

MIT LSC To Begin Accepting TechCASH

By Matthew H. Kwan
STAFF REPORTER

The Lecture Series Committee will accept the MIT Card for tickets and refreshments at the end of the month.

"I am very happy that we are finally getting it," said LSC Chairman Alex Rolfe G. "LSC has wanted to have the card for a long time."

LSC will accept the Card starting with their annual Science Fiction Marathon Jan. 25, according to an LSC press release.

Rolfe said that LSC investigated using the MIT Card, also known as TechCASH, several years ago for the convenience of MIT students purchasing tickets to film and lecture events in 26-100.

Students will now be "able to use their MIT card to purchase tickets, cards with a fixed cash-value for refreshments, and multipasses," according to the press release.

Security a concern

Security issues stood in the way of past efforts to use the MIT Card. A student group accepting the Card could, in principle, record information from a student's card, duplicate the card, and use it to make purchases on the student's account.

Assistant Director of Enterprise Services John M. McDonald said that there was nothing to stop a student group if they chose to steal from MIT student accounts. "They could absolutely do that if they wanted to," McDonald said.

However, McDonald also added that it was "very unlikely", because students can check their accounts online and check for irregularities. In the past, students could not check the balances online.

Rolfe said that stealing from accounts in this way would be quite difficult, and only ten or fifteen LSC workers have access to the card reader.

The Student Activities Office was also concerned about unauthorized refunds, Rolfe said.

However, it is possible to disable the card reader's refund capability, and McDonald is looking into additional protections, Rolfe said.

Expensive equipment was another barrier. A card reader costs about \$1,500 and requires a dedicated phone line to operate.

LSC went to the Undergraduate Association last November for funding and received \$2,200 to cover a card reader, a receipt printer, and part of the phone line installation, Rolfe said.

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Music Dept. Shuts Out A Capella Groups

By Beckett W. Stemer
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT's a capella groups may have to find new practice space.

Starting this spring, the three music practice rooms on the first floor of Building 4 will be open to non-department groups Monday

through Thursday only after 9 p.m. All but one of the MIT a capella groups use these rooms to practice, often before the new starting time.

The Music Department needed the extra time because the Chamber Music Society, run by the department, had expanded and the groups were having trouble getting in, said John H. Lyons, administrative officer for the department.

"We've done our best to let [a capella groups] use this space," Lyons said, but "we have to take care of the music department first."

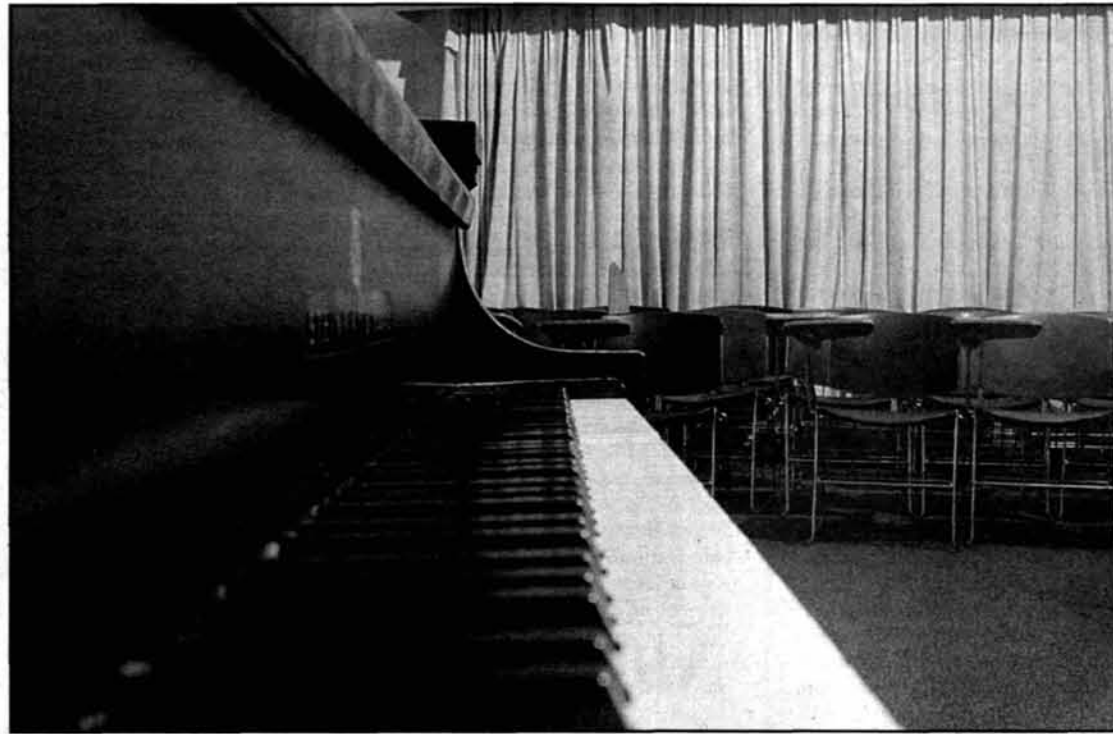
Few other spaces are available for the groups to practice in, as most rooms are either too small or don't have a piano. Some groups are looking into space in the Student Center, dormitories or the Walker Memorial Building, but none are as appropriate as the Building 4 rooms.

"The trouble is, our program is growing," Lyons said, referring to the Chamber Music Society.

The Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir have also held section practices in the music rooms, Lyons said.

The change was "not one we did lightly, nor one we like to do," Lyons said. He said that in the past, student groups could reserve the rooms at the Music Department's discretion, but the depart-

Music Rooms, Page 15



DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH

The piano in room 4-156 sits unused Tuesday night. Starting in the spring term, the music department will no longer allow non-department music groups to use its rooms before 9 p.m., Monday to Thursday.

Take the Blue Pill, Wake Up in Bed; Take the Red Pill, Stay in 2003 Hunt

By Marissa Vogt
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

I think I got too much sleep this past weekend.

Four hours a night, it seems, was way

above the norm for most participants in the annual IAP Mystery

Hunt. This isn't surprising, though, as this year's hunt was the longest (and probably the hardest) on record.

