

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Clouds, showers, 70°F (21°C)
Tonight: Showers ending, 48°F (9°C)
Tomorrow: Pleasant, 64°F (18°C)
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Volume 118, Number 20

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Friday, April 17, 1998

Newbury Comics, MIT Museum To Close Student Center Shops

By Krista L. Niece
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

For the first time since it was renovated in the late 1980's, the Stratton Student Center may soon see some major changes in the services and products offered.

Both Newbury Comics, a CD and variety store, and the MIT Museum store may vacate their first-floor retail space. Other businesses will remain in the Student Center.

The moves come because a majority of contracts between MIT and the Student Center vendors are "up for renegotiation," said Phillip J. Walsh, Director of the Campus Activities Complex.

Newbury Comics does not plan to renew its lease, according to Walsh. The store is profitable, but because of the growth the company

has enjoyed over the past few years they are "changing their business strategies," he said.

Newbury Comics was started by two men affiliated with MIT. John Bursger '78 and Mike Dreese, who attended but did not graduate, began

the company in 1978 "with \$2000 and a comic book collection," Dreese, who is now Chief Executive Officer, said.

"It certainly has been fun being

Newbury, Page 17

ILGs May Form New Council Within IFC

By Frank Dabek
NEWS EDITOR

Several off-campus independent living groups are in the process of forming an independent council. The council, which will most likely be dubbed the Independent Living Group Council (ILGC), is still in the planning stages; a formal announce-

ment is expected from the council in the next few weeks.

Likely members of the council mainly include the living groups traditionally called Independent Living Groups (ILGs): Fenway house, Student House, The Women's Independent Living Group, Epsilon Theta (ET), and pika. These groups are not associated with national fraternities. Among fraternities, Tau Epsilon Phi (TEP) is a possible candidate for the council.

Erin A. Schuster '98, president of Student House, said that her house was interested in the group. "[ILGC] is just an organization so that we can have more communication among the ILGs."

Nathan J. Williams '98, a resident of pika, said that "we're planning to [join the group] but everything is tentative at this point."

Schuster said that the group does "have a charter but we haven't had an official meeting."

Christopher D. Beland '00, a res-

ILGC, Page 16



AGNES BORSZEKI—THE TECH
Joli Wu (viola) and Timothy Roberts (cello) play selected works of Webern and Dvorak at the Art of Music Chamber Players concert yesterday as part of the MIT Chapel series.

Again Resurrected, Spring Concert To Lead Off Spring Weekend Events

By Zareena Hussain
NEWS EDITOR

This year's Spring Weekend marks the resurrection of the once-annual spring concert. The last time a large spring concert was held at the Institute was three years ago, when Sonic Youth came to play in Johnson Athletics Center. Two years ago, Soul Coughing played to a smaller audience in La Sala de Puerto Rico.

The concert is being dubbed the Funk Music Festival and features Fishbone, opening act Five Fingers of Funk, and jazz saxophonist Maceo Parker.

Fishbone, a funk-band which will play second, should appeal to a college-aged audience, said Alicia H. Tan '99, who is organizing the concert. "I think we chose a band that appeals to a large portion of the MIT community."

"They're a little rowdy," said

Christine M. Hartmann '98, co-organizer of Spring Weekend. "They are definitely full of funk."

Maceo Parker, a jazz saxophonist, who has played with the likes of James Brown and the group PFunk, will round out the list of performers.

"We are really excited about being able to bring back big bands this year to MIT," Hartmann said.

The spring concert is being underwritten with a \$30,000 allocation from the Office of the Dean for Students and Undergraduate Education, although other sources of funding from within the Institute, as well as ticket sales, are hoped to offset the cost, Hartmann said.

Last year, a total of just under \$5,000 was invested in Spring Weekend, Hartmann said.

The rise in this year's funding is due to a variety of factors, including the tenacity of Spring Weekend organizers in obtaining funds from

various offices around the Institute.

"A lot of our effort was put in to getting the money," Hartmann said.

Hartmann added that she hoped that some of the \$300,000 allocated for student activities funding next year will be used to help promote Spring Weekend in the coming years.

Students may attend the concert free-of-charge by volunteering to help usher for the concert, Tan said.

A wide variety of events to be held

Spring Weekend, which will be held from April 23 through April 25, boasts a wide variety of events in addition to the spring concert.

Next Thursday, the Undergraduate Association will sponsor a study break in Lobdell.

The always popular International Fair will be held on Friday on

Spring Weekend, Page 18



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

The Princess Puffer (Kathryn A. Getzewich G) and John Jasper (Ryan J. Kershner '98) find unexpected love in one of many possible endings to the Musical Theatre Guild's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, playing last weekend and this weekend in Little Kresge.

The Tech will not publish on Tuesday, April 21 because of the Patriots Day holiday. We will resume our normal publication schedule on Friday, April 24.



Comics

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The faculty discuss new Masters programs in Comparative Media Studies and Ocean Engineering at their monthly meeting.

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WORLD & NATION

China Rejects U.S. Invitation to Join Missile Control Group

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

China recently rebuffed an American arms-control proposal that it should join the main international organization for limiting the spread of missile technology when President Clinton visits Beijing this summer, senior Clinton administration officials say.

By not becoming a member of the 29-nation group, known as the Missile Technology Control Regime, China retains the ability to sell some components or technology for ballistic missiles to countries such as Pakistan and Iran.

Administration officials had hoped an agreement bringing China into the group could be the centerpiece of Clinton's trip in late June. A separate accord on nuclear cooperation was the focal point of Clinton's summit with Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Washington last October.

But now that the idea has fallen through, administration officials are exploring other themes and lesser deals that might be highlighted when Clinton goes to China. One point administration officials say they will stress, for example, is that Clinton's trip will be the first chance for a top-level meeting with China's dynamic new Premier Zhu Rongji.

U.S. to Change the Way It Measures Inflation

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The government's main inflation gauge will be changed to account for the fact that consumers respond to the rising prices of many items by shifting to lower-cost substitutes, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced Thursday.

The announcement marked the end of a series of changes in the consumer price index that were begun in 1995 to correct for the CPI's tendency to overstate the actual rise in the cost of living. The changes affect the vast majority of Americans and the budgets of governments at all levels because the CPI is used to determine cost-of-living adjustments in benefits such as Social Security, and for adjusting features of the income tax such as standard deductions and tax brackets.

When the change announced yesterday is incorporated into the CPI next January, the cumulative effect of all the revisions will be to trim the annual increase in the index by roughly eight-tenths of a percentage point.

The latest change, which will shave about two-tenths of a percentage point from the reported inflation rate, is designed to reflect shoppers' natural tendency to alter their purchasing patterns when the price of an item rises faster than an available substitute.

Starr Declines Pepperdine Job

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr said Thursday that with "the end not yet in sight" for his investigation, he has scrubbed his plans of eventually taking a post at Pepperdine University.

Facing reporters on the steps of the federal courthouse, Starr also fired a shot back at the Justice Department and asserted that his office could more credibly investigate an Arkansas woman's claims that Whitewater witness David Hale received money from conservatives trying to discredit President Clinton.

In a letter Thursday to Attorney General Janet Reno every bit as pointed as the one he received last week from Deputy Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., Starr wrote that while his office has "at most the appearance of a conflict of interest" in investigating the Hale claims, the Justice Department "may have not only an appearance problem but multiple actual conflicts of interest."

Starr's unusual news conference was the first of what he and his new public information counselor, Charles Bakaly, said will be more regular sessions with reporters. Starr said he increasingly saw the need to respond to what he called "misinformation" about the independent counsel's office, even as he tried to conduct the investigation in secret.

WEATHER

Long Weekend Lowdown

By Marek Zebrowski
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Spring showers and thunder are likely ahead of a vigorous cold front approaching our area from the west during Friday. A small cell of high pressure will then build for Saturday and early Sunday, bringing clearing skies and noticeably cooler temperatures. However, as the aforesaid cold front stalls, bisecting the Southeast, a new disturbance will form in deep South and proceed alongside, entering the Ohio Valley by late Sunday. As this low continues to move slowly towards the northeast and, eventually, offshore, the unsettled weather will return for Marathon Monday, with chilly rains and biting onshore winds. More cool weather will follow the passage of this weather lowlight as the long weekend ends.

Today: Mostly cloudy with a few sunny breaks possible. Warm and becoming windy, with fresh southwesterly breezes. Some downpours and strong thunderstorms will cross the area in the afternoon. High 70°F (21°C).

Tonight: Cloudy, with showers ending late. Winds turning to northwest. Low 48°F (9°C).

Saturday: Becoming partly to mostly sunny and pleasant. High 64°F (18°C).

Sunday outlook: Increasing high clouds; winds slowly turning onshore. Highs in low to mid 50s (11-13°C), lows in mid to upper 40s (6-9°C).

Khmer Rouge Head Pol Pot Dies in Cambodia at Age 73

By Keith B. Richburg

THE WASHINGTON POST

HONG KONG

Twenty-three years after his black pajama-clad guerrillas marched into Cambodia's capital and launched one of this century's most horrific genocides, Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot died quietly Wednesday on a flowered mattress in a wooden-slat hut.

Televised footage from the Khmer Rouge's jungle haven Thursday night showed Pol Pot's lifeless body, arms at the sides, stretched out on a simple wooden bed, a green blanket partially covering his legs and his plastic sandals at the bedside. The former dictator's body lay where his wife discovered it when she went to arrange his mosquito netting.

American journalist Nate Thayer, a correspondent for the Hong Kong-based Far Eastern Economic Review, returned to Thailand from the Cambodian jungle Thursday night and said he had no doubt that Pol Pot was dead. "He's dead," Thayer said in a telephone interview. "That was Pol Pot. There was no question that was Pol Pot."

Thayer said he spent several hours questioning Pol Pot's wife and daughter, as well as Ta Mok, the Khmer Rouge commander who replaced Pol Pot as head of the outlawed guerrilla group, and said he believed the Khmer Rouge reports that Pol Pot, 73, died of natural causes. Thayer also said he inspected the body, poking it several times, and saw no outward evidence of foul play.

"He'd been fleeing for the last

20 days under very difficult circumstances," Thayer said. "It would be very logical that he would succumb because he was a very sick man to begin with."

In the last known film of him taken in July, a white-haired Pol Pot appeared frail and sickly, suffering from malaria and unable to walk without assistance.

Thai officials in Bangkok had been cautious in assessing reports of the death of the dictator deemed responsible for the deaths of between 1.5 million and 2 million Cambodians. "We are still awaiting independent verification, but everything points to it being true, that Pol Pot is dead," said Kobsak Chutikul, the Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Officials in Bangkok sent a military team to verify the death reports, and they took a handful of Thai journalists whose television footage has now been broadcast worldwide.

In Phnom Penh, which was celebrating the end of the Khmer new year's holiday, officials demanded to see Pol Pot's body before accepting the news of his demise. Local Cambodian radio and television carried no reports about Pol Pot's death, and those Cambodians informed about the news by journalists seeking comment were mostly skeptical, saying they had heard it too many times before.

Fueling the skepticism was the extraordinary coincidence of his passing, which came as the Clinton administration was gaining international support to put Pol Pot on trial, with the remaining Khmer Rouge troops seemingly ready to turn over their longtime leader.

"I don't want to believe that he's dead, and I don't have time in my life to believe Khmer Rouge propaganda anymore," said Youk Chhang, director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia, which has been compiling genocide evidence for use at a tribunal.

"If he's dead, hand over his body to the people, don't just take photographs," said Youk Chhang, interviewed by telephone in Phnom Penh. "I want to see him handcuffed and pushed into a jail, like his cadres did to me 20 years ago."

Youk Chhang expressed the frustration of many that Pol Pot's death has now robbed the world of the chance to force him to answer for his crimes.

"Those who survived and suffered through his genocide are never really going to have closure," said American journalist Sidney Schanberg, whose Cambodia memoir produced the movie "The Killing Fields."

U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin said that Pol Pot's death should not end efforts to bring other Khmer Rouge leaders to justice.

"The senior leaders fully share responsibility for what occurred and those responsible for crimes of that kind should be prosecuted," he said.

His death comes on the eve of the April 17, 1975, anniversary of the Khmer Rouge takeover of Phnom Penh. The government of Thailand said that it had been planning to announce Thursday that Bangkok was ready to enter into further discussions with Washington on apprehending Pol Pot.

Researchers Find Way to Fight Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria

By Thomas H. Maugh II

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A revolutionary way to combat deadly antibiotic-resistant "superbugs" has been developed by researchers at the University of California, Davis, perhaps paving the way for a new class of drugs to supplement antibiotics.

The researchers have made an end-run around the ability of bacteria to resist antibiotics by attacking the mechanism through which they release toxins, rather than killing the bacteria. It is these toxins, rather than the bacterial infection itself, that destroy tissues and impair vital organs, leading to serious illness and death.

Working with the bacterium "Staphylococcus aureus," which infects as many as 500,000 hospitalized Americans yearly, they have identified a key protein that enables the micro-organism to release its toxins. Immunizing mice with this protein protects them from the lethal effects of a staph infection, the team reports Friday in the journal *Science*.

And because the treatment does not kill the bacteria, as do antibiotics, it is unlikely that they will be able to develop resistance to it.

"This opens a whole new strategy for treating or preventing one of the most serious hospital infections we contend with," said infectious disease specialist Julie Gerberding of the University of California, San Francisco.

Other bacteria, furthermore, almost certainly use an identical or similar mechanism for releasing their toxins, noted Dr. Naomi Balaban of UC Davis, so this approach might work across a broad spectrum of infections.

"The implications are pretty enormous," said Dr. Scott Harkonen of InterMune Pharmaceuticals Inc. in Palo Alto, Calif. "We need some breakthrough approaches to controlling these infections."

Physicians have been in a life-and-death race with bacteria since penicillin was first used during World War II. As soon as researchers introduce a new antibiotic, bacteria begin developing resistance to it. Often, the useful life of an antibiotic may be as little as 10 years.

S. aureus is a particular problem, because it can be so deadly and because it is common in hospitals. In recent years, physicians have found several strains of *S. aureus* that are resistant to all drugs except a powerful antibiotic called vancomycin.

Last year, they began to see infections that were resistant even to vancomycin, leaving them virtually helpless in treating the patients. Even though more powerful drugs than vancomycin are in development, it appears that the mutational ability of the bacteria may be out-running the innovations of chemists.

Balaban's team has taken a completely different approach to controlling the infections.

Several years ago, while working in the lab of microbiologist Richard Novick at the New York University School of Medicine, Balaban discovered a protein called RAP. Each *S. aureus* bacterium secretes a small amount of RAP continuously and has receptors on its surface that measure the amount of RAP in its environment.

As the bacteria proliferate, the amount of RAP increases. Once a critical concentration of RAP is

reached, indicating that the bacteria are becoming crowded, the protein triggers the release of toxins, which destroy tissue and make more room for the expanding bacterial colony.

Balaban reasoned that removing RAP from the bacteria's environment would prevent toxin release. "If you take this molecule from the bacteria, they always think they are in bliss," she said. "And if they are in bliss, they don't have to release toxins and cause disease."

She confirmed her suspicions by comparing cows that have had staph infections with cows that had not. The healthy cows had naturally occurring antibodies against RAP, while those that were infected had none.

She and colleagues at Davis, the University of Maryland and Panorama Research Inc. in Mountain View, Calif., then immunized mice with RAP before injecting them with a virulent strain of *S. aureus* that produces lesions on the skin called cellulitis. Seventy percent of the mice developed no lesions, and the remainder had lesions that were much smaller than normal.

The team also studied a mutant, nonlethal strain of *S. aureus* and found that it produces a different protein, called RIP, that binds to the bacterium and prevents it from recognizing RAP. Injections of this protein in mice also prevented them from developing lesions.

The approach is so promising that the National Institutes of Health last month gave Panorama a \$100,000 grant to begin developing a vaccine for humans. But Balaban cautioned that it could be several years before clinical trials of a vaccine or a drug might begin.

Paula Jones Vows to Appeal Harassment Case Decision

By Lois Romano
THE WASHINGTON POST

DALLAS

A teary Paula Jones, barely able to compose herself, announced Thursday that she will appeal a federal judge's ruling that her sexual harassment case against President Clinton has no merit.

