

MIT to Cut Spending After \$1 Billion Loss

By Nathan Collins
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Hurting from investment losses of \$1.2 billion in the last two years, MIT will tighten its belt, President Charles M. Vest announced.

Academic departments, labs, and centers will reduce annual spending by \$4 million, a reduction of about 1 percent, Vest wrote in a Nov. 19 letter to faculty and staff.

Administrative divisions will cut spending by more than \$12 million, or about 4 percent.

Vest also announced a \$6 million cutback in the Presidential Fellowships program, which funds first-year graduate students.

The cuts will take effect with MIT's 2004 fiscal year, to start in June 2003.

Provost Robert A. Brown, who will oversee the academic budget cuts, was not available for comment.

Fellowship cuts raise concerns

Graduate Student Council President H. Sanith Wijesinghe G said that MIT is well positioned in key areas, such as biotechnology, so that competition for faculty should not be a problem. "The question is, where will there be money" to attract professors, he said.

The GSC is concerned about about student life and the cost of living, Wijesinghe said. "Our concern is

what the cap on a raise in stipends [might be]. That is an issue we're trying to get a handle on."

An additional worry is that Presidential Fellowships, which fund about 200 new graduate students this year, will not see increases next year. "If it's going to go, departments will have to figure out" ways to get more money for students, Wijesinghe said.

"I know the Provost is trying to get ... money into these fellowships," Wijesinghe said.

Interest payments suspended

In addition to departmental cuts, interest payments from a class of internal Institute accounts known as "Pool C" will be diverted to "support the 2004 Institute General Operations," Vest wrote.

Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict has pledged to cover the interest in student "Pool C" accounts, but it is not yet clear what effect, if any, Vest's announcement will have on other interest-bearing student group accounts.

Benedict has "a contingency fund from which I will take the money to fund the equivalent of the Pool C interest," Benedict wrote in an e-mail.

"This whole process will be invisible to the student groups so there is

Budget, Page 18



Ann Allen serves slices of chocolate in Lobby 10 at the MIT World AIDS Day Observance on Wednesday. The chocolate buffet was a fundraiser, where participants paid five dollars for three desserts of their choice.

Dorm Security Erratic After Burglary at Next

By Beckett W. Sterner
STAFF REPORTER

Desk security for many dormitories is erratic and poorly enforced, even in the wake of last month's Next House burglary.

In an informal survey, East Campus, Next House, and McCormick Hall appeared to be the most thorough in screening visitors, while unidentified visitors could easily enter Simmons Hall, Burton-Conner, and Baker House.

Changes and improvements to desk policies in the wake of the burglary incident have mainly been limited to Next House.

Survey finds security poor, erratic

In order to test the ability of a stranger to enter the living areas of various dormitories, a Tech reporter attempted to enter dormitories without an MIT student I.D. card.

The desk worker's response varied from a helpful "It's open," at

Simmons, to a firm request for a name and I.D., at McCormick.

In general, an unidentified visitor — at least one of college age — would have no trouble entering MIT dormitories.

Simmons is essentially open to anyone from the morning until about 6 p.m., said desk worker Nicholas A. Baksh '03.

Baksh cited the flow of construction workers into and out of the building as a difficulty in checking each person's purpose in the building.

Burton-Conner and Baker fared little better, both allowing in a relatively unchecked flow of people. The Burton-Conner desk has long let in whoever buzzed on the intercom, often asking neither for identification nor a reason for visiting.

In general, students must have a key or Bexley Hall resident's I.D. card to enter Bexley — the hall's

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IFC Elects New Slate Of Officers, Chairmen

By Jenny Zhang
STAFF REPORTER

The Interfraternity Council held elections yesterday evening for offices on its Executive Committee.

Lawrence W. Colagiovanni '04 of Kappa Sigma will be the new IFC president, Amado G. DeHoyos '04 of Alpha Tau Omega will be vice president, Eric J. Konopka '05 of Sigma Nu the treasurer, and John H. Rogers '06, also of DU, the secretary.

Colagiovanni replaces DeHoyos, who has been acting IFC president since the resignation of Andrew T. Yue '03 in early October.

Officers were chosen by fraternity and independent living group presidents, DeHoyos said.

Colagiovanni wants new start

Colagiovanni said he sees the IFC at a turning point, with its officer turnover and the change in rush procedures.

"Many people were questioning whether the IFC has a purpose, and if they would be better off without it," he said. "I want to put all the trouble of the past behind and set some new, concrete goals."

He said he is determined to help the IFC form clearer lines of communication with the administration, and to make it the IFC's rules clear to its members.

IFC elects committee chairs

In its meeting, the IFC also elected new chairmen for its committees.

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Robertson, WTC Designer, Lectures on Center, Future

By Jennifer L. Wong
STAFF REPORTER

Leslie E. Robertson, one of the two engineers who designed New York's World Trade Center, gave the Felix Candela Lecture Tuesday evening, discussing buildings he has designed around the world and the future of the Trade Center site.

The Felix Candela Lecture is an annual event honoring a leading structural engineer and is organized by MIT, Princeton University, and the Structural Engineers Association of New York.

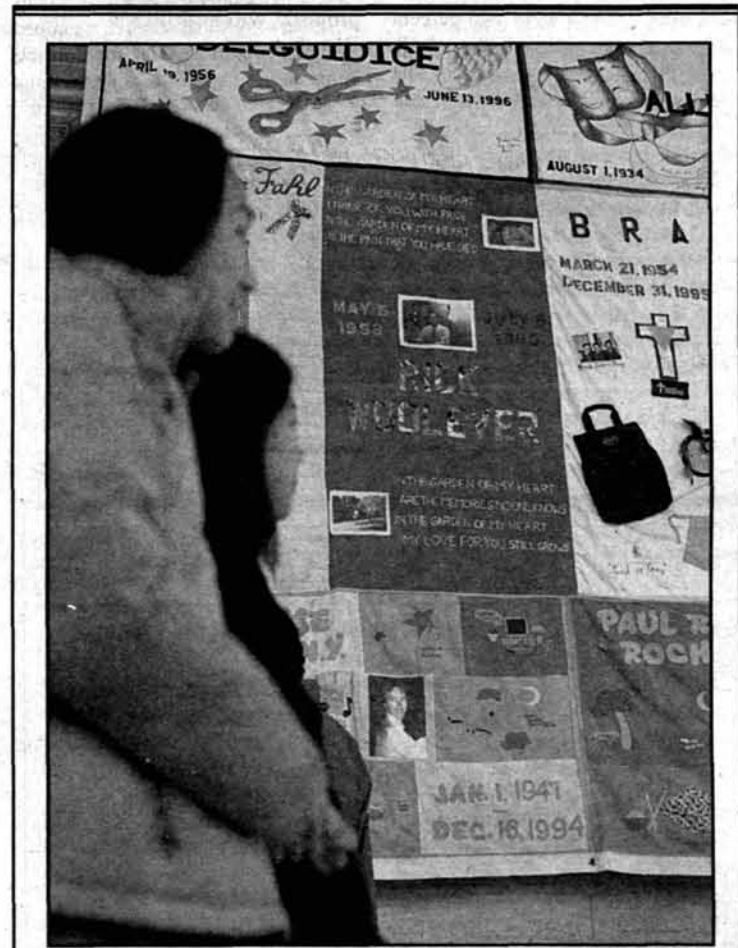
Robertson, a 1952 graduate of the University of California at

Berkeley, has been instrumental for the structural design of hundreds of buildings. His firm, Leslie E. Robertson Associates, is responsible for three of the six tallest buildings in the world.

Robertson discusses construction

Robertson began his lecture by recognizing the skills and diligence of the people who worked with him on his projects all these years. "In order to do great work, it takes many wonderfully talented people," Robertson said.

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JINA KIM—THE TECH

Christine E. Wang '06 (front) and Fallon Y. Lin '06 admire the AIDS quilt before heading to class. MIT's World AIDS Day Observance was held on Wednesday in Lobby 10. Several panels of the AIDS quilt, including two by MIT, were displayed to allow students to see personal aspects of the AIDS epidemic.



Guth discusses life, monopolies, and the Big Bang.

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OPINION

Vivek Rao contemplates the pros and cons of Affirmative Action.

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WORLD & NATION

Business Assures Homeland Security Officials

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LAS VEGAS

Big utilities and the transportation, communications, and oil industries are resigned that they will not be able to fully protect themselves from terrorist attack, but are confident they could recover sufficiently to function in the wake of one, homeland security officials were told Thursday.

The same factor that makes them most vulnerable — a network of widely dispersed sets — also allows them to circumvent interruptions, whether the target is railroad lines, fiber optics cables or oil pipelines, industry representatives told a conference sponsored by the Western Governors' Association and the federal Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office.

The nation's financially strapped towns and cities face their own problems in responding to terrorism because the federal government has not provided funding to bolster local emergency services, one speaker complained.

"We still face enormous needs," said Mary Poss, a Dallas city councilwoman and co-chair of the homeland security task force of the National League of Cities. Last month's passage of the Homeland Security Act provided no funding for local emergency crews, she noted, "and cities were very disappointed."

If local governments make homeland security a priority, without federal aid they will have to eliminate other public services, Poss said.

Court Hears Final Campaign Finance Arguments

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Two days of arguments aimed at overturning a far-reaching campaign-finance law wrapped up in federal court Thursday with lawyers continuing to assert that it cracks down too hard on political parties, interest groups and wealthy donors.

But one stood up to charge that the law is a raw deal for the little guy.

John Bonifaz, an attorney representing a group of individuals he said are ordinary Americans, urged a special three-judge panel to strike down certain provisions in the law that increase the amounts of money presidential and congressional candidates can raise directly.

The judges, Bonifaz said, would have to decide whether federal elections will be "open only to the wealthy and well-connected, or whether our elections will be open to all."

The law enacted earlier this year prohibits national parties from raising so-called "soft money" — largely unregulated donations often given in six- and seven-figure checks. That is a central point of dispute in the court case, *McConnell vs. Federal Election Commission*, that challenges the law as unconstitutional.

But the law also expands the ability of candidates for federal office to raise campaign contributions by doubling a decades-old limit on individual donations, to \$2,000 per election from \$1,000. Such donations are known as hard money.

As arguments ended in U.S. District Court, plaintiffs continued to probe for weaknesses in the most significant campaign law of the past quarter-century.

Some attacked a provision banning donations by minors. Government attorneys countered that it was meant to stop parents from circumventing donation limits.

Others questioned a section that restricts communication between interest groups and candidates or parties. Government lawyers said that without this restriction, candidates and parties could benefit from large sums of money spent by interest groups on political activity.

The panel is expected to issue its ruling by early next year. The case is then expected to move directly to the Supreme Court for final review.

D.A. Recommends Throwing Out 'Central Park 5' Charges

By Karen Freifeld
NEWSDAY

NEW YORK

In an extraordinary turn of events blasted by police and hailed by activists, Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau Thursday recommended that all charges against the five young men convicted in the 1989 near-fatal beating and rape of a Central Park jogger be thrown out.

In a 58-page legal filing, Morgenthau agreed to set aside the 12-year-old convictions in light of new evidence — namely claims by a serial rapist, linked to the jogger through DNA, that he alone attacked the 28-year-old investment banker on April 19, 1989.

The rapist, Matias Reyes, 31, also committed a rape in the park two days earlier, prosecutors noted, and new testing undermines other evidence introduced at trial, such as hair found on one of the young men that jurors were led to believe could have matched the jogger.

The main evidence against the five were their incriminating statements, which they contend were coerced. The new evidence makes it likely the trials "would have result-

ed in verdicts more favorable to the defendants," the report said.

Morgenthau said he has no plans to retry the "Central Park 5," as they have come to be known. All of the young men have served their time in the case. The district attorney also recommended that the men's convictions for attacks on other victims in the park that night be vacated.

"It's a great victory," said defense attorney Roger Wareham, who represents three of the young men. "What this case represents is a real indictment of the criminal justice system in New York City and I would say in the United States. It's evidence of the fact there's always a double standard when blacks and Latinos are accused of ... crimes."

All five young men convicted of the attack are black and Hispanic.

For the men to be cleared, Morgenthau's decision has to be approved by State Supreme Court Justice Charles Tejada, who is likely to issue a ruling before Feb. 6, the date he set, since the defense and prosecutors are apparently in agreement, said David Bookstaver, a court spokesman.

The decision to throw out the convictions is a stunning turnaround in a case that shocked the

city 13 years ago. The randomness of the attack on the jogger frightened New Yorkers and made national headlines symbolizing a city out of control.

The victim, who worked for Salomon Brothers at the time, spent 12 days in a coma after she was left for dead in a muddy pool of blood on a night some 30 teenagers descended on the park to mug bikers and runners in a crime spree.

"Certainly, no one would have thought that as the defendants and their group were making their way through Central Park, a serial rapist was also at large," Nancy Ryan, chief of the trial division, wrote in Thursday's report. "The newly discovered evidence provides incontrovertible proof that he was."

Reyes, who has been behind bars since 1989 serving 33 1/3 years to life for four other rapes and a murder, came forward earlier this year with the claim that he alone had raped the jogger. His DNA was tested against that found on a sock at the crime scene, and in May prosecutors were told it matched. The district attorney's office reopened the case.

Massachusetts Priest Fathered Two Children, Documents Say

By Pamela Ferdinand
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

BOSTON

A Massachusetts priest now serving as an associate pastor fathered at least two children with a married woman and apparently failed to call for help immediately when she collapsed from an overdose in his presence in the late 1960s, according to Boston Archdiocese documents released Thursday by attorneys for alleged victims of clergy sexual abuse.

Handwritten notes from the personnel file of Rev. James D. Foley suggest the priest got dressed and left the woman's house, but returned later to call 911. The woman died, according to the records of a 1993 meeting between Foley and top

church officials, including Cardinal Bernard Law.

But the brief and cryptic notes — "Started to faint. He clothed. Left came back. Called 911. She died. A sister knows" — do not indicate the timing or circumstances of her overdose and death, the extent of Foley's involvement or exactly when the incident occurred.

Roderick MacLeish Jr., an attorney for dozens of alleged abuse victims, said he had contacted the Massachusetts attorney general about the case, which church officials apparently did not report to law enforcement authorities. Neither Foley nor archdiocese officials could be reached to comment.

The revelations came during a dramatic week in the archdiocese at

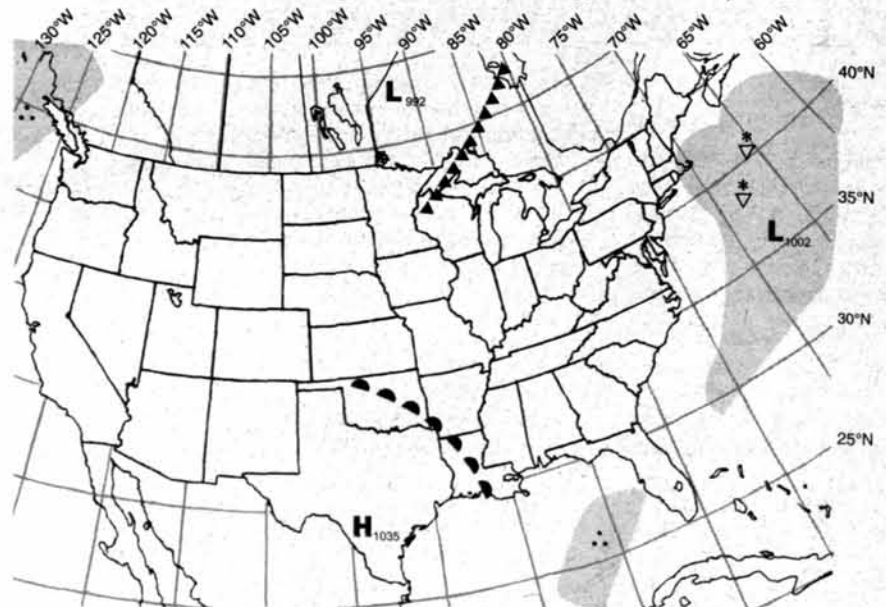
the epicenter of the Roman Catholic church scandal, deepening public outrage and intensifying calls for Law's resignation as the church seeks to resolve hundreds of lawsuits at a potential cost of more than \$100 million.

They also expand the range of alleged offenses committed by Boston clergy beyond the sexual abuse of minors and extend a pattern of church officials protecting troubled priests.

On Tuesday, MacLeish's firm released more than 2,000 pages of documents containing files on eight priests and evidence of some of the most egregious behavior by Boston clergy disclosed to date — including a priest who beat his housekeeper.

WEATHER

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, December 6, 2002



Sunny, Snowless Weekend

By Leah Hutchison

Yesterday's snow will soon be only a memory as high pressure from the south reaches Boston today. The weekend should be mostly clear with temperatures warm enough to melt the snow. Sunday night, however, another cold front will move in from Canada, bringing clouds and the chance of snow just in time for classes Monday. Enjoy the beautiful weekend!

Extended Forecast

Today: Chance of morning flurries. High of 35°F (2°C).

Tonight: Mostly clear. Low of 22°F (-6°C).

Saturday: Sunny. High of 40 (4°C).

Saturday night: Mostly clear. Low of 28°F (-2°C).

Sunday: Sunny, turning to clouds in afternoon. High of 42°F (6°C) and low overnight near 21°F (-6°C).

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow * Rain ▽	Fog ☁
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Light * Moderate ** Heavy ***	Thunderstorm ⚡
§ Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front		Haze ☁
	▲▲▲ Stationary Front		Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Turmoil Deepens as Venezuela General Strike Reaches Day 4

By Scott Wilson

THE WASHINGTON POST
CARACAS, VENEZUELA

A four-day-old general strike called to push President Hugo Chavez from office disrupted Venezuela's vital oil industry Thursday, and the streets of Caracas filled with rival partisan crowds, leading Chavez to warn of an imminent coup attempt and urge supporters to stand by his populist government in the days ahead.