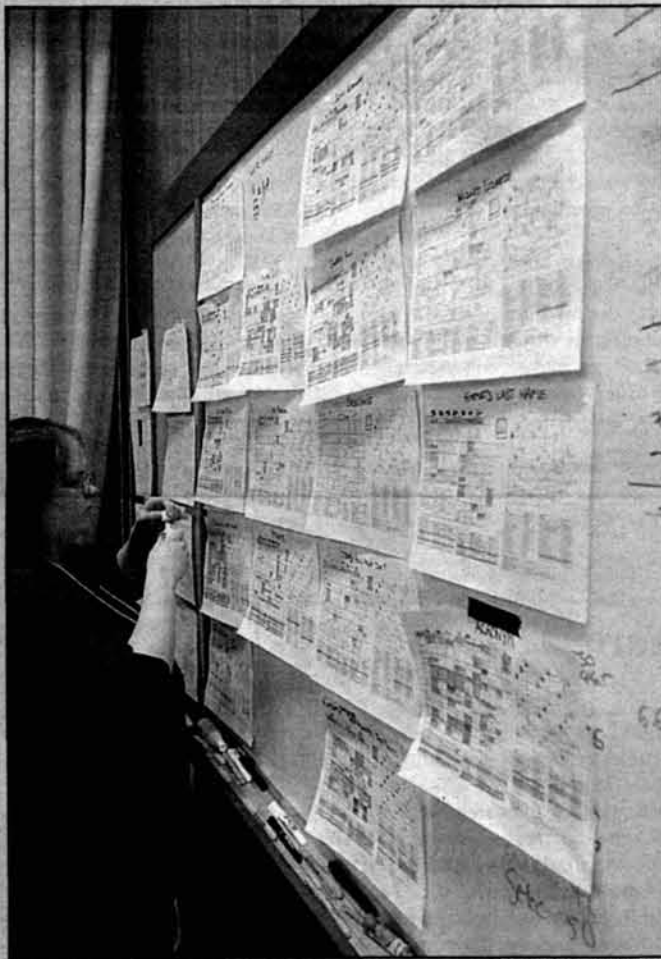
The hunt kicked off in Lobby 7 on Friday at noon, with the rather dramatic assassination of Mr. Adelpia, CEO of Acme Corp., the fictional organization created by Hunt organizers. The teams were told that to find out who killed Mr. Adelpia, they had to solve certain puzzles.

My team consisted of a small group of our friends and roommates, and was almost entirely made up of freshmen. We soon discovered that we were in way over our heads, as new puzzles were released before we had made any respectable progress on the first ones. Surely our small group of 10 would not be able to contend with the large teams representing groups like Random Hall (a team called Blatantly Obscene) or East Campus' Third East (a team called Kappa Sig, this year's winning team).

Teams told to "take the red pill"

By Friday afternoon most teams had

Hunt, Page 16



FRANK DABER—THE TECH

Michelle Dunnwind keeps track of the progress of teams in this year's Mystery Hunt at ACMEcorp headquarters. This year's hunt featured a *Matrix* theme and turned out to be one of the longest ever.

MIT, Come On Down: You're on The Price Is Right!

By Maria Schriver

What are you doing this Independent Activities Period? Richard A. Hovan '03 appeared on televi-

sion and won \$10,000.

On Jan. 10, Hovan and nine other MIT students piled into an RV and set out for California to appear on *The Price is Right*.

The trip to California was months in the planning. After trying all summer for reservations, the group contacted CBS in October to reserve seats for a taping this January.

T. K. Focht '04, one of the road-trippers, has been watching the show for over 20 years.

"I'm one of the more rabid [fans]," Focht said. "Most people are generally fans or at least can be made fans."

Hovan chosen to 'come on down'

In an audience of 320, with fewer than 10 contestants on each show, the MIT students were by no means guaranteed that someone

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Sweeney
Todd
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MIT admits 15 percent of early applicants.

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WORLD & NATION

Poll Shows Declining Public Support for War Against Iraq

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Seven in 10 Americans would give U.N. weapons inspectors months more to pursue their arms search in Iraq, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll that found growing doubts about an attack on Saddam Hussein.

In addition to the public's skepticism about military action against Iraq, the poll found that a majority of Americans disapproved of President Bush's handling of the economy for the first time in his presidency. The number of Americans who regard the economy as healthy hasn't been lower in the past nine years, and majorities raised objections to the tax-cut plan Bush has proposed as a remedy.

Overall, support for Bush has dropped to levels not seen since before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, with 59 percent of Americans approving of his work. That's still a comfortable level of popularity, and Bush advisers and analysts expect Americans will rally to his side once hostilities begin in Iraq. Still, Bush's overall standing, buoyed by the 71 percent who approve of his work against terrorism, masks deepening concerns about Bush's economic and foreign policies.

Chinese Crackdown Leaves North Korean Refugees Few Options

THE WASHINGTON POST

YANJI, CHINA

Cracking down on North Korean refugees, Chinese authorities have forcibly returned thousands of destitute people to their isolated Stalinist homeland and forced those who remain to risk their lives scratching out a meager existence in wintry mountains to escape Chinese police raids, according to witnesses and refugees.

The crackdown was on display over the weekend in the checkpoints and patrols here on China's border with North Korea, and in eastern Shandong province, where 58 refugees seeking food and freedom were caught trying to board fishing boats headed for South Korea and to Japan.

China, the country with the closest ties to North Korea, has yet to fully exercise its influence over Pyongyang, Western diplomats complain. But China has been assiduous in carrying out its crackdown on North Korean illegal immigrants, fulfilling a treaty with Pyongyang.

Hispanic Population Drawing Even With African Americans'

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

In the months following the 2000 Census, the number of Latinos who were born in the United States or who immigrated to the country grew at more than twice the rate of African Americans, fueling the expectation that Hispanics would soon emerge as the nation's largest ethnic group.

The black and Latino populations were nearly deadlocked in the 2000 Census. In 2001, according to the new figures, that deadlock was even tighter: 37.7 million people identified either as black, or as black and one other race, according to the new figures. Thirty-seven million Hispanics were counted.

The reason is that Latinos accounted for nearly half of the nation's total population growth from 2000 to 2001, which includes birth and immigration rates, according to the new estimates. During that time, the African American population increased by only two percent. Blurred racial and ethnic boundaries make such estimates difficult to parse. Latinos can belong to any racial group, and are often mixed race.

Bush Administration Urges Military Action Against Iraq

By Karen DeYoung

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

President Bush Tuesday dismissed U.N. Security Council members who have said weapons inspectors should be given more time in Iraq, recalling that all of them, "including the French," voted last November to impose "serious consequences" if Iraq did not disclose and dismantle all of its weapons of mass destruction programs.

"This business about, you know, more time — you know, how much time do we need to see clearly that he's not disarming?" Bush said of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "This looks like a rerun of a bad movie and I'm not interested in watching it."

Bush's testy remarks, made in a brief White House exchange with reporters, came as the administration escalated its campaign against Saddam in a clear indication that it has begun a final effort to persuade the world's governments and public that military action against Iraq is both justifiable and necessary.

The administration plans to lay

out the various elements of its case in speeches and presentations over the next several weeks. The effort began Tuesday with a speech by Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, who said that Saddam's "regime has very little time left. ... There is no sign, there is not one sign that the regime has any intent to comply" with United Nations demands.

On Thursday, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz will deliver the same message in a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. Bush's State of the Union speech next Tuesday will include a heavy emphasis on Iraq, although senior officials said the president is not likely to make his formal public argument that the time has come for disarming Iraq by force, and removing Saddam from power, until next month.