"I have not come this far to see the law let men who have done such things dodge their responsibility," said Jones. "I believe what Mr. Clinton did to me was wrong, and the law protects women who are subjected to that kind of abuse of power."

It was one of the few times the public has heard Jones speak since she alleged in a 1994 civil lawsuit that Clinton had dropped his pants and asked her for oral sex in a Little Rock, Ark., hotel room on May 8, 1991, when she was a low-level state employee and he was governor of Arkansas.

U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright threw out Jones' case on April 1, saying that

Clinton's alleged behavior may have been "boorish and offensive" but did not constitute sexual harassment. Jones said nothing in the wake of Wright's decision until Thursday, when she and her lawyers made clear they would continue to press the legal battle surrounding President Clinton's personal life to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals as he finishes his remaining 2 years in office.

While many legal experts said Jones faces an uphill battle, the case could make its way again to the Supreme Court, which already set one precedent last year by decreeing that the Jones lawsuit could proceed while Clinton was in office.

Clinton's attorney, Robert S. Bennett, issued a statement repeating that Clinton "unequivocally" denied Jones' allegations. "We are confident that the appellate court will not permit Paula Jones and her supporters to pursue this case," he said. "It is unfortunate that our legal system can nonetheless continue to be abused by Mrs. Jones's political

and financial supporters who wish to harm the president."

White House aides said they were confident the appeal would do little to Clinton's political standing because the public already has made its judgment on Jones and her allegations. "Politically, it's over," said presidential counselor Paul Begala. "I don't want to speak ill of the dead and this case is dead."

In Wright's April 1 ruling, the judge maintained that Jones had failed to prove that she was damaged — either personally or professionally — by Clinton's alleged sexual overture, meaning that there were "no genuine issues for trial." The case had been scheduled to go to trial next month.

Wright diminished the encounter as a single incident that fell far below the legal standard needed to establish a "hostile workplace" in a harassment case.

"There is no 'one free flash' rule recognized in the law," responded Donovan Campbell Jr., Jones lead attorney.

Congo Massacre Probe Pullback Seen as Human Rights Setback

By Craig Turner
LOS ANGELES TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

The decision to pull back a U.N. investigation into the massacre of refugees in the Congo — after the government there refused to cooperate with it — deals a setback to the Clinton administration's Africa policy and to U.N. efforts to put human rights at the center of the international agenda.

The Congolese obstruction of the investigation came despite the efforts of Bill Richardson, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, who traveled twice to Africa last year in attempts to get President Laurent Kabila of the Congo to cooperate in the probe. It also is a blow to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who changed U.N. policy in an attempt to overcome Kabila's objections.

The United Nations began withdrawing its 26-member team Wednesday and expects to make a formal announcement Friday after the Congolese government officially is informed. Annan said the inquiry will continue but will be based at the U.N.'s European headquarters in Geneva rather than in the Congo.

"The search for the truth will continue," Annan said. He denied

that the effort had been a failure and said it illustrates "how difficult it is to get to the facts, to get governments to cooperate in these situations where human rights are at stake. We will probably have to think of other sorts of creative means to get to the truth."

The reversal comes as the administration has drawn new attention to its Africa policy with President Clinton's recent visit to the continent.

Richardson was Washington's point man in the move to embrace Kabila last year as his rebel army supported by forces from neighboring Rwanda and Uganda overthrew longtime dictator Mobutu Sese Seko. Richardson met with Kabila even before he had displaced Mobutu, and, according to a senior U.S. official, helped establish an ongoing U.S. communications link with Kabila's forces during the final drive to the capital of Kinshasa.

After Mobutu's fall, State Department officials characterized Kabila as one of a new generation of Central African leaders supportive of market economies and pluralistic societies, if not enamored of multiparty democracies.

But Kabila has broken his promises to Richardson and Annan

to cooperate in the U.N. human-rights investigation and cracked down on peaceful opposition to his rule. Recent reports by the United Nations and private human-rights groups have compared his human-rights abuses to those carried out by Mobutu.

American and European government officials have warned Kabila that economic aid to the country may be conditioned on his cooperation with the agreement.

In appointing the U.N. investigative team last year, Annan took the unusual step of replacing the expert already appointed to conduct the probe because Kabila had objected to his presence. Annan was accused by human-rights groups of caving in to U.S. pressure to accommodate Kabila.

According to U.N. reports, Congolese officials intimidated witnesses, organized demonstrations to block investigative access to suspected mass graves and delayed providing necessary security and transport. Christopher Harland, a Canadian member of the team, was detained overnight by authorities.

U.S. and U.N. officials have expressed concern for the safety of witnesses who have talked to investigators once the team is removed.

1980 Philip Morris Memo Outlined Need to Conceal Nicotine Studies

By Sandra Torry
THE WASHINGTON POST

Fifteen years before the Food and Drug Administration made its controversial move to regulate cigarettes, industry giant Philip Morris already was strategizing to hide studies that might encourage what it feared was the government's intention, according to a 1980 document introduced in Minnesota's lawsuit against the industry.

The document — one of a cache of hotly disputed papers unsealed by the Supreme Court last week — discusses a company legal strategy to conceal research that might aid efforts to transfer tobacco regulation to the FDA, which "was known to have interests and powers antithetical" to the industry's interests.

Although the document, written by a leading Philip Morris scientist to a top company executive, indicates that some of the studies would go forward, it adds, "Our attorneys, however, will likely continue to insist upon a clandestine effort in order to keep nicotine the drug in

low profile."

"The psychopharmacology of nicotine... is where the action is for those doing fundamental research on smoking, and from where most likely will come significant scientific developments profoundly influencing the industry. Yet it is where our attorneys least want us to be," he wrote.

Since the FDA moved in 1995 to regulate cigarettes as a combination drug and drug-delivery "device," the industry has argued that the agency does not have jurisdiction, in part because cigarettes do not fit the statutory definition of drugs or drug-delivery devices as defined by the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The industry's challenge to the FDA's proposed set of regulations is pending before a federal appeals court.

Former FDA commissioner David A. Kessler, who initiated the agency's move to regulate tobacco, said the memo was "stronger than anything else I have seen," apparently indicating the industry "knew and acknowledged that nicotine was

a drug ... long before we did."

"Here you have a memo that lays out them saying it (nicotine) is a drug" and that "they have to cover it up," Kessler said. "The hard thing to understand, in light of this memo, is how the lawyers for the industry have denied the fact that nicotine is a drug." For years, the industry has argued that nicotine as it naturally occurs in tobacco should not be regulated as a drug.

The 1980 memo to Robert B. Seligman, a former company vice president, also states that industry attorneys have advised against research into the health risks of smoking because it likely would be used against cigarette makers in lawsuits by the heirs of deceased smokers.

Philip Morris scientist William L. Dunn, the memo's author and a leading expert on the effects of nicotine, describes the industry's general legal defense strategy this way: "We within the industry are ignorant of any relationship between smoking and disease."

Clinton Hails Chilean Partnership

THE WASHINGTON POST

SANTIAGO, CHILE

In the same presidential palace where socialist President Salvador Allende died in a CIA-encouraged military coup nearly 25 years ago, President Clinton Thursday hailed the "tides of change" that have converted Chile into a "partner and friend for the United States."

Clinton met at La Moneda palace with Chilean President Eduardo Frei at the start of a state visit focused on themes similar to those he pursued in Africa last month — trade, education, the environment and access to credit for aspiring entrepreneurs.

With Chile and other Latin American states, as with Russia, Vietnam and Angola, Clinton has sought to rethink the nature of U.S. relations with other countries. As he travels the world now, Clinton the president sounds much like Clinton the candidate stumping the United States in 1992, stressing economic opportunity rather than strategic alignment as the key to stability. In Frei, he said, he has found a leader who fully shares his views. Clinton praised "the astonishing record established by Chile in the last few years in economic and political terms." Frei said his visit to Washington last year and Clinton's reciprocal visit here "reflect the new level of maturity that relations between our two countries have achieved."

Repair Proposal Is Extended Beyond TWA Flight 800 Jets

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Fixes to prevent the sort of fuel-tank explosion in 1996 that brought down Trans World Airlines Flight 800 — a Boeing 747 jumbo jet — were proposed Thursday for another Boeing jetliner, the widely used 737.

The estimated cost of complying with the proposal to rework the fuel-sensor wiring systems on 1,140 of the U.S.-registered, narrow-body 737 jetliners is about \$41 million. The FAA said that an order mandating the repairs and installations on 737-100, -200, -300, -400 and -500 series planes probably would be handed down in about 45 days.

Once the order is issued, airlines then would have a year to complete the work. About 2,800 of the 100 through 500 series 737s are in use around the globe, making them the most widely used transport aircraft in the world. Last week, the National Transportation Safety Board, reacting to suspect wiring found in the wreckage of TWA Flight 800 and on some other 747s, urged the FAA to order inspections of fuel-sensor wiring systems on about 650 of the wide-body jets.

The NTSB still has not determined what touched off the center fuel-tank explosion that tore Flight 800 apart a few minutes after it had taken off from New York, killing all 230 on board. However, NTSB investigators have said that a power surge in normally low-voltage fuel-sensor wiring that somehow had been stripped of protective insulation might have caused a spark that triggered the blast on the 747.

Study Uncovers Wide Gap Between Races in Internet Usage Levels

LOS ANGELES TIMES

At a time when the Internet is growing faster than any other communications system in history, there is a "troubling" racial divide in how readily blacks can access the global computer network, researchers said Thursday.

In the first survey of its kind, a team of Vanderbilt University management experts compared whites and blacks of equal education and income. They found that whites were much more likely to own a home computer and to use the World Wide Web regularly.

The digital divide was greatest among high school and college students, the Vanderbilt researchers found.

"The gap is huge," said Stanford University telecommunications expert Francois Bar, who studies Internet access. "It reinforces inequalities."

The study found that white students were more than twice as likely to own a home computer, even when household income was taken into account. Less than one-third of black students owned a home computer, compared to almost three-quarters of the white students, according to the study, which is published Friday in *Science*.

And white students who did not own a home computer still were more likely to access the Web from other locations, the researchers said. They were three times more likely to have used the Web recently than black students in the same situation.

Jewish Student Accuses Harvard Newspaper of Religious Bias

THE WASHINGTON POST

Through the years, they have grappled with problems of gender, race and even income when sizing up their staff. But as editors at the Harvard *Crimson* took stock of things last fall, they were confronted with a debate about whether their editorial page staff was too heavily Jewish.

Editors at the 125-year-old student newspaper found that eight of the daily publication's 10 columnists were Jewish, a figure they saw as evidence of the *Crimson's* failure to represent the full range of views in the university community. Their solution: Hire editorial chairmen with a commitment to diversity. The new bosses later expanded the number of columnists to 16 and added more space for opinion pieces, which allowed for new Muslim, black and female voices on the editorial page.

But those decisions, made in the name of inclusiveness, have ignited a small furor on the Harvard campus after junior Justin Danilewitz claimed he was rejected for the prestigious post as chairman of the paper's five-person editorial board because he is Jewish.

Although the two students chosen for the job coveted by Danilewitz are themselves Jewish, he believes they were selected only because they shared the view that too many Jewish opinion writers is not a good thing. Danilewitz aired his views in the current issue of the American Jewish Committee journal *Commentary*, drawing national attention to his cause.

OPINION

Empty Alcohol Policy

Earlier this week, the administration congratulated itself through a *Tech Talk* article which said that a dialogue between students and administrators has led to a return in normal campus affairs through the new alcohol policies.

Editorial

We do not believe that the time for congratulation has arrived because, in fact, a dialogue has not yet occurred. The administration has made an effort to educate students about the current alcohol policy through open houses and question and answer sessions, but an information session can never replace substantive conversation. To hold an authentic dialogue with the entire MIT community, administrators need to solicit input on what the policies should be. They have not done this. Instead, students have asked questions and administrators have answered them. While this process has led to some changes in the alcohol policy, students have played no role in the decision-making process.

The Dean's Office has done little to encourage discussion. Over the past few months, there have not been publicized meetings to solicit input on the interim alcohol policy, implemented in January. For effective dialogue to occur, the Dean's Office must extensively publicize meetings between students and administrators and actually take student input into account when making policies. Without visible progress on alcohol policies, students will not have any reason to attend open meetings.

Deans must also consider the way in which they hold meetings. To date, the forums have been at best sparsely attended. Members of the Dean's Office need to make a significant effort to understand, and participate in, student life.

Other recent groups have achieved success in contacting a large percentage of the student body. The Dining Review Working Group visited every dormitory and several fraternities last year, gaining valuable input by visiting students where it matters most — in their living group. Members of the group working on alcohol policy could gain far more valuable input from a better cross-section of the Institute by moving their meetings to dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. When the meetings are close to where they live, students will attend them more often.

Moreover, members of the group need to understand better the undergraduate experience in general. The article notes the return of alcohol to campus and says that student life has been improving over the past few months. Yet the new alcohol policy has made it more difficult to hold events, both with and without alcohol, and no other substantive steps have been taken to improve the campus social life. The administration's claim sounds like nothing but self-promotion.

The Tech has consistently said that there are important alcohol-related issues that need to be dealt with in the coming months. The confidentiality of medical transports, the vague punishment guidelines for alcohol offenses, and the need for more on-campus events all require frank discussion between students and administrators. The discussion is not yet over, and we are disappointed that the Dean's Office has decided to congratulate itself on the progress of the dialogue. This is just rhetoric: true dialogue requires that parties come to the table with open minds and prepared to make concessions. The Dean's Office needs to stop making unilateral statements of policy and start discussing these issues with students, so that campus life in general can improve.

Letters To The Editor

Housing Booklets Cheat Pre-Frosh

Well, it looks as if Residence and Campus Activities has already started to cheat next year's freshmen out of a fair, sane housing selection. Why should putting together a comprehensive housing booklet be such a hard thing for MIT to do? If our administrators say that they're committed to making next year's process better, now is exactly the time to show us they're not going to get bogged down in tough decisions like whether dormitories should be left out to save the prefrosh from "a crateload of papers." Believe me, baby, there's more on the way.

Baruch P. Feldman '01

GSC Makes Many Contributions To Student Life

In the April 14 issue of *The Tech*, its editorial board comments, "In the wake of provost's long-sought allocation to student activities, [Graduate Student Council] whines it wants more of the pie..." We are not clear on what prompted a portrayal of graduate student concerns as "whining," but, in any case, would like to take this opportunity to make clear the contributions made by the many organizations that are made up of graduate students, who represent a majority of MIT students.

The GSC helped fund dozens of student groups this year. The Arab Students Organization, Canadians Club, European Club, Lebanese Club, Sri Lankan Students Association, and Singapore Students Society all received significant funds from the GSC. These organizations (and many others like them) provide a wealth of cultural enrichment to the MIT community.

Dances, films, theater presentations, seminars, picnics featuring ethnic foods, and many other events entertain us and educate us about the diverse communities that our

fellow students call home. The American Nuclear Society, Mechanical Engineering Graduate Association of Women, and Women in Chemistry also received funding from the GSC this year. These organizations play important roles in nurturing the academic and professional development of MIT students.

The Graduate Christian Fellowship, Graduate Hillel, and the Muslim Student Association provide supportive environments for spiritual expression. The Graduate Soccer Club, Men's Rugby Football, MIT Sloan Crew, and others organize athletic events for a wide range of interests.

These groups manage to organize an impressive range of activities with an unfortunately small amount of money. While the GSC would like to fully fund worthy organizations and events, we receive requests for funding that total many times our budget.

Consequently, the GSC works hard to locate additional sources of funding in order to facilitate the efforts of these groups to enrich MIT community life. In so doing, we hope our advocacy of graduate student groups is not mistakenly portrayed as whining but rather is recognized as the united, firm voice of graduate students.

Carsten D. Hohnke G
GSC Treasurer-Elect

Graduate Student Clubs Deserve More

"In the wake of provost's long-sought allocation to student activities, [Graduate Student Council] whines it wants more of the pie," reads the Institutional Wisdom Watch from the April 14 issue of *The Tech*. As the President of the MIT European Club, I must say that I can only hope that their "whining" will get the GSC and thus graduate student clubs their fair share of the pie.

