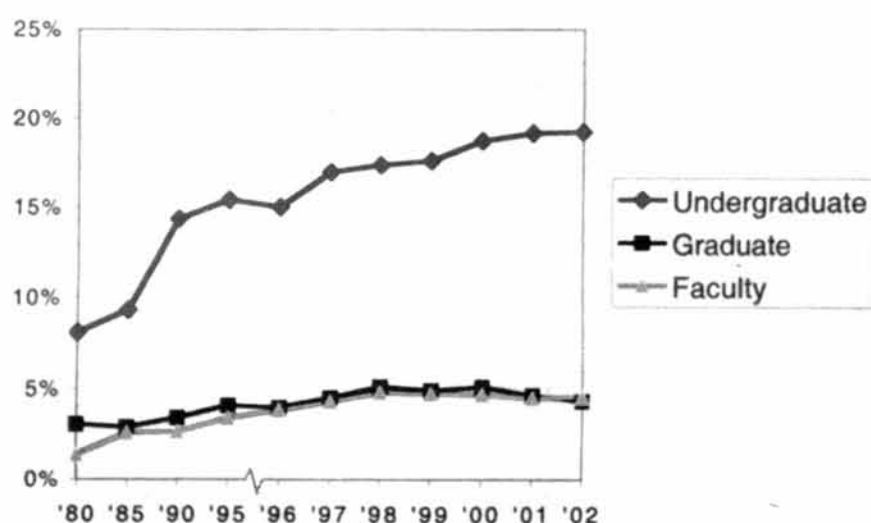
TT: Regarding international students, do you think that selectively fingerprinting students from Middle Eastern countries is a subtle form of racism?

Vest: I will leave it to the social scientists to determine the answer to that question, but it, I think, is of deep concern that we find ourselves in a position of having the federal government single out particular groups solely on the basis of national origin ... and have them looked at and passed through different filters than everyone else. I do want to point out that to the best of my knowledge, this is not being done only to students, but to anyone getting a visa to enter the U.S. who is a male under the age of 45 and born in this set of countries, which began as only seven countries and now is up to 23 — that shows the slippery slope that many of us are concerned about. I do not believe that this is intended by our government as a racist action. I think it is people sincerely attempting to take some actions to protect the country against terrorism, but the great danger is that at the very time at which you try to protect a nation like America, the tendency is to be a little bit too loose and fast with the fundamental values that make us who we are. So yes, I am very concerned about this, and I think particularly speaking from the perspective of higher education in our research universities, our openness to foreign students, scholars and faculty is absolutely one of the most essential elements we have in maintaining such a great system of research universities, so we have to be very careful.

TT: Do you think that self segregation is a problem at MIT, and if so, what is MIT doing to address it?

Vest: ... I think to some extent, self segregation goes on in every group — at MIT and in the country. We just hope that in general people do a lot of mixing and get to know each other and learn from each other and value each other, but I don't think it's up to me to say that one group can't spend most of its time socializing with the other or what have you. ... [Self-segregation] is not something you enforce — you create opportunity ... I was just literally over the weekend looking at the results of our freshmen surveys and their senior surveys over the last several years, and the fact is that the vast majority of our students and also our alumni cite the experience of living and learning with people who are different from themselves as one of the primary benefits of attending a place like MIT, so I believe that diversity is valued. I believe that when I say that, that's what I call "diversity with a capital D" that sort of means everything and it is an important part of what we are and who we are.

MIT Students and Faculty
African-American, Hispanic-American
and Native-American



Subjective Decisions in Admissions

By Brian Loux
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

One of the more prominent features in Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones's office is a large rectangular grid on a blackboard. The chalk-etched grid appears have been created before our time and then left untouched for others to muse upon. On the bottom and the left sides of the grid run two separate one-to-five scales labeled A.I. and P.R., respectively.

"The bottom one is for academic index," Jones says. "Our pool is so strong that the majority of selected students fall on 3.5 or higher, including minority students." The vertical index, on the other hand, stands for personal rating. Jones explains, "The dimensions are co-curricular, such as math team; extra-curricular; and social skills."

MIT committed to affirmative action

To many, it hardly sounds like a program associated with affirmative action at all. MIT's affirmative action plan policy from 2001-2002 states that "It will be our goal to increase the numbers of women and members of minority groups within our undergraduate and graduate student bodies. ... Our immediate efforts must concentrate on enlarging the pool of qualified women and minority applicants from which we admit students."

"Affirmative action means going out and bending over backwards and finding the best students of a population and get them to apply when they normally wouldn't," Jones said. Some students "don't come from a population that says, 'You're going to MIT.' It's not expected of them." Most Admissions Office activities center around searching through communities that seldom apply to elite schools to find and encourage stand-outs to apply to MIT.

But is there anything in MIT's admissions process that might upset a critic? Possibly. Within the realm of the subjective personal rating, one's socio-economic background undoubtedly comes into play. Jones relates the story of a student whose parents were migrant workers out west, a star student at a poor high school. Recruiters took interest in the student's invention of a portable solar-powered chili cooker for migrant workers to use in the field for lunch. The student was offered admission to MIT. "If we were to find a student from New York who developed a similar chili cooker in his basement, that probably wouldn't qualify him. [The first student] did something that was much more important in and for his community."

To Jones, the context of one's accomplishments is vitally important. "You cannot separate race or gender from who a person is, just like you cannot [separate] their high school or parents," she said. "If the student is not expecting to rise as much, you can't separate

that from him or her being spectacular."

Students differ on affirmative action

Some students feel indifferent about affirmative action policies and procedures while others feel very passionately about the issue. "Personal accomplishments are personal accomplishments. Who cares what race you are?" said Christopher B. Buenrostro '04. "If you have the drive and heart to perform over another applicant, you move on. Overcoming obstacles proves intelligence and resource. The more you have to overcome, the more resourceful you are, but that doesn't mean because you are underprivileged it is worth more. It just means you have to work harder because you want to be here that much more. If you don't, you shouldn't be here."

"It is pretty rare for someone in difficult situations to do something amazing," said Freddy R. Funes '04. "For many people where I came from, college wasn't an option. They have to focus on caring for their brother and sisters or not getting evicted. Those accomplishments should be worth more than a person with nothing else to worry about."

MIT vs. other schools

Regardless, the MIT system is in stark contrast with other schools' policies towards minorities. The University of Michigan, recently in the media spotlight for President George W. Bush's criticism of the school's hiring practices and two upcoming Supreme Court cases that will review them, undertakes a detailed "point system," in which one may earn a numerical value for personal factors such as income, race, or gender to accumulate towards a sum needed for admission. At Michigan, 40 of 150 points can be attained through non-academic qualities.

"The concept of a plus factor is for public schools," says Jones. "State schools have a duty to educate their own population, including the destitute, which is why some of them employ that tactic."

Additionally, MIT does not have any program to aid in the recruitment of students of MIT alumni or students from underrepresented states, which may be viewed as unfairly discriminatory. Ivy League schools, however, often use such practices. "Regional programs assure schools that they will get kids from everywhere," Jones says. "We don't have to do that because we attract from everywhere already."

While outright quotas for minorities were ruled unconstitutional in *University of California v. Bakke* in 1978, critics argue that some institutions have instated "de-facto" quotas, trying to create a similar percentage of minority students for each class. Before 1998, the minority percentage of each freshmen class tended to hold steady at around 14 percent. For the class of 2002, when Jones was appointed Dean of Admissions, the number rose to 18 percent.

Jones attributes this increase to better outreach to communities they have been able to do since she has been in charge. "There is no conscious effort to hold the numbers at any certain level," Jones said. "The numbers you see are the numbers you see."

Reactions mixed on de facto quotas

Buenrostro took issue with Jones's explanation. "I am not qualified as an admissions officer, but considering the level of subjectivity involved, a change in administrative officers followed by a huge percentage increase in any area would appear to have come from a bias or tendency of some kind," he said. "A gradual increase would be a different story because you could argue that the quality of minority applicants has improved over time, but not a huge increase such as four percent."

Funes disagreed. "I doubt [there is a quota]. Underrepresented minorities are still underrepresented," he said. "Hispanics make up 13 percent of the U.S. and only 11 percent of MIT. For blacks, it's 12 percent and six percent. If they do have a quota, it's not a very good one."

MIT will stand with U. Michigan

Though MIT's practices have drawn little national attention, it will stand with the University of Michigan in the upcoming Supreme Court cases. MIT is planning to submit an Amicus Curiae — "friend of the court" — brief focusing on the importance of diversity in science, engineering, and industry. "Amicus Curiae briefs raise both legal and policy issues that parties think the court should be aware of," said Senior Counsel member Jaime Lewis Keith. "MIT is presenting an argument in the context of the law that applies today. ... Many examples currently have to do with law or medicine. None are making the argument about science and technology."

The two cases both came down from the 6th U.S. Court of Appeals against the President of the University Lee Bollinger. *Grutter v. Bollinger* contests the policies of Michigan's graduate law program while *Gratz and Hamacher v. Bollinger* contests the admissions practices for undergraduates. "Our statement will be in support of the value of diversity," Keith said. "In a world where it is increasingly diverse, it is important they receive their education in an environment that is diverse." MIT is working with the office of Jones Day and the Dean for Undergraduate Education to help draft the brief, Keith said.