The president's warning came after the captains of seven tankers that belong to the national oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela, dropped anchor and joined the strike — a defiant threat to the government's main source of revenue. The tankers represent more than half of the company's fleet and about 25 percent of its total shipping capacity.

The captains refused to resume work even after Chavez warned that he intended to use military force to take over the idle craft and force them to haul their normal loads.

Late Thursday afternoon on Lake Maracaibo, witnesses said the navy boarded the tanker *Pilin Leon*, which was carrying 280,000 barrels of gasoline, but it was unclear whether it took control. The other ships, which Chavez called "pirated," apparently remained on strike.

Opposition leaders announced that the strike will continue at least another day, reflecting a decision to continue a financially punishing protest for as long as it takes to force concessions from the government. The announcement further complicated negotiations to end the increasingly tense standoff and raised fears of gasoline shortages and cancellation of oil shipments to the United States and other foreign customers.

Chavez, who until Thursday had dismissed the strike as a media-driven display destined for failure, said in a national address that the opposition was organizing the type of events that preceded his brief ouster in April, when street protests and an oil strike provoked a military-led

coup. He called on Venezuelans "to reflect so you won't be manipulated again," even as he called his opponents "fascists" and "coup-mongers."

"There is a plan in progress to defeat the constitutional government," said Chavez, who canceled a trip to Brazil. "These are groups of subversives, groups of destabilizers. I won't say opposition, a democratic opposition, which we still do not have in this country."

The president's comments demonstrated the escalating rhetoric on both sides of a broad ideological divide that has brought Venezuela, the United States' third-largest oil supplier, to the brink of more political violence. After tacitly endorsing the failed coup carried out by senior military officers in April — and making clear its distaste for Chavez and his class-based populism — the Bush administration has been careful in public to urge a peaceful and legal resolution of the crisis this time, preferably through new elections.

Michigan Weighs Relaxing Dioxin Standard, Governor-Elect Opposed

By Eric Pianin

THE WASHINGTON POST

In one of his final acts as Michigan governor, John Engler (R) is trying to ease state standards for toxic dioxin pollution, a move that could relieve Dow Chemical Co. of substantial liability for future cleanup operations at the company's headquarters and along a large watershed leading into Lake Huron.

The proposed rule change, negotiated by Engler's Department of Environmental Quality and Dow officials, has drawn fire from Gov.-elect Jennifer Granholm (D) and regional officials of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, who say it may be illegal. Karl Bremer, chief of the EPA's Region 5 toxics division, said in a letter to the state that "it does not appear that U.S. EPA guidance has been considered or followed in developing" the new standard and risk assessment models.

Granholm, the outgoing state attorney general, said during a campaign stop in a contaminated area downstream from the Dow facility: "There is a definite lack of governmental accountability here."

Environmental groups contend that Engler's business-friendly administration is trying to minimize Dow's long-term financial exposure

to what may prove to be one of the largest corporate pollution cases since the EPA last year ordered General Electric to pay nearly half a billion dollars to dredge toxic PCBs from the floor of the upper Hudson River in New York.

Michigan officials and Dow executives dispute this, saying they are merely trying to put in place a long-discussed plan to study the extent and possible health implications of public exposure to elevated levels of dioxin in the central Michigan town of Midland, home to Dow Chemical, and downstream along the Tittabawassee River.

"We've been in negotiations with Dow for a year, so I don't think it's some rush type of process," said Patricia Spitzley, press secretary for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. "I don't think that in their desire to get their house in order before they leave that [administration officials] are compromising human health and the environment."

Thursday, a coalition of Michigan environmental groups went to court in Lansing, the state capital, in a bid to block a proposed consent order that would allow the lower dioxin standard to take effect before Engler leaves office in January.

Dioxin is a potent toxin that can cause cancer and disrupt the immune and reproductive systems. It is a byproduct from the manufacture of Agent Orange, mustard gas, chlorinated pesticides and chlorophenol at Dow headquarters over the past half-century. Experts say the elevated levels of dioxin found in Midland soil likely came from the burning of chlorinated compounds, while the dioxin in the Tittabawassee flood plain likely came from waste ponds at the Dow complex that overflowed in a 1986 flood.

The proposed rule change would increase by more than ninefold the amount of dioxin allowed in Midland's soil — from the current 90 parts per trillion to 831 parts per trillion. Some environmentalists say that if the proposed rule change for Midland prevails, it will become the de facto cleanup standard for the state — an assumption that state and Dow officials dispute.

"I think the governor is trying to hand Dow Chemical a sweetheart deal that will essentially relieve them of a large part of their liability for contamination of what is the second-largest watershed in the Great Lakes," said Tracey Easthope of the Ecology Center, a nonprofit regional environmental group.

U.S. Employers Cutting Health Care Coverage for Workers in Retirement

By Vicki Kemper

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

More than one-third of the United States' large employers that offer health care to retired workers have recently stopped such benefits for future retirees or expect to do so within the next three years, a comprehensive survey released Thursday has found.

The report highlights yet another unwelcome consequence of spiraling health-care costs, which are rising at double-digit rates even though overall inflation is well under control. It foreshadows troubling ripple effects and even tougher policy decisions ahead as elected officials confront growing numbers of Americans without health insurance.

And with fewer employers subsidizing health coverage for their retirees, the cost pressure on the already strapped Medicare program will only increase.

There was a ray of good news in the survey, conducted by the Henry J.

Kaiser Family Foundation and Hewitt Associates, a human-resources consulting firm. All but 5 percent of the companies surveyed said they would continue to subsidize health insurance for current retirees and their spouses.

Yet 85 percent of them said they would continue to pass on more of the coverage costs to retirees. Over the past year alone, retiree contributions increased an average 20 percent.

The study of 435 companies that employ more than 1,000 and currently offer health benefits for retired workers was conducted online between July 2 and Sept. 9.

"Employer-subsidized health-care coverage for retirees is not collapsing, but it is eroding," says Drew Altman, president of the Menlo Park, Calif.-based Kaiser Family Foundation, an independent health-care philanthropy.

"It's a balancing act," said Randy Johnson, head of human resources strategic initiatives for Motorola Inc. "If we're going to be able to provide

jobs to future retirees" in an environment of rising costs and global competition, "we're going to have to manage costs now."

For current retirees, that is likely to mean reduced benefits and higher insurance premiums, deductibles and co-payments. But for older workers — the very age group that has the hardest time buying individual policies — it may mean no employer-provided coverage at all.

Twenty-two percent of employers surveyed — more than one in five — said they were very likely or somewhat likely to terminate health benefits for future retirees within the next three years. An additional 13 percent said they had stopped offering health benefits to future retirees over the past two years.

"This is a trend we have been watching for some time," Kate Sullivan, director of health policy for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said in an interview. "It means we have to look beyond employer groups to help people pay for health coverage."

Huge Winter Storm Puts East Coast on Ice

LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK

The first major snow and ice storm of the season moved up the East Coast on Thursday, forcing schools and airports to close, sending cars and trucks skidding on slick roads and snapping power lines.

Fog in some places added to the hazards of driving as the National Weather Service warned of reduced visibility and possible whiteouts caused by heavy snowfall.

So far the storm, which crossed the southern Plains earlier in the week, then moved from the Texas Panhandle to Virginia on Wednesday before continuing to the Northeast, has killed at least 18 people — mostly in motor vehicle accidents.

At least 76 accidents were reported Thursday on the New Jersey Turnpike alone, and more than 1.6 million homes and businesses were without electricity from the Carolinas to Oklahoma.

In Durham, N.C., faculty members and their families carrying sleeping bags took refuge at Duke University's Law School, which has its own generator, said Erwin Chemerinsky, a visiting constitutional law professor from the University of Southern California.

Chemerinsky said the only food available was at a nearby Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise, where people waited 90 minutes in line to be served. He said his family planned to spend Thursday night in sleeping bags at the school.

Typical of the problems facing many commuters was Lisa Rafanelli's tense journey to her job as an art history teacher at Manhattanville College in Westchester County, N.Y. It is usually less than an hour's drive from New York City.

"It took me two hours to get there and 2 1/2 hours to get home," she said after parking her snow-covered car in an East Side Manhattan garage. "There were a lot of people stranded on the side of the road."

Report Says Mars Too Cold, Dry to Spur Life

NEWSDAY

A new look at the bumps, basins and flow channels on distant Mars suggests the red planet, though sometimes awash with water, has been too cold and too dry to ever get life going, a team of scientists said Thursday.

Their report, published in the journal *Science*, is the latest salvo in a long-running academic battle, the Dry-Marsers vs. the Wet-Marsers. The Wet-Marsers point to the planet's landforms and channels as suggestions that small pockets on Mars may still be wet with ultra-salty water. If so, then life may have had a chance.

The latest blast from Dry-Marsers comes from planetary scientist Owen Toon's team at the University of Colorado. Their article in Friday's issue of the journal *Science* says the planet did experience brief wet episodes, kicked off by periodic impacts of huge icy comets and asteroids and perhaps from water frozen into the Martian soil as permafrost. But, they said, the damp intervals lasted just long enough to carve river-like channels and flood the landscape, quickly followed by the return of cold, dry conditions.

"There apparently were some brief warm and wet periods on Mars," planetary scientist Teresa Segura, a graduate student member of the University of Colorado team, explained. "But we believe that through most of its history Mars has been a cold, dry planet," and thus an inhospitable place to nurture life.

Delay on FEC Pick Irks McCain

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Sen. John McCain accused President Bush Thursday of breaking a written promise to speedily appoint a Democrat to the Federal Election Commission, reigniting their roiling feud just as McCain is about to regain the post of chairman of the Senate commerce committee.

McCain (R-Ariz) said he will "assume all future assurances and promises by this administration to be quite possibly insincere." In an interview, he said the White House had delayed the appointment as part of an "orchestrated and systematic undermining" of the campaign finance legislation that he long championed and Bush belatedly and grudgingly supported.

The FEC is writing regulations to implement the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law and the current commissioners have approved several loopholes. Supporters of McCain's proposed appointee, ethics lawyer Ellen Weintraub, say she would vote for stricter limitations.

A White House official said Thursday night that Bush plans to appoint Weintraub Friday morning — less than 24 hours after the FEC finished the bulk of its work on the law. McCain called the timing cynical.

"The Bush administration has broken their word on an issue that has been of transcendent importance to me, and that's hard to get over," said McCain, who ran against Bush in the Republican primaries of 2000. "It will be harder for them to do business with the Senate, since a lot of it is done by handshake."

McCain — who was not invited to the ceremony when Bush signed the measure into law — could launch investigations of the administration when the GOP takes over the Senate in January and he regains the chairmanship of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

The White House made a deal with McCain in July to appoint Weintraub to the FEC. Weintraub, a former Democratic counsel to the House ethics committee, was the choice of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) Until the deal was struck, McCain was holding up nearly 100 of Bush's judicial and administrative nominations.

Even as the senator was voicing his anger, the FEC Thursday adopted a disputed regulation that McCain and his allies say epitomizes the kind of loophole that Weintraub might have prevented. McCain and groups such as Common Cause and the Center for Responsive Politics say the new regulation will let federal candidates control the spending of unlimited amounts of corporate, union and special interest "soft money" in the early stages of federal campaigns. A key goal of the McCain-Feingold law is to bar the national parties and federal candidates from raising and spending soft money.

OPINION



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Letters To The Editor

UA Survey Poorly Designed

I believe the UA's decision to reject the ASA's suggestions for the Student Center reading room ["UA Votes to Revamp Reading Room Area," Dec. 3] was a poor one; but the survey they used to justify that decision was a travesty, with respect to the interests of science and honesty. It was a blatant example of a push poll — that is, a survey designed to produce results supporting a particular point of view.

First off, the survey presents the UA's position and gives the reasons why. It then says that there is an alternative proposal by the ASA, which the UA opposes. No justification for the alternative proposal is offered. This is an unabashed case of guiding the responses — stamped with the bold claim, "To accurately reflect the view of MIT undergraduates, the UA has decided to conduct this survey." This failure to elucidate the alternative proposal is the most egregious flaw of the survey. But hardly the only one.

The survey claims that the undergraduate responses will "decide the fate" of the reading room, completely ignoring the constituency of graduate students such as myself who also need and use study spaces and participate in MIT activities.

The questions themselves are designed to bolster the UA's position and bias the respondents. One question asks students how much they would use the reading room if it were

renovated. One of the options was "A lot less often." Shockingly, no one picked that choice. The question merely serves to remind the respondent what the "right" course of action is.

Then the survey adds another issue, group study, muddying the waters even more. When the final question comes, allowing respondents to rank courses of action, it is not hard to guess how the chips will fall. The options are: a nonsense choice ("Do not renovate it"); three versions of the UA proposal, and the unsupported ASA proposal. So out of the five "choices" there actually are just two, with one choice being counted three times.

Anyone associated with the design or use of the survey should be ashamed. As a work of propaganda, it was great — too bad the marketing industry is in a slump, or the responsible parties would know where to send a resume.

Bradford Johnson G

Chomsky's Allegations Should Be Questioned

I left Noam Chomsky's Monday night address amazed. It was not just what he said; it was how the event was handled. First, during the question and answer session, a few students asked Dr. Chomsky questions that challenged his limited view of the topics he presented. Rather than respond in a courteous, instructive manner befitting of a professor

addressing a student, he began attacking them.

He told one girl that she was "flat out wrong" in her assertions, and repeatedly used his mastery of language and crowd psychology to make the audience laugh derisively at questioners. He told one student that she was an imbecile, making sure to cover his retreat with a claim that her malaise affected many more than her.

What is this man so afraid of? And on top of that, who bearing the title of "Professor" dares act so horribly toward students? Later, another questioner, who looked to be in his twenties, rose and identified himself as an Israeli. He said that, in contrast to Mr. Chomsky's assertions that Israelis are blood-thirsty warmongers, he, a former officer in the Israeli Defense Forces, and the Israeli people longed for peace and were willing to work toward it, even in the face of ongoing terrorism. Mr. Chomsky scoffed at this claim, and the hand extended in the search for peace, and began listing quasi-facts supporting his original slur. When the man attempted to restate his call for peace, Dr. Aimee L. Smith PhD '02, an event organizer, took his microphone away so that Mr. Chomsky could finish his diatribe unchallenged. This silencing of dissent by Dr. Smith — moreover, dissent that was in support of peace — was horrifying. Never again can I believe the Social Justice Cooperative when it attempts to present itself as a champion of free speech.

Samuel Korb '02

Opinion Policy

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

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

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

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

two days before the date of publication.

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

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Democracy in the Middle East

Guest Column
Jake Solomon

Among various explanations for the colossal failure of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, one crucial flaw overshadows all others. The architects of the peace process tragically ignored the need of the Palestinian people for true self-rule i.e. democracy. Instead, the diplomats who initiated the peace process effectively appointed Yasser Arafat as a military dictator, with the hope that he would use his military authority to impose peace on his people.

From a historical perspective, one cannot help but notice the fallacy inherent in appointing a dictator to bring peace. Indeed, dictators inevitably confront conflicts between their personal interests and the interests of their nations, and in preferring their personal interests to those of their nations, naturally pit their nations against themselves. Hence, with few exceptions in history, dictators have uniformly led their countries into war with the eminently understandable aim of unifying their people against a common enemy besides themselves.

In particular, no one contests that Arafat has siphoned immense fortunes of international aid intended for the Palestinian refugees into his and his cronies' personal coffers, leaving his people living in dire poverty in cramped refugee camps. At the same time, to preserve his authority, he mercilessly suppresses any serious attempt to dissent from his often misguided policy. So that his people would not rebel against him, he had no choice but to encourage their animosity toward Israel. Long before the current intifada, the Palestinian Authority routinely violated the terms of the Oslo Accords concerning arms control. Palestinian school textbooks have consistently shown maps of the Middle East without Israel, and incite their readers to violence against Israel. According to *The New York Times*, before the current intifada came about, special summer camps run by the Palestinian Authority were training tens of thousands of Palestinian teenagers in the use of firearms, and guerilla warfare techniques. A Palestinian 16-year-old interviewed in the article defined Palestinian freedom as including "having Jerusalem and then the rest of Israel."

Not surprisingly, no small number of critics have predicted the failure of the peace talks from the very beginning, suggesting an endless number of alternative approaches. The extreme right advocates a negotiated population transfer to realize Palestinian national independence in Jordan under the government of King Abdullah. Needless to say, such an approach to resolving the conflict overlooks the fundamental reason for the violence in the Middle East. Absolute rulers do not rule for the good of their people.

Radical leftists advocate a one-state solution that would require Israel to accept all the Palestinian refugees as citizens. In theory, Israel would become a binational democratic state for both Jews and Palestinians. However, the bloody ethnic conflicts that have arisen in the wake of the collapse of such multi-national states in Lebanon, the former USSR and former Yugoslavia raise doubt as to the viability of this doctrine. History emphatically confirms that individual nations prefer to independently determine their own unique future, i.e., nations naturally seek national self-determination.

Furthermore, the Palestinians in their current condition would destabilize any democratic regime, whether they built it for themselves or whether they shared it with Israelis. Indeed, because of the freedom a democracy grants its citizens including the would-be tyrants among them, the citizens of a democracy must never cease to share and actively advocate their firm conviction that democracy must stand. Following World War I, Germany, despite ranking among the most intellectually advanced countries in the world, failed to sustain a democratic regime because of lack of conviction that democracy alone could preserve their well-being. Germany's history of monarchic rule combined with an intense desire for revenge after World War I proved too great a challenge for German advocates of democracy. Instead, appointing Hitler as dictator, Germany led the world into World War II, despite the territorial appeasement that France and Great Britain agreed to in

the annexation of Czechoslovakia.