Senior aides are anxious that Bush not appear to preempt a separate calendar of events at the Security Council, where Hans Blix, the head of the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), and International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director general Mohamed ElBaradei are due on Monday to make their first comprehensive report on Iraqi compliance with inspections that began two months ago. On Jan. 29, the day after Bush's State of the Union speech, the council will convene to debate the report and decide what further steps to take.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the strongest U.S. ally on Iraq in the council, has scheduled a one-day visit with Bush at Camp David on Jan. 31. U.S. and diplomatic sources said that Blair was anxious that the two be seen to be having "a genuine consultation," something that would be difficult if Bush had already declared the inspections over.

"The moment will come when the administration will want to make its case before the court of public opinion as well as the Security Council," said one source. "They've only got one shot at it ... and there's a tradeoff" between having the strongest possible evidence to present and "waiting so long that the moment passes."

Number of Abortion Providers At Its Lowest in Three Decades

By Ceci Connolly

THE WASHINGTON POST

The number of U.S. abortion providers has fallen to its lowest level in three decades, a trend many physicians ascribe to a hostile political environment, hospital mergers, and a lack of enthusiasm for teaching the procedure at most medical schools.

In 2000, nearly 30 years after the Supreme Court legalized abortion, researchers at the Alan Guttmacher Institute say, there were just 1,819 physicians performing abortions, down from 2,000 four years earlier. The new survey, released on the eve of Wednesday's 30th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, also found that 87 percent of the counties in the United States do not have a single abortion provider.

Over the same four-year period, the number of abortions dipped slightly, from 1.36 million to 1.31 million in 2000, the most recent sta-

istics available. Ninety percent of the abortions in the United States were done in the first trimester.

Guttmacher researcher Lawrence Finer said the results reflect a mixed picture. "The availability of new contraceptive methods is helping avoid unintended pregnancies," he said.

"In other instances, though," Finer said, anti-abortion activists have thwarted efforts to "establish basic abortion services" in some communities. "That has had a direct impact."

About six percent of the Guttmacher Institute's budget comes from Planned Parenthood, which supports abortion rights, and 20 percent comes from the federal government.

Abortion rights opponents said they do not dispute the statistics in the survey. They said the statistics are positive indicators that women and physicians are turning away from a procedure they find morally

reprehensible. Abortion rights advocates, however, said that in a nation in which 44 percent of women will have at least one abortion, the dwindling number of trained providers is tantamount to a denial of basic health services.

"Even though the goal is to make abortion less necessary, reproductive health care is totally incomplete without the component of pregnancy termination and abortion," said Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League: Pro-Choice America.

Leaders of the anti-abortion Christian Medical Association disputed the need for abortion training. Kathi Aultman, a Florida doctor who performed abortions until the birth of her child, said it is a mistake to suggest that a drop in abortion training jeopardizes women's health.

WEATHER

Global Warming

By Robert Lindsay Korty

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

It seems the news is peppered with reports about global warming whenever the country is baking during a hot summer or basking in a mild winter. It is more reality than perception that these stories all but disappear during months such as this. The truth is, of course, neither a hot summer nor a warm winter can be used accurately as evidence that the planet is heating. Neither can a few months during which the temperature falls below average be accurately taken to signal the demise of global warming. Daily and monthly weather is highly variable, mere noise in a century-long climate record. Climate changes induced or precipitated by anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gasses could only be detected as a gradual shift over the course of several decades, a time-scale similar to an average human life span.

In fact, while the northern United States is frozen in an Arctic airmass, temperatures in Alaska and the western United States have been relatively mild. Storms entering the western Pacific have been blocked by a ridge over Alaska during much of January, forcing air originating in Siberia to run north over the North Pole and slide down the other side of the ridge into eastern Canada and straight into New England. It may finally make it above freezing early next week. Maybe.

Extended Forecast

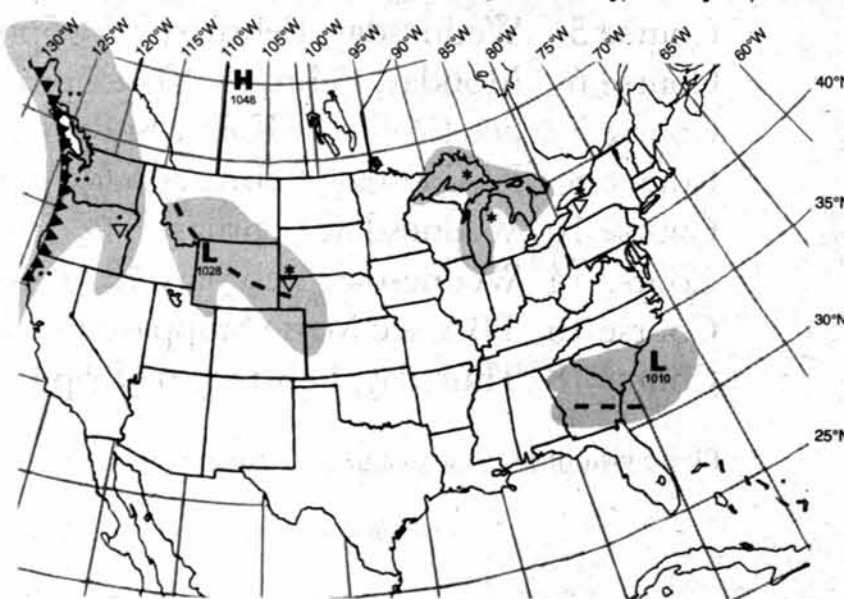
Today: Sunny and brisk. High of 19°F (-7°C) with wind chills remaining below 0°F (-18°C) during much of the day.

Tonight: Frigid. Low 3°F (-16°C) with wind chills as low as -20°F (-29°C) at times.

Thursday: Partly sunny and cold. High 20°F (-7°C). Low 5°F (-15°C).

Friday: Morning clouds, otherwise partly sunny. High 24°F (-4°C), low 10°F (-12°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, January 22, 2003



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow: * (light), ** (moderate), *** (heavy)	Fog: ☁
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Rain: ▽ (light), ▽ (moderate), ▽ (heavy)	Thunderstorm: ⚡
S Hurricane	▲ Cold Front		Haze: ☁
	— Stationary Front		

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Rumsfeld Apologizes for Recent Remarks on Military Draftees

By **Vernon Loeb**
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, responding to growing criticism for recent remarks about draftees adding "no value" to the U.S. military, offered a "full apology" Tuesday to veterans groups and their supporters on Capitol Hill.

"Hundreds of thousands of military draftees served over the years with great distinction and valor — many being wounded and still others killed," Rumsfeld said in a letter sent Tuesday night to the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America and other veterans organizations. "The last thing I would want to do would be to disparage the service of

those draftees."