Sources say President Charles M. Vest will make an official announcement about the brief this Friday.

Jones hopes that affirmative action as we know it will be preserved. "I have strong feelings about it," she said. "Engineers need to come from everywhere to solve the problems of people everywhere. Without [diversity] ... I would question whether or not you would have a worse experience. That is its power."

Vest, Clay Remain Committed

Minorities, from Page 1

BSU president praises MIT

Kaseta Coleman, president of the Black Students' Union and an alumnus of the MITES program, said that she is confident that "MIT will continue to attract" a diverse population.

"MIT has done an impeccable job" in supporting programs like MITES and Interphase, Coleman said.

Clay and Vest met with leaders of minority student groups, including the BSU, last night to discuss the decision.

"There was some sadness and some hope that the change does not reflect a reduction in our commitment" to MIT's minority student programs, Clay said, adding that he and Vest affirmed MIT's commitment to minority recruitment.

Coleman said that MITES was "one of the most important factors" in her deciding to come to MIT. The program, along with the Freshman Leadership Program, "helped me figure out how to succeed" at MIT, she said.

"I think the program can continue to be successful" because MIT is committed to diversity, she said.

Complaint filed several months ago

The complaint against MIT was made several months ago and asserted that the programs were racially exclusive, Clay said, stressing that there had been no formal government investigation as a result.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits some discriminatory practices at institutions that receive federal money. Neither MITES or Interphase receives federal money directly, but because MIT receives federal money, the programs fall under the law's purview.

Clay said he was unaware of the details of the complaint since it came to MIT through the Department of Education's civil rights office.

The BSU first formulated Interphase in 1969. The program invites fifty underrepresented minority students to campus for eight weeks of rigorous academics and an introduction to the Boston area.

MITES, a similar program for about fifty minority high-schoolers, sends about thirty percent of its students to MIT, former MITES director William H. Ramsey '51 said in 1995.

Eun J. Lee contributed to the reporting of this story.



An installation in Lobby 10 attracts the attention of passers-by, who stop to glimpse at five centuries of history in the struggle for equality. Benjamin Nicholson '03 takes a closer look at some of the exhibits. The installation is the culmination of the IAP class 17.920 Martin Luther King, Jr. Design Seminar.

JOHN CLOUTIER—THE TECH

Diversity At MIT

1981 to present

1860s

1861—MIT is founded.
1861—American Civil War begins.
1863—Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation.

1867—MIT begins need-based aid to students. The Committee on Free Scholarships makes commitment "to offer the honor of the scholarship as a prize to the best scholars" and "to make it a point of honor with those who obtain but do not need it to transfer the nomination to the best scholar to whom the free tuition shall be deemed a positive benefit."

1870s

1870—MIT's first international student, from Fukuoka, Japan, Aechirau Hongma '74, enrolls; he eventually graduates in Course I.

1871—MIT's first female student, Ellen H. Swallow '73, is admitted to MIT as a special student in chemistry.

1876—Women's Laboratory opens in cooperation with Women's Education Association of Boston to provide special instruction in chemistry and related subjects.

1879—Women obtain right to practice law before U.S. Supreme Court.

1880s

1887—Florida's legislature passes first "Jim Crow" laws.

1892—MIT's first African-American student, Robert R. Taylor '92, Course IV, graduates.

1899—The MIT Women's Association (MITWA) is established (renamed Association of MIT Alumnae, AMITA, in 1964).

1900s

1903—Lydia G. Weld is the first woman to receive an engineering degree (in naval architecture and engineering, predecessor to Course XIII).

1905—Marie Turner '09 is the first black woman to attend MIT studying Course IV.

1909—National Association for the Advancement of Colored People founded.

1910s

1911—Cosmopolitan Club established; its purpose is "to unite for mutual benefits, social and intellectual, Technology men of all nationalities."

1913—President Woodrow Wilson officially introduces segregation into the federal government.

1916—Chinese Students Club founded.

1920s

1920s—There are 29 black students attending MIT.

1920—American women get to vote.

1920—The Harlem Renaissance.

1923—Elhanan Borucov, Course I, appears to be the first Israeli student.

1929—The Admissions Office formally created.

1929—The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) established in the face of anti-Mexican sentiments in the Southwest.

1929—Michael Luther King Jr., later renamed Martin, born to schoolteacher Alberta King and Baptist minister Michael Luther King.

1930s

1930s—There are eight black students attending MIT.

1935—The Committee on Admissions makes entrance requirements more flexible, in keeping with the requirements of other technical schools.

1935—NAACP lawyers Charles Houston and Thurgood Marshall win legal battle to admit a black student to the University of Maryland.

1940s

1940s—There are 11 black students attending MIT.

1944—Following WWII, Congress passes the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the "GI Bill."

Continued on next page

The American Dream is Still Just a Dream for Most Minorities

By Philip M. Deutsch

America is the land of opportunity. If I work hard enough, I can be whatever I want to be. If I truly want something, I can get it. I will work hard and grow up to be whatever it is that makes me happy. The sky is the limit.

These statements portray the American dream. We can all remember hearing these statements and maybe even believing them at some point in our childhood, but now they seem almost comical. If you still actually believe them, then you are either brainwashed or a wealthy white man. Simply add a few reasonable clauses to the American dream, and listen to how ridiculous it is.

The American dream seems a little more difficult to attain when the American dreaming is a member of a minority group living in poverty. This is not to say that the dream of success and money (Yes, I said success and money—they are

not the same thing) is unattainable for certain people. It is just incredibly more difficult to achieve when one is faced with certain obstacles that others do not have to overcome.

The truth about American society is not pretty, and the facts prove it. According to the United States census Bureau, blacks are twice as likely to be poor compared to other races, and eight times as likely to be imprisoned. Blacks are also three times more likely to be convicted of drug violations than whites. Only 75 percent of blacks have received post-high school education, compared to 85 percent of whites. Not surprisingly, blacks on average also make less money than whites.

As of yet, black people have not been proven to possess any kind of genetic deficiency (Unless Trent Lott's college biology lab book has some classified information on human testing.) Therefore, racially speaking, there must be something wrong with our society.

What are the racial problems that exist today? Well, racism is not as strikingly obvious as it was back in the good old days, but it is still very prevalent. Have you heard of par-

ents who don't want, or even won't allow, their child to marry someone from another race? How about all those white families flocking from a suburban town once they find out that too many minorities are moving in? Or maybe you've walked into a restaurant and seen a woman clutch her purse for dear life with eyes intensely focused on you as you pass by, simply because your skin is dark. There are several examples of racism that go on everyday, whether it's in Congress, the White House, a frat house, or the classroom.

In order to achieve racial justice in our soci-

ety, we need to make some drastic changes starting with the individual citizens of this country. Most people on either side of the affirmative action argument agree that improvement of K-12 education is a major step in bringing about social equality. Racism stems from ignorance, and our greatest hope for an equal and tolerant society is continued education and racial integration starting at a young age.

Recent proposals for programs like vouchers or federal regulation of schools have tried to address educational inequalities, though it is hard to say which approach is the best way to solve this problem.

Regardless, even if we had the solution today, (which we don't) it would take years to implement on a national scale, or even longer, to see the results of such a miraculous program. Until that day arrives, affirmative action is still the best way to make up for social injustices based on race, while maintaining culturally diverse college campuses across America. This diversity is especially crucial in institutions of higher education (Ivy leagues, MIT, Stanford, etc) where a large number of tomorrow's leaders and business executives

will be in an environment with educated people from all backgrounds, helping to dispel stereotypes and racism.

Recently, a hot topic in the news has been whether affirmative action has served its purpose in providing racial equality. Allow me to bring one more interesting fact to the table to reinforce why affirmative action is still needed. A group of researchers from MIT and the University of Chicago School of Business carried out a test in order to determine whether applicants with black-sounding names received fair treatment while applying for jobs. The results were staggering.

The researchers in the study submitted 5,000 resumes to 1,250 advertisers in Boston and Chicago looking for administrative and sales help. In both cities, applicants with "white sounding names" received 50 percent more responses from companies than their black-sounding counterparts with equal credentials.

This directly relates to affirmative action in college admissions as a way to help counteract discrimination when entering the job market. As shown in the resume study, people do not hire based solely on merit. If companies prefer to hire whites over blacks, who knows what other minority groups might be discriminated against solely from their names and what they represent. In order to help balance the countless subtle forms of discrimination that minorities are still faced with today, giving extra advantages to the minority to counteract these unquantifiable disadvantages seems only logical. If someone goes to a slightly better school because he or she is a minority member, it will help to offset the injustices in applying for jobs (as well as other injustices), and in that respect, affirmative action will be successful.

Because we have not come up with a solution to the K-12 education system as of yet, affirmative action is necessary. Most importantly, affirmative action acts as a part of the solution to the ongoing problem of racial injustice in our society. It is by no means the answer. Affirmative action will never fully counteract the racism and stereotyping that exists in society. However, it does, and will continue to, produce culturally aware campuses, which in turn produce culturally aware people.

Affirmative action will never fully counteract the racism and stereotyping that exists in society. However, it does, and will continue to, produce culturally aware campuses, which in turn produce culturally aware people.

Racial Profiling: Justice for All?