The history of the Palestinians will not prove any less of a challenge for their advocates of democracy. They have fought a losing battle against Israel since before its inception, and they have suffered at the hands of tyrannical rulers all the while, from Arafat, and King Hussein of Jordan, to the British mandate and the Ottoman Empire. The other nations in the region, with the exception of Israel, despite their relatively more favorable histories, have nearly uniformly succumbed to one form of tyranny or another. To inject the Palestinian people with their historical burden into the Israel's lone democratic society in the region would unquestionably jeopardize the future of democracy in Israel, along with the lives of all its citizens.

Still, if diplomats want to see a lasting peace in the region, they must give Palestinians true self-rule, including both democracy and independence from foreign powers. To appease the animosity of war and build the foundations of democracy, Israel must follow the example of the United States in Germany and Japan after World War II. Israel must revamp the Palestinian educational system to eliminate incitement and hate-filled ideological indoctrination from the curriculum while incorporating basic democratic values. At the same time, Israel must help the Palestinian people to rebuild their cities and transform their refugee camps into new cities. As Palestinians began to realize material improvements in their quality of life as a direct result of their cooperation with Israel, their confidence in the future of a diplomatic process would mount while nationalistic rivalries subsided. Moderate leaders would emerge who could lead their people in building a democracy. Only if Israel and the future Palestinian state build economic, social and diplomatic ties like the United States, Germany and Japan built following World War II, can they hope to coexist on the tiny spec of land they must share.

Jake Solomon is a graduate student in the Department of Mathematics.

If diplomats want to see a lasting peace in Middle East, they must give Palestinians true self-rule, including both democracy and independence from foreign powers.

Affirmative Action: A Necessary Evil

Vivek Rao

"Affirmative action" is a phrase that conjures up a variety of images for a variety of people. A product of the civil rights movement, affirmative actions permits women and minorities to receive special consideration in employment, education, and contracting decisions, even if they may not be the most talented or qualified candidate.

The debate has raged on for years as to the morality of affirmative action. Though the whole concept no doubt sprang forth from good intentions, many feel it represents reverse discrimination, robbing white males of the jobs and educational opportunities they deserve. Still, a significant segment of the population remains in favor of the policy, feeling it justly empowers those people who are typically disadvantaged and discriminated against.

Yet even as the ethics are carefully weighed by both the general public and policymakers alike, there is still the question of legality. Does affirmative action lie in accordance with the Constitution, or does it violate fundamental principles of equality of opportunity? Surprisingly, despite the universal nature of this arena, the issue has gone largely resolved in the past, especially regarding college admissions processes. That is, until this week, when the Supreme Court formally agreed to deliberate on the application of affirmative action toward state university admissions.

Affirmative action is a crucial issue facing this country, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the education sector. Ever since the signing of the Constitution over two hundred years ago, the United States has always placed a high emphasis on education.

As one of the world's first modern democracies, the country has long stressed the notion of educated and capable citizens. Combine this with the image of America as the land of equal opportunity, and you can immediately sense the intensity behind the affirmative action debate; do such policies strip deserving citizens of the fundamental right to equality of opportunity they deserve, or do they merely restore to minorities privileges that have otherwise been undermined by far more subtle social factors and pressure?

Affirmative action, in moderation, is a necessary evil in combating class perpetuation along racial lines in this country.

Normally, I have little trouble formulating strict viewpoints on a given topic, but this is one issue for which I must rest on the fence.

On one hand, affirmative action is a rather disturbing concept. After all, there is no doubting that it is a policy that formally discriminates against a certain segment of the population, even if this segment happens to be a relatively large and wealthy one.

This country prides itself on the belief that everything in life is earned. While it may be idealistic, there is a rather widely held desire to eliminate special privileges from our lives, and affirmative action clearly flies in the face of all of that. Or does it? Certainly, there is little doubt that affirmative action cannot and should not be a final endpoint of our society. It is never an ideal situation when people are discriminated against based on factors they have absolutely no control over, but given the circumstances, affirmative action represents a practical temporary solution.

While the American university system is designed to provide equal educational opportunities to all deserving students, it has become apparent in recent years that this is not yet true. The most universal indicator used to shape college admissions is the SAT, which

was designed to be somewhat like an IQ test, predicting not who knew the most by the end of high school, but who was most likely to succeed in their freshman year of college. However, all results from this standardized test have suggested that minorities consistently and blatantly underperform. This is not because they are less smart, but because they have less access to educational resources than most white students.

This has caused a tenuous situation in college admissions, especially at a time when diversity is considered more valuable for education than ever before. University officials are left with a critical dilemma. On one hand, the admissions process is one that puts full emphasis on everything a student has accomplished: grades, activities, test scores, and more. At the same time, however, many of these criteria depend not insignificantly on the student's background and upbringing, factors which we would rather believe are independent of this entire process but are in fact intrinsic to it in a subtle way. So while universities feel obligated to reward students who have succeeded to date, they are also left wondering about the less privileged students who for various reasons, have not achieved a high level of achievement but may indeed offer a great deal of promise and potential. Isn't college a place for broadening horizons and opportunities, rather than perpetuating existing limitations and privileges?

Affirmative action, in moderation, is a necessary evil in combating class perpetuation along racial lines in this country. At the same time, it is not a very satisfying solution; it attempts to solve a fundamental problem of inequality of opportunity in a rather superficial manner, rather than attacking the root causes of the problem. It would behoove the Supreme Court to not only provide legal backing for affirmative action as a short-term solution to the college admissions dilemma, but to also suggest more permanent and essential approaches to tackling this problem.

Consider Yourself Guilty

Guest Column
Tae Won Kim

Two weeks ago, William Safire wrote an editorial ["You are a Suspect," *The New York Times*, Nov. 14] severely criticizing the Bush administration's attempt to invade the privacy of all United States citizens and create an "Orwellian" society. Alarmingly, the society of 1984 is knocking at our front step and threatening to sequester control over our lives.

Imagine the following situation. You have swiped your credit card to purchase some chemical fertilizer for your lawn. For two weeks, you make multiple runs to the store to purchase more fertilizer. The following week, the FBI and CIA show up and interrogate you for hours about why you have bought so much chemical fertilizer. They ask if you have connections with a worldwide terrorist group.

The above scenario will become reality if the current Homeland Security Act passes without revision. By means of the "Total Information Access (TIA)," the government is in the process of creating a massive database that will record and make available every transaction you make, every car you purchase, every gift you buy and every Web page and e-mail you view. It will allow the government to recognize possible terrorist activity early and prevent such disasters as the Oklahoma City bombing and Sept. 11.

Safire notes that the project is being led by Vice Admiral John M. Poindexter, the national security advisor to former President Ronald Reagan — the "genius" who brought us the Iran-Contra scandal.

The scandal involved a secret plan to pay ransom for hostages, with the illegal money supporting the Contras in Nicaragua, although the government had passed legislation banning such financial support. Poindexter was convicted of five felony charges, though an appellate court overturned the ruling on the basis that he was granted immunity before his testimony. Do we really want this man to have full control of our privacy? He has shown that he will go beyond the law; there is no telling what he will do if the power he has longed for becomes a reality.

Trusting Vice Admiral Poindexter is only one of the many problems of this proposed plan. An obvious unresolved issue is who gets access to the database and how it will be monitored. The frightening answer is that anyone in the government will have privileges to it and searches of private information can be performed without a search warrant. Anyone and everyone will be marked a possible terrorist unless proven otherwise. The TIA contradicts our most important judicial principle, innocence until proven guilty.

Likewise, in an age of information technology dominated by computers, security and safety of electronic information is at an all-time low. Who can guarantee that the database will be inaccessible to those who are willing to go the distance? Recall that a security company recently dared the world to break its encryption code, calling it the world's most sophisticated system. Not surprisingly, another company cracked it with two years time and multiple computers.

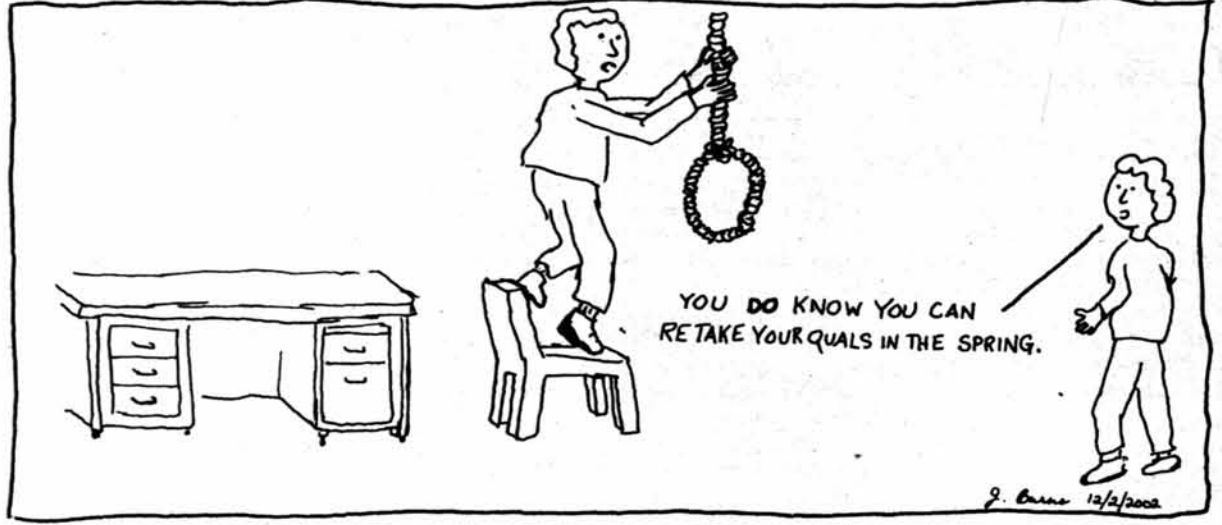
Also, we are ready to believe that Sept. 11 occurred because the government lacked information. The information was there: we just failed to use it. Secret agents were sending memos to CIA and FBI headquarters for two years warning that a surprise attack was imminent. Instead of asking "How do we obtain more information," we should be asking, "What the hell is wrong with our security agencies and how can we fix them?"

There are other means to ensure that our homeland remains secure without invading the privacy of citizens. Chemical supply companies and other providers of dangerous materials can be mandated to follow more extensive guidelines in reporting transactions to the government. The carefully recording of such exchanges will achieve what TIA is supposed to accomplish. Similarly, the government can impose heavier restrictions on who can purchase dangerous materials by requiring customers to fill out an application that automatically inputs them in a mini-database, which then can be used at the government's discretion to perform heavy background checks.

Many proponents (mainly those involved with Poindexter) tell us that "knowledge is power." The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 proved that "what you do with the knowledge is power." The TIA could mask the relevant information under all the junk, making it impossible to see the next Sept. 11 before it occurs.

Tae Won Kim is a member of the Class of 2004.

A VERY MERRY *Filler Space* CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



MANGOES (BEST DRAWING: JOSIE) (BIC JUMAANE HAD STUFF DUE)



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 13

ACROSS

- 1 Volcanic dust
- 4 Wyatt's ally
- 7 Reacts to a can of Raid?
- 14 Inactive medication
- 16 In a cordial manner
- 17 Laid-back sort
- 18 Dance performances
- 19 Man of the cloth?
- 21 Duel tool
- 22 Feudal serfs
- 23 Tiny drinks
- 26 For fear that
- 27 Old English sports cars
- 28 Interjection of triumph
- 29 Fem. address
- 30 Got it!

DOWN

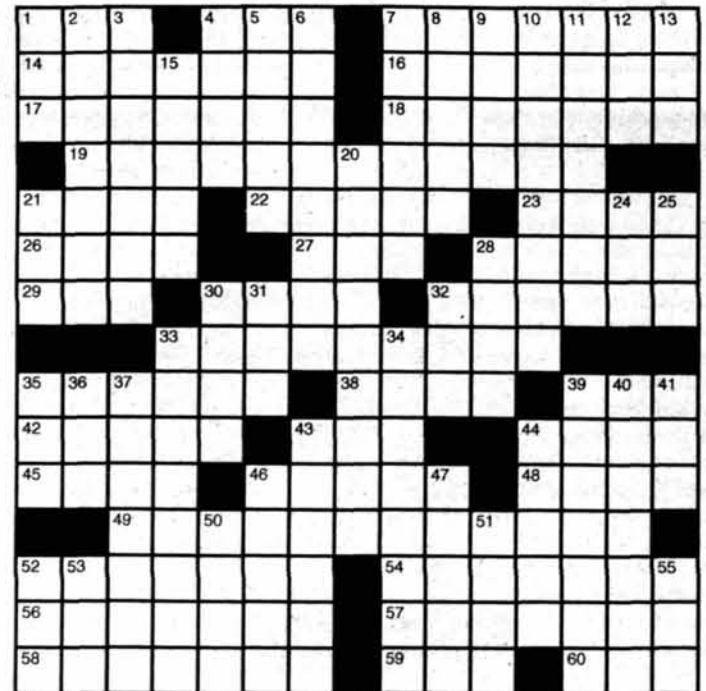
- 32 40th President
- 33 Man of the cloth?
- 35 Write a score
- 38 Greek letter grp.
- 39 Period of light
- 42 Myanmar, formerly
- 43 AFL-__
- 44 Caution
- 45 Baby bed
- 46 Petty officers
- 48 Hawaiian guitars, briefly
- 49 Man of the cloth?
- 52 Fatty tissue components
- 54 Exaggerate
- 56 Getty of "The Golden Girls"
- 57 Placate
- 58 Grayish olive shades
- 59 Tint
- 60 Stitch

DOWN

- 1 4 of dates
- 2 Dark horse
- 3 Unlucky
- 4 Lucy's hubby
- 5 Past plump
- 6 Medics' aides
- 7 Infants
- 8 Amherst sch.
- 9 One-quarter pint
- 10 Society of St. Francis member
- 11 Paying heed to
- 12 Most remote, briefly
- 13 Herndon and Cobb
- 15 Desire wrongfully
- 20 Aquarium favorite
- 21 Nightmare street?
- 24 Links org.
- 25 Abel to Adam
- 28 Root vegetable
- 30 Tiny bit

31 Feminine pronoun

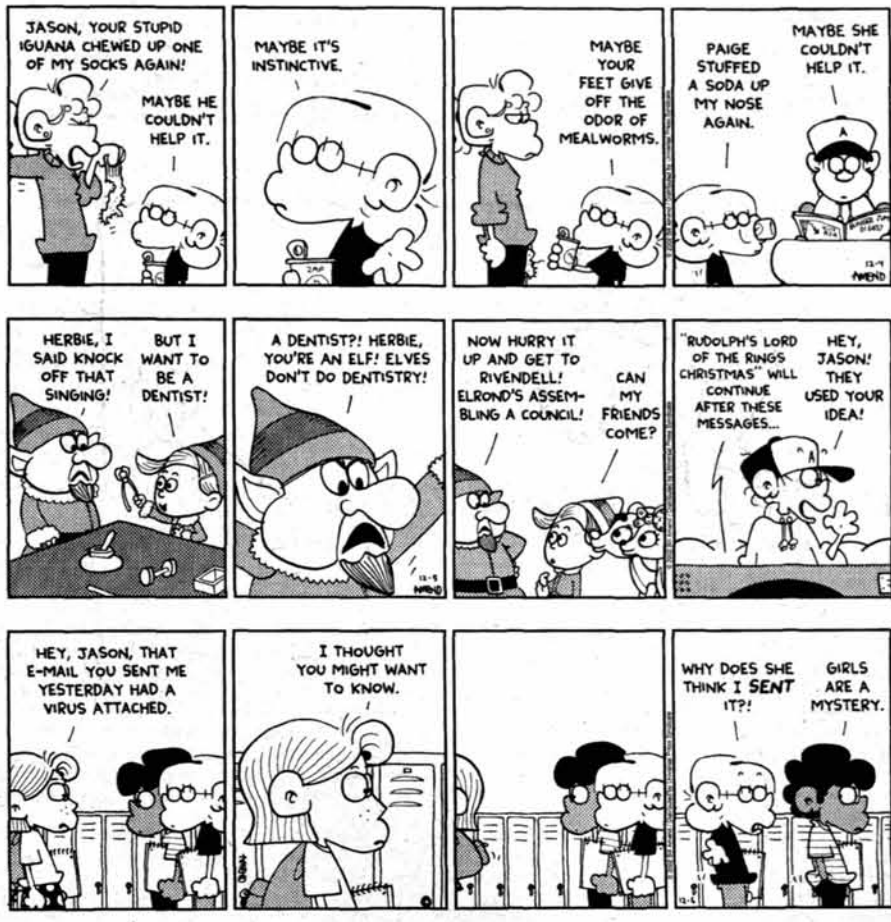
- 32 Cytoplasm letters
- 33 Scout gathering
- 34 Rigid
- 35 "ER" network
- 36 Possessive pronoun
- 37 Some planes
- 39 Badlands states
- 40 Sandy
- 41 Positive reply
- 43 Small woods
- 44 Adorable one
- 46 Chagali's "___ in Green"
- 47 Full of suds
- 50 Auctioneer's last word
- 51 Kind
- 52 Sun. talk
- 53 Either part of a fly?
- 55 A ___ lease on life



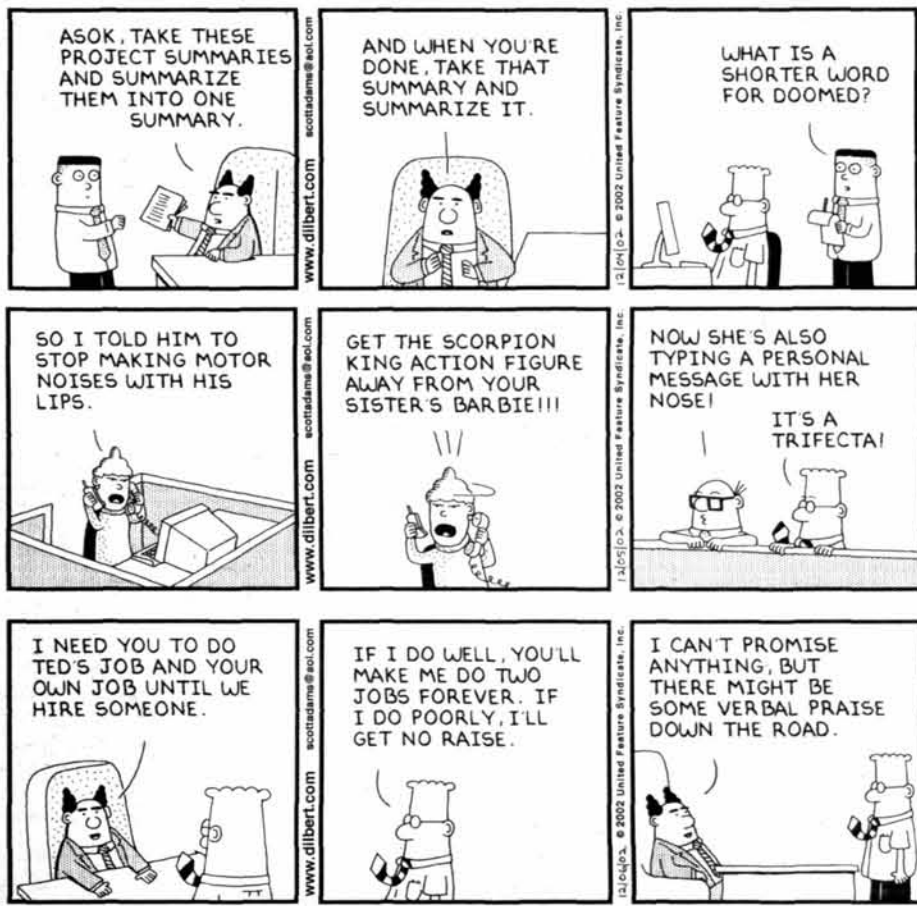
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By Katie, Kailas, Karen and Jason



This head growing out of my inner thigh eats a mean pussy!