The European Club, with 800 members, is one of the largest and most active student groups on campus. We average about two events per week, ranging from movie nights over parties to rafting and skiing trips. While

we are open to every member of the MIT community, our members are mostly graduate students, meaning that we have to turn to the GSC to support our many events.

Thanks to GSC funding we are able to fund activities such as a welcome barbecue for 150 people each fall and movie nights and concert tours which easily draw a total of several hundred people every semester. All of these events are open to all graduate students and the strong attendance shows that — believe it or not — graduate students, like undergraduates, enjoy participating in extracurricular activities.

Or at least they'd like to: Every semester, we (along with many other graduate student clubs) have to make do with only part of the money we applied for due to lack of funds. This problem has forced us to downsize some of our events, even as demand is growing. While the majority of students at MIT are graduate students, their clubs receive only a fraction of the funding allocated to undergraduate student clubs. Therefore, we strongly support the efforts of the GSC to ensure a fair allocation of funding for student activities to graduate student clubs.

Maximilian K. Riesenhuber G
President, MIT European Club

Lighting Already Good

Wow, here is a new low in *The Tech*: a column by Elaine Y. Wan '01 ["Let There Be Light," April 10] that basically says MIT should improve its lighting by joining the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Lights program. Of course, some of us remember that MIT completed the Green Lights program a few years ago.

The lighting was changed nearly everywhere on campus, including in lecture halls and libraries as Wan suggests. If I recall correctly, one area that was not redone was the fourth floor of the Student Center, because student activities (probably including *The Tech*) wanted at least one relaxing dim place on campus.

Richard J. Barbalace '97



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Wealth-Based Affirmative Action

Naveen Sunkavally

Affirmative action is a touchy issue. It bears many little tentacles that probe and prod at our values and emotions. It casts lingering doubts, raises suspicions, and engenders fierce diatribe. Nearly 30 years after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., the issue provides a perfect test of America's racial climate and progress.

Recently, the University of California announced statistics about students who applied for admission this fall at UC Berkeley and University of California at Los Angeles, two of the best public educational institutions in the nation. At Berkeley, the number of black applicants dropped 50 percent from the year before, while the number of Hispanic applicants dropped 40 percent. At UCLA, there was a 43 percent decline in black applicants and a 33 percent decline in Hispanic applicants. The change in applicant numbers was brought about by a statewide vote the year before to ban affirmative action from employment and college considerations. As a direct result, numbers of minority students attending these universities has also declined.

Is such a distribution fair? Is this a value that California — and the American government, as a consequence of accepting California's decision — seek to uphold? What price diversity?

To assess affirmative action, one must first form a concrete definition of "intelligence," or

what constitutes a "qualification." A common argument against affirmative action argues that it would be unfair to replace the more non-minority "qualified" candidate with a less "qualified" minority candidate. But what exactly is a more "qualified" candidate?

In university admissions, especially at UC Berkeley, a more qualified candidate has higher Scholastic Achievement Test scores, challenges himself or herself by taking more advanced classes and usually attends a better high school. But those who attend better schools are necessarily predominantly white, since those who attend better schools have more income or live in more wealthy neighborhoods that support better schools. These better schools usually offer more opportunities for student advancement, and those students who attend better schools have better chance for advancement.

The SAT, though more of a test of one's test-taking skills, is still the most valid test of education America has today. No other alternatives have come up to replace it. But the SAT tests only knowledge gained from extensive reading and math preparation, not innate intelligence or potential. Thus an average student who attends a better school — a student who is also more likely to be white — will more likely perform better on the SAT than a student who attends the poorer school. Moreover, less "qualified" applicants usually tend to spend more time working on the job, recouping financial aid and loans, than on studies.

Is it fair for more qualified students — who through no merit of their own — attend better schools to be favored over less "qualified" applicants who through no fault of their own attend poorer schools? Clearly, intelligence or what is "qualified" must be defined

in terms of academic potential, a thing that does not come through in SAT scores, grade point averages, or the taking of advanced classes.

This is where affirmative action comes in. It provides a way to compensate those minority applicants who usually attend poorer schools and have fewer opportunities. It is a noble endeavor in this aspect.

However, affirmative action would be a more noble endeavor if it compensated applicants not based on their race but on their poverty level. Clearly, a wealthy black student who attends an elite school should not be given preference to a poor white student who attends a less elite school. Ideal affirmative action would work to improve not the racial status of those accepted but the wealth distribution of those accepted. The results of ideal affirmative action will invariably be the same as affirmative action now, since poorer students are also more likely of the minority than not, but the system of admissions — from acceptance based on race to acceptance based on wealth — would change dramatically.

I agree with opponents of affirmative action that universities should admit the most "qualified" students. But the more "qualified" student is one who demonstrates more academic potential, not performance on SAT tests, advanced classes, etc. "Qualified" applicants, according to the reformed definition, are dispersed within the population in all income levels, and a university should endeavor to find the most "qualified" applicants from all these levels. And ideal affirmative action, though its goal is not improving diversity, would have the added benefit of improving diversity since those from poorer classes are necessarily more likely to be of the minority.

A Cultured Red Sox Nation

Dan Dunn

I am a white boy. I know, when you look at the picture I look like a wooden Pinnocchio boy, but trust me, I'm white. As you have probably noticed, Boston, and the rest of New England, is pretty white, too.

But all of this is changing. We, as a group, are becoming Dominican. New England is known, in some circles, as Red Sox Nation.

Let me describe Red Sox Nation to you. It is a term to describe the millions of people who are waiting for that day when the Red Sox reclaim their World Series. The members know every player and listen to every game. They have opinions on every person, every decision, and every play. They go though life waiting, waiting, waiting for The Year.

My grandmother is a member of Red Sox Nation. She sends me letters every so often — she only lives a few miles away, but you know how it is. Three pages will be about the Sox, and one about my new cousin. We have our priorities, and Red Sox are number one.

Red Sox Nation includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and parts of Connecticut.

*Can you see the grandparents,
and even great-grandparents,
who only want to see the
Red Sox win
before they die?*

Somewhere, there is a line in Connecticut where the evil Yankees begin to hold sway. Red Sox Nation encompasses a lot of people, but, now, in all its "whiteness," it is finding a whole new way to look at things.

Pedro Martinez is in town, and he is here to stay. The Red Sox spent \$75 million to bring this man to Fenway. He appeared for the first time on Saturday, and the event was pure electricity.

First of all, the man pitched a game of complete dominance against the Seattle Mariners. He pitched all nine innings without giving up a run. Moreover, he only gave up two hits — neither of which was much to look at. This 160-pound weakling kept 1997's highest scoring team locked in a cage, and he made it seem effortless.

Can you feel the hope that this man brings to Red Sox Nation? Can you see the grandparents, and even great-grandparents, who only want to see the Red Sox win before they die? They have new hope. Pedro is in town.

Second of all, he brought a new crowd to Fenway. The stands were filled with Dominicans, screaming their lungs out. Pedro got a strikeout; the crowd went wild. Pedro got an out; the crowd went wild. Pedro finished an inning; the crowd went wild. Pedro stood up; the crowd went wild.

And not only would the fans scream and shout, but they would also wave Dominican flags wildly in the air. I have never seen anything but a few Fourth of July flags in the park. But Saturday, Fenway was a sea of red, white, and blue — and not in the usual order.

This is Pedro's biggest effect. He is bringing about the merger of the Dominican Republic and Red Sox Nation. This is not an easy task, but can you imagine the result? Hundreds of thousands of a formerly white people, now a part of a multicultural people. It is something to watch.

I grew up in New Hampshire, where my father was from. My mother is from Boston. I was born in Cambridge and have lived my life in New Hampshire. That makes me a Red Sox fan, and it makes me white. (Some claim that both of these are birth defects, but I prefer to think of them as features.)

I am going to the game again today with my fraternity. I have bought a new possession. I will display it while screaming wildly. I will be waving a flag of the Dominican Republic.

Regulating Malicious Motorists on Mass. Ave.

Michael J. Ring

A local legend purports that the first surveyors in Boston were cows. Back in the 17th century, claims the tale, the cows would



enjoy grazing on the Common. At the end of the day, the bovines would blaze curving, narrow paths leading back to their respective barns. The city later decided to pave over the cow paths, thus forming the metropolitan street grid.

While the steady hooves of those ancient cattle do seem apparent in some quarters of the city, our immediate environs elicit the entirely opposite observation. Massachusetts Avenue, a full six car-widths wide from the Charles River to Lafayette Square, rends the Institute asunder. Likewise, the speedway parallel to the river known as Memorial Drive severs the MIT community from the banks of the Charles. With two pedestrian fatalities and a litany of smaller accidents on these thoroughfares in this academic year alone, it is intuitively obvious that major traffic-calming work is in order.

While much of the present discussion has focused on improving safety on Memorial Drive, enhancing safety on Massachusetts Avenue is just as important. Those of us who inhabit west campus must traverse this cavernous artery at least twice a day, and most of us will need to make four crossings. Daily pedestrian traffic numbers in the thousands, and the ever-common speeding motorists or guerrilla drivers attempting to sneak through a red light could be even more of a danger on Massachusetts Avenue.

One immediate solution that would greatly improve our chances of avoiding a third disaster is to increase police patrols on both these streets and vigorously enforce the current traffic laws. The Campus Police can do a much better job in enforcing the current traffic laws governing the streets traversing campus. It seems that not a day goes by when I fail to see an officer ticketing vehicles without parking permits on Amherst Street. Yet just as frequently, I see a speeding car on Massachusetts Avenue pass a red light without repercussions.

Are moving violations less of a priority to the Campus Police than parking tickets are? A

stronger commitment from the Campus Police to the zealous enforcement of traffic regulations would vastly improve pedestrian safety in and around campus.

Unfortunately, there are few other solutions which MIT can implement directly to avert another senseless pedestrian accident. The Institute has a serious responsibility, however, to lobby the City of Cambridge and the Metropolitan District Commission to take all actions necessary and proper to avert another tragedy. The following proposals would satisfy these goals.

Crosswalk safety must be augmented on both Massachusetts Avenue and Memorial Drive. Our best solution is to borrow a French initiative used to tame that country's notoriously aggressive drivers. In France many crosswalks are placed on the top of a wide, gently rounding speed bump elevated about a foot from the street. This elegant device is effective in slowing the flow of traffic at busy street crossings, improving the safety of those traveling by foot. Such devices



should be implemented at the crosswalks on Memorial Drive, as well as the heavily traversed crosswalks at 77 Massachusetts Ave. and Massachusetts Avenue at Amherst Street.

As pedestrian traffic is extremely heavy in the area, speed limits of 30 mph and above are simply inadequate to protect the safety of those walking in the area. The speed limit on Massachusetts Avenue from the river as far north as Vassar Street should be reduced to 20 miles per hour. This is consistent with Massachusetts law for speed limit in a school zone.

The reasoning for such an action is simple: a lower speed limit would help prevent

motorists from being involved in another pedestrian tragedy. The low speed limit insures the protection of those crossing the street, especially those crossing busy highways. As there is no street more traveled in Cambridge than Massachusetts Avenue, and as the pedestrian traffic at MIT remains at high levels all day, only a 20 mph speed limit can properly safeguard those of us whose livelihoods depend on safe passage across that street.

On Memorial Drive, pedestrian traffic is lighter, but the need remains for a speed cut to tame the monsters lurking behind the wheel. Perhaps a speed limit of 25 mph is more appropriate there.

The final, and perhaps most radical, step I propose is to restrict general traffic to one lane in each direction on both Massachusetts Avenue and Memorial Drive. Besides further slowing traffic, this solution will make other transportation alternatives more attractive to the motoring public.

On Massachusetts Avenue, the right lane in both directions between the Charles River and Lafayette Square should be restricted to buses, taxis, and high-occupancy vehicles containing three or more people, leaving all other traffic in the left lane. This solution will not only reduce the speed of traffic by constricting the general flow to one lane, but it will also vastly improve the timeliness of the MBTA buses. The T vehicles will be offered unimpeded flow from University Park to Memorial Drive. Their improved efficiency will render them more attractive for the people living and working along the corridor, thus further cutting the total daily vehicle volume.

Various low bridges and crossings prevent buses from traveling along Memorial Drive. There is no reason, however, why the inner lanes in both directions could not be restricted to taxis and high-occupancy vehicles. Such a constraint will encourage carpooling, again resulting in a decline of traffic volume.

These ideas will only work if there is a commitment from the law enforcement community to enforce these new regulations and punish the offenders. With such a pledge, however, pedestrians in and around the Institute may be assured that the initiatives detailed above will tame the scofflaw motorists and make Memorial Drive and Massachusetts Avenue less intimidating and safer, pedestrian-friendly thoroughfares.

THE ARTS



Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta star in *Grease*.

MOVIE REVIEW

Grease

Pop-culture icon's energy keeps it popular

By Vladimir Zelevinsky
STAFF REPORTER

Starring John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John,
Stockard Channing
Screenplay by Bronte Woodard, based on the
stage musical by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey
Directed by Randal Kleiser

Grease is the word, or rather, *Grease* is the world. A hugely popular movie when first released in 1978, a force behind the best-selling soundtrack for the 20 years since, very successful now in its anniversary rerelease (no, there are no computer-generated characters making cameo appearances; only the soundtrack was remastered) — *Grease* exists in the rarefied strata of pop culture, simultaneously primal and highly postmodern in its appeal, as artificial as the milieu it depicts.

The time is the 1950s, the location is Rydell High School, the characters are a group of high school seniors (gamely played by a mismatched array of 30ish actors), the genre is musical. Danny (limber John Travolta) meets sweet Sandy (Olivia Newton-John) over the summer, then, when the classes start, peer pressure keeps them apart — at least until they work it out and get back together. The above is a highly exhaustive

summary of the plot. The time when Danny and Sandy are falling in love is not chronicled (the opening shot finds them parting on the beach, presumably after a summer spent together). During the rest of the movie, one would expect them braving the barriers between them, but that pretty much isn't shown either. There are a couple of minor quarrels between them (Danny is afraid to admit his affection to Sandy when surrounded by sarcastic pals; however, very shortly, he apologizes, and all is forgiven), but this is definitely not your usual "boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl back" type of story.

Frankly speaking, *Grease* is not much of a story at all — a couple of conflicts are not enough to propel the plot forward, and those conflicts are minor as well. For example, some (not much) screen time is devoted to Danny's leather-wearing, fast-car-driving, Elvis-haired pals fighting another group of leather-wearing, fast-car-driving, Elvis-haired guys, who are bad because — let me think — because, I guess, all of them are chewing gum and none of them is played by John Travolta. This subplot crops up sporadically and is resolved almost off-handedly, which is, actually, true in the case of all subplots.

No, the force that drives the movie forward is something completely different. *Grease* is a musical, and it's not a classic-story-with-songs-added-later type of musical, where the songs are important but not essential. It is an outright, conceived-as-such, owning-the-birthright, gotta-sing-it-or-else type of musical. Song 'n' dance numbers are frequent, eye-grabbing, not highly memorable, but very energetic (perhaps too much so; I would like to hear a couple of slower ones, like "Hopelessly Devoted To You" without the underlying bass beat).

These days, no one makes movie musicals; it seems that the audience can't swallow characters suddenly bursting into song. The only exceptions, of course, are animated musicals where, quite likely, the overall artificiality of what's happening onscreen helps to suspend the disbelief to such a degree that it doesn't really matter that sometime, yes, some singing's got to be done.

And this, possibly, is the best explanation of the enduring popularity of *Grease*: multiple levels of make-believe turning this movie into a pop-culture icon, something that is so removed from any kind of reality that it has to be analyzed solely on its own terms. Let me count the ways. First, it's a movie. Next, it's a musical. Then, the time it depicts can hardly be called the time of natural behavior (just witness the tight leather outfits and ridiculous greased hairdos). Plus, the actors are clearly much older than their characters. Also, the movie is done 20 years after the fact, making it more of a homage to the good old times (1950s). Now, it's re-released, making it a homage to the time when it first came out (1970s). To compound the issue, quite a few scenes cause the sudden recognition as the source of latter cultural and cinematic quotations (yes, this is why Vincent Vega, Travolta's character in *Pulp Fiction*, goes into the 1950s-themed restaurant and orders a burger and a cherry coke) — and the layers of cultural reference build up and hang onto other like multiply-hyphenated words in this review.