By Ajai Bharadwaj

Growing up in an all-white suburb of Milwaukee, the second most racially segregated city in the United States, I always felt a little different because of my ethnicity. In a high school of 800, I was the only Indian. Some of my classmates thought I was an Arab, and used racial slurs of that nature. My friends, however, never treated me any differently. Thinking back, I do recall often driving around the neighborhood at night and noticing that the majority of people pulled over by the cops were not white. It's easy to remember, especially because each time, my friends and I would sarcastically comment, "Oh, they must have been driving while black." Things like that, at some level, made me feel that being colored put me at a disadvantage.

The law enforcement community has been put in the spotlight recently due to such "racial profiling." Racial profiling is generally defined as any police-initiated action (e.g., detainment, arrests, searches) that is solely based on the suspect's race, ethnicity, or national origin rather than their behavior or any information that may lead police to believe they have been engaged in criminal activity. The recent trend has been to use the term "racially based policing," which takes into account policing actions that may involve racial bias coupled with some other factor (such as race and the neighborhood in which the action occurs). This new terminology seems like an attempt to mask the fact that minorities are still being singled out solely based on their race.

Racial profiling has been around for quite a long time, no doubt since the times when slavery was legal. In the "melting pot" of America, however, racism has become more than just a black and white issue. In the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, many people have begun to realize that the problem is bigger than they thought, myself included.

I have been detained at airport security checkpoints numerous times since Sept. 11, including three times during one trip in early 2002. Just because my skin is brown and I have black hair, why should it automatically be assumed that I am much more likely to be

an international terrorist? Prior to Sept. 11, I had never been detained at a security checkpoint in my life.

Turban-wearing Sikhs have been especially discriminated against since the attacks. Does the simple fact that someone wears a turban and has a beard make that person automatically more likely to be a terrorist? No.

Even more outrageous are the stories we hear about people being removed from airplanes. In June 2002, the American Civil Liberties Union filed five lawsuits against four major airlines whose pilots removed people from their flights based on race or ethnicity. In one case, a man (a U.S. citizen) sitting in the first class section of the plane noticed an elderly woman glaring at him and several other passengers. He then allegedly heard the woman tell the captain, "Those brown-skinned men are behaving suspiciously." Minutes later, he and two other men were removed from the

plane and put on a later flight.

In all the cases, the men were of Middle Eastern or Asian descent, and all had passed rigorous security checks and were cleared to board. They were only taken off the plane because someone felt "uncomfortable" with them on board. Most of the terrorists in recent year who have acted out against this country have been non-minorities. And yet, would the woman on the plane have felt as "uncomfortable" if a John Walker Lindh, Timothy McVeigh, or a Ted Kaczynski had sat next to her on the plane? The fact is that anyone can be a terrorist.

Isn't it better to be safe than sorry, you ask? To quote ACLU National Staff Attorney

I have been detained at airport security checkpoints numerous times since 9/11 ... Just because my skin is brown and I have black hair, why should it automatically be assumed that I am more likely to be an international terrorist?

Reginald Shuford, "Absolutely. All of us want to be safe. But...what happened to these men had nothing to do with safety and everything to do with bias."

Isn't it a little unpatriotic to complain about a minor inconvenience such as this, given the legitimate need to combat terrorism? According to Shuford, "There is nothing patriotic about discrimination, nor is there any honor in suffering in silence. To the contrary, allowing it to go on unchallenged seriously undermines fundamental American values that we fought so hard to achieve."

Racial profiling threatens to undermine the very fabric of American society today by providing a means through which racism is allowed to continue in this country. Where does one draw the line between "racial profiling" and racism? Don't you find it interesting that the term "racial profiling" does not have an immediately negative connotation like "racism" does? Getting past the politically correct terminology and putting it bluntly, racial profiling is simply racism in the name of security. Profiling people via ethnicity-based stereotypes and generalizations is the same as being a racist and judging someone on their color. I, for one, am sick of walking into a convenience store and being quietly watched as I walk up and down the aisles.

Racial profiling, racism, and other forms of prejudice all stem from a fear of the unknown. The only way to combat prejudice is to face it head on. Every person in the world lives in their own unique little sphere of existence, and very few of us make the effort to venture outside of it. I implore everyone to explore the unknown. Get to know a black man, a white girl, someone from the Middle East, someone from China, an Indian, a Hispanic person. Leave your little cave behind and see the world through the eyes of others—you might be surprised at what you will see.

When Should Race Matter in Decisions?

By Ken Nesmith
OPINION EDITOR

"I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character," said Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his now famous speech. That particular line has been the source of much controversy.

Conservatives cite it to align King's legacy with their own opposition to affirmative action and racial preferences, causing proponents of the same to work desperately to wrest and silence from those words the apparent damnation of any discrimination based on race. This line does not comprehensively represent King's beliefs; towards the end of his life, he became so embittered and disillusioned by the fight against segregation that he began to advocate forced redistribution of resources as the means to rebuilding a just society. However, this line, as well as King's life's work in part, raises the question of what use we should make of race as a criterion in making decisions.

Answering that question brings us to analyze what exactly granting the usage of race as a criterion means and necessitates for different decisions.

Clearly, there is no single appropriate guideline for the use of race as such a criterion. In the line quoted, King referred to his dream of an end to formalized, destructive societal discrimination against blacks, where race was unjustly and irrationally used as a criterion to decide who should or should not be able to partake in daily societal life. In selecting who should be allowed to use a bathroom, sit at a lunch counter, or shop at a store, employing race as a criterion is quite difficult to justify.

For the most part, such open discrimination is behind us, thanks to the perseverance of individuals fighting for civil rights mere decades ago in the face of unthinkable violent and hateful opposition. While inequality still exists, it is no longer the product of a formal set of rules designed to keep an entire race in a subservient role.

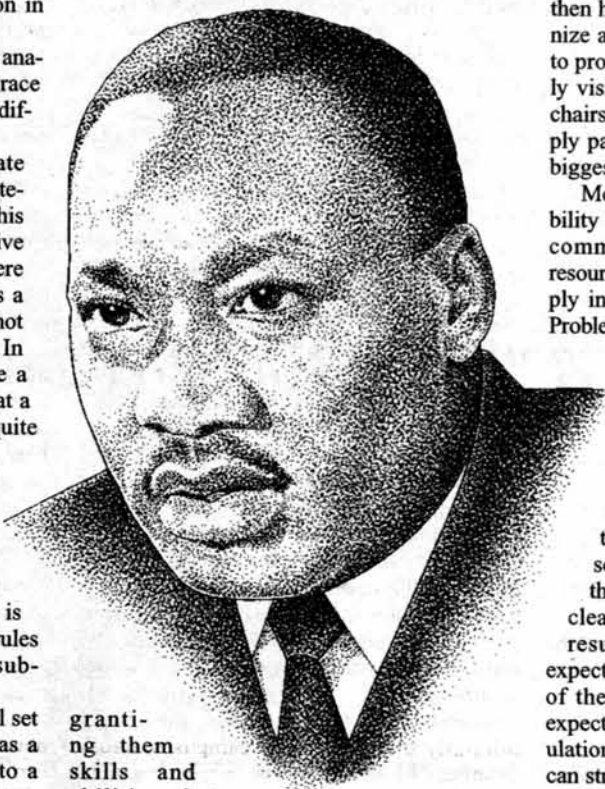
Affirmative action, however, is a formal set of rules inappropriately employing race as a criterion. It is an inappropriate answer to a problem of resource allocation. Consider two realms in which affirmative action is used: college admissions and federal employment. College administrators and employers each have a limited amount of resources to distribute — offers of admission and employment, respectively. Awarding them based on who the applicant's parents happen to be rather than the ability and merit of the applicant is insulting and destructive both to the applicant and to the employer or university. A majority of Americans, including a majority of African Americans, likewise oppose this practice.

Both a student at a university and an employee in an organization assume roles which demand strong qualifications and performance.

Attempting to shatter an invincible linkage between performance and results, ability and production, and merit and reward, practitioners of affirmative action reward less able, less

prepared candidates at the cost of qualified, able candidates who are not members of a chosen group. Choosing less qualified candidates for these roles is similar to choosing players for a soccer team who have broken ankles and telling them they're all set to play. It's dishonest and insulting, and it ignores the causes of the individuals' handicaps. In this case, we can look to the public school system's failure to furnish students of all races a basic education — not a new problem, but one that has been persistently ignored by the same political forces that promote affirmative action.

Selecting students on the basis of race differs from selecting piano players, football stars, and poets for college admission on the basis of their unique talents because these talents are earned and cultivated by a student's individual effort and determination. Confering advantage upon them is an acknowledgment that their hard work has borne fruit,



granting them skills and abilities that set them apart from other candidates. Confering advantage upon individuals of a certain race is an acknowledgment that they were born to their parents — nothing more. (Legacy admissions do the same thing.)

Just how much advantage does being black confer? A study cited in the Wall Street Journal found that otherwise equally qualified white applicants to the University of Michigan Law School were 247 times less likely to be admitted than black applicants.

Some complain that minorities are underrepresented on campus. Equating this fact with aggressive discrimination completely ignores cultural valuations of achievement and education. While varied representation clearly doesn't prove discrimination or even strongly suggest it, recruiters can take other approaches to addressing low minority enrollment. Tak-

ing the top few percent of every high school's graduating class is one such approach; doing so rewards individuals who excel in tough environments rather than simply rewarding members of a certain race.