Rumsfeld's letter came in response to demands from those groups and lawmakers from both parties angered by his comment two weeks ago in response to a question about legislation calling for reinstating the draft. In his remarks, Rumsfeld said he opposed the proposal, adding that draftees added "no value, no advantage really, to the United States Armed Services over any sustained period of time."

Three leading Democrats who served in Vietnam, Sens. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., and John Kerry, D-Mass., and Rep. Lane Evans, D-Ill., said in a letter to Rumsfeld Tuesday that "we are shocked, frankly, that you were apparently

willing to dismiss the value of the service of millions of Americans." The letter asked that he apologize to them and their families.

The Vietnam Veterans of America, the principal organization representing veterans from the war, also demanded an apology for what it called Rumsfeld's "insulting" remarks. It distributed audio responses from veterans and the mother of one serviceman killed in action to several hundred radio stations across the United States.

The American Legion, in a letter to Rumsfeld posted on its website, asked the defense secretary for "a retraction and an apology to the families of those 'draftees' who served America with honor."

FBI Seeking Access to 'Orwellian' Defense Department Data Project

By **Tom Brune**
NEWSDAY

WASHINGTON

The FBI is already working on an understanding with the Pentagon to experiment with the controversial Total Information Awareness project, a prospect that raises civil liberty concerns, Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) said Tuesday.

The revelation added to the already hot controversy about the high-tech project, described by Pentagon officials as futuristic data-mining that would sift through credit card and other transactions to track down suspected terrorists before they act.

But some senators and civil libertarians depict the project, which has

an initial budget of \$10 million, as "Orwellian" and a threat to citizens' privacy. It is directed by Iran-Contra figure John Poindexter and overseen by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Grassley has proposed legislation to ensure that adequate privacy controls are put into place, that project funds are limited to foreign intelligence purposes and that the Pentagon is required to report to Congress on the project's progress.

Grassley said he is particularly concerned that technology that should be used only for foreign intelligence purposes could also be used by domestic law enforcement agencies such as the FBI, his aides said.

"I'm worried that Total Information Awareness personnel have contacted agencies at the Department of Justice to work on possible experimentation with TIA technology in the future," Grassley said.

"This is a direct contradiction to earlier statements made by the Justice Department and only heightens my concern about the blurring of lines between domestic law enforcement and military security efforts," he said.

He said Justice Department spokesman Brian Sierra in November said that "the Justice Department has not gotten any information about the project from the Pentagon and thus cannot comment."

Pilot Arrested on Gun Charges

NEWSDAY

A Northwest Airlines pilot preparing to fly to Detroit was arrested at New York's LaGuardia Airport early Tuesday when security screeners found a loaded semiautomatic handgun in his carry-on bag.

Port Authority police arrested Robert B. Donaldson, 43, a pilot based in the Detroit area, after the gun was found as he tried to pass through security. He was headed to the gate to be the first officer on Flight 1911, scheduled to leave at 6 a.m.

"We are working with federal and local authorities," said Northwest spokeswoman Mary Beth Schubert, who declined to comment further. The gun, a Taurus 9-mm semiautomatic, was fully loaded, according to the Queens district attorney's office.

Donaldson faces three counts of criminal possession of a weapon, including one felony count, the DA's office said. He was being held awaiting arraignment Tuesday night.

Donaldson has a license to carry the handgun in Michigan, but not in New York, prosecutors said. Transportation Security Administration officials said they were waiting for more information from investigators to see if the gun was transported to New York on a previous flight.

Sharpton to Seek Democratic Presidential Nomination

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Rev. Al Sharpton, a black political activist from New York City, jumped into the 2004 Democratic presidential contest Tuesday, hoping to appeal to large numbers of minority voters and gain national influence within the party.

Sharpton, seeking to claim a mantle of black leadership last worn by the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson during his two presidential runs in the 1980s, is likely to be taken seriously by his Democratic rivals, even if his chances of winning the nomination are remote.

In a telephone interview, Sharpton predicted he will energize voters dispirited by Democratic losses in the 2000 presidential and 2002 midterm elections. His unabashed aim is to yank the party sharply to the left as it prepares to challenge President Bush.

"I am the only clear antiwar, anti-death penalty, anti-tax cut candidate who is in the race," Sharpton said after filing papers to establish an exploratory committee for a presidential run.

He noted that he was the lone potential candidate to speak in Washington Saturday at a major rally against a possible war in Iraq.

Sharpton, 48, joins a field of presidential hopefuls that includes three Democratic senators — John F. Kerry of Massachusetts, Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut and John Edwards of North Carolina — as well as former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and Rep. Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri, the former House minority leader. In that group, only Dean has spoken against the resolution Congress approved last fall to authorize Bush to use military force against Iraq; the others all voted for it.

PUNT!*

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT EXCHANGE • 2003-2004
THE CAMBRIDGE-MIT INSTITUTE

Department Information Sessions are taking place now:

- Course 1 See Cynthia Stewart in Room 1-281 for an application form and details
- Course 2 See Peggy Garlick in Room 1-104 for an application form and details
- Course 3 Friday, January 24 @ noon in room 8-314
- Course 5 Wednesday, February 5 @ 5pm in room 2-105
- Course 6 Monday, February 10 @ 3pm in room 34-401B
- Course 7 See Professor Kaiser in Room 68-533 for an application form and details
- Course 8 Wednesday, February 5 @ 4pm in room 4-339
- Course 10 Wednesday, February 5 @ 5pm in room 66-110
- Course 14 Wednesday, February 12 @ 4pm in room E52-232
- Course 16 TBA-see Marie Stuppard in room 33-208 for details
- Course 18 Thursday, February 6 @ 5pm in room 2-102

Please visit <http://www.cambridge-mit.org/education> or contact cmi-advice@mit.edu for more information.

Deadline for applications is early March! Check with your department.

* not that kind of punting, the kind you do in a boat with a long pole

OPINION

MIT Could Do a Little More

Ever get that feeling you can never go home again? Our 2,700 international students have reason to feel that way, thanks to a new student-registration system from the Im-

Editorial

migration and Naturalization Service and the State Department's braindead visa procedures. International students have good reason to be concerned, but some simple efforts could go a long way toward alleviating international students' uncertainty.

One: MIT should send international students copies of exactly what it will report to the INS's new Student Visitor Information System *before* sending the information to the government, and give students a chance to correct inaccuracies in the reports. Better, MIT should develop a set of criteria to flag records that the government is likely to find suspicious, and help students who inadvertently get into such situations.

Two: MIT, whose internal policies aggressively guard students' privacy in academic and disciplinary matters, should not knuckle under and violate those same policies when dealing with federal authorities. *The Tech* is particularly troubled by the International Students Office's bland listing that it will provide "Disciplinary Action" and "Registration Each Term" to the SEVIS system, when the law mandating participation in SEVIS — the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002 — only requires "disciplinary action taken by the institution against the alien as a result of the alien's being convicted of a crime," and "current academic status of the alien, including whether the alien is maintaining status as a full-time student."