Down the Hatchet

What about Bob?

By Akshay Patil

COLUMNIST

It's a dilemma, really. Every time I need to make a reservation or give my name at a restaurant, I am momentarily paralyzed as to what to tell the smiling person behind the counter. The obvious wrong answer would be my real name, but we all cringe a little on the inside when we hear someone butcher our name, so why voluntarily ask for it to happen? Plus, it's not important that they know your real name, they just need something to call out when it's your turn. No, No, I need a good fake name. For the longest of time, I used to tell them my name was "Bob." I like that name. And the beautiful thing about it was that in California, no one is named Bob. Robert and Rob are bountiful, and Bobby occasional, but Bob is a rarity. Sadly, this is not the case here in Massachusetts. In my dorm hall alone, there are two Bobs. That's like the entire Bob population of the West Coast, right there! Obviously there's a need for change. Despite desperate pleas, neither of the Bobs were willing to relinquish their names, thus forcing me to contemplate changes I might have to make concerning my pseudonym. An important criteria for a name is that it must be common, yet unusual. "Chris" or "David" are obvious no-nos. Also, preference is given to masculine names, since few men like to give their name as "Rebecca." My cousin uses "Noah" as his restaurant handle, and I have to admit, I'm jealous. It's the perfect mix between pronounceability and uniqueness. The temptation to steal it is just overwhelming, especially now that we have a bagel store in the student center... Oh, the irony of it all. Recently I've been flirting with the idea of using

"Moses" as my name. I've given it a test run or two, but so far it doesn't feel quite right. When I hear the cashier call out "Moses, your order is ready," I turn around, expecting to see Charlton Heston purposefully striding towards the counter to pick up his non-dairy smoothie. It doesn't quite click with me that I'm Moses, and that it's my order that's ready. Unless I get into the habit of carrying a staff with me and parting puddles on the way to class, I just don't think the name will quite fit me. Biblical super-heroes aside, what I really need is a plausible, pronounceable Indian-sounding name. People always get so confused when they call for "Bob" or "Moses" and they see a surprisingly brown person respond. I know a few that could work, but the thing is, you can't use the name of someone you know. That's just weird. "Oh, I really liked how phonetic your name was, so I stole it?" And just imagine having to explain every time you were with a mutual acquaintance. You might as well just suffer the pain of heaving your own name massacred. Perhaps the key is to just give a random nickname. It certainly would be amusing to hear the maitre d' over the PA system announcing that a table was now open for "Spike, party of four." But I don't have a nick-name like that, and I certainly don't feel like self-delegating myself a nick-name primarily for the purpose of having something to tell the person taking my order. Sadly the days of Bob are over and my new pseudonym era has yet to come of age. Until I find a new name, I guess I'll just have to stick with my real name and just watch for the order where the person gets that "what the hell?" look on his or her face. Oh well, I guess it's better than telling people my name is "Olivia."

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Events Calendar

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Friday, December 6

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Holiday Craft Fair. free. Room: Lobby 10. Sponsor: Tech Community Crafters.

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Children's Skating Registration. Skating instruction is available for 6-12 year old children of the MIT community. A series of eight lessons for both beginner and intermediate level skaters will begin Saturday, December 7. Class sizes are limited, and registration is available on a first-come basis. Deadline for enrollment is Dec. 7, 2002. Course will be held on Saturdays: 12n - Beginners; 1p - Intermediates. Adult lessons are also available providing there is sufficient interest by parents. Students registered prior to Nov. 26 will receive a \$5 reduction in fee. \$65 with MIT Athletics Card; 75 w/o. Room: W35-297X. Sponsor: Physical Education.

10:00 a.m. - Admissions Information Session. Admissions Office Information Session gathers at the Admissions Reception Center (10-100). Enter MIT at the main entrance, Lobby 7, 77 Massachusetts Ave (domed building with tall pillars). Proceed down the center corridor to Room 10-100 on the right. Following the Admissions Information Session is a Student Led Campus Tour which begins in Lobby 7 (main entrance lobby) Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

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

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - MITAC GRAND OPENING IN 11-004. MITAC Box Office Now Open Fridays at CopyTech. Effective Friday, December 6, 2002, MIT employees seeking discounted movie tickets and museum passes can find them at CopyTech's Main Center (11-004) on Fridays. The MIT Activities Committee (MITAC) will sell discounted movie tickets, museum passes and tickets to current MITAC events at CopyTech from 11am - 4pm on Fridays only through January 2003. MITAC tickets will continue to be available at the Walker Memorial (50-005) location Tuesday through Friday from 11am-4pm and at Lincoln Lab (B-210) on Thursdays and Fridays from 11am-4pm. A listing of current events and discounts can be found in the MITAC monthly flyer, mailed to all employees on campus and at Lincoln Laboratory, or online at <http://web.mit.edu/mitac>. If you have any questions, please call 617.253.7990 or email mitac-office@mit.edu. See MITAC Flyer. Room: 11-004 - Copy Tech. Sponsor: MITAC.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - ACDL Seminar. "The Proper Orthogonal Decomposition and its Applications." free. Room: 33-206. Sponsor: AeroAstro.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - The Clubwoman as Statebuilder: Women's Organizations and the United States Government During World War I. Part of the Women's Studies Intellectual Forum. free. Room: E51-095. Sponsor: Women's Studies Program.

2:00 p.m. - Admissions Information Session. free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

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

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Chemical Engineering Dept Fall Seminar Series. Hoyt C. Hottel Lecture. free. Room: 66-110. Sponsor: Chemical Engineering.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - PSFC Seminar. "High beta, long pulse, and bootstrap sustained scenarios on NSTX." free. Room: NW17-218. Sponsor: Plasma Science and Fusion Center.

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Opening Reception: Form and Element. Exhibit of works on paper by Jacquelyn Martino (G) on view through Jan 3. free. Room: Rotch Library Bldg 7, 2nd Floor. Sponsor: Rotch Library.

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Random tree-Automorphisms. Refreshments will be served at 3:30 PM in Room -349. free. Room: Room 2-338. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

5:00 p.m. - Chamber Music Society Concerts. Dec 6 at 5pm; Dec 8-11 at 5pm & 7pm, Killian Hall; Dec 8 - 2 piano concert at 2pm, Kresge Auditorium. free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

7:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. - Anime Club showing: Rah-Xephon, Azumanga, NieA. Watch a selection of new and classic animation from Japan, as well as take advantage of our extensive library of Japanese animation. Tonight: Rah-Xephon (an enigmatic, stylish exploration of the giant-robot theme), Azumanga Daioh (the wildly popular comedy about a set of high-school friends), NieA_7 - comic stones from the other side of the crater from the creators of Serial Experiments: Lain. free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT.

7:00 p.m. - Signs. Town reverend Graham Hess (Mel Gibson) and his brother Merill (Joaquin Phoenix) awake one morning in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to find the dogs barking and the children wandering bleary-eyed in the corn fields. Investigating, they discover a pattern of perfectly carved crop circles left the night before. Ignoring the media frenzy that results from these strange occurrences, Hess rejects the idea that extraterrestrials are invading. His search for answers allows him to reexamine his faith and find truths he has sought all his life. Written and directed by M. Night Shyamalan (The Sixth Sense, Unbreakable). Rated PG-13 for some frightening moments. \$3.00. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:15 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Mission 2006: Rainforest - final presentation. The final presentation by freshmen in Mission2006: Rainforest (also known as MIT subject 12.000 - Solving Complex Problems) will take place in building 34-101 at 7:15pm. This presentation covers a semester's worth of work. If you would like to watch a LIVE webcast, which start at 7:30pm on Dec. 6th, please tune your browsers to: <http://web.mit.edu/12.000/www/m2006/finalpresentation/>. To learn more about the subject, please visit <http://web.mit.edu/12.000/www/m2006/kvh/>. free. Room: 34-101. Sponsor: 12.000 Solving Complex Problems (Mission subject).

8:00 p.m. - MIT Dance Theater Ensemble Students' Concert. Includes piece choreographed by Gus Solomons specifically for this ensemble. Solomons (BArch 1961), winner of a 2000 Bessie Award for his contributions to choreography and dance, is artistic director and founder, in 1972, of the Solomons Dance Company. He has originated more than 70 works as a dance soloist in the companies of Donald McKayle, Martha Graham and Merce Cunningham. He teaches dance at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and has written for the Village Voice, Dance Magazine and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Also, "Dancing India" by internationally-recognized choreographer Ananya Chatterjea. \$4, \$6. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

8:00 p.m. - MIT Wind Ensemble. Frederick Harris, music director. MIT Wind Ensemble, Frederick Harris, Music Director. Guest Composer, Elena Ruehr. Ruehr's "Spin," Reed's "La Fiesta Mexicana," Wood's "Mannin Veen," Bernard's Divertissement for chamber winds. Also music for brass and percussion ensembles. 7pm-MITWE "Prism" Chamber Music Prelude Concert. \$3 at the door. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

8:00 p.m. - Never Swim Alone. Theater Arts Thesis Production of play by Daniel MacIvor, directed by senior Dan Katz (mathematics). free. Room: Walker 201. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - "Wings of Desire." HTC Film Series; film directed by Wim Wenders, Starring Bruno Ganz and Solvig Dommartin, Germany, 1987, 127mins. This Wim Wenders film centers around the story of two angels wandering post-war Berlin. Invisible to humans, they nevertheless give their help and comfort to all the lonely and depressed souls they meet. Finally, after many centuries, one of the angels becomes unhappy with his immortal state and wishes to become human in order to experience the joys of everyday life. He meets a circus acrobat and finds in her the fulfillment of all his mortal desires. He also discovers that he is not alone in making this cross over, and that a purely spiritual experience is not enough to satisfy anyone. free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Art.

8:00 p.m. - Resonance Fall Concert. MIT's newest a cappella group. Guests: WPI Simple Harmonic Motion and the Wheaton Wheatons. free. Room: Rm 54-100. Sponsor: Resonance of MIT A Cappella Group.

10:00 p.m. - Signs. Rated PG-13 for some frightening moments. \$3.00. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

5:00 a.m. - \$30K Student Prize. An annual \$30,000 award presented to an MIT senior or graduate student who demonstrates remarkable inventiveness. Applications must be received on or before 4PM, Friday, January 10, 2003. FREE. Room: E60-215. Sponsor: Lemelson-MIT Program.

Saturday, December 7

8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. - MIT Venture Capital Conference. The MIT VCPIA conference has grown to become one of the venture industry's premier conferences. Last year, the conference attracted over 400 attendees, including leading venture capitalists and technology executives. This year's keynote speakers are Geoffrey Moore of Mohr Davidow Ventures, and Dr. Robert Langer of MIT. We will have a strong emphasis on exploring the potential of biotechnology and nanotechnology, and plan to bring together the best of new technology, industry, and the academic and venture capital worlds. Updates about the conference will be posted regularly at www.mitvcpi.org. \$395 for professionals; student discounts available. Room: Tang Center - MIT. Sponsor: MIT Entrepreneurship Center. Venture Capital Principal Investment Association.

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Children's Skating Registration. Students registered prior to Nov. 26 will receive a \$5 reduction in fee. \$65 with MIT Athletics Card; 75 w/o. Room: W35-297X. Sponsor: Physical Education.

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

12:00 p.m. - Women's Indoor Track & Field Alumni Meet. free. Room: Johnson Indoor Track. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

12:00 p.m. - Women's Indoor Track & Field vs. Springfield & Southern Maine. free. Room: Johnson Indoor Track. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

1:00 p.m. - Men's & Women's Swimming vs. Colby College. free. Room: Zesiger Pool. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

4:00 p.m. - Women's Ice Hockey vs. RIT. free. Room: Johnson Ice Rink. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

7:00 p.m. - XXX. Xander Cage (Vin Diesel) is your standard adrenaline junkie with no fear and a lousy attitude. When US Government Agent Augustus Gibbons (Samuel L. Jackson) "recruits" him to go on a mission, he's not exactly thrilled. The mission: to gather information on an organization led by the nihilistic Yorgi, that may just be planning the destruction of the world. Rated PG-13 for violence, non-stop action sequences, sensuality, drug content and language. \$3.00. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - Free Ice Skating and Desserts at Johnson Skating Rink. Come skate for free from 7-11 p.m. at Johnson Skating Rink. Skate rental will be paid for, and hot chocolate, apple cider, Cheesecake Factory cheesecake will be served. It's a great way to de-stress before the onset of finals sets in. free. Room: Johnson Skating Rink. Sponsor: Kappa Alpha Theta. Sigma Chi.

8:00 p.m. - MIT Dance Theater Ensemble Students' Concert. Includes piece choreographed by Gus Solomons specifically for this ensemble. Solomons (BArch 1961), winner of a 2000 Bessie Award for his contributions to choreography and dance, is artistic director and founder, in 1972, of the Solomons Dance Company. He has originated more than 70 works as a dance soloist in the companies of Donald McKayle, Martha Graham and Merce Cunningham. He teaches dance at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and has written for the Village Voice, Dance Magazine and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Also, "Dancing India" by internationally-recognized choreographer Ananya Chatterjea. \$4, \$6. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

8:00 p.m. - Never Swim Alone. Theater Arts Thesis Production of play by Daniel MacIvor, directed by senior Dan Katz (mathematics). free. Room: Walker 201. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

8:00 p.m. - Rambax MIT. MIT's Senegalese drumming ensemble, featuring Artist-in-Residence Lamine Toure. free. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Rambax MIT.

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - MIT/Wellesley Toons Fall Concert. Come join the MIT/Wellesley Toons for an entertaining evening of modern a cappella music. free. Room: 54-100. Sponsor: Toons.

10:00 p.m. - XXX. Rated PG-13 for violence, non-stop action sequences, sensuality, drug content and language. \$3.00. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Sunday, December 8

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Buddhist Meditation and Prayers. Meditation in Buddhist Tradition: sitting and walking meditation followed by chanting. free. Room: Mezzanine Lounge, Student Center. Sponsor: Buddhist Community at MIT.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Wireless and DHCP Quick Start. This class describes how you can connect to MITnet from a variety of locations on campus. Learn what you need to do to set up your laptop computer for a wired or wireless connection. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

1:00 p.m. - Women's Ice Hockey vs. RIT. free. Room: Johnson Ice Rink. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

3:00 p.m. - Cambridge Community Chorus Messiah Concert. Cambridge Community Chorus presents Handel's Messiah. Music Director William E. Thomas. Soloists Louise Toppin, Soprano; Pamela Dillard, Mezzo-soprano, singing the Alto role; Chad Freeburg, Tenor; and Marcus DeLoach, Baritone. suggested donation: \$5. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Government and Community Relations.

5:00 p.m. - Chamber Music Society Concerts. free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

7:00 p.m. - Chamber Music Society Concerts. free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

7:00 p.m. - Signs. Rated PG-13 for some frightening moments. \$3.00. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

10:00 p.m. - XXX. Rated PG-13 for violence, non-stop action sequences, sensuality, drug content and language. \$3.00. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Monday, December 9

10:00 a.m. - Admissions Information Session. free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Holiday Glass Sale. The MIT Glass Lab creations on sale. Prices vary. Room: Lobby 10. Sponsor: MIT Glass Lab.

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

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Mac OS X Quick Start. For newcomers to Mac OS X, preview some of its useful features - network and printer setup and file management with the OS X Finder. Take a look at applications that run "natively" in OS X. Get answers to your questions about OS X and updates on the status of support for OS X at MIT. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - "On the Political Economy of Humanitarian Aid." Research presentation by recipients of Mellon-MIT Program on NGOs and Forced Migration funding. RSVP required (lunch is provided). free. Room: E38-615. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.

2:00 p.m. - Admissions Information Session. free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - "Enforcing Human Rights in the Global Economy." Terry will talk about several lawsuits the ILRF has filed against US corporations that commit labor rights abuses in their foreign locations. His talk will also present an update on the landmark case ILRF instigated to hold UNOCAL liable for human rights violations that occurred during the construction of its gas pipeline in Burma. free. Room: 10-401 (77 Massachusetts Avenue). Sponsor: Program on Human Rights & Justice.