Using race is inappropriate for selecting individuals for positions that need be awarded on the basis of merit because race does not determine merit. However, race obviously does serve at the very least as a visual identifier. To defend the public and enforce the law, law's agents must make use of every identification tool available, including race. Racial profiling, then, is not uniformly wrong; it is entirely appropriate to make use of race, as it is any other identifier, to make law enforcement decisions.

Security policies after Sept. 11 highlight this point. The government has limited resources with which to defend against terrorism and preserve our security. We know that those most likely to perform terrorist acts against us are of Middle Eastern descent. We then have a choice: do we more closely scrutinize a small number of citizens from all races to prove our lack of prejudice, leading to highly visible searches of elderly women's wheelchairs as they board airplanes, or do we simply pay attention to those who likely pose the biggest threat?

More generally, if you know that the probability that individuals of a particular race will commit a crime is higher, devoting more resources towards scrutinizing that race is simply in the best interest of minimizing crime. Problems arise when undue scrutiny is given not

because of a threat posed by a race but merely because of prejudice.

This does happen today, and it's a problem. Racial profiling, though, certainly has a natural and fitting place as a tool for law enforcement.

Affirmative action is often sold as a temporary fix that will be eliminated as soon as possible. It's not possible to say, though, when it will be eliminated. We're clearly not waiting for perfect equality of results between all races. We would not expect perfect equality among any refinement of the population, no more than we would expect or desire a perfectly homogenous population of millions of identical individuals. We can strive for equality of opportunity, but affirmative action doesn't help that cause. It is a crutch that lets us ignore true sickness. The most prominent of these is K-12 education, which should provide exactly that equality of opportunity. Attempts to reform it are repressed by the same political groups who defend affirmative action.

King sought for his children not to be judged by their race. While a colorblind society is about as infeasible as an outright blind society, we should be very careful what formal use we make of race in making decisions. While we do use race as a tool of judgment, rewarding individuals based on race rather than ability and merit is not a legitimate way to make such judgment. Using skin color as a tool of identification in law enforcement is defensible. Pursuing these two policies demands that we be honest with ourselves and with each other and ensures that both individuals and society are respected and well served.

Viewpoint

How would you rate race relations at MIT on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being poorest and 5 being complete harmony?



"I'd give it a 2... There is a certain comfort in being with people like you, and because of time constraints at MIT, you end up with racially segregated groups. I don't think race is as much a stigma as in other places — you go to classes with different people but you don't spend time with them outside of that."

—Anthony M. Paris '04

"I think it's pretty good. I've never felt discriminated against. I have some African-American friends and they seem pretty happy. I went to another university for my undergraduate studies and there was much more tension there. I would be walking down the street and someone would drive by in a car and call me 'Chink.'"

—Wajana Lilaonitkul G

"It's a 4 — I can't think of any specific incidents, but I know that there have been intolerant students. Also during the fraternity incident a couple of years ago, the students' actions were interpreted as racially intolerant, which indicates that the situation on campus is volatile."

—Patrick Y. Kim '04



"I can only speak to my own experience — my friends are of every ethnic group because I make an effort to talk to everybody — but there is something to be said about safety/comfort/security with people of your own group."

—Royal P. Johnson '03

"It's a 4 — I haven't noticed major problems. There is a lot of diversity on campus of which I've taken advantage, and so I'm happy with it. There is, however, segregation in

housing, and I think the first year should be randomized."

—Shaheer M. Hussam '03

How would you rate race relations in the United States as a whole?

"It's a 2. The only reason it's not a 1 is because it's clearly been worse in the past. Things aren't as bad as in other places that have wars between races. I just saw a study that showed that in certain areas, the racial integration of blocks is the same as it was during the Civil Rights Movement years."

—Adam B. Glassman G

"The situation in the country is worse than it is at MIT. From personal experiences, I would rate it a 4, but given the experiences of friends etc., I'd rate it a 3."

—Kim

Compiled by Melissa A. Edoh.

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which guarantees financial assistance from the federal government to any college-bound veteran.

1945— Women's dormitory established at 120 Bay State Road.

1950s

1950— Society for Women Engineers founded.

1954— *Oliver Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, a unanimous decision decrees that segregation is unconstitutional, overthrowing the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling that had set the "separate but equal" precedent.

1955— Montgomery Bus Boycott. Rosa Parks is arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man.

1955— MIT hires first black faculty member, Joseph R. Applegate, a linguist.

1956— Martin Luther King Jr. arrested for traveling 5 mph over speed limit. His house is bombed four days later.

1957— Desegregation at Little Rock, Arkansas. After two futile attempts to attend Little Rock Central High School, nine black students begin attending Central High with the help of 1,000 paratroopers and 10,000 National Guardsmen.

1957— MIT officially adopts "need-blind" admissions policy, eliminating any consideration of an applicant's ability to pay from the admissions process.

1957— Martin Luther King Jr. named first president of Southern Christian Leadership Conference. In 1957, King travels 780,000 miles and makes 208 speeches.

1959— Katharine D. McCormick '04 donates funds for first on-campus women's dormitory, which opens in 1964.

1960s

1960— Forty-three percent of admitted class demonstrates financial need and receives financial aid from MIT.

1963— Dr. King arrested while leading protests in Birmingham, Alabama and writes "Letter from Birmingham City Jail."

1963— A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin organize March on Washington where Dr. King delivers his famous "I Have a Dream" speech to 250,000.

1963— MIT Prof. Emily Wick '51 becomes first woman to receive tenure. Shortly afterwards, she is appointed Associate Dean of Student Affairs and asked to run a "women's program."

1968— Prof. Margaret L.A. MacVicar '65 launches Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

1968— Black Students' Union established.

1968— Dr. King and President John F. Kennedy assassinated.

1969— Project Interphase begins.

1969— First National Chicano Youth Liberation Conference, the largest Chicano conference of its time, held in Colorado.

1969— Student Homophile League (now GaMIT) established.

1970s

1970— MIT allows coed dormitories. MIT adopts gender-blind admissions policy based on recommendation from an ad hoc committee on women's admissions.

1971— Twelve percent of MIT's freshmen are in the lowest national quarter of family income.

1972— Little more than three percent of MIT's undergraduate population is from American minority groups.

1972— MIT faculty includes 28 women. 1973— Shirley A. Jackson '68 and Jennifer Rudd '68 became the first two black women to earn doctorates from MIT.

1974— Minority Introduction to Engineering, Entrepreneurship, and Science Program (MITES) established.

1974— National Society of Black Engineers-MIT established.

1975— Office of Minority Education established.

1975— Chocolate City established.

1979— Sheila E. Windnall '60 becomes first woman elected chair of MIT faculty.

1980s

1981— Association of Puerto Rican Students established.

1984— Women make up 29% of the admitted class of 1988.

1984— Economist Anne F. Friedlaender, PhD '64, appointed Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, becoming the first woman academic dean at MIT.

1986— Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday

Continued on next page

From previous page

first celebrated as a national holiday.

1986- A Racial Climate Report finds that underrepresented minority students at MIT experienced feelings of isolation and felt that admission standards were lower for minorities.

1989- Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity apologizes for their insensitive party poster depicting one of their African-American brothers in a degrading, stereotypical pose.

1990s

1990- LUCHA, SHPE, and Club Latino defend controversial party posters against criticism that they are a form of sexual harassment.

1990- South Asian American Students established.

1990- Fifty-seven percent of MIT's admitted class demonstrates financial need and receives aid from MIT. MIT provides in excess of \$23 million in private financial aid to its undergraduate students.

1992- Four white LAPD police officers are acquitted of assault while arresting black motorist Rodney King. Riots and fires ensue in Los Angeles.

1992- Thirty-eight percent of MIT's undergraduate population comprises American minorities.

1993- Members of Lambda Chi Alpha spray-paint a homophobic slur in front of the Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity house. Following the incident, the IFC and GaMIT cosponsor a talk by gay activist and author Warren J. Blumenfeld.

1993- Phi Beta Epsilon fraternity denies racial epithets were shouted from a window to four black students walking past the house. About 20 students demonstrate in protest outside PBE and in Lobby 7.

1993- MIT wins Overlap antitrust case, which accused MIT of conspiring with Ivy League colleges to fix the amount of financial aid students receive. MIT's primary argument in the case is that financial aid should be considered charity, not commerce.

1993- Clinton administration implements "don't ask, don't tell" policy for military officers.

1994- GaMIT's display case in the Infinite Corridor entitled "Greeks and Queers" contains eight posters describing homophobic incidents in the Greek system since 1979. IFC objects to the negative publicity during Greek Week. Series of meetings to open communication lines follows.

1994- President Vest creates Committee on Campus Race Relations.

1994- MIT announces Robert Taylor Professorship for minority faculty, named in honor of MIT's first African-American graduate.

1995- The Blacks at MIT History Project begins.

1995- PBE and BSU reach a resolution to their long-running controversy. The Committee on Discipline eventually concludes that racial epithets were shouted but that there was not sufficient evidence to implicate the students charged.

1995- Assault committed against GaMIT booth during Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Awareness Days by unknown fraternity member sparks tension between IFC and GaMIT.

1996- La Union Chicana Por Aztlan established.

1997- The Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists established.