Providing all disciplinary action and a complete listing of registration might be the easiest way to comply with the law's mandate, but it is certainly not the least intrusive disclosure MIT could make. Taking the easy way out shows a troubling lack of commitment to the disciplinary and academic privacy that MIT normally guards so aggressively. The ISO should scale back its disclosure to what is required by law.

Three: MIT should throw its weight around to help students sidelined by the State Department's bizarre and brain-

dead visa procedures. President Bush has fashioned himself the "education president," but it is clearly unacceptable when his administration forces students returning to MIT to sit at home for literally months on end, not knowing when they may return to school, as a result of a notoriously inept and broken bureaucracy.

We are surprised that Isaac M. Colbert, the dean for graduate students, has advised faculty not to call members of Congress on behalf of students who are delayed, apparently believing this could somehow slow the process down even more. Immigration is a political process, frequently lacking rhyme or reason, and intervention by members of Congress is precisely what our representatives love to do as part of "constituent services" all the time. Maybe individual faculty shouldn't be calling in favors from Rep. Michael Capuano (Cambridge's U.S. representative), but MIT's priorities would be in the wrong place if it refused to use its Washington lobbying office to help returning students get back to school.

Finally, we are simply dumfounded that it is apparently impossible for international students with certain kinds of visas to go abroad for academic conferences. Is there no way students could pre-apply for a re-entry visa before actually voyaging abroad, instead of the current system, where Iranian students traveling to a four-day conference in Paris have to fear that they might end up stuck in France for months, while their visa applications are inexplicably delayed? MIT and other schools should use their influence to work something out with the government to cure what seems like a ridiculous law-school toy paradox, except real.

The federal immigration bureaucracy is a hopelessly convoluted and frighteningly arbitrary system, made even more so by the tightening of policy in the wake of Sept. 11. International students should not have to navigate this strange morass — a nadir of good government — on their own. MIT should help them, and the measures we propose would go a ways toward alleviating the uncertainty these students face. There are plenty of reasons you might feel like you can't go home again, but fear of the U.S. government shouldn't be one of them.



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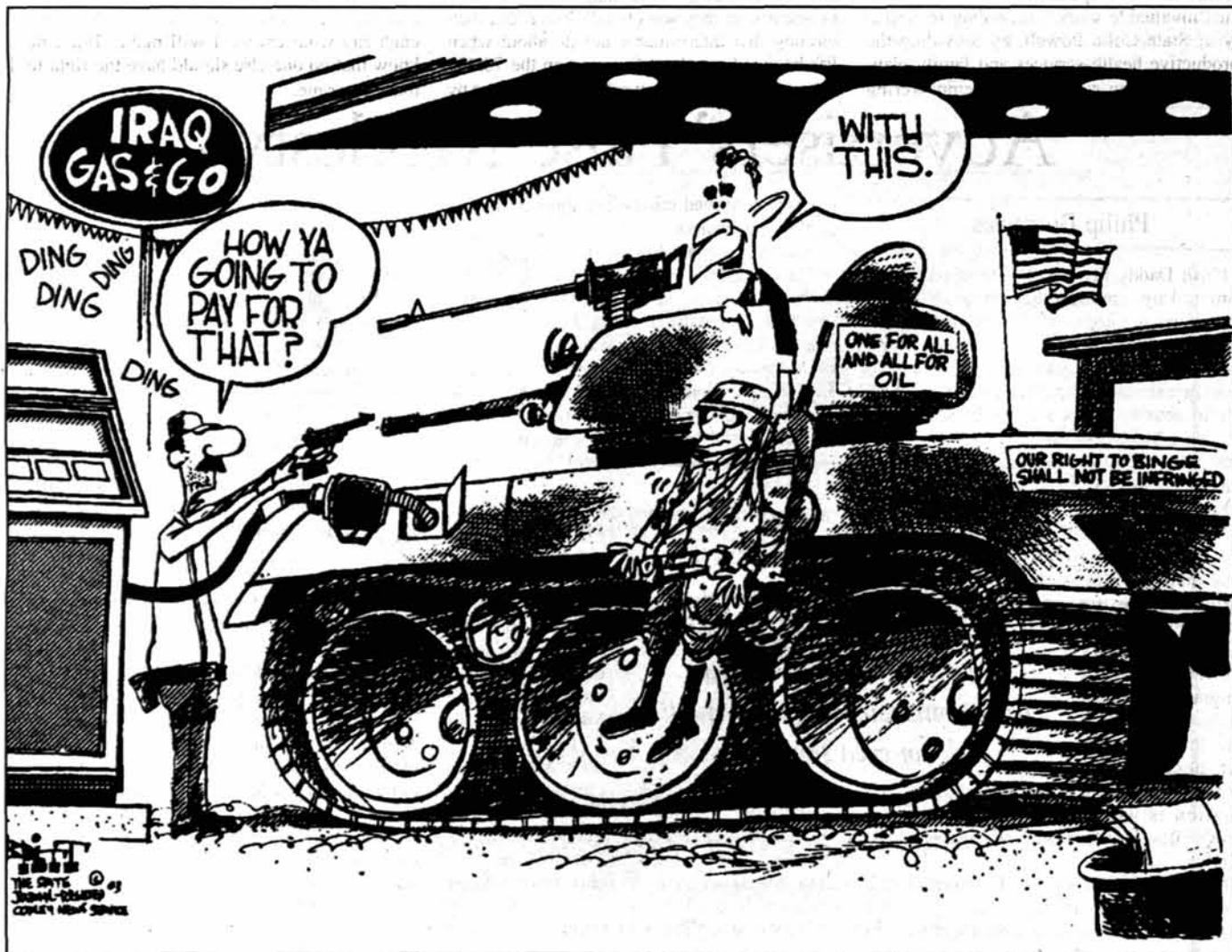
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Dissents are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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

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

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

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You'll Have No Choice

Stephanie W. Wang

It's easy to take reproductive choice for granted these days. After all, it's been thirty years since the landmark decision in the Roe v. Wade case where the Supreme Court stated that the right to privacy "is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy." Unfortunately, as the dark days of sometimes fatal back-alley abortions have become an ignominious chapter of the distant past, the Bush administration's policies and appointments increasingly threaten the reproductive choices of not just women in the United States, but women worldwide. As a recent *New York Times* editorial points out, "the lengthening string of anti-choice executive orders, regulations, legal briefs, legislative maneuvers and key appointments emanating from his administration suggests that undermining the reproductive freedom essential to women's health, privacy and equality is a major preoccupation of his administration."

Two years ago, to "celebrate" the twenty-eighth anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Bush reactivated the global gag rule or "Mexico City Policy" which requires "nongovernmental organizations to agree as a condition of their receipt of Federal funds that such organizations would neither perform nor actively promote abortion as a method of family planning in other nations," according to a White House press release. This first act in office was certainly a clear indication of the continuing evisceration of reproductive choice that was to come.