But I have to admit that, on its own terms, *Grease* works very well, as well as any good pop song. It's got rhythm. It's about love. It's easy on the eyes and ears. It's all in major key. There are just a few serious notes (all of them, without exception, provided by one and only truly great performance — Stockard Channing as promiscuously tough Rizzo, the leader of Pink Ladies), all of which resolve into the same major chords. In this way, I suppose, *Grease* is truly a classic — a movie for those who can't stand classical music, but would gladly listen for hours to an oldies radio station, where the most important lyrics are "ramalama-dingdong" and the word "Elvis" rhymes solely with "pelvis."

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MOVIE REVIEW

Lost In Space

Lost before it gets off the ground

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky
STAFF REPORTER

Directed by Stephen Hopkins
Written by Akiva Goldsman
Starring William Hurt, Mimi Rogers, Lacey Chabert, Heather Graham, Gary Oldman, Jack Johnson, Matt LeBlanc

The year is 2058, the Earth's resources are depleted, and the planet's government sends out a group of intrepid explorers (who just happen to all belong to one family) on the interstellar spaceship Jupiter 2 to the only habitable star system outside Earth to build a second doorway to a controlled wormhole or something (the first one is being assembled in this solar system), so humanity can colonize the universe. The brave Space Family Robinson blasts out into space and gets lost.

Severely lost. I'm not talking weird new worlds, remote star systems, decrepit spaceship wrecks, or even bubbles of space-time irregularity (although all of the above are in plentiful supply). The Robinsons get lost in the reused, reduced, and recycled stolen and borrowed plots of old science fiction movies, novels, and TV shows (*Lost In Space* is, of course, based on the 1960s TV show of the same name, but it mines a much bigger load of cliches).

Let me see what I can list off the top of my head (and I have to hurry, since the plot is rapidly draining from my memory). To begin with there's an attack on the space station (*Star Wars*); then there's an encounter with a malevolent robot (*The Day The Earth Stood Still*); then we get oodles of technobabble which goes on and on and on, remaining totally meaningless (*Star Trek*); after encountering a mysterious abandoned ship, the crew explores it and — surprise! — encounter some goo-dripping thing lurking there (*Alien*); then it's time to explore a mysterious forest on a forbidding planet (*The Empire Strikes Back*); and, finally, the crew has to deal with nothing less than a full-fledged space-time paradox (*Back to the Future*).

Not only is the script derivative to the highest extent (this extent being 100 percent), it also makes an impression that nobody bothered to go through it more than once. This sorry excuse for a story rumbles along with plot holes in its wake, without a single concern for any kind of thematic coherence, character development, plot arc, or internal logic. The ships, which we are told are out of fuel, can suddenly make hyperspace jumps. Humans can walk through the ripples in the time continuum as easy as through cling wrap. The evil Global Sedition Group (consisting of mutants, of course) is introduced in the first five minutes and totally forgotten after half an hour, and the group is evil, because (gasp!) they intend to go out into space and colonize it, which is exactly the same thing the main characters are bent on doing.

Let's not think about the plot, which I'm sure the filmmakers hoped we would ignore anyway. Let's extend this courtesy to them, and think about something else — the characters, for example. But, on the other hand, let's not think about those either, because there are no characters in this movie — at all. Knowing one thing about a person on screen doesn't make him/her into a character, and the viewers are strongly denied anything more than that.

Professor Robinson (William Hurt, an Oscar winner, believe it or not) ignores his son and has a beard. His wife (Mimi Rogers) is, uh, female; I didn't catch any more character details. His elder daughter Judy (Heather Graham, so good in *Boogie Nights* and so utterly wasted here) is either a physicist or a physician (they call her "doctor"). Younger daughter Penny (Lacey Chabert) keeps a diary, where she records statements like, and I quote verbatim, "Wow!" Will Robinson (Jack Johnson), the youngest kid, is ignored by his dad (well, I guess, they thought this fact is sufficient to flesh out two charac-

ters). The other people on board include Major Don West (Matt LeBlanc, who actually manages to do some acting), flirting with Judy; evil Dr. Smith (Gary Oldman, in his third nut case villain role in a row), going about mumbling and calling himself evil; and, finally, there's also the Robot, who is supposed to be highly intelligent but is clearly a few microchips short of an abacus. Oh, I forgot, there's also a computer-generated monkey, which can change colors, looks utterly fake, obviously cost a lot to render, and has utterly no reason to be in this movie, since it has absolutely nothing to do. On the other hand, the same applies to all female cast as well, so I shouldn't feel so sorry for a computer-generated monkey.

Let's not think about the characters. Let's think about dialogue — or maybe not. While there are a couple of nice lines, most of it is either meaningless technobabble (even Classic *Star Trek* was more realistic), or

groaners like "Robot, let me tell you about friendship."

What about special effects? After all, this is a big budget Hollywood production, and, as such, it should have killer special effects. Well, yes and no — the effects, admittedly, look extra-cool (although some of them also look extra-fake). The level of detail and sophistication on display here is quite staggering — and proves to be way too much. There's so much going on in nearly every effect filled shot that it's impossible to under-

stand what's really happening, which is distracting at first and actively annoying later. The fact that this motion picture is edited into oblivion (most of the shots are around three seconds long, and no longer) also doesn't help.

At least *Lost In Space* is lively and never actually boring; I was highly entertained by this mess. Of course, I should have expected something like this from a movie which has 12 producers and is written by the screenwriter of *Batman and Robin*.

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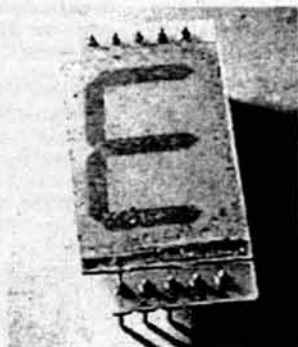
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Seeking Talent!



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We have multiple openings in the area of colloid engineering and chemistry to develop novel inks for electronic ink displays. We desire people with skills in one or more of the following: processes for the production and stabilization of colloidal systems; expertise in the chemical and physical modification of colloidal surfaces; nonaqueous colloids; or the formulation of paints and coatings in highly-loaded systems. MS/Ph.D. in chemistry or chemical engineering.

Molecular Electronics Chemist

Develop novel conductive polymers and composites for use in display devices. The successful candidate will have demonstrated ability at the state-of-the-art in the synthesis and characterization of organic-based conductors, semiconductors, and related devices. Ph.D. plus postdoctoral experience in chemistry strongly preferred.

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Design and build circuits to control displays based on electronic ink. Responsibilities include helping produce product prototypes that utilize electronic ink, involving work in new product design, testing and pilot production support. Good communication skills are desirable. Must have the ability to interact with outside vendors to specify and outsource devices and systems. PC board design experience is a must. Exposure to product engineering and manufacturing methods is also desirable. BS/M.Eng. preferred.

Product Design Engineer

Design, engineer, and build devices based on electronic ink. We are looking for a creative and energetic, hands-on person to help create product prototypes. Strong skills in product design and development are required, as is knowledge of electronics, materials, and optics. Experience in prototyping and manufacturing are a plus. BS/MS in mechanical engineering or equivalent.

Chemists

Join our research team in developing microencapsulation processes and materials for electronic ink. Background in organic chemistry (synthesis plus characterization). Must be able to work across traditional boundaries, with the ability to create and evaluate innovations in electronic ink displays. Experience with microencapsulation is desirable but not necessary. BS/MS in chemistry or chemical engineering with 3+ years experience preferred.

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Openings for energetic people in the areas of chemistry, chemical engineering, physics, and materials science. Work closely with our team of chemists and design engineers to develop electronic ink and novel display products. Wide variety of opportunities, including display construction and evaluation, electro-optical testing, environmental testing, advanced laboratory instruments. Good organizational and communication skills important. BS/MS in relevant fields.

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Popular Music

Avalon

15 Lansdowne St., Boston. Tickets: 931-2000. Information: 262-2424.
 April 17: The Specials + The Electrics. \$15 advance, \$17 day of show.
 April 25: Tori Amos + David Poe. \$27.50. Vouchers on sale at Orpheum Theater box office April 11 at 10 a.m. ONLY, two tickets per customer, picture ID required.
 May 2: Our Lady Peace + Black Lab. \$13.
 May 12: Foo Fighters + Rocket from the Crypt. \$17.50.

Fleet Center

Tickets: 931-2000.
 July 13: Page/Plant. \$50, \$35. On sale 4/18 at 10 a.m.
 Aug. 21: Celine Dion "In the Round" + Andre-Philippe Gagnon. \$60, \$40. On sale 4/20 at 11 a.m.
MDC Hatch Shell
 April 25: WBOS 5th Annual EarthFest '98, featuring Paula Cole + Glenn Frey + 10,000 Maniacs + Marc Cohn + Abra Moore + Dog's Eye View + Chantal Kreviazuk + Max Carl + Big Dance. Info: 787-0929.

Somerville Theater

Davis Square, Cambridge. Tickets: 628-3390 or 931-2000.
 April 17: String Cheese Incident + Jiggle the Handle with Kellar Williams.
 April 23, 24: Guster + Emmett Swimming (23), Mysteries of Life (24).
 April 26: Jonatha Brooke + Dee Carstensen. \$20.
 May 8: Babatunde Olatunji + Abdoul Doumbia and his West African Drum Ensemble.

The Orpheum Theatre

Hamilton Place, Boston. Tickets: 423-NEXT. Information: 679-0810.
 April 24: Medeski, Martin, & Wood + DJ Logic
 May 5, 6: Bonnie Raitt + Keb Mo. \$36, \$26.

Paradise Rock Club

967 Commonwealth Ave., Boston. Tickets: 423-NEXT. Information: 562-8800.
 April 17: Superdrag + Apple in Stereo + Tuscadoro.
 April 18: Chapter in Verse + Ben Swift Band.
 April 22: Lilith Fair Acoustic Talent Search. Interested female fronted acoustic acts send demo, att: Lilith Fair Contest, 36 Bay State Rd., Cambridge, MA 02138.
 April 23: Formula + Radio & Professor + Mission.
 April 29: The Slip + Dr. Didge.
 April 30: Fool's Progress.
 May 2: Robin Trower.
 May 3: The Call + Ramone Silver + Harrod & Funck.

The Middle East

472 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Information: 497-0576.
 April 17: Rippopotamus + Down Low Connection + Rype (members of Chuck & Chucklehead). \$7.
 April 30: Amazing Royal Crowns. \$8.
 May 1: Groovasaurus. \$8.
 May 9: Jiggle the Handle, Rockett Band. \$8 advance, \$10 doors.
 May 23: Skavoovie & the Epitones + Pressure Cooker + Edna's Goldfish. \$7.
Great Woods
 Rt. 140 South Main Street, Mansfield. Tickets: 423-NEXT or 423-6000.
 May 30: KISS Concert. Listen to the station for details.
 May 31: WBCN River Rave. Listen to the station for details.
 June 3, 5 (sold out), 6: James Taylor. \$36 pavilion, \$20 lawn.
 June 12: Stevie Nicks + Boz Scaggs. \$53.50, \$38.50 pavilion, \$25 lawn. On sale April 18 at 9 a.m.
 June 14: The Moody Blues with Festival Orchestra. \$38.50, \$28.50 pavilion, \$21 lawn.
 June 19: Allman Brothers Band. \$38.50, \$28.50 pavilion, \$21 lawn.
 June 20: B-52's + The Pretenders. \$31 pavilion, \$21 lawn.
 June 21: WKLB Boston Country Festival, featuring Randy Travis + Joe Diffie + Martina McBride + Lee Roy Parnell + Jo Dee Messina. \$28.50 pavilion, \$18.50 lawn.
 June 24: Ani DiFranco. \$25 pavilion, \$22 lawn. On sale April 16 at 7 p.m.
 July 1: Further Festival, "The Other Ones" featuring Mickey Hart, Bruce Hornsby, Phil Lesh, Bob Weir, Dave Ellis, Stan Franks, John Molo + Hot Tuna + Rusted Root. On sale May 2 at 11 a.m.
 July 7: Ozzfest, featuring Ozzy

On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston
 April 17 - 25

Compiled by Joel M. Rosenberg

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

Osbourne + Tool + Megadeth + Limp Bizkit + Soulfly + Coal Chamber and 7-Dust + Motorhead + The Melvins + System of a Down + Snot + Incubus + Ultraspank + Kilgore. \$42 reserved, \$28.50 lawn. On sale April 11 at 9 a.m.
 July 8: Spice Girls. On sale April 19 at noon.
 July 18 (sold out), 19: Metallica + Days of the New + Jerry Cantrell. \$43 pavilion, \$31 lawn.
 July 22: Rod Stewart. Info TBA.
 July 23: An Evening with Michael Crawford. \$55, \$45 pavilion, \$25 lawn. On sale May 17 at noon.
 July 24: Smokin' Grooves. Line up TBA. On sale May 2 at noon.
 July 25: Steve Miller Band + Little Feat. \$30 pavilion, \$22.50 lawn. On sale April 25 at 9 a.m.
 July 30: HORDE Festival 1998, featuring Blues Traveler + Barenaked Ladies + Ben Harper + Alana Davis. \$25 all seats. On sale April 25 at 10 a.m.
 July 31: Allman Brothers Band. \$38.50, \$28.50 pavilion, \$23.50 lawn. On sale April 11 at 11 a.m.
 Aug. 8: Deep Purple + Emerson Lake and Palmer. Info TBA.
 Aug. 18: Shania Twain. Info TBA.
 Aug. 26, 28, 30: Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band. All shows sold out.
 Sep. 15, 16 (sold out): \$26.50 all seats.
 Sep. 19: Allman Brothers Band. \$38.50, \$28.50 pavilion, \$23.50 lawn. On sale April 18 at 11 a.m.

Harborlights Pavilion

Fan Pier, Boston. Tickets: 423-NEXT or 423-6000.
 Aug. 26: Vince Gill. \$38.50 and \$28.50.

Classical Music

Boston Symphony Orchestra
 Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. 266-1492, 266-1200. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1:30 p.m. \$23-\$71; rush seats \$7.50 day of concert, on sale Fridays from 9 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. Free tickets for MIT students Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons. Call 638-9478 for ticket availability.
 April 23, 24, 25, 28: Gandolfi, "Points of Departure"; Mozart, Piano Concerto No. 23 in A, K.488; Strauss, Suite from "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme." Robert Spano, conductor, Maria Joao Pires, piano.
 Walter Pierce Tribute Concert
 April 26, 3 p.m., Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. \$65, \$55, \$45, \$30. Tickets: 266-1200.
 Special performance in honor of Boston impresario and former Executive Director of the BankBoston Celebrity Series. Featuring Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Dubravka Tomsic, The Juilliard String Quartet and Robert Mann, Isaac Stern, Bolcom and Morris, and Judith Jamison and Nasha Thomas-Schmitt of Alvin Ailey Dance Theater.

Jazz Music

Regattabar

Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Harvard Sq., Cambridge. Info: 661-5000. Tickets: 876-7777.
 April 17, 18: The Abdullah Ibrahim Trio, 8pm. + 10pm. \$14.
 April 21, 22: The Peter Parcek Quartet, 8:30pm. \$8.
 April 23: The Titilayo Ngwenya Ensemble: 8:30pm. \$10.
 April 24, 25: Don Byron's Bug Music, 8pm. + 10pm. \$14.
Sculler's
 400 Soldiers Field Rd., Boston. Tickets: 931-2000. Information: 562-4111.
 April 17: Livingston Taylor.



Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt star in *As Good as It Gets*, showing Saturday and Sunday at LSC.

April 18, 19: Chuck Mangione.
 April 22: Monsters of Folk, featuring Ramblin' Jack Elliot, Tom Russell, Dave Alvin, and Chris Smither.
 April 23: John Pizzarelli Trio.
 April 24, 25: New York Voices.