1997- Black Women's Alliance established.

1999- School of Science Report leads to the Gender Equity Project.

1999- Wen Ho Lee, Los Alamos Physicist, is indicted on 39 accounts of violating Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and 20 accounts of violation the Federal Espionage Act.

2000s

2001- Racially charged language sparks a physical altercation between members of the band The Roots and brothers at the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

2001- The MIT Asian American Association (MITAAA) established.

2002- Latino Lounge created in the Student Center to house and provide support for Latino Student Groups.

2003- In a study conducted jointly between MIT and the University of Chicago School, researchers find that job applicants with black-sounding names were fifty percent less likely to be called by companies despite equal credentials on their resumes.

Compiled by Joel J. Jaimes.

By Soraya Scroggins

As MIT observes its 29th annual celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this week, we are prompted to take a look at MIT's continual commitment to maintaining diversity and positive race relations in its student population through the support of its minorities.

Leo Osgood Jr., associate dean for the Office of Minority Education, has witnessed this transforming nature of race and race relations at MIT. The OME was founded over thirty years ago as MIT's response to a changing student body. As predominantly white colleges and universities throughout the country first began recruiting minority students, it became apparent that these schools, which had never before seen such a diverse student body, lacked the infrastructure to support its varying student population.

The term "underrepresented minorities" includes African Americans, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Native Americans, and to an extent, those with Hispanic surnames.

Osgood said that since its inception, the primary goal of the Office of Minority Education has been to "create a foundation to enhance the successes, both academic and social, of students of color."

MIT has eighteen academic, professional, and cultural minority groups dedicated to achieving this goal. Through an array of programs and events geared towards minorities,

the OME works to provide a welcoming and open environment for students.

"The purpose of [minority programs] is not to segregate. For a lot of people, it's a way to be a part of a close-knit community and gain familiarity if you feel out of place," said Henry M. Hilton '04. "That gives them the confidence to go out and expand their circles and make other friends."

This sense of community plays an important part for many minority students.

"When I saw my Hispanic brethren celebrating their graduation, I felt extremely proud of my origin," said Danny A. Bravo '04 referring to a graduation event held by La Union Chicana Por Aztlan last June.

OME provides support from start to finish

The OME sponsors programs for minority students throughout their MIT careers.

According to Osgood, minority Orientation, which consists of a welcome luncheon and an upperclassmen panel, serves to "open up the MIT community." It is followed by a parents' dinner, which extends the welcome further to students as well as their families.

Rising minority sophomores are eligible for the Research In Science and Engineering Program, sponsored by NASA, where they are taught valuable research skills during six-weeks in the summer.

The OME also holds an annual Minority Awards Banquet to distinguish those who may not normally be recognized for their academic

or community merits. "There most definitely is a need to give special attention to these students," Osgood said.

OME programs go mainstream

MIT released a statement yesterday announcing that two programs historically open only to underrepresented minorities, MITES and Project Interphase, will be opened up to nonminority applicants.

Many other events and services that are campuswide today have evolved from earlier programs and initiatives aimed at minorities.

Campus Preview Weekend was originally only for minority students. As the success of CPW increased, the focus grew to include women and finally all admitted freshmen.

The Freshman Watch Program, designed to alert minority freshmen to borderline passing grades, has come to be known ominously throughout the Institute as Fifth Week Flags.

The Tutoring Services Room, or TSR, began 25 years ago to remedy the exclusion of blacks from study groups. It has since expanded its services to students of all races and employs tutors of all backgrounds.

The Second Summer program was established by the OME to provide minority students practical experience as engineering interns and evolved into the Freshman Alumni Summer Internship Program, open to all MIT freshmen.

For more information on the OME and its programs, visit <http://web.mit.edu/ome>.

Faculty Diversification a Slow Process

By Veena Ramaswamy and Brian Loux

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITORS

Over the years, MIT has made a concerted effort to make its faculty attune with the ever-growing diversity of its student body, but the effort to hire more women and minority faculty has been a slow process.

"Our progress toward increasing the number of underrepresented minority faculty members has been painfully slow," said Provost Robert A. Brown. "We have a long way to go to have a faculty as diverse as a student body."

The number of faculty members reporting to be Black, Hispanic or Native American rose from 35 in 1993 to 43 in 2002 while the faculty size stayed constant around 950. During the same time period, the number of women faculty increased from 106 to 154.

The 2001-2002 Common Data Set released by the Office of the Provost reported that of MIT's 1760 instructional faculty members, around 19.9 percent are women and 12.3 percent are minorities.

In comparison, the make-up of MIT's undergraduate student body is 42 percent women, 6 percent African Americans, 11 percent Hispanic, and 28 percent Asian American. According to the Faculty Search Committee Handbook, over 20 percent of MIT's faculty is over the age of sixty, and as this group retires in the next five to fifteen years, the effort to recruit a diverse faculty population will become essential.

"Diversity among our faculty and student body enriches the educational and collegial environment of the Institute," Brown said. "Increasing this diversity by actively recruiting under-represented minorities to the MIT faculty has been and continues to be a goal."

In 1991, MIT implemented a minority faculty hiring initiative, which awards departments special privileges for each minority scholar they appoint to a regular faculty position, including a \$30,000 increase in the department's operating budget and a new faculty slot with funding. The initiative also includes a system of up-to-date files of potential minority candidates for faculty positions in each department and funding to bring visiting minority scholars to campus.

MLK Visiting Scholars program

The Martin Luther King Visiting Professors Program has helped increase the number of instructional minority faculty since it was created in 1995. The program is designed to bring in professors of any minority group, with an emphasis on African Americans, and has sponsored 34 visiting professors.

The MLK program has made noticeable efforts in diversifying MIT's faculty. "It has created a presence of minority faculty on campus. Underrepresented minorities have interacted with them. It has been a win-win situation for the entire community," said Leo Osgood, Co-Chair of the MLK Visiting Professors Program.

Despite efforts of the program, however, MIT should not stop in its efforts in diversifying its faculty.

"I think one thing MIT can do to help improve this situation is actually get students involved," said Terrence R. Strader '04, a mem-

ber of the Committee on Campus Race Relations and of Advocates for Awareness.

"If they are trying to recruit minority faculty members, how do we know? That's the problem with a number of issues here at MIT: the students and faculty not working together to solve some of our problems."

"We have a long way to go. The core of minority faculty [are] retiring in the next 10 years and we have not done a good job to feed the system," Osgood said. "There have been improvements, but it's still not where it should be."

One of the benefits of a maintaining a diverse faculty at MIT is the creation of an environment that welcomes all races and genders and helps students relate to faculty members.

"Diversifying the faculty with more [minorities] should be the main concern of MIT's administration. This could have so many benefits ... One being helping out a lot of minority students here at MIT by providing more mentors and role models for them," Strader said.

"It's inspirational and motivational to see someone who looks like you and who you can relate to," said Veronica A. Andrews '05. "I personally learn better from women ... because they might have a different teaching style or provide a different perspective. I also feel less intimidated approaching a woman professor."

Women faculty face unique challenges

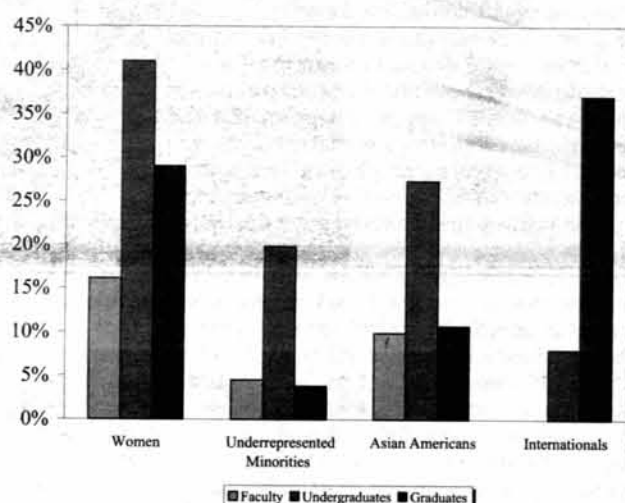
In March of 1999, a report entitled the Status of Women Faculty in the School of Science was published in the faculty newsletter and showed disparities between the challenges women faculty face in comparison to their male colleagues. "Junior women faculty believe ... that family-work conflicts may impact their careers differently from those of their male colleagues," the Committee on Women Faculty wrote.

The report also added that tenured women tend to feel marginalized and excluded from leadership positions within their departments and on important committees. Following the report, deans of the remaining four schools formed similar committees to analyze the status of women in their respective departments.

Data on past hiring in the School of Engineering indicates that 40 percent of women candidates for faculty positions reject hiring offers, which is almost three times the rate of male candidates. This may indicate differences in recruitment practices based on gender. Last year's Common Data Set also indicates that women instructional faculty are 15.5 percent more likely to work part time than male faculty.

The statistics for minority and women faculty in tenured positions are even more disjointed. MIT awarded tenure to its first African-American woman only five years ago. A report in

MIT Diversity Facts 2003



1998 found that 90 percent of the MIT's tenured faculty and 74 percent of the total faculty were white males. Last year, women made up only 16 percent of faculty on the track to tenure.

MIT continues efforts for diversity

"I think it's just very difficult to shift the demographic, even if you just hired women," said Professor Sallie W. Chisholm, an original member of the Committee on Women Faculty.