Since then, he has appointed countless anti-choice judges in the court system and anti-choice officials to positions of authority on policies that greatly impact reproductive rights. In fact, one could surmise that, rather than a meritocracy, a person's belief on this matter has become something of a litmus test for deciding these appointments.

Furthermore, the Bush administration has stopped funds to such "dubious" organizations as the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund, who have done "invaluable work," according to Secretary of State Colin Powell, by providing the reproductive health services and family planning information so crucial for empowering

women to make their own decisions. I suppose Bush is just incapable of understanding that the structural violence against women in much of the world, which threatens many of their basic rights daily, is not solved with one call of "abstinence and abstinence only." In fact, women's chances of education, good health, and a voice in society are in greater peril because of this ill-advised attempt to unilaterally enforce Puritan morals.

Of course, the underlying impetus for this series of bewildering actions seems to be an unwillingness to believe that women are capable of making tough decisions about their own lives without government interference. However, Bush and co. would have you believe it's because they, the Enlightened Ones, have the monopoly on "knowing-when-life-begins" and "knowing-what-is-good-and-moral-and-what-is-bad-and-sinful." Thus, they, as the sole possessors of this knowledge, must dictate what women around the world should do, individual rights and reproductive choice be damned. The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and the Clergy for Choice Network remind us that supporting reproductive choice is not just about supporting abortion as Bush would charge, but rather, it means working to ensure that women have "access to safe, reliable contraception, family planning education, comprehensive sexuality education, affordable and reliable childcare and health care, adoption services, and access to safe, legal, and affordable abortions."

Sadly, Bush and his anti-choice band have long sought to obscure the central issue of choice in this debate by using the loaded rhetoric of labeling the two-sides as pro-life and pro-abortion, rather than anti-choice and pro-choice. If they want to talk life, rather than circling that interminable debate about when life begins, how about focusing on the 78,000 lives ended around the world a year, caused by

complications of unsafe abortions, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute? The anti-choicers have also conveniently labeled the pro-choice stance as a radical leftist feminist one in an effort to polarize the populace along party lines. Well, if Bush really believes in the principles of the Republican party, shouldn't he champion for getting "big government" out of private lives, or is that policy reserved for people who need "big government" out for the huge profits? After all, Republicans for Choice, and according to them, 71 percent of Republicans nationwide, "[believe] that in accordance with the basic fundamental principles of the Republican Party, we must protect individual rights, including a woman's right to choose."

On the thirtieth anniversary of the monumental triumph of rights over rhetoric that was Roe v. Wade, Bush and his overzealous cheerleaders continue their self-righteous crusade which could potentially overturn that decision if the court-packing succeeds. This means that those of us who believe in the constitutional rights which make

America what it is must fight harder to preserve reproductive choice. When the administration replaces science with religious fundamentalism when disseminating information pertaining to reproductive decisions and women's health, we cannot remain silent. When Bush attempts to appoint one virulently anti-choice judge or official after another, he must be vigorously challenged. When the anti-choice rhetoric evokes again and again the image of a radical feminist recklessly killing babies thanks to Roe v. Wade, I remember that Roe v. Wade gives the woman, rather than the government, the right to make her painful personal decision. As one woman reflected, "if so terrible a decision comes for me, I honestly can't say what choice I will make. But I do know that no one else should have the right to make it for me."

Bush and his anti-choice band have long sought to obscure the central issue of choice in this debate by using the loaded rhetoric of labeling the two-sides as pro-life and pro-abortion, rather than anti-choice and pro-choice.

Advertisers' False Modesty

Philip Burrowes

Plush Daddy Fly's end-of-term show was promoted by, among other things, a poster announcing the group's "Affirmative Action Show." On it, the sketch-comedy troupe bedecked in robes as pale as their skin, save one brown-skinned fellow in a black outfit. The joke, of course, is that affirmative action had successfully produced this token colored person, but that the group was still effectively lily-white. Funny as one might think the joke, it didn't erase the fact that Plush Daddy Fly was actually "whiter" than any non-graduate student organization had a right to be at MIT. Just because you acknowledge that a situation is wrong doesn't allow you to blamelessly perpetuate it. Right?

Maybe a throwaway poster from over a month ago doesn't seem like enough to get worked up over, however topical it's become in this regurgitative news cycle. Let's look at something relatively fresh. Charlie (and "Donald") Kaufman's film *Adaptation*, the film adaptation of Susan's Orlean's "The Orchid Thief," only recently went into wide release. Dude, like, it's so meta. One trailer for the film has Kaufman (played by Nicholas Cage) opining, "I just don't want to ruin it by making it a Hollywood thing ... It's like I don't want to cram in sex, or guns, or car chases, or characters overcoming obstacles to succeed in the end," while the viewer is treated to a montage of sex, guns, a car chase, etc. Seeing the movie, one realizes that the inclusion of plot contrivances (of the actual film, if not film-within-the-film) are not nearly so hackneyed, but that doesn't erase the fact that it is a movie depict-

ing how contrived movies are through the use of plot contrivances.

Critics have lapped it up for the most part, and it was nominated for six Golden Globes. Satire at its finest, one might say. The critics aren't evaluating the trailer, and that's the issue here: the movie is being sold on how hypocritical it appears. Neither Kaufman nor the film's director Spike Jonze are probably to blame for the creation of the commercial itself, so maybe it's unfair to connect that to the success of the film.

Advertisements for far less artistic products have joined in on what may be a self-abnegation trend, notably two products that are near and dear to the MIT heart.

Entertainment Arts/Maxis officially released "The Sims Online"

to much fanfare recently, more so than for the "SimCity 4" and "The Sims"-for-PS2 releases. Like *Adaptation*, it had been seen in smaller circles before a bigger commercial test, but unlike the film, "The Sims Online" was poised to make a ridiculous amount of money (not to mention being faithful to its source material). Supposedly the best-selling computer game of all time, "The Sims" allows you to micromanage the lives of individual people, including telling them when to sleep or go the bathroom. The main difference in the online version is that the AI for other characters has been replaced with actual people on other computers. One spot for the game begins with a Sim-couple getting married, but once they close the virtual door on the wedding, the male is rebuffed in his real-life advances on the female with, "It's just a game."

The second product on tap is Miller Lite, which of course all underage attendees of the Institute aren't familiar with. It's a beer. Beer

ads are notorious for being exploitative of women for the sake of selling the product to heterosexual and closeted homosexual males who are forced to mask their true selves under hyper-masculinity. A recent ad begins with two women getting into a catfight/strip-tease over whether Miller Lite tastes great or is less filling, cuts to a group of men saying how that would be the perfect beer ad, moves to two other women looking in disgust at said men, then finishes with the first pair of women continuing to wrestle.