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

3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Rainbow Lounge Open. MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgendered members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours. free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbgt@MIT.

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - "Counting pseudo-holomorphic curves and 4-manifolds." free. Room: 2-143. Sponsor: Differential Geometry Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

4:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - OCR/ILP Guest Lecture. This presentation will discuss how ALZA is strategically positioning itself to address these emerging areas of research. The discussion will also include how genomic, genetic, proteomic, and bioinformatic investigation is leading to advances in oncology research. Additionally, with a growing need for more innovative medicines that address unmet medical needs, companies are faced with important technological challenges such as overcoming physiological barriers (i.e., gastrointestinal tract, skin, blood brain barrier), formulating and delivering Class II (small molecule insoluble) and Class III (protein impermeable) molecules, and targeting specific diseased tissues, organs, or cells, thereby sparing "normal" cells or tissues. free. Room: Edgerton Hall (34-101). Sponsor: Biomedical Engineering Society, MIT, Office of Corporate Relations/ILP, Biological Engineering Division.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Mechanics Seminar: On the design of blast resistant sandwich plates. Can metal sandwich plate construction be more effective in resisting blast loading than solid plate structure of the same mass and material? The answer is yes, but establishing this relative advantage and designing the most effective structure requires an understanding of basic aspects of fluid-structure interaction and plastic deformation of the components (faces and core) of the sandwich plate. Core topology (e.g., honeycomb, corrugated plate or truss elements) is an important consideration in the development of effective sandwich plates, as is the relative allocation of material to the faces and core. free. Room: 3-370. Sponsor: Mechanical Engineering Dept.

5:00 p.m. - Chamber Music Society Concerts. free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - "The Freedom of Expression and the Boundaries of Art: Russian-American Conceptual Art." HTC Forum series event. free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Art.

7:00 p.m. - Chamber Music Society Concerts. free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Auditions: "Sweeney Todd in Concert." Bring 2 copies of sheet music of prepared song. Sing Through: Saturday, December 14, 2-5pm. free. Room: Rm W20-407 (Student Ctr). Sponsor: Gilbert and Sullivan Players, MIT.

9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. - Monday Night Football at The Ear. Watch the game on The Thirsty Ear's big screen TV every Monday night. Tonight: Chicago vs. Miami Pub Hours: Monday: 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Tuesday - Thursday: 7 p.m. - 1 a.m. Friday: 4 p.m. - 1 a.m. The Thirsty Ear Pub is located in the basement of Ashdown House. Enter through the courtyard. Must be over 21. Proper ID required. Free. Room: The Thirsty Ear Pub. Sponsor: The Thirsty Ear Pub.

resonance.

MIT's newest
a cappella
group



fall concert

tonight!

Friday, Dec. 6
8 p.m. 54-100

FEATURES

Campus Profile — Professor Alan Guth

Renowned physicist and 8.01 administrator started MIT career in 1964

By Sven Chilton

Posted on the door to the office of Professor Alan Guth '68 is an old cartoon, which reads: "Visit my office and you'll know what maximum entropy is."

Entering his office reveals the truth of this punch line. The room is cluttered. With the exception of a small path leading to Guth's computer, every square centimeter is a mess of books, papers, and cardboard boxes. One might think that Guth's office exploded with its contents uniformly scattered in a Big Bang, creating a mini-universe within the bubble of MIT.

Given that Guth is one of the strongest supporters of the Big Bang theory and is largely responsible for shaping it into the form we know today, the state of his lair is poetically appropriate. Guth is also actively involved in shaping MIT's Physics I (8.01) curriculum as course administrator and coauthor of the standard course study guide.

Guth's love of science began early

Guth's intense interest in basic physics education reflects his lifelong fascination with science. As a child in Highland Park, New Jersey, he enjoyed drawing rockets and planning to build model airplanes. However, he seldom actually finished his planes. "I was always better at theory than practice, and that hasn't changed," Guth said. One practice at which he excelled, though, was mixing potassium nitrate and sugar in his basement and watching the resultant compound explode.

Growing up, Guth would ask waitresses at the local Howard Johnson restaurant (a small chain at the time) to list all 28 available ice cream flavors only to order vanilla. Nowadays, he prefers Heath Bar crunch, and no, for physicist readers, not because of the hbar.

In high school, Guth became obsessed with physics and decided to devote his career to it. "Physics is the study of the fundamental laws of nature, and I became fascinated by the fact that you could make calculations and predict the way things were," he said.

Guth, a seasoned Institute veteran

Guth arrived at MIT in 1964, majoring in Course VIII (Physics) and living in Baker House. Though he entered in the class of 1968, he stayed through 1969 for simultaneous bachelor's and master's degrees. Guth earned his PhD at MIT as well, writing his thesis on quark

theory under Francis Low. Upon completing graduate studies, Guth spent nine years in various post-doctoral positions, three each at Princeton and Columbia, two and Cornell, and one at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), respectively.

The man behind the scenes of 8.01

Guth has also been actively involved in freshman physics education at MIT for the last five years. He lectured 8.01 in the Fall of 1997 and 1998, and since then has served as the 8.01

cosmology. His transitional work between the two fields ignited his career and led to his first great success. "It's a good story," Guth says with a grin.

Guth has a theory (published in his autobiography) that his name means "Grand Unified Theory." Perhaps, then, it was his destiny to fuse Grand Unified Theory and conventional cosmology to yield the Inflationary Universe model.

While at Cornell, Guth began his transition from particle physics to cosmology. A

the formation of the universe, all matter may have been energetic enough to form magnetic monopoles.

Monopoles and the Big Bang

After over a year of work, Guth determined how to make Grand Unified Theory, predicting the existence of magnetic monopoles, agree with conventional cosmology, which stated that if the two schools of thought were both correct, the number of magnetic monopoles in the universe would approximately equal the number of protons.

Knowing this could not be the case, Guth determined that if the universe had super-cooled approximately 10^{-35} seconds after formation, the magnetic monopole number in the universe would be consistent with conventional cosmology.

Super-cooling would mean that the universe expanded exponentially from an infinitesimal point. Our universe is an inflationary universe.

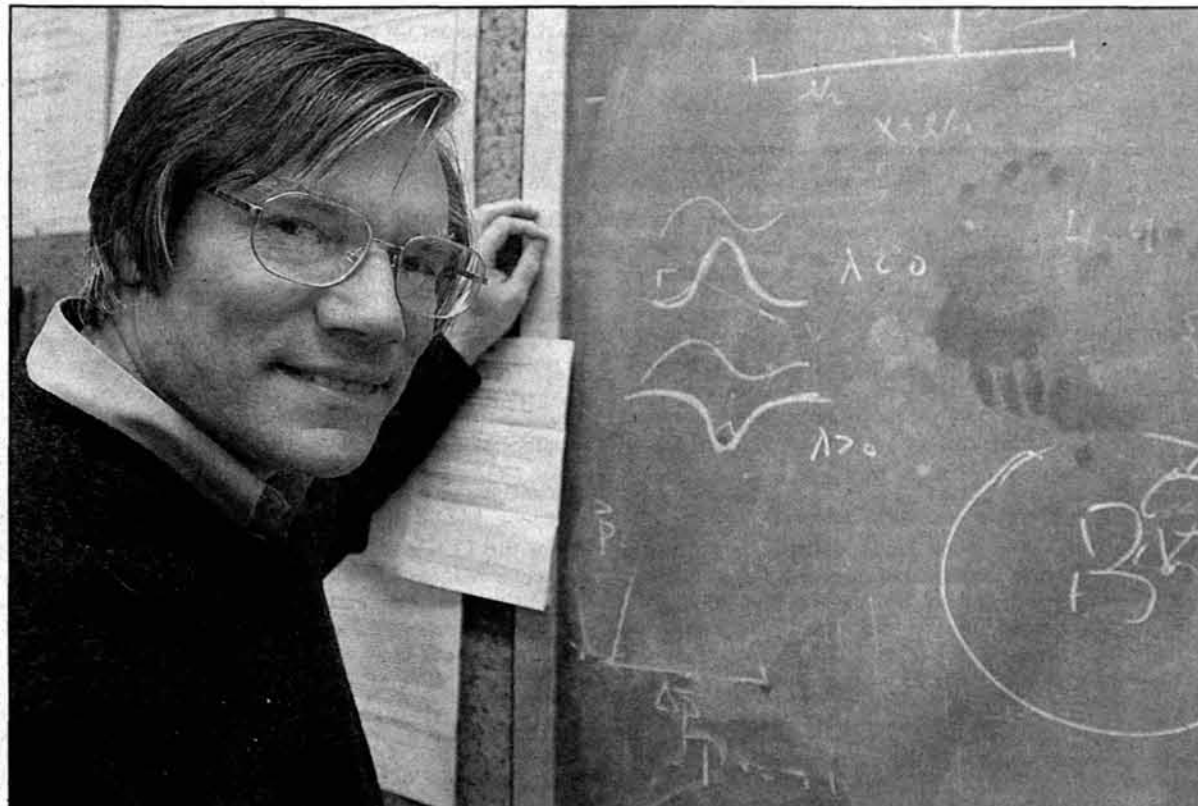
This model solved two long-standing cosmological problems. The first was why the mass density of the universe is so close to the critical density determining whether or not the universe is of Euclidian geometry. The second was why cosmic background radiation ("the afterglow of the Big Bang," as Guth puts it) is so uniform. Guth wrote two papers explaining how an exponentially expanding universe solves these problems.

MIT offered Guth an associate professorship for his first paper, jumping over the normal three years of Assistant Professorship.

Twenty years and still going strong

For the last twenty years at MIT, Guth has worked on various cosmological problems, among them the question of whether general relativity allows time machines to exist and if it is possible to produce inflation in a laboratory and create a new universe.

Though Guth's free time approximately equals zero, he manages to find time between administering 8.01 and tackling cosmically proportioned questions to spend with his family. Guth and his wife Susan, an ESL teacher at Roxbury Community College, live in Brookline. Their son, Larry, is an MIT graduate student in Course XVIII (Mathematics) and their daughter, Jenny, is a freshman at Smith College.



AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

Physics Professor Alan Guth, whose life's work has answered fundamental questions in particle physics and cosmology, describes the fate of the universe.

course administrator, creating the exams and supervising their grading.

In September 2000, Guth and MIT physics colleagues Edward Farhi and Wit Busza began offering make-up exams in 8.01, granting students a second chance to learn challenging material. With Busza and experimental physicist Susan Cartwright, Guth co-authored the study guide used in conjunction with the standard 8.01 textbook.

"Most traditional physics books are long-winded in the eyes of many MIT students," Guth explained. "Our goal in creating the study guide was to write something concise and precise."

Guth = Grand Unified Theory

Though Guth was trained as a particle physicist, he is best known for his work in

contemporary post-doctoral fellow named Henry Tye knew that Guth had recently theorized about magnetic monopoles and asked him if Grand Unified Theory (which models the electromagnetic, strong nuclear, and weak nuclear forces as a single interaction) predicted the existence of magnetic monopoles.

Not knowing about Grand Unified Theory, Guth had Tye explain it to him. After effectively learning the subject, Guth thought about Tye's question and concluded that yes, Grand Unified Theory did predict magnetic monopoles, but the particles would have to be fantastically heavy, about 10^{19} times the electron mass.

No particle accelerator on Earth can create particles that heavy or energetic, but during

Gadget Review

Posturefit work throne

By Kailas Narendran

STAFF WRITER

Once upon a time, a long time ago (well, maybe not that long), two designers at Herman Miller made an amazing observation.

Through their keen sense of vision and powerful skills of deduction, they realized that the human body is composed of curves, not straight lines. Not so astounding, you say? The big question is, why are most chairs straight? If my ass is going to live in a chair for a good portion of my life, why do I need to fit inside it? Why can't it fit to me?

Those questions spent a hot night alone in the honeymoon suite, and nine months later, the Aeron chair was born.

Aeron chair is ergonomic solution

This chair from Herman Miller is incredible. I almost hesitate to call it a chair, as it doesn't really resemble the conventional notion of a chair. Like the human body, the chair is curvy, making it able to adapt to the natural positions and shapes of your body. It was designed with ergonomics and aesthetics in mind.

Its elegant curves cradle your butt and back as you carry about your daily grind. Everything is adjustable on this chair, allowing you to position arm rests, set tilts, and adjust

height. Rather than placing yourself in a stifling cushion, you sit in what they call a "Pellicle," which is almost a mesh hammock that supports your body. Around all this is a sturdy metal frame, giving the chair a very solid feel.

For your back, there is an adjustable pad to provide lumbar support. Being the innovative types, the designers at Herman Miller decided that it wasn't good enough, and cre-

ated Posturefit.

System redefines lumbar support

The Posturefit system was created to replace conventional lumbar support. Lower back problems stem from the lumbar region of the spine (the lower section) bending outward (the result of slouching). By putting a big bump in your lower back, conventional lumbar support discourages this poor posture. The drawback is that you get a huge lump across your entire lower back. Posturefit chooses to address the root of the problem — the positioning of the pelvis.

The natural position of the pelvis is slightly tilted forward. This causes the lumbar section of your spine to naturally curve forward, allowing your spine to do what it's supposed to, naturally. The key in all of this is that it feels natural!

The Posturefit system is a funky shaped piece of stiff foam that sits in your lower back. The position can be adjusted with an easy to reach handle to set the right amount of support. The design of the device lets it conform to the



HERMAN MILLER, INC.

The Posturefit system and ergonomic design, an option on Herman Miller's Aeron chair, replaces conventional lumbar support systems.

curves of your body, and support your back, rather than force it into unnatural positions.

I personally haven't really cared for conventional lumbar support. In all instances, I've found it to be pretty awkward and obtrusive, as one size really doesn't fit all. Even the lumbar support pad that came with the Aeron chair didn't really hit the spot. The Posturefit system seemed to work together with my body to get the job done, rather than acting like the United States in the United Nations to make my body do the "right" thing.

The system is an option for new chairs, or available as a retrofit to existing chair owners. The retrofit is very simple to install. (It took me less than ten minutes to find all the tools and do it.) The instructions are clear and concise.

In the current age, we spend more time than ever in chairs. Since humans don't evolve very fast, it's great that our furniture does.

The Aeron chair and Posturefit provide a unique level of comfort and support for your body during the majority of the day (and/or night as the case may be), as you sit and work.

You can find out more about the system at <http://www.hermanmiller.com>.

Posturefit is available as a retrofit for around \$90, and the chair can be found for anywhere from \$300 on ebay to \$700 at high-end retailers.

Pioneers In Science And Engi- neering George Westinghouse

By Thomas Lin

George Westinghouse was one of the most prolific inventors on record, and his work has greatly benefited society. He held 361 patents and was also one of the first employers to improve worker compensation. Westinghouse used his engineering skills to help society.

At age 20, Westinghouse was riding a train that was forced to stop suddenly. Thinking that there should be a safer way to stop trains, he started experimenting with brakes. Two years later, he developed the air brake, which stops moving vehicles using compressed air. Air brakes have saved countless lives since their invention. Later in his life, Westinghouse developed the automatic electric block signal, which helps move rail traffic to avoid wrecks.

These railway safety devices he created helped increase passenger confidence and train efficiency, which in turn led to an expanded and safer railroad industry. Westinghouse's work also touched other industries as well.

With rights he purchased from Tesla, Westinghouse worked with alternating currents to help the development of the electrical industry. He created the first alternating current power plants and locomotives. From a well in his backyard, Westinghouse developed an efficient way to transmit natural gas that helped the development of the natural gas industry. He also developed turbines for powering ships, and a telephone switching system.

Westinghouse gave workers rights

With the help of his inventions, he founded two major companies, the Westinghouse Air-brake Company and the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company. In addition to his inventions, Westinghouse was one of the first to improve worker compensation.

In 1871, he started giving his employees half a day off on Saturday. This was one of the first steps toward the five-day work week. He started giving his workers a pension fund in 1908, and paid vacations in 1913.

Millions have benefited from Westinghouse's inventions in brakes, alternating current, turbine engines, and other fields. Many have benefited from his work toward the five-day work week and worker compensation. Westinghouse was a man of great engineering talent who was able to address the needs he found in society, and to leave the world a better place.

Westinghouse died in March of 1914, at the age of 67. His last patent was issued four years after his death.

This series spotlights the works notable scientists to provide insight into the people and history behind engineering. Weekly submissions are written by eligibles of the Massachusetts Beta chapter of Tau Beta Pi.



This space donated by The Tech

New Latino Cultural Center Opens

By Vanessa Nadal

Walking into the basement of the Student Center these days is a different experience than it used to be, and more changes are planned for the near future.

The former basement arcade, W20-028, and office space next door, which used to house Aramark management, make up the new Latino Cultural Center (LCC) — an area designed to house, support, stimulate, and enhance Latino culture at MIT.

According to Facilities and Space Design Committee Chair and LUCHA President Jazlyn L. Carvajal, '03, the Latino Cultural Center lounge and suite of offices will be open to a wide range of different Latino groups on campus. Each group will be allocated office space, and common spaces will be open for group meetings.

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and La Union Chicana por Atlazan (LUChA) have already moved their offices into the cubicles provided by the LCC. Hopefully other groups, such as the Society of Mexican America Engineers and Scientists (MAES), Mujeres Latinas, and Association of Puerto Rican Students (APR), will follow suit.

Mural to span old arcade walls

The former arcade is still in the process of being refurbished with new lighting, flooring, and fresh paint. With the help of grants from the Council of Arts and Texas Instruments, local artist Victor Cervantes will supervise the completion of a mural that will span the outer walls.

Carvajal says the LCC will "conduct a seminar/class that will begin during IAP and run through the Spring, where students, in conjunction with [Cervantes], take part in designing and painting the mural."