In response to these reports, MIT has made significant steps toward equality for women faculty, including: appointing more women to academic leadership positions, developing guidelines for hiring women, and new family-friendly policies. Promotion policies have been revised to allow the delay of tenure decision for women who have children, and any faculty member who is the primary caregiver to a family member can receive paid release from teaching and service for one semester.

Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences Department Head Ronald G. Prinn points out that that as the academic level increases, more and more imbalances exist within the EAPS department. For example, while the demographics for the undergraduate class is almost even, the percentages of males become larger and larger as people move to graduate student, assistant professors, associate professors, professors, and tenured professors.

"Clearly, the pool is there. What we need to know is what are their career choices. We need to understand why they do not choose academia over research labs and industry," Prinn said.

There are a number of theories about why this happens. Some argue that higher academia still feels like an old boys club, which perpetuates the stereotype by driving others away.

"I think some will think that increased awareness of the problem will reduce the [inequities], but the fact that more women faculty are accumulating will help," Chisholm said.

But Prinn argues that to find a real solution, we as a community may need to do some soul-searching. "It's not going to be an easy change," he said. "There is no silver bullet here."



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SEMS Aims to Become 24-Hour Ambulance Service

SEMS, from Page 1

to cover MIT more often," said Director of Ambulance Operations Nicolas A. Wyhs '05.

Last semester, under the old schedule, the SEMS transported about 45 patients to MIT Medical, said Samuel A. Schweighart G, chief of MIT Ambulance and Residential Service.

"It's not that anyone specifically asked" for these numbers, said SEMS Personnel Manager Peter S. Jaglom. "We're trying to make as strong a case as possible when we present a budgetary proposal to the administration."

Eventually, the hope is for EMS to become a 24-hour service, Schweighart said, requiring about 50 experienced EMTs.

This means recruiting more student EMTs, which "shouldn't be a problem," given strong numbers from past years, Jaglom said. Giving these trainees' hands-on experience, however, may prove to be more difficult.

When someone on campus dials 100, the call is forwarded to the student EMS or, during off-times, to an independent ambulance company. Independent ambulance companies bill MIT between \$200 and \$550 per visit, Wyhs said.

"There's ups and downs," Wyhs said, in both the student service and the independent service. "A profes-

sional [company] runs itself, while the student service has continued costs."

"Per call it'd probably come out cheaper with us," Wyhs said, "but there may be other factors that play into it that we don't see."

SEMS's most pressing need is for a new ambulance. The ambulance in use today is about ten years old, Jaglom said, and is due for a replacement.

SEMS formed in 2002

SEMS educates MIT students in providing emergency medical care. Students, working with a medical professional, are trained to stabilize a victim until professional care arrives. All emergency medical technicians, or EMTs, are volunteers. The service is confidential.

The group was formed in summer 2002 at the request of many student groups, including the Undergraduate Association and the Interfraternity Council, who wanted confidential medical transport operated by students rather than by

the MIT Police.

Specifically, students felt that fellow students would be more willing to call for an ambulance when underage drinking was involved if the service was confi-

dential and run by fellow students.

Today, 63 undergraduate and graduate students are certified EMTs.

"Our students have to feel secure that if they feel a student is

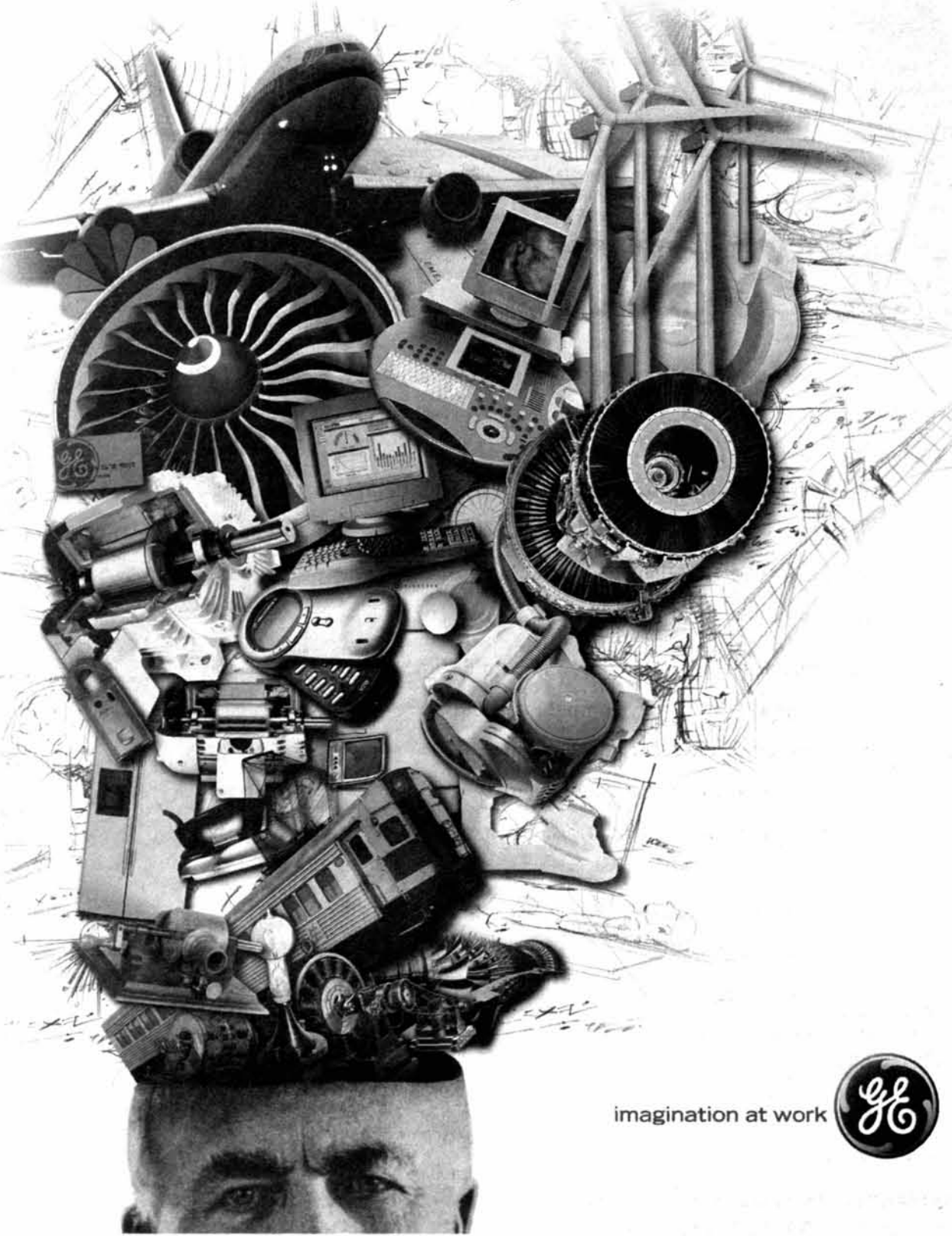
in need of medical attention, that they get the student medical attention," said Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict in 2000. "We have to make sure [our] procedures are as such to allow that."



DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH

Crew Chief Jessica Nicholson '03 and Shift Supervisor Elsa Olivetti G run through their equipment check at the beginning of Monday afternoon's shift. MIT's student emergency medical service began staffing the ambulance seven days a week this week.

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Stratton 3rd Floor May See Return Of Coffee

Coffeehouse, from Page 1

founded the Coffeehouse in 1987. Completely student-operated, it was a 24-hour study lounge offering students late night snacks and coffee.

The Coffeehouse was known for its convenient location, low prices, the fact that it accepted the MIT Card for payment, and most importantly for being open twenty-four hours a day.

However, because of poor financial performance, the Coffeehouse reduced its hours of operation at the beginning of the academic year in an effort to save what was often considered an institution.

Problems continued, however, and the Coffeehouse was forced to shut down last December because of its losses.



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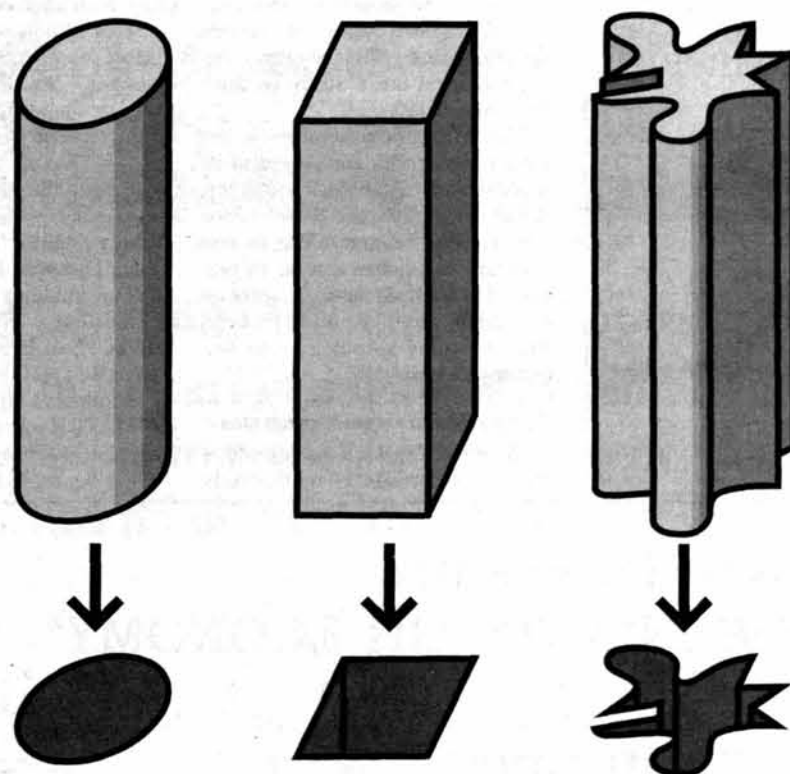
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New Opportunities, Programs Expand Ranks of Work Study

By **Shan Riku**
STAFF REPORTER

The MIT federal work study program has improved this year, after a lack of student participation forced MIT to return some funds to the federal government two years ago.