Theater

Amarelo
 Theatre-Studio, Inc., 750 8th Ave, Suite 200 (near 46th St), New York, NY. (212) 719-0500. April 4, 18 at 8 p.m., April 19, May 3 at 2 p.m., May 2 at 5 p.m. \$12.
 A play by Paulo A. Pereira '95, directed by Charles Armesto '97. *Amarelo* tells the tale of Conceicao, a passionate woman from the Portuguese Azores Islands who struggles to achieve her dreams through the unexpected joys and sorrows of her life. In this play about hope, loss, and holding on to one's roots, we see her story unfold magically as we sail through time from Conceicao's life in Sao Miguel, Azores, to New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Blue Man Group

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston. 426-6912. Playing indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, at 7 and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 3 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$35 to \$45.
 It would be difficult and unfair to catalogue fully the antics of the Drama Desk Award-winning trio of cobalt-painted bald pates who have settled into long runs Off Broadway and at the Charles Playhouse. They begin their delightful and deafening evening of anti-performance art beating drums that are also deep buckets of primary paint, so that sprays of color jump from the instruments like breaking surf, and end by engulfing the spectatorship in tangles of toilet paper.

Albee's Men

Presented by ART New Stages at the Hasty Pudding Theatre, 12 Holyoke Street, Cambridge (547-8300), through Aug. 11. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and at 2 and 7 p.m. on Sunday. Tix \$25 to \$35.
 Actor Stephen Rowe, a founding member of the ART, in collaboration with three-time Pulitzer-winning playwright Edward Albee and director Glyn O'Malley, has compiled this one-man show exploring Albee's world from the male

perspective. The piece explores fear and loss, longing and alienation, and, of course, the story of Jerry and the dog.

Dance

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre

April 17 through 19 at the Wang Center. Info: Call 482-6661. Tickets: 931-ARTS. Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston. \$50, \$45, \$42, \$35. Different performances each night as part of "Ailey Week" in Boston.

Mark Morris Dance Group

Emerson Majestic Theatre. April 21 at 7 p.m., April 22-25 at 8 p.m., April 26 at 2 p.m. \$33-\$45. Info: 482-7570. Tickets: 824-8000.

Exhibits

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. 723-2500, Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday through Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$9, \$7 for children 3-14 and seniors. Free with MIT ID. Admission to Omni, laser, and planetarium shows is \$7.50, \$5.50 for children and seniors. The Museum features the theater of electricity and more than 600 hands-on exhibits. Ongoing: "Discovery Center," "Investigate! A See-For-Yourself Exhibit," "Welcome to the Universe." Through April 26: "Balancing Acts." Through May 3: "Living on the Edge." Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.: "Reminiscences: McKinley-Matterhorn-Everest," lecture by Bradford Washburn. Now showing in the theaters: "Laser Space Odyssey," Friday through Sunday, 5:30 p.m. "Laser Grateful Dead," Sunday, 8 p.m.; "Laser Rage Fest," Thursday through Saturday, 9:15 p.m.; "Pink Floyd: The Wall," Friday through Saturday, at 10:30 p.m.; "Laser Doors," Sunday at 9:15 p.m.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. 267-9300, Monday through Tuesday, 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thursday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m.

West Wing open Thursday through Friday until 9:45 p.m. Admission \$10, \$8 for students and seniors, children under 17 are free; \$2 after 5 p.m. Thursday through Friday, free Wednesday after 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, free with MIT ID. Introductory walks through all collections begin at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; "Asian, Egyptian, and Classical Walks" begin at 11:30 a.m.; "American Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 12:30 p.m.; "European Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 2:30 p.m.; Introductory tours are also offered Sat. at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Ongoing exhibitions: "Beyond the Screen: Chinese Furniture of the 16th and 17th Centuries"; "The Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Ancient Americas."

Computer Museum

300 Congress St., Boston. 423-6758 or 426-2800, Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$7, \$5 for students and seniors, free for children under 5. Half-price admission on Sunday from 3-5 p.m. Tours daily of "Walk Through Computer 2000," a working two-story model of a PC. Museum features a collection of vintage computers and robots with over 150 hands-on exhibits illustrating the evolution, use, and impact of computers. Featured exhibits include "The Hacker's Garage," a recreation of a '70s hacker's garage with such items as an Apple I and Pong; "The Networked Planet: Traveling the Information Highway," an electronic tour of the Internet; "Robots and Other Smart Machines," an interactive exhibition of artificial intelligence and robots, and "Tools & Toys: The Amazing Personal Computer"; "People and Computers: which Milestones of a Revolution," explores a number of ways computers impact everyday life. Through May 31: "Wizards and their Wonders: Portraits in Computing."

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston. 566-1401. Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$10, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID (\$3 on Wednesday), free for children under 18. The museum houses more than 2500 art objects, with emphasis on Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Dutch works. Among the highlights are works by Rembrandt,

Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, and Whistler. Guided tours given Fridays at 2:30 p.m. Through April 26: "Titian and Rubens: Power, Politics, Style."

Swatch Museum

57 JFK St., Cambridge. 864-1227. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m. Ongoing: Swatch watches by Keith Haring, Christian LaCroix, Sam Francis, and others.

MIT Museum

265 Massachusetts Ave. 253-4444. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., noon-5 p.m. Admission \$3. Ongoing: "Gestural Engineering: The Sculpture of Arthur Ganson"; "Lightforest: The Holographic Rainforest"; "Holography: Artists and Inventors"; "MIT Hall of Hacks," chronicles of MIT's history of pranks, wit, and wizardry; "Light Sculptures by Bill Parker"; "Math in 3D: Sculptures by Morton G. Bradley, Jr."; "MathSpace," a hands-on exploration of geometry. Through June 14: "Piranesi in Perspective: Designing the Icons of an Age."

List Visual Arts Center

Wiesner Building, 20 Ames St. 253-4400, Tuesday through Thursday, Saturday through Sunday, noon-6 p.m.; Friday, noon-8 p.m. Free and open to the public. Through June 28: "Mirror Images: Women, Surrealism and Self-Representation." A *si vive* of [a]omtong. sculpture, photography, and installation work by 22 women Surrealist or Surrealist-inspired artists from the 1930s to present.

Rhode Island School of Design

224 Benefit St., Providence, RI. Museum of Art. 401-454-6502, Wednesday through Thursday and Saturday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Admission \$2, \$1 for seniors.

Through April 19: works by Geoffrey Beene.

Through April 26: "Artistic Expressions from the Human Spirit: Selections from the Nancy Sayles Day Collection of Modern Latin-American Art."

Ongoing: "Color and Form: 20th Century American Paintings from the Permanent Collection." Woods-Gerry Gallery, 62 Prospect St. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 2-5 p.m. Through Feb. 15: "Sculpture Department Exhibition."

MIT Music

MIT Chamber Chorus

April 17: William Cutter, conductor. William Byrd, Mass in F Minor for Four Voices with original psalm settings and introlts by MIT student composers: Samuel Barber, Reincarnations; Johannes Brahms, Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op. 52. Noon, Killian Hall. Free.

MIT Chapel Series

April 23: Sounds of a Royal Flute: Eighteenth-Century Music from the Dresden and Berlin Courts for Flute and Harpsichord. Works of Quantz, Bach, and Graun. Mary Oleskiewicz, Baroque transverse flute; David Schulenberg, harpsichord. Noon, MIT Chapel. Free.

Mark Harvey and the Aardvark Jazz Orchestra

April 25: A retrospective of original compositions by Mark Harvey inspired by Duke Ellington, John Coltrane, Gil Evans, Jimmy Giuffre, Kip Tiernan, Fela Anikalupo Kuti, and Aung San Suu Kyi, and the premiere of a new composition for jazz orchestra. 8 PM, Kresge Auditorium. Free.

This concert concludes the 25th Season of the Aardvark Jazz Orchestra. Aardvark has recorded four CD's for the Leo Lab and Nine Winds labels. The band has performed for First Night, at the Hatch Shell, the Museum of Fine Arts, the DeCordova Museum, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Wesleyan and Princeton Universities, the University of Maine at Augusta, and on the Autumn Uprising and Boston New Music Harvest Festivals among others.

The Lydian String Quartet
 April 26: Marcus Thompson, viola. Haydn, Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 20. No.1; Schubert, Quartet in A Minor, Op. 29; Sessions, Quintet for Two Violins, Two Violas and Cello with Marcus Thompson, viola. 4PM, Kresge Auditorium. Free.

On The Town,
from Page 8

Funk Music Festival

Featuring Maco Parker + Fishbone + Five Fingers of Funk. April 24, Johnson Athletic Center. \$8 advance, \$10 door, available at The Source.

Moxy Frúvous

May 15. La Sala de Puerto Rico. \$8 advance, \$10 door. On sale at The Source.

MIT Theater

The Mystery of Edwin Drood

April 16-18. Musical Theatre Guild, Kresge Little Theater. Tickets: \$9 General Admission; \$8 MIT staff and faculty, other students, senior citizens; \$6 MIT/ Wellesley students.

The Music Hall Royale presents the premiere performance of its adaptation of an unfinished story by Charles Dickens. Having no better source for an ending, they have chosen to let the audience decide. The lead performers, each with a vested interest in the outcome of the voting, make every effort to influence the decision.

The cast of Drood play the actors and other members of the company of the Music Hall Royale. While their performances in the musical adaptation of Dickens's story are scripted, their interactions with the audience are not. This provides the unique blend of a full musical production with improvisational portrayal of characters.

The Illusion

April 23-25, 30-May 2. \$8, \$6 students with ID (\$1 off for seniors of groups of 10+). 8pm, Kresge Little Theater. 253-2908 or email ds_officers@mit.edu or <http://www.mit.edu:8001/activities/dramashop/dramashop-home.html> on the web.

Dramashop's production of play by Pierre Cornielle adapted by Tony Kushner, directed by Prof. Janet Sonenberg. Pridamant, a rich citizen of 16th-century Avignon, travels to the cave of the magician Alcandre, looking for news of his long-estranged son. He finds a web of illusions instead, funny, touching, and tragic--illusions of magic, illusions of love, and illusions of the theater itself.

Shakespeare Ensemble Scene Night: "A Lighter Side of Life."

April 30-May 2. Scenes from

Shakespeare and modern playwrights. 8pm, Walker 201 (142 Memorial Dr). 253-2903 or email ensemble@mit.edu or on the web see <http://www.mit.edu:8001/activities/ensemble/home.html>.

MIT Film

Lecture Series Committee

Lilies of the Field (1963). April 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Kresge.

Good Will Hunting. April 17 at 7 and 10 p.m. in 26-100, 8 and 11 p.m. in 10-250. April 19 at 7 p.m. in 26-100.

As Good As it Gets. April 18 at 7 and 10:30 p.m. in 26-100. April 19 at 10 p.m. in 26-100.

Asian Film Mini-Series

A four-film mini-series highlighting recent feature films of Southeast Asia. Free and open to the public. Info 617-253-3599. April 22 in Room 10-250, 77 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge. Sponsored by MIT International Science and Technology Initiative, Film & Media Studies at MIT, the MIT Lecture Series Committee, and the Committee on Race Relations at MIT.

April 22: Room 10-250, 7 p.m. "Fun, Bar, Karaoke." (Thailand, 1997); 9p.m. "The Red Door" (India, 1997). Sponsored by MIT International Science and Technology Initiative, Film & Media Studies at MIT, the MIT Lecture Series Committee, and the Committee on Race Relations at MIT.

April 23: Room 26-100, 7 p.m. "12 Storeys" (Singapore, 1997); 9p.m. "A Single Spark" (Korea, 1996).

Events

The X-Files Expo

Naval Air Station, South Weymouth, MA. May 2 and 3. Tickets: 1-888-EXPO-TIX, online at www.thex-files.com, 931-2000. \$25 cash, \$27 credit card.

An interactive road show that combines the look and feel of the hit television series with high-tech entertainment experiences makes its eighth stop of its ten city tour. Appearing at the Boston expo are William B. Davis ("Cigarette-Smoking Man"), Dean Haglund (Lone Gunmen "Langly"), Bruce Harwood (Lone Gunmen "Byers"), Nicholas Lea ("Agent Alex Krycek") and composer Mark Snow.

SENIORS!

It's time to elect your alumni class officers who will represent the class of 1998 between graduation and your 5th reunion!

Available offices:

- Class President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Executive Members

Deadline for getting on the ballot is Friday, May 1st!

If you are interested in running for any of these offices or want more information, contact Monica McConnell in the Alumni Association (Room 10-140, 253-0743, monicam@mit.edu)

Class elections will be held at the Alumni Activities Expo in Lobby 10 on Tuesday, May 12th, 10am-4pm.



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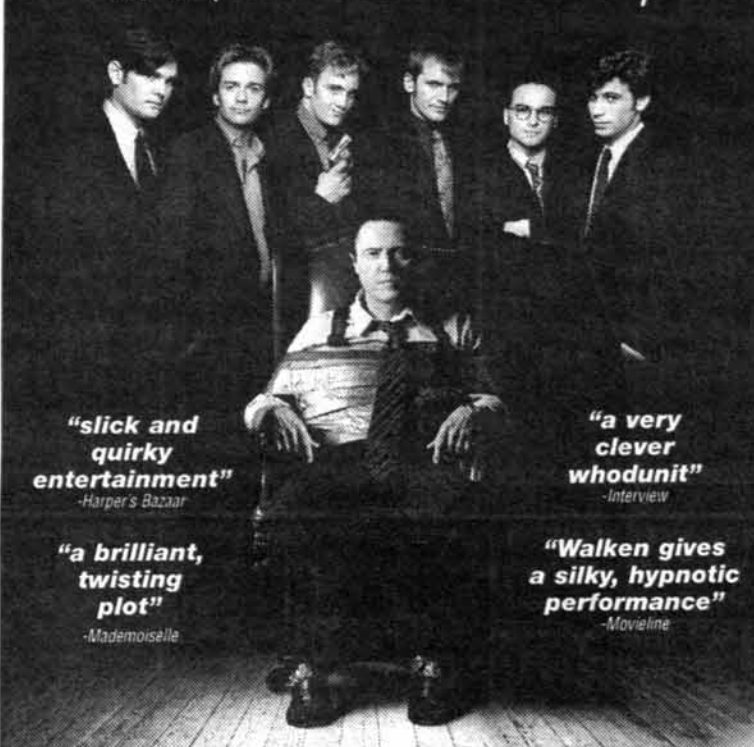
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-Movieline

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"SUICIDE KINGS" CLIFF DE YOUNG and LAURA SAN GIACOMO Costing by WENDY KURTZMAN and ROGER WUSSENDER, C.S.A. Edited by CHRIS PEPPE
Production Designer CLARA HUNTER Director of Photography CHRISTOPHER BAFFER Music by GRAEME REVELL Co-Executive Producer RICK WISCHEL Executive Producer STEPHEN DRUMMER
Co-Producer PATRICK PEACOCK Screenplay by JOSH MCKINNEY and GINA GOLDMAN a WAYNE ROSE
Produced by WAYNE ROSE and MURPHY EISENMAN Directed by PETER O'FALLON

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MIT dates & deadlines

Upcoming student deadlines and other important Institute dates

This service is brought to you by the Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education. If you know of important dates we have missed, please send them to deadlines@mit.edu, and we will add them to the deadlines Web site: <http://web.mit.edu/odsue/deadlines/>

| Date | Who | What | Where |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Monday, April 20, through Friday, April 24 | | | |
| Mon, Tue, 4/20-21 | Students | Patriots Day — Holiday | |
| Wed 4/22 | All students | Applications for Commencement and Tech Week jobs due in 10-140. | The Source (Student Center); 10-140, 3-3913 |
| Thu 4/23 | All students | DROP DATE. Last day to cancel subjects. (Add/Drop form) | Advisor; then SSC, 8-8600, or E19-335, 8-6409 |
| Fri 4/24 | Freshmen | Major designation cards due in SCC | 3-6771; SSC, 8-8600 |
| Fri 4/24 | 2nd semester transfer students | Last day to submit transfer credit forms (\$40 late fee) | SSC, 8-8600; or E19-335, 8-6409 |
| Fri 4/24 | All students | Last day to add a time-arranged subject that started after beginning of term (Add/Drop form) | Instructor & advisor; then SSC, 8-8600, or E19-335, 8-6409 |
| Fri 4/24 | All students, except special students | Last day to petition for May advanced standing exams | Instructor & advisor; then SSC, 8-8600, or E19-335, 3-4788 |
| Fri 4/24 | All students | Last day to add half-term subjects given in second half of term (Add/Drop form) | Instructor & advisor; then SSC, 8-8600, or E19-335, 8-6409 |
| Sat 4/25 | Continuing undergraduates | Last day for ongoing students to apply for 1998-99 financial aid | 5-119, 3-4971; SSC, 8-8600 |

Monday, April 27, through Friday, May 15

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Fri 5/1 | June 1998 doctoral candidates | Theses due for doctoral degrees | Academic departments |
| Tue 5/5 | Current graduates and undergraduates | Online prereg for Fall 98 term begins | WebSIS |
| Fri 5/8 | Students staying in the summer | Summer housing applications due | W20-549, 3-6777 |
| Fri 5/8 | Non-doctoral June degree candidates | Non-doctoral theses due | Academic Departments |
| Thu 5/14 | Undergraduates | 4th qtr PE classes end | W32-125, 3-4291 |
| Fri 5/15 | Undergraduates | Application for Fall 98 study abroad due; forms available in 14N-408 and 12-170 | 12-170, 8-5784 |
| Fri 5/15 | All students | Last day of spring term classes | |

The Student Services Center, Room 11-120, is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Graduate Student Council
Walker Memorial, 50-220 ☎ 253-2195 • gsc-request@mit.edu • www.mit.edu/activities/gsc

Congratulations!