When completed, the room will be furnished with couches and tables and be used primarily

as a lounge open the MIT community 24 hours a day. The lounge may even have a television, VCR or DVD, stereo, and games. Modes of access to the room are still under debate, but ideas include hiring a student worker to supervise the premises or providing MIT Card access.

The lounge is slated for completion in



Jazlyn L. Carvajal '03, President of LuChA, does homework in the reception area of the new Latino Center in the basement of the Student Center.

EUN J. LEE—THE TECH

March. In the interim there will be a small table-and-couch setup in the LCC office space as a temporary lounge area. Currently, access to the area is limited, since only the presidents of each MIT Latino organization have keys to the office suite.

Students happy with new space

So far, Latino students at MIT are excited about the LCC and its future prospects. Although William R. Sanchez '05, Hispanic Issues Chair and New England Sub-Regional Student Representative for SHPE, admits that the office space is small, he says this drawback is balanced by the prime location. SHPE's prior office location was on the east side of campus in Walker Memorial.

Another plus about the LCC is its potential to "bring the Latino groups together, [since] the space overall is much bigger with the lounge. ... It's a good meeting place, a good study place, and a good study-break place," Sanchez said.

Some critics of the new cultural center may argue that it further segregates the MIT community, but students beg to differ.

"People may think that we are segregating ourselves from the rest of the MIT community," said Hazel A. Elizondo '04, but "I think that we are enhancing [the MIT community] by allowing others to learn about [Latino culture]."

An active member of LUCHA and SHPE, Hazel is excited by the idea of having a place to "just chill" and says that LUCHA has already used the temporary lounge for their frequent tool-a-thons, where members and friends of LUCHA "get together and study and if people need help we ask each other."

Office new home to Latino advisor

One office in the LCC will not be occupied by students, but by a Latino Programs Advisor who will supervise the center's promotion and programming. This position was established by Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine and Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict to provide a liaison between Latino student groups and MIT administration.

Carvajal describes the advisor's role as "creating, encouraging, and maintaining programs for the Latino Center." Brenda Cotto-Escalera acted as Programs Advisor until this past November, but the position is currently vacant.

The center may be run solely by an Executive Board whose purpose is to maintain and further the Latino Culture Center. This board exists now as a group of six students and six faculty or administrators who head the Alumni Relations, Space Design, Institute Fundraising, Event Planning, Advertising, and Inauguration committees.

LCC opening result of hard work

The center was conceived and established by MIT students and alumni Desiree L. Ramirez '02, Terrence R. Strader '04, Ray Morales '02, and Michael Mendez G.

The space was allocated to the Latino Community with the help from Deans Redwine and Benedict, both of whom applauded the idea of the cultural center.

Holiday Gadget Guide

By Kailas Narendran

STAFF WRITER

You've finished your final projects. You only have one final "exam" in that Course XV (Management) class. Ahh, the cool sigh of relief as your semester winds down — or has it? What you forget is beyond the last day of exams lies the gift giving season of Christmas. In addition to adding inches to your waist and nights of nookie with your long-distance significant other, you are faced with finding the perfect gifts for all of your loved ones. Yes, it's your duty as an



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The DUO-DX from Digiset stores MP3s and can be played on any tape deck.



AMAZON.COM

The Sanyo 5300 Sprint PCS phone takes digital pictures.

American to give the economy a boost by buying gifts for everyone you know. Here are some suggestions to get your started.

For the old folks

The perfect gift for that technilliterate individual on your list that you care about (a.k.a. mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, great-[insert relation here], etc.) is the Ceiva Digital Photo Receiver. The device is a digital photo frame that can receive pictures sent to it via the internet.

It's remarkably easy to use and setup, doesn't require a computer (only a phone line), and is affordably priced. You can find out more at <http://www.ceiva.com>.

For the connected techno geek

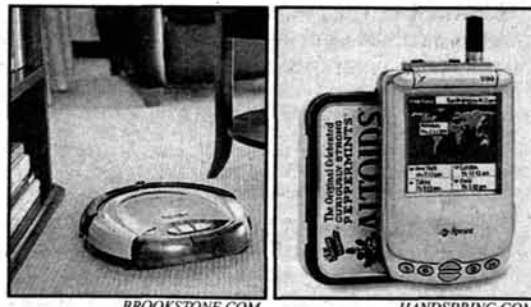
The Handspring Treo Sprint PCS Vision enabled wireless phone is perfect for that geek that has everything except a Cat5e umbilical cord to the information super highway. If you need to be connected all the time, this is a great phone to do it with. It's a PDA running PalmOS with a full QWERTY keyboard and color screen that fits next to your pocket protector. It allows you to browse the web over the Sprint network. The browser is actually pretty decent and the speed isn't too shabby. Find out more at <http://www.handspring.com>.

For the distance-minded athlete

The Timex Speed and Distance system is what the performance obsessed athlete needs. It'll tell you your exact speed and odometry as you roam over God's green earth (and it makes a nice watch). The system is attractive, useful, and functional. Find out more at <http://www.timex.com>.

For the photophilic socialite

The Sanyo 5300 Sprint PCS Vision enabled phone is the first of its kind, integrating a digital camera with VGA resolution and phone all in one package. When you're out with your friends, you can snap a picture and share it on the Web instantly. Immediate gratification for the American public that demands



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(left) The autonomous Roomba vacuum was developed in MIT's Artificial Intelligence Lab. (right) The Sprint Treo 300 Communicator is a phone, personal data assistant (PDA), and Web browser all in one.

nothing less! The phone has the multimedia capabilities of a decent computer from the early eighties, all packaged in only four ounces of plastic and electronics.

For the MP3-loving dinosaur

I love to copy music, hence my love of the audio cassette and the MP3. I love listening to music while I drive. I wish I could play downloaded music in my car's tape deck without the hassle of dragging around an adapter and an MP3 player. The DUO-DX from Digiset lets you store MP3s on a device that looks like a cassette. Pop it in any tape deck and it plays MP3s through the deck. It even lets you use the fast-forward and rewind buttons to skip through songs. What a concept! Very cool device that works very well. You can get it with 96 megabytes of onboard memory, and an expansion slot for adding more. Check out <http://www.digiset.com> for more info.

For the messy student

Do you like a clean floor, but don't like vacuuming? Wish there was a vacuum that could clean your house for you? Well, there is. Its name is Roomba, an intelligent floor-vac made by iRobot. The autonomous machine is the brainchild of the Artificial Intelligence Lab's Rod Brooks. It is programmed to avoid obstacles and vacuum your floor while you do something more productive. You can find out more at <http://www.irobot.com>.

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle your Athena Paper.

Do you know where your Websis grade report print out is?

By Ricarose Roque
STAFF WRITER

Like all MIT students, Athena printers don't seem to ever get any rest around here. Always printing, always working — especially around finals time. Despite lack of proper appreciation, they keep going, but from the stack of unclaimed printouts that often accumulate next to these humming machines, they may be working overtime for no reason.

A random sampling of these orphaned print-outs shows that a wide range of material gets left behind. Aside from the typical pile of header pages, problem set keys, and lecture notes, very personal materials can be found in the stack of waste.

Sifting through a pile of one-day-old papers from the Ajax printer in the Student Center Athena cluster led to the discovery of: a student's Websis transcript, tax forms, an e-mail about Kappa Alpha Theta's rush plans, pages of code and Matlab graphs, an order confirmation from an online film merchant, and a seven-page paper on the Persian Gulf War, just to name a few.

The most ironic finding among the wasted paper was a print-out from a Web site entitled "Papermaking facts" that described the process which transforms wood pulp and fiber (Fiber and Pulp also happen to be names of Athena printers) into those smooth white sheets we use by the ton. But what are the facts about the paper that ends up at MIT?

Paper flows in by the millions

According to Kevin Healy of Recycling/Waste Management in the Department of Facilities, MIT purchased 13,649 cases of white paper, or about 68 million sheets, in the year 2001. In addition to this, CopyTech consumed 7,200 cases, or 36 million sheets. Of

the white paper, 25.3% was virgin (non-recycled) paper. The remainder has 30, 50, or 100 percent recycled content. However, the amount bought of each level post-consumer recycled content paper is inversely proportional to the percent of recycled content.

As obscene as these numbers may be, these only include copy and printing paper. (Yes, the paper you steal!) It does not include things like file folders, toilet paper, and other paper products.

Recycled paper saves resources

Currently, MIT provides the service of recycling mixed paper. (Newspaper, glossy paper, magazines, catalogs, cardboard, colored paper, white paper, etc.) In 2001, the total tonnage for recycled mixed paper was 243.37 tons — a big improvement from what is was like back in the days in the early '90s, when MIT only recycled white paper.

To put these numbers into a world perspective, a ton of paper from this recycled pulp will save 17 trees, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 7,000 gallons of water, 4,200 kilowatts, 390 gallons of oil, and prevents 60 pounds of air pollution. In 2001, MIT saved at least 4000 trees. Now, go do the rest of the math.

So, next time you nonchalantly place your header sheet, your copy of *The Tech*, or even some old problem sets into a recycling bin down the Infinite Corridor or an Athena cluster, you can pat yourself on the back for doing the environment a favor.

Athena offers paper saving options

Recycling is great, but the best way to help our dear Mother Nature is to simply stop wasting her resources. As for those absolutely necessary print jobs, it's the little things that

you do that can make a big difference.

For starters, you can print on both sides of the page, saving 50 percent of the paper you would have printed out. The HP LaserJets in the clusters already support double-sided printing, and although not set by default, this option can be turned on by a simple command, depending on file type. Also, if you have a simple text file, you can print multiple pages onto a single page. (See this week's *Ask SIPB* Column for more details.)

'Setup Save' stops header sheets

You can do two-sided printing as well as print two pages rotated 90 degrees onto one page and saving 75 percent of the paper you would normally use, with the nifty phrase "setup save" that you can type into your Athena prompt.

Created by Michael L. Jacknis '98 and Richard J. Barbalace '97, "setup save" can also get rid of those fated-to-be-scraped-or-recycled header sheets. "Setup save" gives users a list of commands to perform these printer functions. It also writes a "environment" file into your account that turns off

header pages and sends you a zephyr message once the printing job is done.

By turning off those header pages and being resourceful with your print jobs, you can easily save paper, ink, and electricity. However, your own common sense can be quite helpful.

Print only if you absolutely need to print. If you've queued a print job that you won't be able to pick up, cancel the job before it prints. If you're going to steal Athena paper, at

least recycle it when you're done. All Athena clusters have a recycling bin and a trashcan, so you've got no excuse.

It's easy to take advantage of Athena printers and paper. It's free. (Actually, according to the quick-witted cynic, it comes from our tuition money. Even though this fact may encourage you to steal more, that doesn't mean you should go nuts and wallpaper your room with it.) Free is a good thing, but it all does ultimately come at some price. So next time you print, be responsible. Think of the electricity wasted, the ink drained, the paper consumed, the trees that have to die to give you paper, and your Websis grade report lying naked in the Athena cluster for all to see.



DANIEL BERSAK - THE TECH

Athena printers support easy ways of saving paper such as suppressing header pages and printing double-sided.

Ask SIPB

STUDENT INFORMATION PROCESSING BOARD

The end of term is here, and lots of assignments are due. You may need to print many items, including papers and course notes. This week, we look at printing and the many options available on Athena.

Question: How can I print Microsoft Office files on Athena?

Answer: You can use StarOffice to open up, view, and print many Microsoft Office files (including Microsoft Word and Powerpoint files). To run Star Office, type at an Athena prompt:

```
add soffice; soffice &
```

Or from the menu bar, go to Editing/Publishing -> Desktop Publishing -> Star Office

Question: Why does nothing but a header page come out of the printer when I print from StarOffice?

Answer: In many cases, StarOffice is configured to use A4 size paper by default. The printers are not configured to deal with A4 size paper, and will ignore your document. To rectify the situation, click Format-> Page in StarOffice, choose the "Page" tab, and switch the paper size to "Letter."

In some instances, though, the printer may actually generate an error message asking you to load A4 paper. In this case, you should cancel your print job by typing one of the following (as appropriate):

```
athena% lprm -
athena% lprm -Pprintername -
```

After cancelling the print job, you can then reconfigure StarOffice as stated above.

Question: How can I print double-sided on Athena?

Answer: To print double-sided on Athena, do the following: If the program you're using has a print command option, you should set it to

```
/usr/athena/bin/lpr -Pprintername2
```

Where "printername" is the printer you want to print to.

To get a list of printers, type at an athena% prompt:

```
cview printers
```

Question: How can I print multiple pages per page on Athena?

Answer: This depends on what program you are trying to print from. If the program allows you to specify a print command, you should list:

```
psnup -n2x2 | /usr/athena/bin/lpr -Pprintername2
```

"2x2" in this case specifies that each paper should have two rows and two columns of pages. For more information on options to psnup, you can type at an athena% prompt "man psnup." However, this doesn't work with all programs, and not all programs allow you to specify a print command. For those programs, you should print to a file, and then follow the instructions listed at: http://web.mit.edu/answers/printing/printing_multiple_pages.html.

Question: How can I print to Athena printers using my Windows machine?

Answer: To print to Athena printers from Windows, you will need a piece of software called KLP. KLP is available on the MIT software site at <http://web.mit.edu/software/>.

Instructions to install and configure KLP can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/is/help/klp/>. In the process of configuring the printing settings, you will need to know the name and model of the printer you wish to print to. The printer in most Athena clusters is the HP Laserjet 8150DN. The name of the printer can be found on the printer itself, or by typing "cview printers" at the athena% prompt.

The drivers built into Windows for this model are sufficient for standard printing. For more advanced options, such as printing double-sided, you will need to download the appropriate PS (postscript) HP printer drivers from the HP web site at <http://h20000.www2.hp.com/bizsupport/TechSupport/DriverDownload.jsp?prodNum=C4265A&prod->

[SeriesId=27718&prodTypeId=18972](http://web.mit.edu/27718&prodTypeId=18972).

Note that printing to a printer named "printername2" (and not simply "printername") will not work with KLP. Instead, you must download the HP driver as mentioned above.

Question: How can I print to Athena printers using my Macintosh?

Answer: You can use a program called KLPR, available from the MIT software site at <http://web.mit.edu/software/mac.html>. It currently only works on MacOS 8.5 and later, and only has limited functionality in classic mode on MacOSX. Instructions for installing and configuring KLPR can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/is/help/klpr/klpr-2.1.3.html>.

Question: How can I print multiple copies of a file on Athena?

Answer: Printing multiple copies of a file is against the Athena rules of use, and has been disabled on the printers to allow for greater printer life. To obtain multiple copies of a document, you can visit CopyTech to make copies. More information on their hours, locations, and services can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/ctc/www/>.

Question: How can I print to Athena from my non-Athena Linux/Unix machine?

Answer: The answer depends on whether the printer in question requires Kerberos authentication. For example, all cluster printers require it and most dorm printers don't require it. The instructions to do so on a Debian system can be found at <http://www.mit.edu/afs/sipb/project/debian-athena/www/#printing>. On another systems, you will have to compile "lprng" with support for Kerberos 5, and then follow the rest of the instructions listed in the above url.

If you have any other questions, feel free to e-mail us at sipb@mit.edu. We'll try to get back to you, and we might put your answer in our next column.

Freshman Diaries

By Veena Ramaswamy
STAFF WRITER

As I sit to write this article, I am in the process of finishing up my last assignments for my first semester at MIT. It's hard to believe that one-eighth of my MIT career is over; during the past few months the semester seemed to drag on, but now that the end is near I'm wondering where the time went.

My last wave of tests before finals is over, Thanksgiving break came and went, and people have already begun pre-registering for the spring semester. If there's something that this first semester has taught me, above all, it is to manage my time and have to fun (yes, for all you skeptics, it is possible to have fun at MIT).

My last wave of tests, although done and over with, have made me a bit concerned over

how I will manage MIT when I'm on grades. But I try not to worry about this, for I figure it's something that everyone must go through. I've also heard that the transition between pass/no record to grades can do damaging things to a person, so I'm going to proceed to next semester with caution.

The end of the semester for me marks the end of the fall crew seasons during which I was a novice rower. The sport has had a good impact on my life here at MIT. It has been an outlet for me to get my mind off of the workload here, because at times, the work can be so overwhelming that I'm relieved to put all of that aside for two hours a day.

Competing and being part of a team has also been a great experience. Although a lot of

individual strength and power is required in the sport, a lot of your boat's performance also depends on teamwork. I'm really happy that I got a chance to row crew, and I hope to continue; although it eats up my evenings, without it I would stress out and feel obligated to work all of the time.

My first semester has also definitely taught me a lot about time management. I often hear many stories about students at MIT who have 5.0 GPAs and are involved in dozens of activities. Although I'm not on grades and therefore don't know what being at MIT is really like (or what it can do to your ego), I think the key to this success is time management.

At the same time, however, I've found that another key motto to living at MIT is "work hard, play hard." I've heard this motto used

many times around campus and think that this is what I would like to follow, do my academics while at the same time having some sort of outlet like crew or doing things with friends to balance my life.

As I journeyed back to MIT after a relaxing Thanksgiving break filled with eating (and more eating) and sleeping, I painfully regretted having to live far away from home in a freezing cold city. But getting back to campus, I immediately felt at home and remembered how much I enjoy being here.

Someone once asked me if I considered my dorm room to be my "room" or "home," and my initial reaction was my "room." And although I still don't consider my dorm room here to be my "home," it has definitely been an adequate substitute for the past 3 months.

THE ARTS

Dance Theater Ensemble's Evening of Dance



Photography by Aaron D. Mihalik



The MIT Dance Theater Ensemble presents an evening of dance. Shows are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in Kresge Little Theater. Tickets are \$6, or \$4 with a student ID.

(top left) guest artist Ananya Chatterjea performing with Associate Professor of Music and Theater Arts and Dance Theater Ensemble advisor Thomas DeFrantz

(above) Sarah F. Funderburk '04 in "The Cane Suite," choreographed by DeFrantz

(below) Funderburk in "Crowd" choreographed by Gus Solomons, Jr.