In the past semester, MIT already had 224 Federal Work Study students, while it had just 215 in the 2002-2003 school year and just 102 in 2001-2002.

"What we've done is focus heavily on trying to create new opportunities for all eligible students," said Jane D. Smith, student employment director for the Student Services Center. "We created community service opportunities for those students who have federal work study in their financial aid packages."

Because of low numbers in the community service component of its work study program, MIT had to forfeit about \$75,000, *The Boston Globe* reported last February. The federal government requires that seven percent of work study funds be spent on community service work. At the time, MIT was only spending about two percent on such jobs.

Focus shifts to summer programs

Smith said that not many students take part in federal work-study

because of a lack of time. "We've learned that students oftentimes don't have as much time to work off campus," Smith said. "We are focusing more on summer programs, when students have more time."

Incoming freshmen who have financial aid and interest in community service are allowed to start their federal work-study during the summer before they attend MIT. "We allowed prefrosh to work at non-profit organizations in their hometown," Smith said.

"We've also offered the same opportunity to graduate students who have been awarded work study funds to work at non-profit organizations during the term, and also during the summer," Smith said. "We didn't have graduate students [in the program] several years ago. Now, we do."

Among the new opportunities for work study is the Media and Technology Charter High School program. Last year, MIT students began to tutor students at the Media and Technology High School, or MATCH, in Brookline during the summer.

Smith said 40 MIT students and 60 MATCH school students participated in this program last summer. MIT is hoping to involve 60 students

in the coming summer, Smith said.

PSC creates new programs

The Public Service Center has created two programs, ReachOut and Science Projects at MIT, that have opened up work study opportunities as well as encouraged students to participate in community service.

"While work study is a program of Student Financial Services, we try to do all we can to help with the community service aspect of work-study," said Sally Susnowitz, assistant dean and director of the Public Service Center.

Although both programs are open to volunteers, most participants get paid by the federal work-study grant, because "we mainly publicize it as a work study job," Susnowitz said. "Besides, it's very difficult for MIT students to be able to afford that time commitment."

The PSC is welcome to having federal work study students as community service participants, Susnowitz said.

"If students cannot afford the time because they have to work, we are happy to have them work in community service," Susnowitz said. "We are very interested in having everybody participating in community service."

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William Porter Distinguished Lecturer, Sloan School

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1:30 pm, 4-270

Please register for this workshop at
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This event is sponsored by the Office of Career Services, 12-170, 617-253-4733.

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from page 10

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http://web.mit.edu/firstyear/associates/news/application_03_04.html
- Are you seeking a paid internship this summer that will help you develop professionally? Apply to be part of a team of Orientation Coordinators who organize and plan the freshman orientation experience for summer 2003. Applications can be picked up in the ARC, 7-103.
- Deadlines for all positions is Friday, February 28, 2003.

2003 CHOICE OF MAJOR FAIR

With HASS Concentration Info

WHO: **CLASS OF 2006 and anyone wanting advice about Majors**

WHAT: Associate Advisors and departments giving first hand information about all Majors and how to choose a HASS Concentration

WHERE: La Sala de Puerto Rico (The Student Center)

WHEN: Wednesday February 12th, 1-4pm

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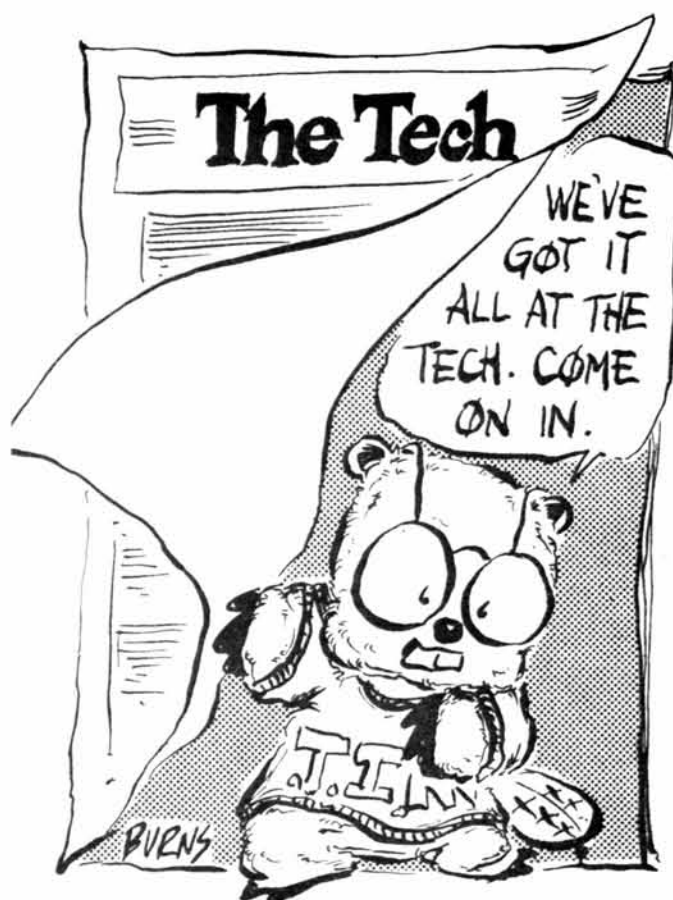
An ice sculpture, featuring a pineapple, graces the sidewalk outside of Walker Memorial last week.

DANIEL BERSAK - THE TECH



Alex Donaldson '06 and Ian Brelinsky '06 build a snow beaver on Killian Court Monday afternoon.

AMY WU



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Panhel Says Spring Recruiting a Success

Women Had More Time to Consider Choice

Panhel, from Page 1

important than how much we value each girl. We are very happy with the recruitment, which was a success."

This year was the first that the main formal recruitment has taken place at the beginning of the spring semester with an extended length of eleven days.

Spring rush seen positively

In general, sisters and new pledges have said that holding rush in the spring has been successful.

"Since the recruitment took place in the spring semester, sororities had time to get their names out there, and freshman have time to get acclimated," said Gerberich.

"I'm really glad they have [rush] at the second semester because I didn't feel so worried or rushed. I had time to think and have a break in between the events," said Suege A. Omnik '06, who received a bid from Kappa Alpha Theta.

This year, all fraternities, sororities and independent living groups have had to hold rush in an extend-

ed format during the school year because of changes in the freshmen orientation program.

Bids follow final selection rounds

This past weekend, potential new members narrowed down their sorority choices in a series of culminating events, including the formal preferential round ceremony.

Gerberich said that a computerized mutual selection process was used to match new members with sororities. "Sororities submitted a list ranking the potential new members, and the potential new members submitted their top two sorority choices, which carried a higher weight," she said.

Sigma Kappa pledge Tiffany Yang '06 said, "It feels good to be accepted to my first choice along with my friends. [The recruitment process] had a lot of talking, and I'm really glad it's over."

"Sisterhood means that a woman becomes a sorority member for life," said Gerberich. So "sororities will be teaching their new members the history and culture of their sorority before the initiation ceremony in six to eight weeks."

MIT Department of FACILITIES

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Vassar St. Utilities

Installation of steam piping under Main Street will begin soon. No major impact to traffic is anticipated. Pedestrians now walk behind Building 48 on a newly constructed temporary walkway for several months to allow Vassar St. work to continue.

Brain and Cognitive Sciences Project

Demolition of Building 45 is expected to take place this spring.

Amherst Alley Steam Repairs

Work on a damaged condensate line in the area will begin soon. Pedestrian walkways should not be disturbed.

Building 7 ADA accessible entrance

New epoxy flooring in the lower level of Building 7 has been completed. Exterior concrete steps and ramps will be installed soon. Interior painting and light installation is complete. Outdoor work is approximately 40 percent complete. Concrete for the ramp and steps will be installed soon.

Building E19 Renovations

The fifth floor of Building E19 is being converted to laboratory space for new faculty associated with the McGovern Institute for Brain Research and the Picower Center for Learning and Memory. Construction includes new ducts for supply and exhaust and plumbing installation.

Vassar Streetscape

Traffic has shifted to the south side of the street to allow for construction in front of Buildings 45 and 48. All pedestrian traffic now travels on the south side of Vassar St. to the west end of Building 36. Pedestrians cross the street and travel along a new walkway that begins near Building 45. Concrete work on the Building 34 steps is underway.