Welcome to the new GSC officers

The new officers were elected 8 April.

- ▶ President, Brian Schneider
- ▶ Vice President, Hans Jacob Feder
- ▶ Secretary, Melissa Tata
- ▶ Treasurer, Carsten Hohnke

Friday Social: come meet the new officers!

- ▶ Friday, April 24, 5:30PM
- ▶ GSC Lounge 550-220
- ▶ Contact peterm@mit.edu

45 Calendar

▶ APRIL

- 18 Revolution Soccer Game
Saturday, 12 noon
\$16 (ticket, transportation, & tailgate)
Contact jglively@mit.edu
- 23 Housing & Community Affairs Mtg*

▶ MAY

- 06 General Council Mtg"
- 20 Activities Mtg *

You can participate in the GSC in other ways as well.

Departmental Representative
Living Group Representative
Institute Committee Representative
Committee Member

Please contact gsc-officers@mit.edu for more information.

* at 5:30pm in Room 50-220.
All graduate students are welcome. Food is provided.

April
17, 1998

COMICS

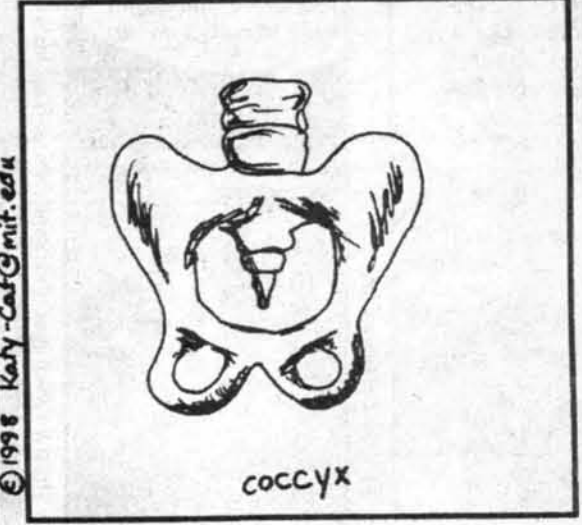
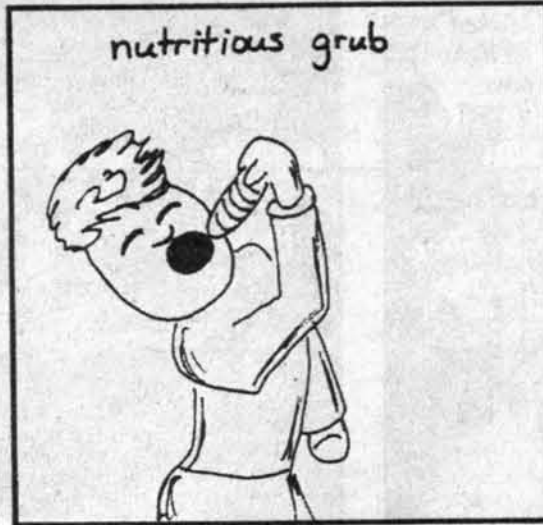
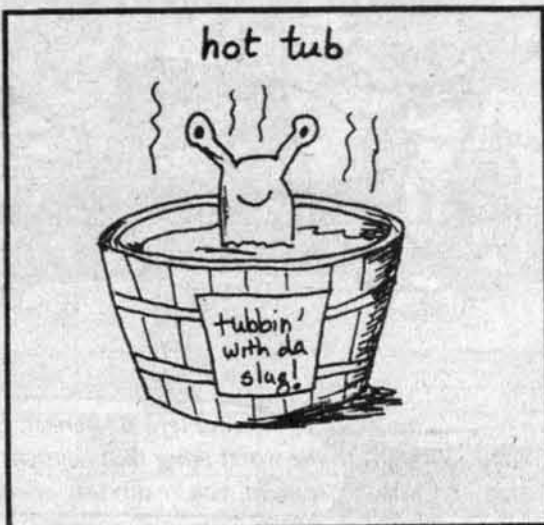
The
Tech

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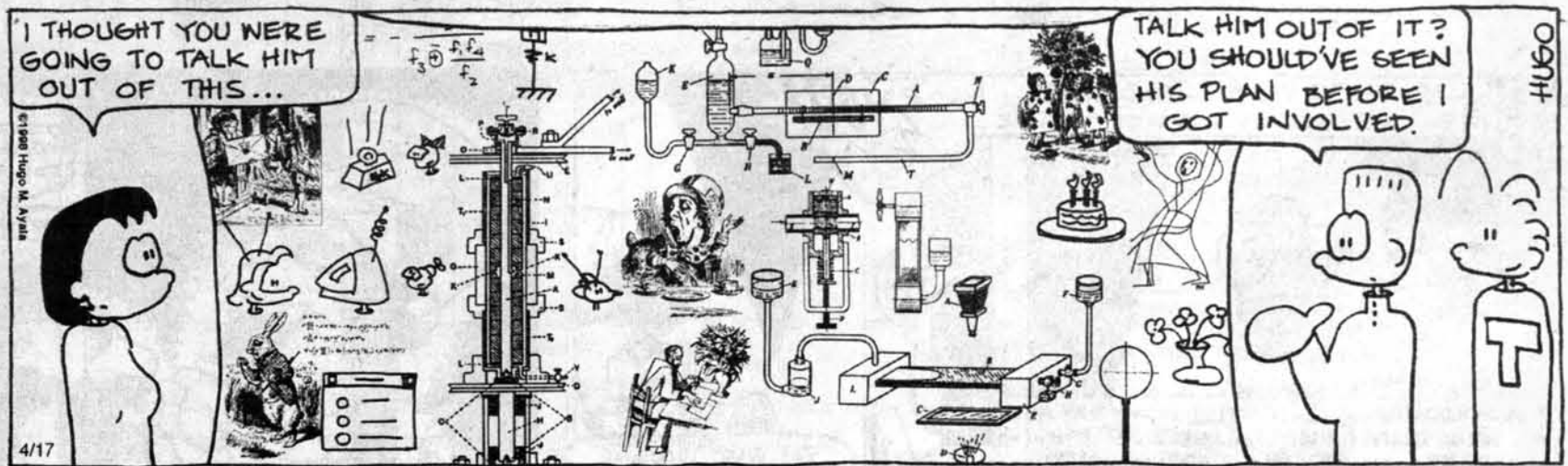
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11

PAGES

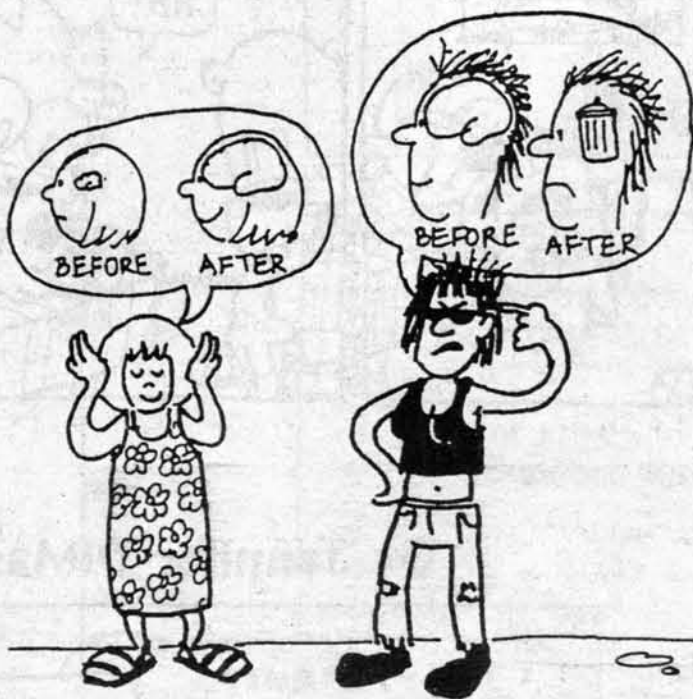
Noun Poetry
by Katy-Cat



Off Course
by Hugo



MIT=?



The 1998 Senior Survey
Let us know what you think!

SENIORS:

What were your experiences at MIT? What aspects of your major were most useful? Have your attitudes changed since freshman year?

The first Senior Survey done four years ago raised many issues about the knowledge and skills students take with them when they graduate, and made us think hard about areas we would like to strengthen. Much of the data was instrumental to the work of the President's Task Force on Student Life and Learning, and will help to guide changes that will be made in the freshman year and beyond.

This year's survey asks about your academic experiences, UROP, extra-curricular activities, future plans, and overall impressions. There is also room for you to make open-ended comments.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. The results — which will be mailed to you next year — could make a significant difference in the lives of students who come after you.

LOOK FOR THE 1998 SENIOR SURVEY
IN YOUR MAILBOX!

Questions?
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Sponsored by the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education
and the Educational Studies Working Group (ESWG)

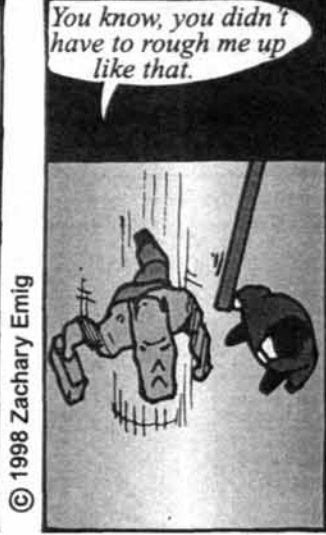


RHINO MAN



THE STORY SO FAR: Rhino-Man, with an electronic bug implanted in his upper lip and briefcase of cash in hand, went to the meeting with the Yakuza.

by Zachary Emig

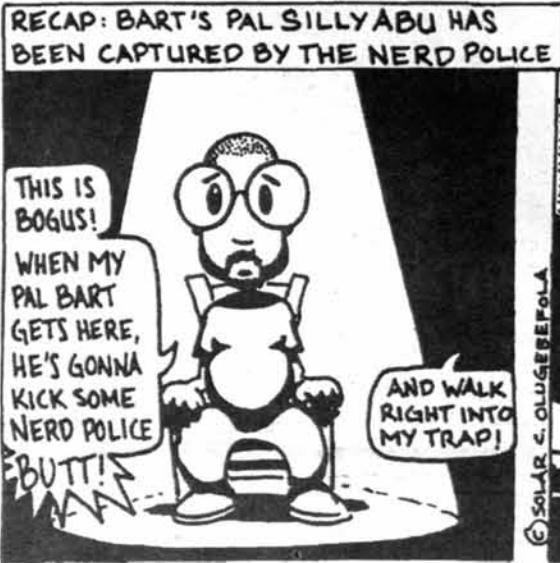


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<http://www.mit.edu/~zbermig/Rhino-Man.html>

Next Issue: A chat with your friendly, neighborhood gangster

bartholemew squeak



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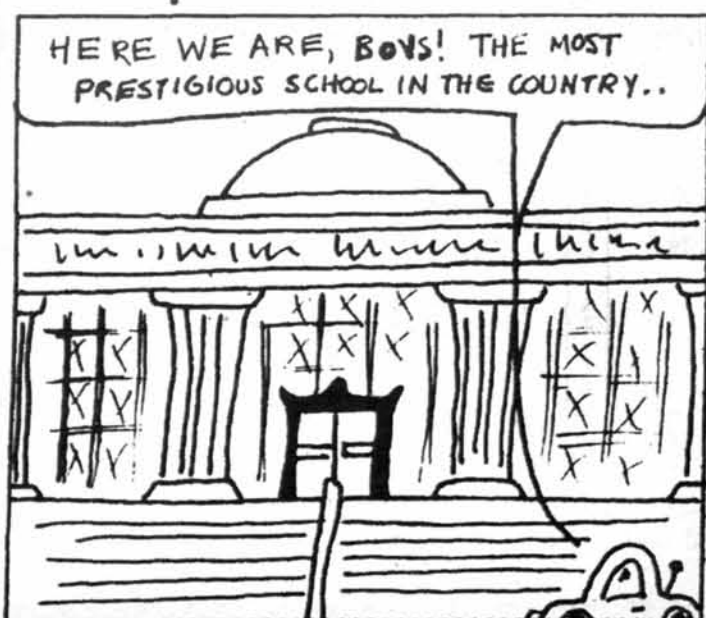
dammed for life

by Jessica



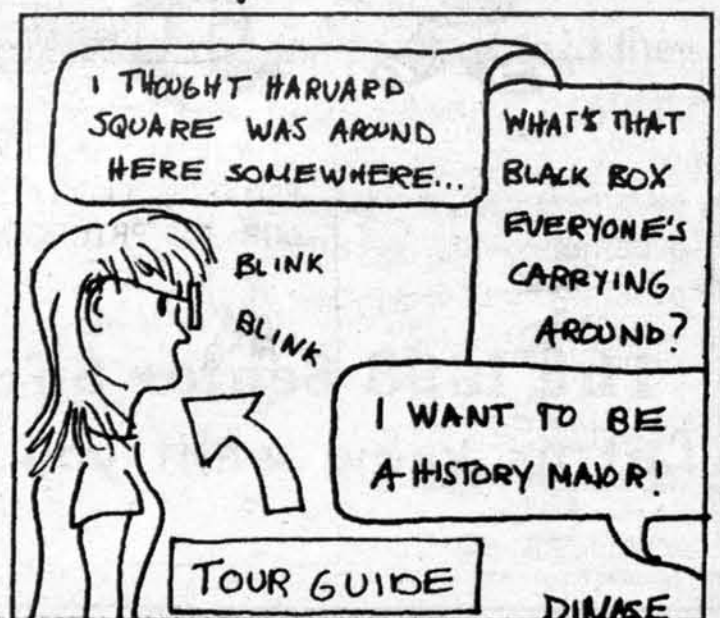
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Perhaps...



...It's high time we renamed the bridge...

By Jennifer DiMase



WHAT'S THAT BLACK BOX EVERYONE'S CARRYING AROUND?

I WANT TO BE A HISTORY MAJOR!

TOUR GUIDE

DIMASE

Trivia Corner Presidential Prowess

Congratulations to Patrick LeClair and Sarah Sohm who both knew that the president of the United States who could write simultaneously in Latin with one hand and in Greek with the other was James Garfield, the 20th President. In addition to that feat, Garfield was also the last president to be born in a log cabin (though not due to any ability of his own).