Both of these products owe their popularity to escapism, but it is predicated on a gendered escapism. It's not that women don't drink, and certainly not that women don't play "The Sims," but the underlying message of both is that the real world is emasculating and you know you want to be distracted from it. Since we are supposedly too sophisticated in this day and age for unabashed pandering, to communicate this message, a product-purveyor must be self-conscious, tongue in cheek, or even smug. That doesn't eliminate the fact that the same message is coming through; it just makes it more comfortable for the recipient. In the above cases, it's a pretty disturbing message at that.

We could go on and on citing individual cases of paradoxically adulatory abnegation such as the above. Ultimately we will come to the same question: does that make it okay? Is it any worse, after all, than watching blooper shows or DVD features? For both, the selling point is making a laugh out of a flaw. The solution is not so easily packaged. Just as a blooper can go over the line, from a Freudian slip to a physically destructive trip, so too can the self-conscious critique do both good and harm. *Adaptation* has by and large been accepted as good, and almost anyone can see through the shamelessness of Miller Lite. Can the meta-mundanity of "The Sims" survive as an animated chatroom? Time and sales charts will tell. Does Plush Daddy Fly suck? Yeah, pretty much.

P.S. — None of this is an affront to either Bad Taste or last week's Bad Ideas Competition. Seriously. Don't even look for any hidden messages.

Saving Our Schools

Vivek Rao

With Republicans dominating the State House and Yankee fans pouring in and out of Fenway Park, Massachusetts has hardly been its usual self in recent years, and perhaps the best example is the Commonwealth's current public education situation. Facing a daunting fiscal crisis, newly inaugurated governor Mitt Romney is determined to slash state funding to public school districts, a move that is sure to retard long-term efforts to equalize school finances.

Throughout his campaign, one of the fundamental pillars of Romney's platform was a promise to reduce the state deficit while easing tax burdens on wealthy suburbs and their residents. Of course, one of the biggest funding areas is education, and it was only a matter of time before he turned there to look for money.

In an ideal world, Romney would alleviate the budget crunch by proposing a tax hike or by cutting spending in other areas. Aside from the most basic of needs, such as public and individual safety, public education is one of the most fundamental services any government provides to its citizenry, and to strip schools of key funding is a major mistake.

Realistically, though, Romney, much like national counterpart George W. Bush, seems determined to make spending cuts roughly across the board, no doubt trying to facilitate his insatiable desire to lower taxes. However, he will deal poorer school districts, many of whom are urgently trying to raise their educational standards to the level of richer systems, a severe setback.

Prior to 1993, the gaps in school financing between rich and poor towns in the Commonwealth were massive. Then, under the Education Reform Act, the state adopted a new funding formula that allowed it to give low-income communities much needed additional money. Meanwhile, state spending on education has increased from \$1.3 billion to \$3.2 billion since that formula came into place. The result has been a gradual yet deep-seated improvement of educational quality in poorer school systems.

That process is hardly complete, as evidenced by the disturbingly wide gap between wealthy suburbs and poor inner-city areas in overall scores on the MCAS, the state's new standardized testing program. But that gap is slowly decreasing, and reducing funding will be a major step backward. Even Romney understands this. In a statement made to *The Boston Globe* during his campaign, he said, "I support the MCAS test as a requirement for graduation. The MCAS test ensures that students are able to meet the high standards expected of them. The challenge now is in focusing resources on schools where large numbers of students are failing the test."

Now that he is actually in office, however, Romney seems remarkably reluctant to focus those resources as he once promised. On the surface, his administration will insist that the cuts will be equal across the state. That, however, is not the complete truth. Consider wealthy suburbs such as Newton or Weston. Those towns receive some money from the state, but that money still constitutes a relatively small percentage of their school budget when compared to poor towns like Lawrence, which relies heavily on the Commonwealth.

For some concrete numbers, compare Wellesley and Lawrence. According to most recent estimates, only about 9% of Wellesley's \$38 million school budget comes from the state. On the other end of the spectrum, nearly all of Lawrence's \$110 million budget is state money. Thus, a 5% state education funding cut is equal in name only. It makes much more sense to view it as a 0.45% reduction of Wellesley's budget and a nearly 5% slashing of Lawrence's. That kind of gap is fundamentally unequal, and could prove extremely debilitating to the Lawrence public school system.

If Romney is indeed hell-bent on cutting state funding to school systems, let us hope he miraculously — or more realistically, under pressure from other politicians — sheds his conservative mindset just long enough to call for higher cuts to wealthier school districts that can tolerate them far more easily. This state was once a pioneer in efforts to raise and equalize public education standards, but to cut funding to financially strapped school districts would be a tragic move. Granted, my proposal is a progressive one, but is that so absurd in an area long considered one of the most Democratic in the nation? Then again, with the recent extension of the Mass Pike to Logan Airport — a successfully completed construction project in Boston? — things really are topsy-turvy these days.

Casey & Barry JOHN BURNETT '05



FoxTrot by Bill Amend



Events Calendar

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

Wednesday, January 22

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. - 2:00 p.m. – ATIC Lab Open House. The Adaptive Computing Lab holds its annual open house. Come learn about cool alternative technologies for people with disabilities! See magnification, scanning and reading, Braille translation, screen reading software, and more. free. Room: 7-143. Sponsor: Information Systems, ATIC Lab.

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. – MIT Events Calendar: Learn to Post Your Events Online. See how easy it is to post your MIT event online in the web-based MIT Events Calendar system. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Usability 101 – IAP. free. Room: 1-150. Sponsor: Usability at MIT.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – The Lord of the Rings: “To Adapt or Not to Adapt, That is the Question.” Join us for a conversation with a small group of film industry professionals, scholars, and fans about THE LORD OF THE RINGS – the book, the movies, the DVDs, the games, and action figures! We'll explore issues of authorship, imagination, readers and viewers relationships with media, and creativity in the digital age, starting with J.R.R. Tolkien's text, Peter Jackson's films, and Electronic Arts' current and future games. If you have ever been to Middle Earth, join us for what we expect will be a lively and informative discussion. free. Room: 35-225. Sponsor: Literature Section, Shakespeare Project.

2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – spouses&partners@mit: Bowling. Join us for a fun afternoon of candlepin bowling at Sacco's Bowl Haven in Davis Square. We will meet in front of the MIT Coop in Kendall Square at 2:30 p.m. Please reserve a place by January 17. Room: MIT Coop, Kendall Square. Sponsor: spouses&partners@mit, MIT Medical.

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

4:00 p.m. – Squash vs. Amherst College. free. Room: Squash Courts. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – All About UROP. You are invited to come and learn about the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). All aspects of the Program will be addressed, including how to participate, what type of work is appropriate for UROP and what to expect from the program. Discussions will be led by UROP staff and will feature a panel of UROP students. Bring your questions! free. Room: 54-100. Sponsor: UROP.