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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Questions? Contact Audrey Wang (audreyw@mit.edu), MIT Biomedical Engineering Society, VP of Special Programs



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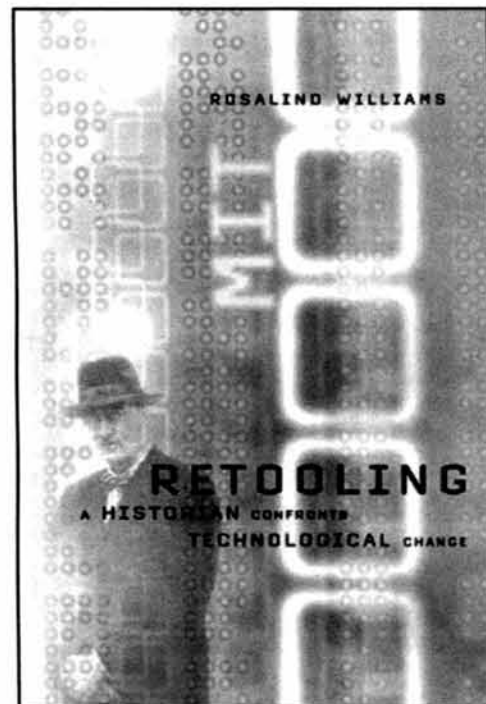
Rosalind Williams

Director of STS Program, MIT

presenting her new book:

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Thursday, Feb 13th, 5:30 pm
MIT Bartos Theater, 20 Ames St., Cambridge



Rosalind Williams served as Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education at MIT from 1995 through 2000. From this vantage point, she watched a wave of changes transform many aspects of social and working life at this major site of technological innovation. In *Retooling*, she uses this local knowledge to draw more general insights into contemporary society's obsession with technology. If there is to be any reconciliation between technological change and community, Williams argues, it will come from connecting technological and social innovation—a connection demonstrated in the history that unfolds in this absorbing book.

Rosalind Williams is currently Metcalfe Professor of Writing in MIT's Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies, and Director of MIT's Program in Science, Technology, and Society.

Retooling is published by the MIT Press, 2002.

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SPORTS

Ballroom Dance Team Dominates In Major Manhattan Competition

By Miriam Sorell
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Ballroom Dance Team spent Martin Luther King weekend in the Big Apple, making a splash at the 13th annual Manhattan Amateur Classic, dominating the standard division and the team matches. MAC is one of the most important competitions in the Northeast and the qualifying event for the 2003 National Championships.

MIT teams took the first and third places in the team matches, with the winning team composed of Dejan Mircevski and Maria Minkoff G doing Waltz, Christopher L. Douglas G and Katya Dolginova MS '98 dancing Tango, Carlos A. Lopez '03 and Genevieve Cuevas '03 doing

Cha-Cha, and Filip Ilievski '03 and Boston University student Rita Kraner dancing Jive.

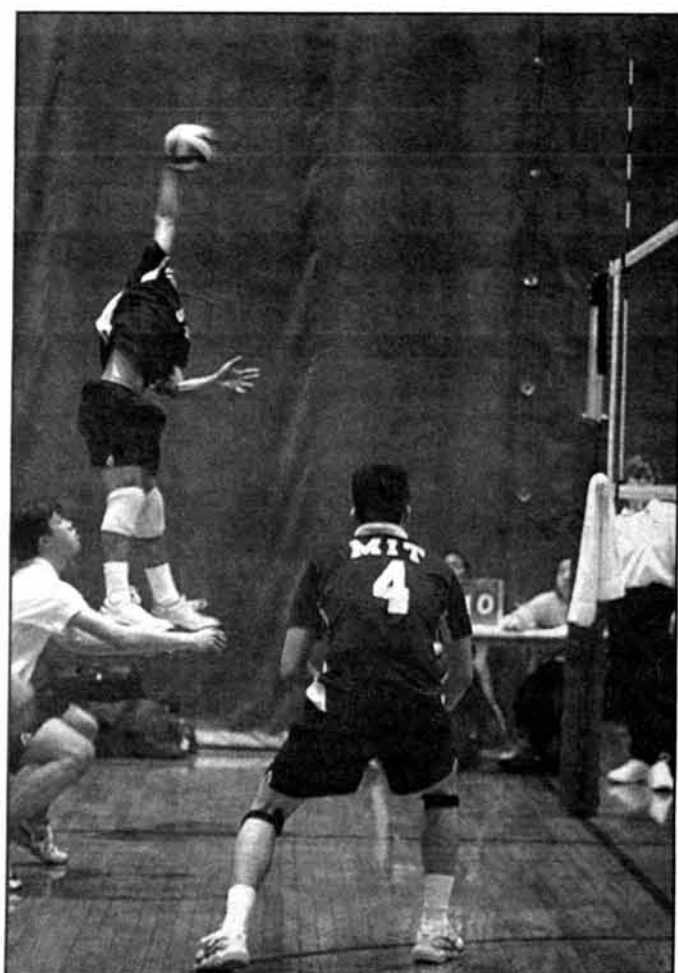
In the two highest levels of Standard, Master of Syllabus International and Champ International, MIT coaches Mark Sheldon and Didi von Deck took first place.

Team newcomers swept the Pre-Bronze Standard competition, taking five out of the six spots in the final round. Tyree W. Harris G and Nadezhda Belova '05 took first place, followed by David A. Ovadia '06 and Catia S. Verbeke '06 in second, David C. Wang '05 and Jane Gyrda of New York University in fourth, Adam Smith G and Fu Liu G in fifth, and Wei An G and Tatjana Atanasijevic G in 6th. Harris and Belova also placed 4th in the Bronze division, where Bradley Morrison G and Aurora C. Schmidt '03 took third.

Newcomers also did well in the Pre-Bronze American competitions. In Smooth, first place went to An and Susanne Wagner, second to Smith and Liu, and sixth to Wang and Yiquin Bai. In Rhythm, An and Atanasijevic took second, and Carmine DiChiara and Yana Averbukh '05 placed fourth. Bill Liteplo MS '00 and Michelle Goldhaber placed second in the Rhythm Champ category.

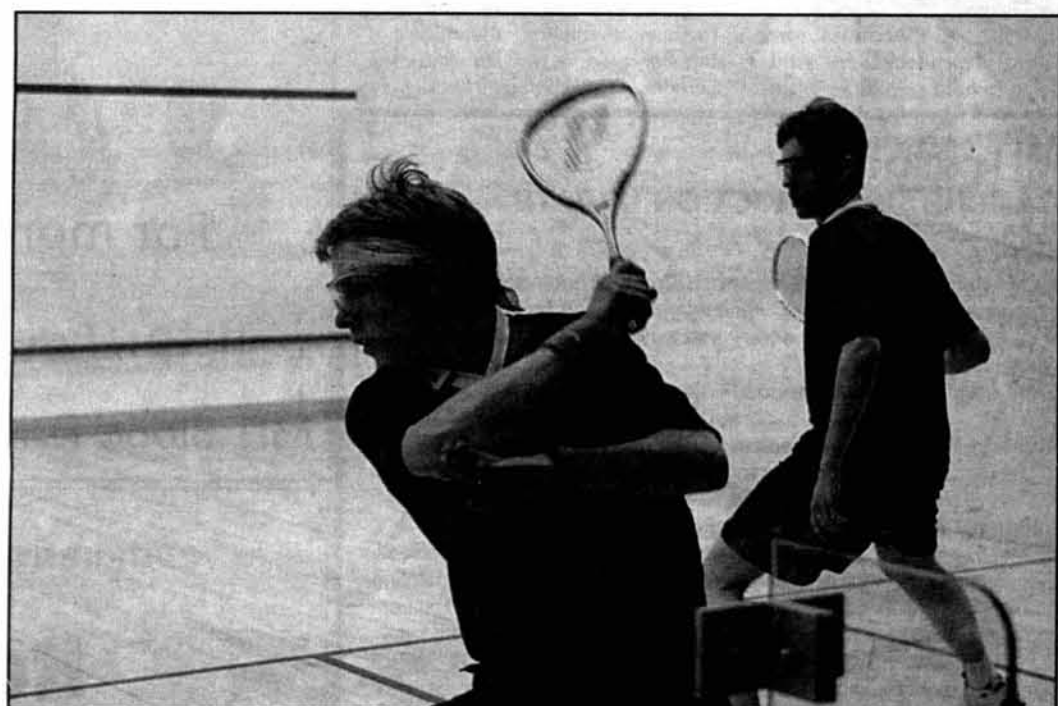
In Latin, Todor Stavrev and Sofya Raskhodnikova G took 3rd place in Gold, and Boris Bernikov '98 and Carrie Sougnev took sixth in the Master of Syllabus International.

Upcoming competitions for team this term start with the Boston University Ballroom Dance Competition on Feb. 8, followed by the Holy Cross Ballroom Dance Competition on Feb. 15.



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Ramon Partida '03 slams the ball over the net in a match last Tuesday night against Roger Williams College. Despite some excellent plays, MIT fell to Roger Williams in three games, bringing their record to 2-1.



ANNIE DING—THE TECH

Tyler B. Horton '03 sets up to return his opponent's hit during Thursday night's squash match against Tufts. Horton won his match 3-0.

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WENDY GU—THE TECH

Megan C. Daugherty '03 breaks through the Smith Pioneers' defense to sink a basket. Fouled while shooting, Daugherty scored another point with a free throw. MIT won 45-40.