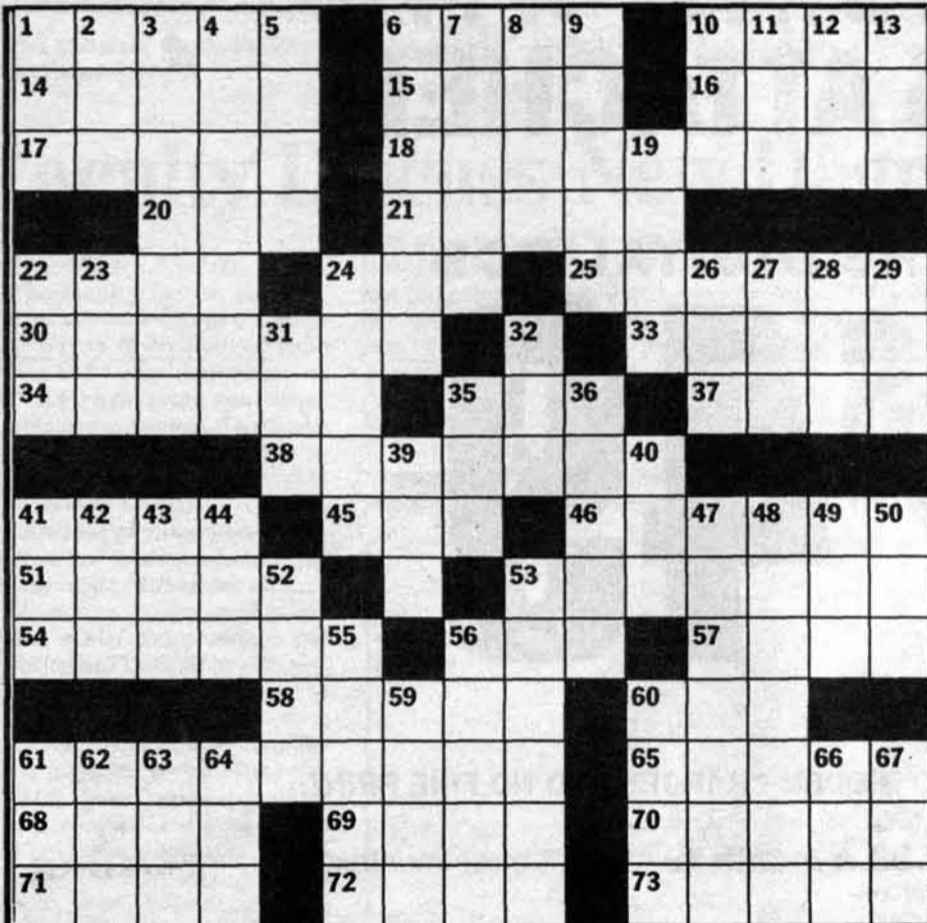
Before his military career took off, Ulysses S. Grant tried his hand at acting. During the Mexican-American War, his unit put on a production of Shakespeare's *Othello* in which he played the title character's wife, Desdemona.

Patrick and Sarah each win a pair of tickets and a large popcorn, both provided by LSC.

Showing this weekend:

Friday 7:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium, *Lilies of the Field*
 Friday 7 and 10 p.m. in Room 26-100, 8 and 11 p.m. in Room 10-250, Sunday 7 p.m. in Room 26-100
Good Will Hunting
 Saturday 7 and 10 p.m., Sunday 10 p.m. in Room 26-100
As Good As It Gets

This feature was brought to you by the CAC Program Board. Today's factoids are by the MIT Quiz Bowl team. Members of the quiz bowl team, LSC, and The Tech are not eligible.



ACROSS

- 1 An earth mover
- 6 Mexican sauce
- 10 Pinache
- 14 Das Reingold, for instance
- 15 Author Leon
- 16 Gray wolf
- 17 Spot, maybe
- 18 Sapphire is its birthstone
- 20 Ford car
- 21 3 mRNA nucleotides
- 22 Fashion name
- 24 European special forces organization
- 25 June's birthstones
- 30 Try
- 33 Venues
- 34 Type of seed
- 35 Engine piece
- 37 Dole
- 38 The Galapagos are part of this South American country
- 41 Feral dog, in a way
- 45 Kit
- 46 Scarcity
- 51 Fred's sister
- 53 Tops of pages
- 54 Jade would be appropriate for this month
- 56 Non-stick pan spray
- 57 Jai
- 58 Inert gas
- 60 Dr. group
- 61 December's stone
- 65 Flighty
- 68 Existence
- 69 Wrote *Metamorphoses*

- 70 To come after
- 71 Shane
- 72 Humane org.
- 73 Pirate Bonnet

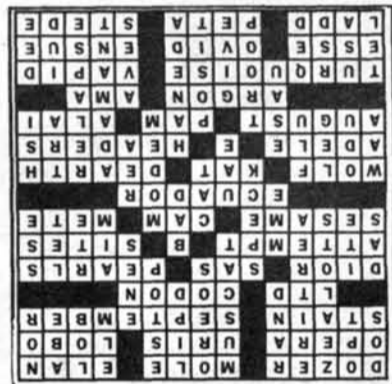
DOWN

- 1 Don'ts companion
- 2 Choose
- 3 Fanatics
- 4 Northern Ethiopia
- 5 Author Ayn
- 6 Omani city
- 7 Nabisco cookies
- 8 New York police unit, abbr.
- 9 Get an injunction
- 10 A tree
- 11 Loft
- 12 Honest president
- 13 Comes after neither
- 19 Chemical endings
- 22 Prosecutors, for short
- 23 Follower, suffix
- 24 Flake
- 26 Goal
- 27 Map path, abbr.
- 28 Tennis allowance
- 29 Dir.
- 31 French salutation, abbr.
- 32 Ems, German spa
- 35 Feline
- 36 Modulator-Demodulator
- 39 Arab country, inits.
- 40 New Deal agency, abbr.
- 41 Baby's noise
- 42 Women's college basketball power, for short

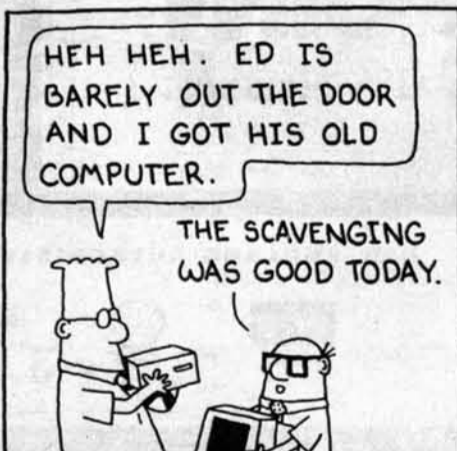
By Anthony R. Salas

- 43 Limb
- 44 Asian, for one
- 47 Fervent
- 48 Decline again
- 49 Musical syllable
- 50 Chinese emperor, K'ang
- 52 Jacob's twin
- 53 Japanese airport
- 55 Militia group
- 56 Situate
- 59 Hand (to)
- 60 Class for birds
- 61 Aviv
- 62 Letter on an Olympic jersey
- 63 Affliction of the sympathetic nervous system, abbr.
- 64 Latin abbr.
- 66 Birth control device, inits.
- 67 Barely passing grade

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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DAVID TARIN—THE TECH

The Chamber Music Society practices Brahms' Septet No.1 on the third floor balcony of Lobby 7 on Tuesday night.

MIT
Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar
 presents

Professor Fatema Mernissi
 Andrew Mellon Visiting Professor
 Tulane University

"How to Tap Social Capital in the Arab World"

Wednesday, April 22, 1998
 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
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Faculty Discuss New Degrees

By Elaine Wan
 STAFF REPORTER

The faculty met to consider motions to create two new masters programs in Comparative Media Studies and a joint degree program in Ocean Engineering and Marine Environmental Systems. The faculty will vote whether to approve those programs at the next faculty meeting. President Charles M. Vest also discussed the ongoing efforts resulting from last year's sense of the faculty resolution on freshman life.

"I've seen the future of Media Studies at MIT and it works," said Professor and Director of Film and Media Studies Henry Jenkins. The program was created in response to the development of new technologies in the media environment.

"MIT should take responsibility for educating the next generation of scholars, teachers, journalists, political and corporate leaders for the decisions that will shape media and society in the coming century," the proposal said.

The Masters of Science in Comparative Media Studies Program would fall within Department of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. The program will examine the history and future of mediated communication and emphasize the "impact of cultural and social factors on media studies," Jenkins said.

Professor Jenkins said that he expected the program to attract students of diverse backgrounds, from Computer Science to Management. The design of the courses offered in the program will encourage collaboration among different disciplines.

Similar programs have been developed at other educational institutions like University of Wisconsin-Madison, New York University and the University of South Carolina, he said.

New engineering Masters pushed

The Department of Ocean Engineering and the Department of Applied Physics and Ocean Engineering at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute proposed creating a Joint Degree Program in Ocean Engineering and in Marine Environmental Systems which would lead to a Masters of Engineering in Ocean Engineering.

The program will train "students in the understanding and managing complex systems and focus on the multidisciplinary nature of ocean-related environmental problems," the proposal said.

Also, at the meeting President Vest presented an update on the amended sense of the faculty resolution on freshman and undergraduate life passed in November. Vest stressed that "an introduction of freshman to MIT should be characterized by a proper orientation to the Institute's academic environment."

He said that the focus of next year's Orientation will shift away from residential life to academic life. He said that the program would balance a number of interests and provide new students with a view of living and learning at MIT. In an

attempt to strengthen ties between faculty and students, Vest proposed a new program which would have faculty members to call incoming freshmen. "To make a phone call makes a great deal of difference," he said.

Edgerton Award Presented

Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Steven B. Leeb '87 was named the

winner of this year's prestigious Edgerton Award for research and teaching. Leeb received four degrees at MIT and has done extensive research on polymer gels and megalronics. Leeb was described by Professor of Management Richard M. Locke PhD '89 as a "cracker jack" teacher. Leeb has taught Circuits and Electronics, Signals and Systems and the Advanced Megatronics Lab.

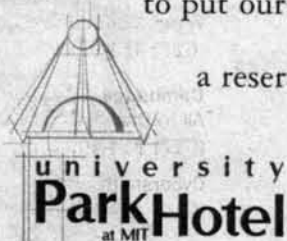
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to put our hospitality to the test. For more information or to make a reservation please call 617.577.0200 or fax 617.494.8366.



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SPRING WEEKEND

APRIL 23 - 25, 1998



THURSDAY, APRIL 23

UA Study Break
9 p.m. - 10 p.m., Lobdell

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

International Fair
10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Kresge Oval

Spring Concert
Funk Festival featuring Maceo Parker, Fishbone, and Five Fingers of Funk
7 p.m. - 11 p.m., Johnson

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Speech by Senator Kerry
11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Kresge

East Campus Picnic
Begins at 12 p.m., East Campus

Amherst Alley Rally
DJ -WBCN
2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Carnival Games
2 p.m. - 5 p.m., Amherst Alley

Whopper Eating Contest
2 p.m. - 3 p.m., Student Center Steps

Alpha Phlea Market
3 p.m. - 6 p.m., Student Center Steps

Mr. Spring Weekend
To benefit the Boston Area Women's Rape Crisis Center
8 p.m. - 11 p.m., Walker

ATO Bachelor Auction Dance Party
To benefit the Cambridge Youth Guidance Center
8 p.m. - 1 a.m., Lobdell

?????'s

spring@mit.edu



Council Inclusion Requires IFC Vote

ILGC, from Page 1

ident of Fenway house who spoke on behalf of the council, said that the group was not prepared to release a formal statement at this time.

Relationship with IFC an issue

Duane H. Dreger '99, president of the Interfraternity Council, said that he was aware of the group but that they "haven't contacted the IFC yet." Dreger said that the IFC is "waiting for them to approach us."

When the group does formally approach the IFC, both groups will need to decide how they will work together. Dreger said that the IFC might treat the group in a manner similar to how the Panhellenic Association is treated, and give the ILGC a seat on the IFC's executive committee.

To make such a change would require amending the IFC's constitution, a process which requires a three quarters majority vote of the IFC Presidents' Council.

The IFC must decide "if the ILGs are just a special interest group" or if there is a clear distinction from other IFC members, said Charles R. Broderick '99, vice president for internal affairs of the IFC, who has been sitting in on some of the preliminary meetings of the group. "Unfortunately, there is some crossover" as living groups associated with national fraternities are also considering associating themselves with ILGC, Broderick said.

Increased representation one goal

Dreger acknowledged concerns that the interests of the ILGs are often lost in the larger IFC. "There are times when their interests get steamrolled over by the IFC," he said. There are approximately six ILGs on the 38-member IFC.

While acknowledging these concerns, Dreger said that the ILGs "have to realize that they are an extremely small minority of the IFC community."

Broderick also agreed that increased representation is a goal of the council. He said that the ILGs are seeking a "stronger opinion in the IFC." Broderick said that he believed that the group would remain within the IFC, however. "I don't see [the ILGs] leaving the IFC at all."

Apart from interests in the IFC, Broderick called the council a "focal point" for ILG interests and said that he saw increased communication as one of the group's major goals. "I think it's great" for students to organize, he said.

Schuster said that gaining increased representation in the IFC is not "a major concern."

Neal H. Dorow, assistant dean for residence and campus activities and advisor to fraternities, sororities and independent living groups, said that it was a positive for "any groups that share a common interest... to get together."

Dorow said that the houses involved in the council "have not been... active players" in the IFC. "If this is a way for them to get more involved... that's wonderful," he said.

However, Dorow downplayed the need to create an entirely separate forum for ILGs. "Having [the ILGs'] interests heard is what meetings are for," he said. "They have an ample opportunity" to be heard in the current democratic structure of the IFC, he said.

Tentative as the state of the new council may be, Dreger seems hopeful. "If they come up with something that will improve [their situation in the IFC] I'm all for it," he said.

MIT Museum Shop Plans to End Lease

Newbury, from Page 1

[at MIT]," Dreese said, but "the economics" of the situation make it unlikely that the store will remain in the Student Center.

"LaVerde's and the Coop have exclusivities on a lot of products," Dreese said, including MIT insignia clothing, meaning that other stores in the Student Center may not sell those products. These monopolies, as well as the "very fixed market" at MIT, have resulted in the decision not to renew their space.

"I hope that whoever is looking at the space will have the students' interests in mind," Dreese said. "The Student Center is an important place [for student life]."

Other companies may also leave

Newbury Comics is not the only company which may leave the Student Center. According to Walsh, the MIT Museum Store will move its store back into the main museum building, located in Central Square.

"Most likely we will not be renewing the lease," said Diego Garcia, manager of retail operations at the museum.

The move comes in part because of a "decrease in conference activity [at the west] end of campus," said Mary Leen, the Director of the MIT Museum. "When Kresge was more heavily utilized for conferences... people shopped in the Student Center," she said. When the conference business started moving to the Tang Center a year ago, sales began to drop off and the store became uneconomical, she said.

Leen said that the MIT Museum was considering setting up a small presence at the new University Park hotel. She said that the Museum's proximity to the hotel would probably also increase traffic. According to Garcia, there are plans to enlarge

the existing shop in Central Square by about a third.

The nature of the MIT Computer Connection has also changed in recent years, but it is likely to retain its showroom space in the Student Center basement. "The location is vital" to the store's goal of supporting the products recommended for use by Information Systems, said Joanne Hallisey, manager of the MCC. "The showroom and consultants are still here," she said. She said that that students, faculty, and staff can still visit the store for information, even though all actual sales are now conducted online.

Future space allocation uncertain

It is not yet certain what will take the place of the stores that are leaving. "Some of the other tenants in the building have expressed interest in expanding into the space," Walsh said, although he declined to elaborate further. It is also possible that new outside companies will take up residence.

Today there are fifteen sites in the basement and on the first floor designated for "non-academic use." These spaces are rented out, either to outside companies like LaVerde's Market and BankBoston or to MIT departments. MIT Medical Services, for instance, administers MIT Optical, while Information Systems controls PC Services.

Some of the profit from the rent paid on the sites goes to support the Institute's endowment, Walsh said.

One of the Alternative Spring Break groups has been conducting a survey to assess the service needs of MIT students. "We ourselves have not been comfortable" as to what the students want in the Student Center, Walsh said. The results of this survey, which are not yet available, may help to clarify students' needs.