(top right) Janet Y. Zhou '06 in "The Cane Suite"

(middle right) Zhou in "Crowd"

(bottom right) Anna D. Bergren '05 in "The Cane Suite"



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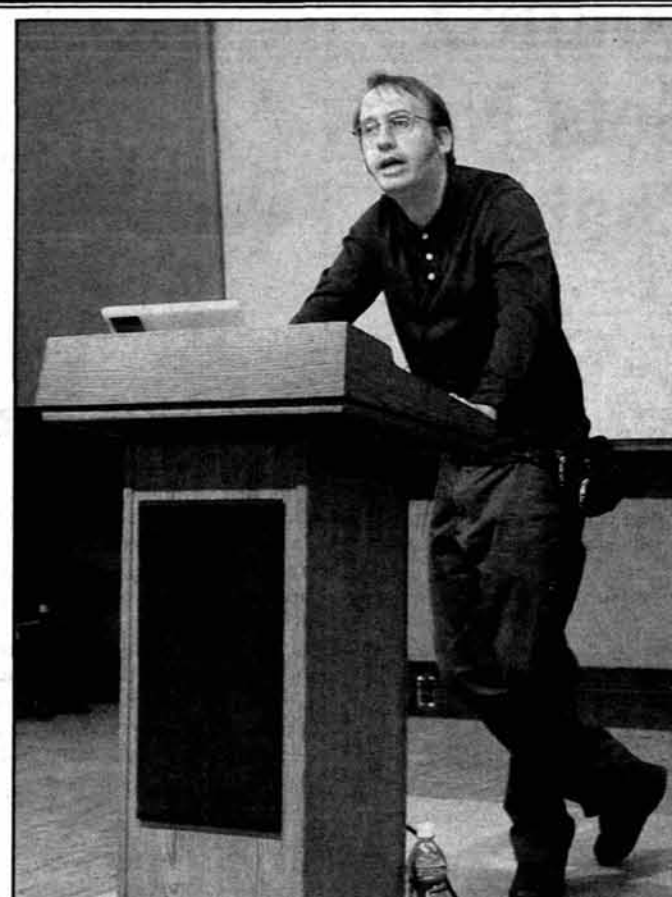
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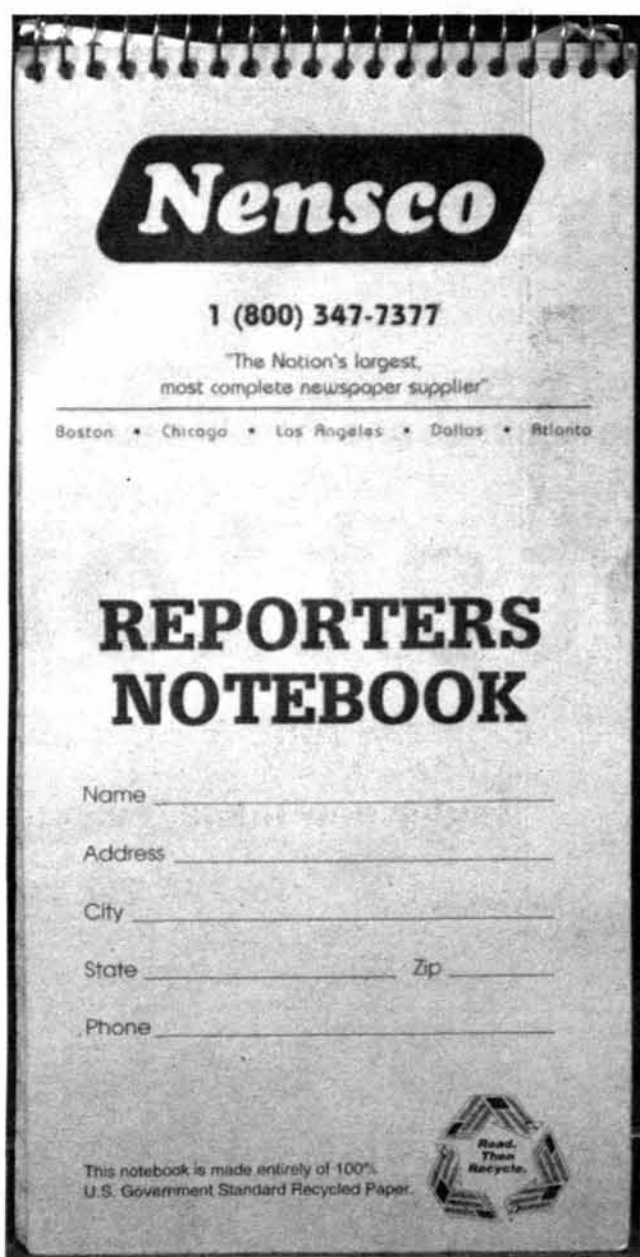


ELIZABETH ZELLNER—THE TECH
William B. Cattey of Information Systems reads his poems on subjects ranging from love and relationships to finding time in a busy life for "one-minute vacations" in Killian Hall on Wednesday. Cattey presented his poetry as part of the MIT Artists Behind the Desk Fall Concert Series.

FRINGE

BENEFITS

Alen Brien, British journalist, quoted in Newsweek March 20, 1967:



A newspaper is not a place to go to see people earning a living, though journalists like to pretend they never stop sweating over a hot typewriter. It is much more like a brothel--short rushed bursts of really rather enjoyable activity interspersed with long, lazy stretches of gossip, boasting, flirtation, drinking, telephoning, strolling about the corridors, sitting on corners of desks, planning to start everything tomorrow.

Each of the inmates has a little specialty to please the customers. The highest paid ones perform only by appointment, the poorest take on everything and anybody. The editors are like madams--soothing, flattering, disciplining their naughty, temperamental staff but rarely obliged to satisfy the clients personally between the printed sheets.

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Very Tall Building Should Stand In WTC's Place, Robertson Says

WTC, from Page 1

A civil engineering graduate, Robertson and his then-business partner John Skilling were the original structural engineers for the Twin Towers. Robertson was just thirty-four years old when he headed the design for the WTC.

In his lecture, he discussed many of his innovative ideas that were used in this major project. Prefabricated steel columns and wall panels were dominant factors in the building process.

Robertson and his team were able to construct the 110-story structure by developing mechanical damping units to reduce wind-induced swaying motion.

He also conducted the first comprehensive environmental studies of boundary layer wind tunnel technology as well as human sensitivity to building movements.

"There was no symmetry in the buildings — one was designed to shield the other," Robertson said.

Documenting the construction process with numerous photographs, he displayed how the WTC was pieced together, with each section three columns wide and three stories high. Conveying the complexity of the project, he said "the steel work was done by thirty-nine different fabricators."

The Twin Towers under attack

Robertson discussed the 1993

terrorist bombing, when an explosion occurred in Tower One's lower-parking levels.

He showed how five floors of the building collapsed and the "debris landed on the refrigeration machines."

"The rubble pile helped to prevent the walls of the structure from completely collapsing," Robertson said.

Robertson continued his lecture by showing schematic diagrams and talking about the extensively detrimental effects of the jet fuel in the collapse of the towers after the 2001 terrorist attack.

As a basis of comparison, the bomb that destroyed the Oklahoma City Federal Building in 1995 was equivalent to 192 liters of jet fuel, Robertson said. The Boeing 767 that struck the first tower in the Sept. 11 attacks carried 45,600 liters.

The towers were "designed to withstand the accidental impact of a Boeing 707," the largest aircraft flying in 1966, when the project broke ground, he said.

Robertson said that the towers could have survived that fateful Tuesday morning, but "the fires that were ignited by the fuel were the real problem."

Despite the circumstances, Robertson said "the World Trade Center had performed admirably" in standing as long as it did and allowing those who had the opportunity

to evacuate to do so.

Robertson shows other buildings

Robertson continued by highlighting various buildings he was commissioned to do as well as mentioning experiences with notable architects.

He worked with architect Philip Johnson in designing the AT&T corporate headquarters, now the Sony Building, in New York City.

Robertson collaborated with highly-esteemed I.M. Pei '40 to design the Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong. "It was the tallest building in the world outside of New York and Chicago when it was constructed," he said.

Robertson is currently working on the Shanghai World Financial Center in China, which is slated to be the world's tallest building when completed.

Thinking about the future

At the conclusion of the lecture, Robertson fielded many questions from the PhD candidates in the audience about what engineers were thinking about for the future.

When Gabrielle E. Rieckhof, a postdoctoral fellow, asked what Robertson thought should replace the World Trade Center, Robertson said he hoped for a "commercial shopping district to liven the area and a new underground transportation system."

"I would like to see at least one very tall building," he said.

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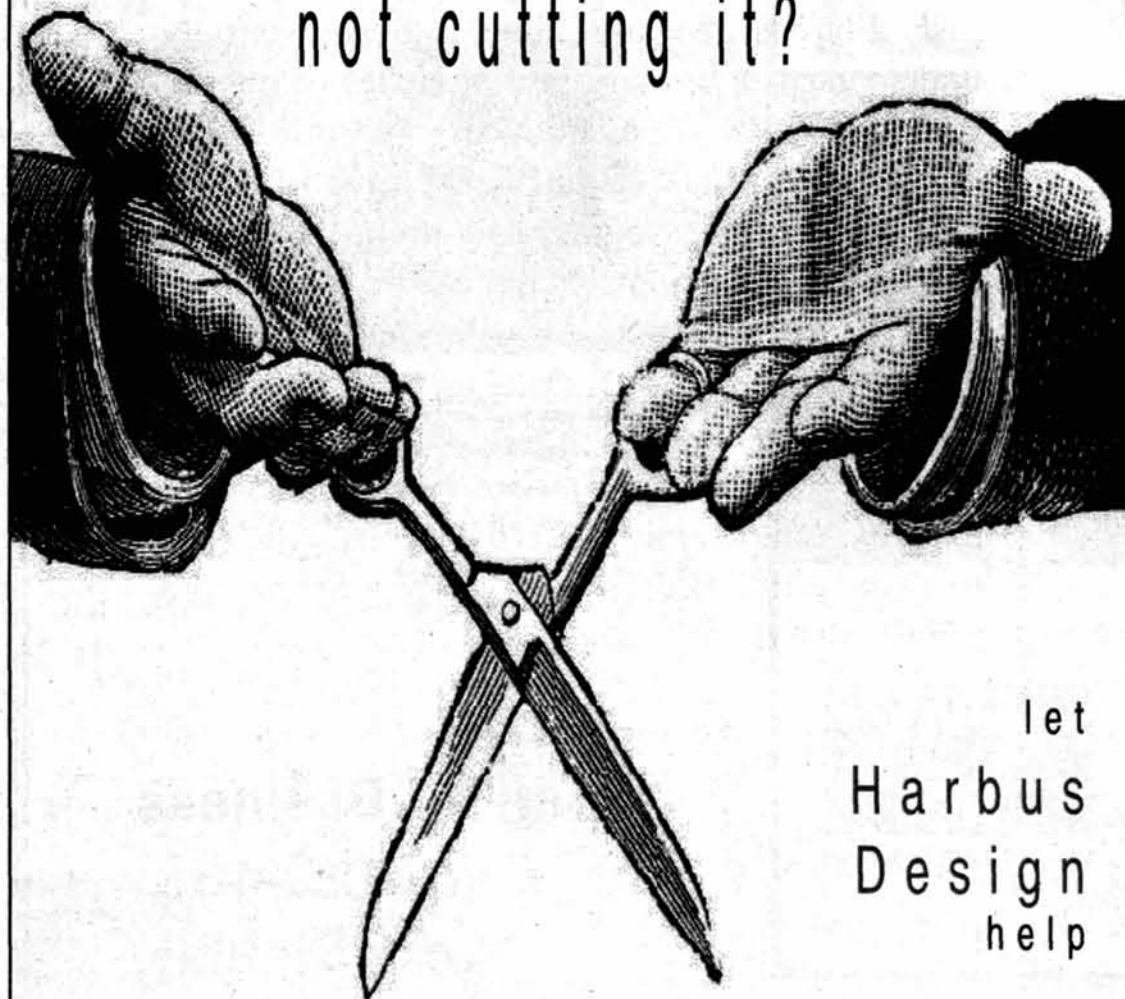
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Unidentified Visitors Easily Enter Dorms

Security, from Page 1

desk does not generally admit anybody. At East Campus, students must have physical keys to enter each floor.

Security is also stringent at McCormick, where outgoing desk captain Laura E. Noren '03 said that she had made a special effort this year to enforce the dormitory's guest list policy.

Noren took a different perspective on outsiders — such as construction workers — and said that after several had come in to use the restroom, she found that if she "gave them a hard time, they won't come back."

But if a stranger were to walk past the desk uncaring, she said, there wasn't much she could do to stop them except "run after him and tackle him or call the campus police."

Only Next House changes policy

The consequences of the recent incident at Next House, in which a man armed with a large knife attempted to steal money from a student's unlocked room, have mainly been limited to Next House itself.

Most other dormitories have not substantially changed their policies.

Several days after the break-in, Next House held a house meeting to discuss improved methods for desk security, and as a result a tighter policy on checking identification was instituted.

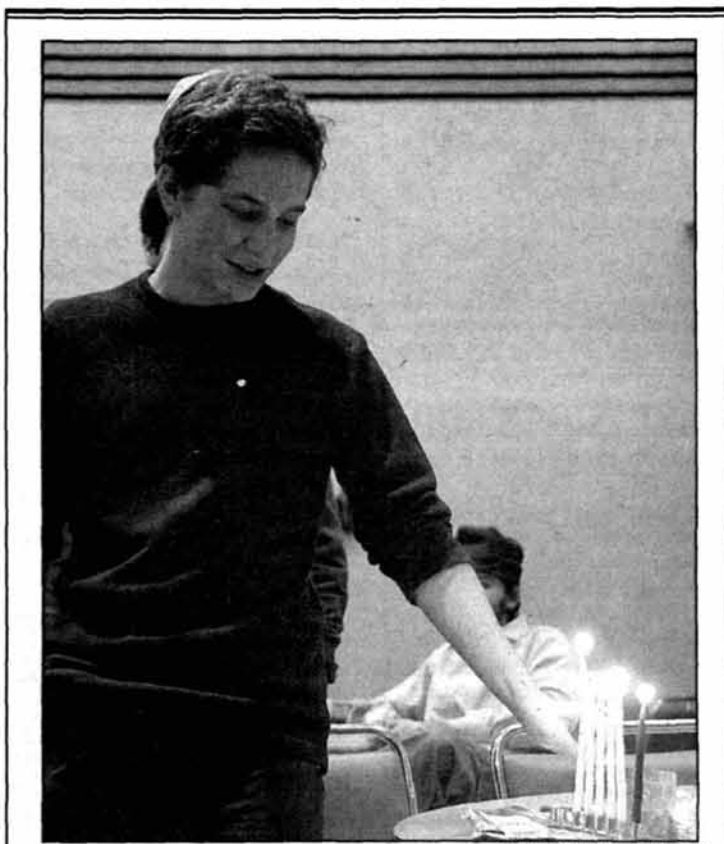
Students from other dormitories who eat dinner in Next House's dining hall must now individually present their MIT cards and sign in each night.

Vikram Maheshri '03, the Next House president, said that "I'm a firm believer in the ... policy," but ultimately "we'd like to be more relaxed with that so that we could be a little more open" for dinner hours.

In contrast to the changes at Next House, at Baker, desk worker Jaimie L. Sylman '05 said that after the break-in, "we didn't get any specific rules, but we did get an e-mail about it."

She said that enforcement hadn't changed too much since then, and that if "[the burglar] wanted to get in, he would get in."

Christine R. Fry contributed to the reporting of this story.



MIT Hillel's Social Vice President Samuel L. Raymond '06 lights the menorah during the Hillel Chanukah Party Wednesday night. Traditional Jewish songs as well as karaoke followed the ceremony.



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MIT To Slow Salary Increases

Budget, from Page 1

nothing they need to worry about," he wrote.

Salary slowdowns concern Seale

The reductions will also mean that "salary increases will be lower than in recent years," Vest wrote.

MIT does not anticipate decreasing professors' salaries, but Vest did not rule out the possibility. "Because we want to continue to keep our salaries competitive ... we do not anticipate making salary cuts," he wrote.

Undergraduate Association Presi-

dent Josiah D. Seale '03 said that he was concerned about maintaining competitive faculty salaries. "A lot more institutions are trying to find [technical] professors," and are competing with MIT for faculty, he said.

Seale said that keeping good professors was essential to maintaining a healthy academic environment.

Economic downturn in a time of rising importance for technology is "definitely unfortunate" for MIT, Seale said.

Cost of pension fund increases

In addition to last year's investment losses of \$810 million, MIT's

pension fund "is experiencing negative investment returns," Vest wrote.

MIT Treasurer Allan S. Bufferd '69 explained that with investment shortfalls in the pension fund, MIT will need to contribute more money to the fund — raising its employee benefit rate from 18 percent to 22 percent — in order to cover the costs of current and future retirees.

Additional contributions to the pensions will come from "funds, contracts, grants, and the Institute General Budget," Vest wrote in his letter.



(Left to right) Patrick Y. Kim '04, Ji Hyun Lim (Wellesley) '06, and Michael L. Stevens G perform at the Toons preview concert in the Coffeehouse Tuesday night. The Toons will be holding their fall concert this Saturday in 54-100 at 9 p.m.

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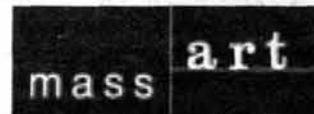
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MIT

UNDERGRADUATES

Men's, Women's Teams Each Win 3, Give Up 1

Fencing, from Page 20

Men's foil and epee, led by the 2-1 performance of foil squad leader Vincent Chen '05, took just enough wins from St. John's to give MIT a remarkable 14-13 victory.