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GREG KUHNER—THE TECH

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Spring Weekend Sees Increase In Funding, Student Interest

Spring Weekend, from Page 1

Kresge Oval. The event, hosted by the International Students Association, "will be the biggest one so far," said Loreto P. Ansaldo '00, who is lead organizer for I-Fair. Over 45 international groups will be participating. Each group will have a booth on Kresge Oval where they will sell food, play native music, or provide information about their respective countries. Other events include a noontime fashion show, and cultural performances. There will also be performances by various ethnic and international groups on the Student Center steps throughout the day.

On Saturday, Share a Vital Earth

is sponsoring a speech by Senator John Kerry (D-Mass.). The topic of the speech is 'entitled Government, Technology and Global Warming,' said Eleanor S. Kane '00, president of SAVE.

Kerry will speak about his experience as a Senate representative to the International Conference on Global Warming in Kyoto held last fall. There will also be a question-and-answer session after his speech, Kane said.

"We are hoping it will reach the MIT community... the Cambridge community... we are hoping students from other universities will come as well," Kane said. Kerry's speech is the culmination of Earth Week Activities sponsored by

SAVE, Kane said.

In addition to Kerry's speech, there will also be a variety of events held on Kresge Oval. The Amherst Alley Rally, which is to include events sponsored by various dormitories, was to be held along Amherst street but has been moved to Kresge Oval because of fire hazards and security considerations, Hartmann said. Carnival Games, sponsored by the President's Office, will take place from 2 to 5 p.m. In addition, Aramark is sponsoring a Whopper-eating Contest.

Alpha Phi will be holding its annual Alpha Phlea Market. Proceeds from the event will go to cardiac research.

Mr. Spring Weekend, which benefits the Boston Area Women's Rape Crisis Center, will also return this year. Mr. Spring Weekend, a spoof on a male beauty pageant, will be held in Walker Memorial.

Another addition to this year's spring weekend events is the Alpha Tau Omega Bachelor Auction and Dance Party to be held in Lobdell.

Spring Weekend is sponsored by the Campus Activities Complex Program Board and the Undergraduate Association. Funding for the spring concert also comes from CAC, ODSUE, the Provost's Office, the Office of the Associate Provost for the Arts, the UA, the School of Humanities and Social Science, and the departments of Biology, Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Mechanical Engineering.

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Harvard Square, Wednesday, April 22 & Thursday, April 23

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- **TALKCITY's ON-LINE CAREER FAIR:** Chat with over 60 professionals about new career opportunities, find out about educational and training expectations, hear real-world stories from people currently in the work force. Career topics include Law, Travel, Computers, Technology and Creative Arts.
- **TALKCITY's ON-LINE JOB FAIR:** Chat with corporate recruiters about employment opportunities and discuss corporate qualifications.

On-line Schedule - point your web browser to www.talkcity.com/college/careerfair.html.

Career Fair: April 22nd 11:00am - 2:00pm
April 23rd 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Job Fair: April 22nd 3:00pm - 6:00pm
April 23rd 11:00am - 2:00pm



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Women's Track Finishes Third At Colby College Competition

By Janis Eisenberg
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT women's track team placed third in a meet at Colby College in Maine on Saturday. With 102 points, MIT finished comfortably ahead of Bates College with 80 points and the University of Southern Maine with 72 points. Colby and Bowdoin College, both track powerhouses, led the field with 253 and 155 points, respectively.

The competitive meet led to many outstanding performances. While a few key team members were missing because of injuries, the rest of the team performed brilliantly in all the events of the meet.

In the 4x100m, newcomers Deepa Patel '01 and Sapphire Jillian '99 teamed up with more experienced runners Elaine Chen '99 and Mia Heavener '00 to place third. Alyssa Thorvaldsen '00 showed her strength and speed in the 100m high hurdles as she three-stepped her way to victory in 16.53, breaking her own school record. In the same race, Lila French '99 set a personal record with a time of 18.59.

Co-captain Elaine Chen outdid herself both in scoring points for the team and improving her personal record. Besides running the 4x100m relay, she placed fourth in the 100m with a time of 13.34. She also came fourth in the 200m, breaking her school record, and qualifying for several post season competitions. Chen added even more points to her days total in the jumps, taking sixth in the long, with a mark of 14'11.5" and third in the high jump, clearing 4'10".

Natalie Smith '00 scored in the 200m, placing eighth with a time of 28.31. Patel ran her best time ever in both the 100m and 200m. In the 200m, she broke her season record by running a 29.90.

In the distance events, Debbie Won '00 was the leading point scorer. She won the 1,500m by a sizable margin with a 4:57. Won also placed a close second in the 3,000m race. Robin Evans '99 joined Won in the 1,500m. In her first attempt at this distance, she ran an excellent time of 5:12, missing qualifying for the New England Championships by only one second.

In the day's longest event, the 5,000m, co-captain Janis Eisenberg '98 placed third with a time of 19:40. Jantrui Ting '00 ran 20:53, almost a 30 second improvement over her best time.

MIT's deep field of 800m runners led by speedster Leah Nichols '00, racked up points in their event. Nichols placed fourth with a time of 2:30.26. She was followed by Evans in eighth.

In the throws, Crystal Harris '00 was the leading point scorer for MIT, placing third in the discus (31.24m) and eighth in the javelin (93'). Though hampered by injuries, Jen Elizondo '99 placed 7th in the hammer, throwing 34.20m. Harris, Janine Buseman-Williams '01, and Nicole Justis '00 all competed in the shot put, scoring enough points to put MIT comfortably ahead of Bates.

In the 4x400m, Chen, Smith and Thorvaldsen joined mid-distance standout Nichols to run one of the fastest relays in MIT history. Chen took the lead from the beginning and Nichols and Smith maintained it. In the last 200m of the, the speedy anchor from Colby challenged the lead held by the lady Engineers. However, Thorvaldsen was able to hold off the competitors as she helped MIT to a first-place finish. Though placing fourth, the 4x800m team of Cosman, Wilbert, Won and Evans, ran an MIT

team best time of 10:42.96, ending the running events on a high note.

The previous week, MIT competed in the Engineer's Cup at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. RPI won the competition with 92.5 points, while MIT was easily second with 73 points, followed by WPI with 24.5.

At the meet, several members of the MIT team competed in events other than their usual ones. French won the javelin throw with a personal best 95'1". Won had a very busy day, starting off by coasting through the 5,000m. Immediately afterwards she competed in the 1,500m, placing third with a 5:07.0. She then ran the 400m intermediate hurdles for the first time and finished the day with a fourth-place finish in the 800m.

Evans also scored in the 800m, finishing in 2:34 for third place. Chen placed second in the 100m with an excellent time of 12.9 and Thorvaldsen won the 100m high hurdles in 17.3. Harris qualified for New England Championships in the shot put with a throw of 34' 1/2" and threw a personal best of 99'1" in the discus.

The team's final meet before the NEW 8 championships is the Fitchburg Invitational on Saturday.

MIT Women's Team Wins Air Pistol Title

By Roger F. Crosley
DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Tracey Ho '99 recently won the National Rifle Association individual championship in Women's Air Pistol

and helped MIT to the team air pistol title along with teammates Hattie Gruneisen '00 and Jane Sohn '98. All three women were named to the inaugural Women's All-America team, which was selected following the championships at the Wolf Creek Olympic Shooting Park in Georgia. Ho scored a 91.4 out of a possible 109 in the final round to take the title over two shooters from the U.S. Naval Academy and a competitor from the U.S. Military Academy.

Swimmer and chemical engineer major Deirdre Dunn '99 has been named to the GTE College Sports Information Directors of America second team Academic All-District for the Fall/Winter At-Large team.

The Northeast Fencing Conference recently handed out its post-season awards and MIT was strongly represented. On the women's first team were epeeists Meredith Rising '98 and Nora Sasz '99, and foil fencer Aimee Wiltz '99. Second team honors went to

Jessica Sandland '99 who also competes in epee. On the men's side, Brian Bower '99 was a first team selection in the sabre, while epeeist Matt Duplessie '99 also earned first team honors. Second team selections for the men were Evan Efstathiou '00 in sabre and Ali Ibrahim in '01 foil. Additionally, MIT head coach Jarek Koniusz was named the Northeast Fencing Conference Coach of the Year.

Ravi Sastry '98 had an outstanding meet in last weekend's quad meet victory over Bates, Bowdoin and Colby Colleges. Sastry not only won three events, but he set personal bests in each. Sastry took the long jump (22'2.5"), the 100m dash (11.0), and 110m hurdles (14.9), and placed third in the 200m dash and the high jump.

Even though football season ended in November, Brad Gray '98 continues to garner awards. The defensive tackle has recently been named the male winner of the Walter Byers Scholarship, the highest honor bestowed upon a student athlete by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Gray was one of four male finalists from all NCAA divisions throughout the country and is the first MIT student to win the prestigious award.

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"The Ten Commandments" and other canons
Missa brevis sancti Joannis de Deo ("Little OrganMass")

Soloists: **Stephanie Chase, violin**
Marilyn McDonald, viola

A program of contrasts. The brilliant *Sinfonia Concertante* is the giant of Mozart's string concerto writing, while the *Ave Verum Corpus* of Haydn's *Organ Mass* are works of concentrated devotion. The canons display Haydn's contrapuntal genius and well-known wit. But is it really true, as tradition has it, that he humorously stole the melody for the 7th Commandment, "thou shall not steal"?

Friday April 24, 1998

8:00pm

Jordan Hall

New England Conservatory

Sign up **IN PERSON ONLY** at the MIT Office of the Arts (E15-205) with your valid MIT student ID and a \$5.00 deposit that will be returned to you.

Tickets are handed out at 5:00pm (sharp) the evening of the performance in the main lobby of Building E15.

(Signing up and not showing up will result in the loss of your deposit)

MIT Hillel Holocaust Commemoration

April 22 and April 23, 1998

Wednesday:

7:30pm

Hillel Center, W11

Screening of the film Schindler's List

Thursday:

9am - 2pm

Lobby 7

Remembering the Genocide Shoe Collection Display

Memorial Vigil

3:30pm - 4:30pm

MIT Chapel

Memorial Service

"The Story of the Little Kettle"

by: Dr. Maurice Vanderpol, Holocaust Survivor



SPORTS

MIT Lightweight Crew No Match for Top Seed Yale

By Christopher Liu
TEAM MEMBER

The lightweight crew team suffered a disappointing loss to Yale University last Saturday in the annual Joy Cup Regatta.

Yale was coming into the race with a big win over Harvard University the previous week that put them in the top-seeded position among the Eastern Association of Rowing Schools. This was no surprise to many since Yale has traditionally been very fast early in the season.

The racing began at 7:15 a.m. on the Charles River with the freshman fours event. Yale entered two fours in this race against MIT's second freshman four. The freshman squad

could not match Yale's team depth and lost to both fours. The four was rowed by Huge Liu '01, Kevin Chao '01, Ben Zotto '01, Andy Kostoulas '01, and Eric Lee '01 at coxswain. Yale's first freshman four finished in 7:40, followed by their second four in 7:51, and MIT in 8:09.

The freshman eight fared better against Yale but still could not generate a win. The eight, manned by Melahn Parker '01, Adam Reynolds '01, Stephen Carr '01, Lou Nervegna '01, Eric Ferreira '00, Rich Hanna '01, Kevin Schmidt '01, and Melissa Light '01 at coxswain, gave Yale a good race but could not stop Yale from creeping ahead through the course of the

race. Yale won the race in a time of 6:22 with MIT following at 6:36.

The junior varsity squad rowed well technically but was no match for Yale's power. The Yale boat had an open water lead early in the race and MIT could not catch them. The JV team fell to Yale in a time of 7:02 to Yale's 6:22. The squad consisted of Kartik Mani '00, Steve Huang '99, David Manz '00, Ben Boehm '99, Stu Jackson '00, Marc

Moesse '00, Jeremy Hui '99, Shawn Hwang '99, and Sahar Aminipour '00 at coxswain.

The varsity squad fared best against Yale, but was still beaten by 15 seconds. The squad rowed well in the first 500 meters despite a jammed slide that prevented the bow man from rowing several strokes. MIT rowed stroke for stroke with Yale and stayed even. Yale began to move in the second five hundred and

pulled out to a one length lead by the halfway point in the race. The Engineers had difficulty with the technique in the third 500 meters, allowing Yale to extend its lead. Yale finished the race in a time of 6:05 to MIT's 6:20. MIT's lineup was Kris Kendall '98, Dan Frisk '99, Eric Bevan '99, Paul Oppold '99, Joel Johnson '98, Chris Liu '98, Seth Newburg '00, Garrett Shook G, and Joe Irineo '98 at coxswain.

Men's Track and Field Dominate Opponents Despite a Slow Start

By Matt Potts
TEAM MEMBER

In their last home meet of the season, the Engineers posted an impressive performance, defeating Colby College, Bowdoin College, and Bates College and improving their record to 4-1. This comes just one week after Tech's heart-breaking loss to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the Engineer's Cup.

Although they got off to a slow

start because of a dropped baton in the 4x100m relay, MIT took charge when Mike Parkins '99 won the 3,000m steeplechase with a New England Division III leading time of 9:28.5. Freshman Mark Strauss placed fourth in only his second attempt at the event.

Leif Seed '99, Chris McGuire '00, and Sohail Husain '98 then put the hammer down in the 1,500m by placing first, second and fourth respectively. Seed led with a strong final lap

while Sohail ran a personal record 4:10.10.

Even more points were being scored in the field and sprint events. Captain Ravi Sastry '98 walked away with victories in both the long jump (22'2.5") and the 110m hurdles (14.9). Junius Ho '01 placed a solid fourth in the 110m hurdles with a personal best of 16.24. Sastry then went on to embarrass his opponents in the 100m dash with a time of 11.0. Before the day was over he also scored two third place finishes in the high jump and 200m dash to score a total of 18.5 points.

Kalpak Kothari '01 produced the biggest upset of the meet by victimizing Bates' NE Division III Indoor Champion in the triple jump with a jump of 42'6.25". Sam Thibault '00 brought in a fourth in the triple jump with the second best jump of his career (40'8.75").

To push MIT even further ahead of their opponents, Sean Montgomery '01 and Neil Karchem '99 ran strong races in the 400m dash to place third and fourth with times of 51.2 and 51.7. Joel Ford '98 and John Biesiadecki '01 crushed the 800m field with times of 1:58.4 and 1:59.6 to finish first and second. Seed raked in his second victory of the day in the 400m hurdles (56.64) to give MIT a 22-point lead over their opponents. The lead only widened as Sastry and Todd Rosenfield '01 both posted personal bests in the 200m dash to place third and fourth.

Clinching the triple win for MIT was Thibault with a huge victory in the pole vault. His jump of 14'1" was the best jump so far this year in NE Division III. It also bumped him up to seventh place on MIT's all-time vaulting list. The 5,000m squad further oppressed their opponents with first, third, and fourth place finishes. Defending NE Division III champion McGuire could not be touched as he cruised in with a time of 15:57.2. Rich Rosalez '98 ran his final race at MIT to place third with a time of 15:43.7. Freshmen Liyan Guo (15:57.2) and Ed Keehr (16:00.8) brought home fourth and fifth place finishes in this event.

In the final race of the day, MIT's 4x400m relay team of Montgomery, Seed, Ford, and Karchem ran an amazingly competitive race with splits of 51.6, 51.0, 51.5, and 50.8. Although edged out of first by just 0.2 seconds, the team clocked their fastest time this season.

To finish the meet off, Nikos Michalakis '01 threw the javelin 176'3" to maintain his undefeated collegiate record. MIT left the track with a score of 82.5, while Colby followed far behind with 53.5, Bowdoin 41, and Bates 25. With this momentum, the Engineers intend to put up a fight next Saturday at Northeastern University when they go up against a number of Division I schools.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, April 18

Heavyweight Crew — Compton Cup vs. Princeton University and Harvard University, 8:30 a.m.
Sailing — Invitational, 11:45 a.m.

Monday, April 20

Baseball vs. Clark University, 3:00 p.m.



MACEO PARKER



**FRIDAY,
APRIL 24, 1998
JOHNSON ATHLETIC CENTER, MIT**

TICKETS: \$8 in advance for all MIT faculty, students and staff;
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Concert Info Line: 253-2501

Doors@7:00 PM, Show@8:00 PM

Spring Concert 1998