Men's team fights on

After the meet with St. John's, the MIT men kept their enthusiasm and effort against the last three schools to finish the day 3-1. The MIT men moved on to Boston College for an 18-9 victory. This was followed by a close loss to Brandeis, always a strong team in New England. They finished the day by decisively defeating Vassar, 20-7.

Men's foil went into the competition with starter Sam H. Kendig '05 fencing through illness. Nevertheless, the foilists, Kendig, Douglas J. Quattrochi '04, and leader Chen gave their opponents trouble.

The men's epee squads best record was held by men's epeeist Samuel N. Korb '05. Still charged from his undefeated streak at MIT last meet, Korb finished the day 10-2 on Sunday.

MIT men's sabrists Reinen, Levine, and Pihulic finished this part of the season having proven themselves one of the most determined and skilled men's sabre squads in New England.

Women's foil stays on top

The women's team continues to shine, with a current overall record of 9-1. So far, the only loss has been against St. John's. The St. John's women, some of the best fencers in the nation, were in top form at Brandeis, and MIT gave a good effort.

MIT had better luck against Boston College, Brandeis, and Vassar. Boston College and Brandeis are

two of the stronger fencing schools in the Boston area. Both fell to the skill of the MIT women 18-9. The MIT victory over Vassar at the end of the day was even more crushing, at 22-5.

Throughout this successful streak, the women's foil squad continued to lead the team in total victories. Squad leader Suki Dorfman, '05, Christine A. Yee '03, and Gemma L. Mendel '06 are three of the best women's foilists in New England.

Women's foil made the largest dent in St. John's team of any squad. They demolished the foil squads from Boston College, Brandeis, and Vassar, losing only three bouts total to the three schools. Against Vassar, alternate Diane Christoforo '05 showed her growth as a fencer in her first varsity meet this season.

Women's epee faced formidable opponents this weekend. Epee still fenced impressively to assist the team in accumulating victories against these Northeast Fencing Conference schools. Freshmen Lucy R. Mendel and Mika A. Tomczak have been brilliant fencers and additions to the team so far, led by squad leader Rim Lue '03.

The women's sabrists, captain Priscilla del Castillo '04, Sasha R. Manoosingh '03, Naimata C. Saucer '05, assisted by Marissa A. Cheng '05, took on challenging opponents at Brandeis. The most noteworthy performance was by first year fencer Saucer. Saucer fenced aggressively to win a majority of her bouts starting on the varsity squad, an impressive accomplishment, especially for one with so little competition experience.

In January, the fencers will resume practice and prepare for their winter and spring term meets.

Men's B Teams Clinch Victory

Taekwondo, from Page 20

won his matches 8-3, 9-0, and 5-0 with excellent ring management and timing.

Osuji unleashed in the last tournament of his INCTL career, winning his first two matches by large margins of 10-1 and 16-1. Although he was down 2-1 after the first round in the deciding heavyweight match of the finals, Osuji confidently came back with a torrent of double kicks in the second round to score seven points and win 8-4, securing first place for the team.

C1 teams place second

The beginner divisions followed the black belts, with both the men's and women's C1 teams placing second. The men's C1 team (Bobby B. Ren '05, Ho, Michael L. Brasher G, Jay K. Cameron '05) beat Cornell C2, Buffalo C1, and NYU C1 before meeting Cornell C1 in the finals.

Brasher and Cameron fought with a lot of heart, but faced stiff competition in their first tournament appearances. Although Ho could not use his right foot, he dominated his matches with only a left leg turning kick. He sparred intelligently and finished the day 3-1, coming back

from behind to tie up his semi-final match and win on aggression. Ren's natural fighting abilities and intuition set him above the rest of the beginners, as his timing advanced the C team.

The women's C1 team (Radhika Jagannathan '05, Cecile LeCocq G, Dean) defeated a one-woman team, Lemoyne C1, and Buffalo C1 before falling to NYU C1 in the finals. Jagannathan and Dean sparred aggressively, both facing some tough tie decisions. LeCocq followed her outstanding performance at UPenn earlier this month, winning all four of her matches and anchoring the team. She remains undefeated in her INCTL career.

Men's B teams take first, second


The intermediate divisions were the most exciting of the day, beginning with the Women's B1 team (Tan, Huang, Margaret H. Cho '04) who advanced into the semi-finals, finishing in third place. In Tan's sparring debut, her speed and intensity brought her back from a 4-3 deficit to win her first match 10-5. Huang and Cho followed up and carried the team past Cornell B3 before they were eliminated by Cornell B1 in semis.

The men's B teams clinched the overall team victory, with the B1 team (Alp Simsek '04, Joshua R. Neubert '03, George C. Whitfield '03) and the B2 team (Ren, Juan I. Rodriguez '04, Thomas B. Wilson '05, Andrew Selbst '04) advancing on opposite sides of the brackets to meet in the finals. Ren continued his winning streak from the beginner division, with two additional wins in the intermediate division to finish the day 5-0. Simsek, Rodriguez, and Whitfield were also undefeated on the day, dominating their matches with highlights such as Whitfield's 19-10 victory to put the team in the medal rounds. Wilson won his first INCTL match on the B2 side, and Neubert won an exciting 7-7 tie decision to advance the B1 team into the finals. B2 bowed out to B1, and the men finished first and second to put the team over the top and close the gap in the overall League standings.

The Sport Taekwondo Club is currently in second place in the INCTL, 125 points behind Cornell in a field of 15 schools. Team members continue to train hard in anticipation of their next tournament, to be held in March at Princeton University.


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SPORTS

'Body's Failure' Stops Runner in Final Race

By Yuval Mazor
TEAM MEMBER

The Men's Cross Country team ended the season this Saturday with a bittersweet trip to the National Championships, at Minnesota's to St. Olaf College.

MIT's representatives, Sean P. R. Nolan '03 and Benjamin A. Schmeckpeper '05, had both finished in the top 10 at the New England regional meet and were hoping to finish the season with All-American performances at Nationals.

But it was not to be, as Nolan collapsed late in the race, falling from 25th to 69th in the final quarter mile.

Schmeckpeper did not have his best race, either, but did run strong enough to finish in 32nd and claim his first All-American award.

Ryan Bak of Trinity College was the overall champion in 25:01, beating out Wisconsin Platteville's Ryan Kleimnighagen and Bates College's Justin Easter. The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh won the overall team title with 66 points, besting Calvin College (122) and North Central (146).

Coming into the meet, Coach Halston Taylor was excited about the duo's chances at Nationals. Nolan and Schmeckpeper averaged close to 90 miles per week all season long and had established themselves as two of the best runners in a very talented New England region. Saturday's 35-degree temperature and strong winds seemed to inspire them, as both runners had struggled at last year's National meet when the temperatures soared into the 80s.

Both Schmeckpeper and Nolan got off the line strong and settled in behind the leaders, in 5th and 15th places, respectively. It seemed that no one was willing to make a move, as a large lead pack came through the first mile in a relaxed 4:45.

The second and third miles saw the race string out, as the leaders began to separate from the chasers. Nolan and Schmeckpeper had let the first pack go, but remained in strong position, as Nolan came through the three mile in 20th place at 15:13, with Schmeckpeper right behind in 15:17.

The pair maintained their top-25

positions climbing the long hill at the end of the fourth mile, but as they crested the hill, Nolan began to feel tremendous pain. Unwilling to back off with only a mile to go, Nolan regrouped on the downhill, hoping he could hold on enough for the finish.

With a little over half a mile to go, Nolan began to struggle with his balance, nearly falling as he rounded the last turn towards the finish. With only a quarter of a mile up a steep incline before the finish line, Nolan started to lose all motor control.

Nolan nearly crawled up to the final plateau, 15 meters from the finish line, before falling to the ground. Reaching deep within himself, Nolan picked himself up, and fought off the pain long enough to stagger over the finish line in 26:05.

Schmeckpeper, who had fallen off Nolan at the start of the last mile, was still in the top-35 with a quarter mile to go, when he began his push for the finish. Climbing the hill before the finish, Schmeckpeper saw his teammate struggling and eventually fall to the ground at the top of the hill. Momentarily distracted, Schmeckpeper had to muster all his strength to hold off a challenge from Widener University's Paul Little, finishing in 25:47 and claiming his first All-American award.

Although the runners were disappointed not to have met all their goals, there was a sense of accomplishment nonetheless.

"I am very proud of both Ben and Sean," Taylor said. "I have never had two runners at nationals who could both say they had nothing left to give until now. They put it on the line and except for Sean's body's failure to respond in the last 200 meters, it went as well as could be expected."

Nolan was reflective after the last Cross Country race of his career, despite his individual trials.

"Ben earned his first All-American, and I think he will be a contender for the individual champion in the coming years," Nolan said. "I'm confident that the underclassmen will improve a lot in the next year, so the 2003 team should do very well. These are really good people that I run with, and I'm just glad to have been a part of the team."

Sport Taekwondo Takes First

By Christina Park
TEAM CAPTAIN

The Sport Taekwondo Club won the 15th Annual Northeast Collegiate Taekwondo Invitational, hosted by Cornell University on Nov. 23. The tournament drew competitors from nine different schools, including Cornell



University, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, and New York University. The team was victorious in the end, with 500 points, defeating Cornell at their own tournament for the first time in eight years.

The day opened with forms competition, in which Taekwondo students perfect their skills and highlight the beauty of the "art" in martial arts through a choreographed set of blocks, kicks and punches. As in gymnastics, scoring is based not only on technical merit, but also on artistic aspects such as grace, bal-

ance, power, and agility.

Timothy R. Kreider '04 and Christina S. Park '04 began the point total, with second place showings in the men's and women's black belt divisions respectively.

Delphine Dean '04 and John C. Ho '04 followed with strong finishes in the men's and women's beginner divisions, placing second and third, respectively. Lily Huang '06 also added to the point total, taking the silver in women's green belt division, and Grace P. Tan '03 came through with the team's first gold in the women's red belt division.

Men's A1 wins sparring

The sparring competition began with the advanced sparring divisions, where the women's A1 team (Alice S. Chau '04, Huang, Park) placed second overall. Chau confidently dominated her quarter-final match, winning 14-5. In Huang's A-team debut, she showed no fear,

winning her first match 12-4, and putting up a good fight against an experienced middleweight in the semi-finals. Park anchored the team despite an injured foot, and didn't drop a match on the day.

The team advanced past Cornell A4 and Cornell A1 to face NYU A1 in the finals. NYU won the lightweight match and a very close middleweight match of 10-9, leaving the women's team in 2nd place.

The men's A1 team (Timothy T. Lee '04, Richard J. Sinn '06, Chinedum O. Osuji '06) was the strongest in the advanced brackets, and easily eliminated Cortland A1 and U Penn A1 before meeting Cornell A1 in the finals. In only his second tournament appearance in the INCTL, Lee showed significant improvement since October and approached his matches with confidence. Despite nursing an injured hamstring, Sinn

Taekwondo, Page 19

Fencing Defeats St. John's

By Suki Dorfman
TEAM MEMBER

In their final meet of the fall season, both the men's and women's fencing teams came up 3-1, with the men upsetting St. John's University, ranked second in the nation in the NCAA.



At the Nov. 24 meet, held at Brandeis, MIT faced St. John's, Boston College, Brandeis University, and Vassar College. MIT continues to dominate the Northeast Fencing Conference.

The MIT men approached St. John's, their first opponents, and discovered the other teams sabre squad had brought only one of the three fencers that comprise a starting squad. This resulted in six forfeited bouts, victories for MIT. The MIT sabrists, captain Anthony P. Reinen '03, Jason M. Levine '03, and Michael P. Pihulic '04 won their bouts to complete a 9-0 sabre sweep.

Fencing, Page 19

MIT Swimming Victorious In November Competitions

By Jonathan A. Goler
TEAM CAPTAIN

The MIT swimming and diving team steamrolled their competition in the week before the holiday break, with both the men (4-0) and women (3-2) raking in victories.

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, MIT hosted Springfield for their first ever home meet at the Zesiger center. The final score for the men's meet was 129-96, and the women lost 132-100. The meets were both highly competitive, with excellent times turned in all around.

For the women, Kathryn M. Duffy '04 won the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 55.85, and Melissa E. Dere '06 won the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:11.03.

The MIT men dominated the meet from the beginning, showing both depth and speed, as they swept the 200-yard medley relay. Bruce J. Di Bello '05 won the 50-yard freestyle in a time of 22.25, followed by a win in the 200-yard individual medley by John H. Rogers '06.

Captain Sebastian Gutierrez '03 led a 1-2-3 sweep of the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 55.85. Joseph P. Carlucci '05 followed with a winning time of 1:01.39 in the 100-yard breaststroke. To finish off the meet, MIT swept the 200-yard freestyle relay, winning with a time of 1:28.57.

MIT takes meet in easy sweep

On Saturday, Nov. 24, MIT faced Babson and Bowdoin at the Zesiger Center, in a triple meet. MIT walked away with four victories for the day, with the women and men both defeating both opposing teams.

In the women's meets, MIT began the day by winning the 200-yard medley relay. Jennifer DeBoer '05 took the 1,000-yard freestyle with a time of 11:45.56, followed by

a win in the 200-yard freestyle by Georgene M. Hilb '04. Erin M. Zoller '04 and Yihvan Vuong '03 won the 50-yard and 100-yard backstroke and breaststroke, respectively. The first part of the meet was finished off with sweeps in both the 100-yard butterfly and 50-yard freestyle, with Melanie J. Michalak '06 and Captain Kirstin M. Alberi '03 winning respectively.

MIT continued to dominate the meet in the second half, with wins by Duffy in the 100-yard freestyle, Alberi in the 500-yard freestyle, Aasia Saleemuddin '04 in the 50-yard butterfly, and Hilb in the 200-yard individual medley. Victory was decisive: the score was 217-47 against Babson, and 176-102 against Bowdoin.

The men had a similarly superlative meet. From the beginning, MIT dominated the meet, winning the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1:39.47. Mark Y. Liao '06 followed with a win in the 1,000-yard freestyle with a time of 10:02.95. Di Bello won the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:00.88, followed by Nicholas O. Sidelnik '05 in the 200-yard butterfly (he later won the 100-yard butterfly as well). Erdem M. Kiciman '04 won the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 22.18.

After the diving, MIT led 90-42 against Babson. Then the fun began. Jonathan S. Varsanik '04 won the 100-yard freestyle, and Gutierrez won the 200-yard backstroke, followed by a sweep in the 200-yard breaststroke by Di Bello, Carlucci and David D. Lohrey '05.

At the end of the meet, despite their commanding lead, MIT continued to pound away, with Maik Geng '04 winning the 200-yard individual medley. To finish off the meet, MIT won the 200-yard freestyle relay with a time of 1:28.24. The MIT men finished first, winning 196-100 against Babson and 196-84 against Bowdoin.

The Football Fanatic

By O.B. Usmen
COLUMNIST

I'm not sure how the AFC got so jumbled, but what I do know is that almost any team could make the playoffs. Thirteen out of 16 teams are .500 or better, so barring an immediate stratification in the coming weeks, the playoff spots will be determined by a ton of tie-breaks.



Column

The NFC playoff picture got a little clearer this week, with almost all of the top teams pulling out victories. In fact, as it stands now, unless a 5-7 team wins their remaining four games, the playoffs are pretty much set. The only team with a realistic chance of pulling off an unexpected playoff berth is the 6-6 NY Giants, who trail New Orleans (8-4) by two games for the last Wild Card spot.

The Packers (9-3) were guaranteed a spot in the playoffs with their 30-20 win this week over the lowly Bears (3-9). Chicago led 14-6 at half time, but the Green Bay defense was eventually too much, causing five turnovers and sacking Chicago quarterbacks three times.

Vick carries Falcons

Atlanta (8-3-1) pulled off a thrilling victory against the Vikings (3-9) winning in overtime 30-24. Michael Vick rushed for a quarterback record 173 yards including the game-winning 46-yard touchdown in overtime. Coupled with his 173 passing yards, Vick accounted for 346 of Atlanta's 379 total yards.

The biggest game of the week was between the Saints (8-4) and the Buccaneers (9-3). The Saints

prevailed 23-20 to beat Tampa Bay for the second time this season. Simeon Rice continues to dominate, recording his fifth consecutive multiple-sack game, but it wasn't enough to contain Aaron Brooks, who passed for two touchdowns. How far can Vick carry the Falcons?

Vick's viability questionable

If you didn't see Michael Vick's incredible run in overtime against the Vikings, it's definitely worth a look. Vick is perhaps the most gifted athlete in the NFL. His arm has drawn comparisons to John Elway, and his scrambling ability is beyond comparison. He has single-handedly made the Falcons a playoff team, and who knows what he can pull off in the playoffs. Still, while his talent may merit all the hype surrounding this second year quarterback, I am skeptical that he can keep it up.

In the NFL, quarterbacks throw the ball and running backs run the ball. Vick's running has been winning games for Atlanta, but that will be only true until he gets flattened by a Ray Lewis or Warren Sapp, and then his career will never be the same. If Vick continues to run 10-12 times per game, he will not last very long in the league. The average career of a running back is less than three years, and that's because very few people can withstand the pounding a running back endures. There's no question Vick is a physical specimen; I just hope he learns to stay in the pocket long enough to make a career out of his potential.

Fantasy pick of the week: Emmitt Smith, running-back for the Dallas Cowboys. Since complaining he wasn't getting enough carries, Emmitt has put up 73 and 144 yards in his last two games.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, Dec. 6
Men's Indoor Track—Intrasquad, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 7
Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving vs. Colby College, 1 p.m.
Men's Squash vs. Connecticut College, 2 p.m.
Women's Ice Hockey vs. RIT, 4 p.m.
Women's Indoor Track vs. University of Southern Maine and MIT Alumnae, 12 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 8
Women's Ice Hockey vs. RIT, 1 p.m.
Pistol—Nasua Open