6:00 p.m. – Squash vs. Trinity College (CT). free. Room: Squash Courts. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – International Festival of Transgender Film. “Ma Vie en Rose” and “Different for Girls.” free. Room: Building 35, Room 225. Sponsor: Office of the Arts, Committee on Campus Race Relations, Women's Studies Program, Comparative Media Studies.

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Food and Friends. Please join the Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry, Protestant Student Community, and Tech Catholic Community for an opportunity to share a meal and conversation. free. Room: W-11 Main Dining Room. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.

7:00 p.m. – Wrestling vs. US Coast Guard Academy. free. Room: Wrestling Room. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

7:30 p.m. – Ham Radio Exams. The MIT Radio Society's Radio Exam Team offers amateur radio exams on the penultimate Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in Room 1-150 (there are usually signs posted). This is the place to earn a new license or upgrade your existing license. Technician through Extra Class tests are offered. \$12. Room: TBD - See Signs @ 1-150. Sponsor: MIT Radio Society.

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

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – IFILM Film Seminar. Screening of a movie followed by a discussion. free. Room: 54-100. Sponsor: International Film Club.

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. – Tang Hall Taco Night. Home-cooked at the top of the MIT campus! Tacos cooked to perfection by Tang residents for MIT grad students. Enjoy! free. Room: Tang Hall, 24th floor lounge. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, Tang Hall Residents Association.

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

Thursday, January 23

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

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Gödel and the End of Physics. Cambridge-MIT Institute (CMI) is delighted to announce that Professor Stephen Hawking will give the next CMI Distinguished Lecture in January 2003. Professor Hawking's lecture is entitled “Gödel and the End of Physics.” In it, he will be asking whether there is an ultimate set of laws that govern the universe, or is any theory necessarily incomplete? Professor Hawking will be giving his lecture at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom and will be broadcast by live video-link to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to other universities in the United Kingdom and interested corporations. free. Room: 3-370, 9-057, 9-152, E52-315. Sponsor: The Cambridge-MIT Institute.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Conversational English Class. Join us for a free conversational English class for international students and spouses at MIT. Most attendees are women able to speak freely who desire to increase their English skills. Class covers a variety of topics including American culture and holiday descriptions. Free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

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

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

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – ShowNTell \$50k/Deshpande Center teambuilding dinner. Meet fellow entrepreneurs and technologists to exchange ideas and build a team for the \$50k Entrepreneurship Competition. Bring SOMETHING to show-n-tell in your area of interest - whether it's a demo, and article, or a piece of marketing data. Dinner is included. Hosted by the Deshpande Center and the \$50k Competition. free. Room: Lobby 13. Sponsor: Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation.

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – MIT Enterprise Forum Satellite Broadcast Series. “Solving the Weakest Link: Sales.” \$15-\$25; free for students. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: MIT ENTERPRISE FORUM, INC.

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

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – The Cup. Movie. free. Room: 1-135. Sponsor: Buddhist Community at MIT.

7:00 p.m. – The New Congress & U.S. Foreign Policy: Human Rights & Law. With our guests we will look at the role that human rights plays in Washington's bilateral relationships in Latin America and the Caribbean, from “Plan Colombia” to the forty-year embargo against Cuba to reproductive rights and women's health to immigration and asylum policy and the rights of prisoners taken in combat. We will also look at how NGOs and activists organize around human rights and how they work to affect Congressional actions. (PLEASE SIGN UP IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND.). Free. Room: MIT 66-110. Sponsor: MIT Western Hemisphere Project.

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

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

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

Friday, January 24

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

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – MITAC OPEN 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

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.

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. – Element K Demo. Is web-based training on computer topics for you? Learn how to get started using web-based training through Element K (our current provider of web-based training on information technology topics) and explore the possibilities this vendor has to offer. For more information about web-based training at MIT, see <http://web.mit.edu/is/training/wbt>. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – 3rd Annual Technology and Entrepreneurship Forum (TEF) and VentureFest. The MIT Science and Engineering Business Club (SEBC) is proud to present our “3rd Technology and Entrepreneurship Forum,” showcasing leaders in cutting edge technologies. free. Room: Wong Auditorium & Diebold Lounge (E51). Sponsor: Science and Engineering Business Club.

1:10 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. – Muslim Friday Prayer. Weekly congregational prayer for Muslims. People of other faiths welcome to attend. Email msa-ec@mit.edu for more information. free. Room: W11-110. Sponsor: Muslim students' Association.

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

4:00 p.m. – Squash vs. Wesleyan University. free. Room: Squash Courts. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

7:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. – MIT Anime Club showing. 12-year-old supermen, Tootsie teaches school, and the imponderables of Japanese animated humor. Tonight we're showing “Photon”: adventures on a desert planet as Photon, a long-suffering 12-year-old with super-powers tries to keep his klutzy friends out of the trouble they make for themselves. “I, My, Me Strawberry Eggs”, about a down-on-his luck young man whose big break is getting a job at a girl's high-school, and other distinctly odd anime. free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT.

8:00 p.m. – MIT Guest Artist Series: The Arditti String Quartet. Irvine Arditti, Graeme Jennings (vlins), Dov Scheindlin (vla), Rohan de Saram (vc). Jonathan Harvey's Quartet No. 3: premiere of a work by Laura Elise Schwendinger commissioned by the Harvard Musical Association; Arnold Schoenberg's Symphony No. 1. Co-sponsored by the Harvard Musical Association. free. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Scene Night: “Love is Hell.” “Love is hell” is the theme of this IAP's Shakespeare Ensemble Scene Night. Seven Scenes explore the full range and ramifications of romantic entanglements. You will be entertained. free. Room: RRA in the basement of Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Shakespeare Ensemble.

Saturday, January 25

12:00 p.m. – Men's Indoor Track & Field vs. Rensselaer, Westfield & Williams. free. Room: Johnson Indoor Track. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

1:00 p.m. – Women's Basketball vs. WPI. free. Room: Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

1:00 p.m. – Men's Gymnastics vs. Army. free. Room: duPont Gym. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

3:00 p.m. – Men's Basketball vs. Wheaton College. free. Room: Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

3:00 p.m. – Women's Indoor Track & Field vs. Williams, Rensselaer & Westfield State. free. Room: Johnson Indoor Track. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

6:00 p.m. – LSC Science Fiction Marathon. Contact, Dr. Strangelove, Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan, Alien. See <http://lsc.mit.edu> for showtimes for each movie. Original Star Trek episode “Space Seed,” which introduced Khan, will show immediately prior to Star Trek II. Also featuring shorts. \$6.00. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Scene Night: “Love is Hell.” free. Room: RRA in the basement of Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Shakespeare Ensemble.

Sunday, January 26

1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. – “Orchestrating the New Peace.” Classical concert (by members of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra as well as some from the New England Conservatory) and political lectures addressing the central challenge of our time: “Why and how to achieve security based on international law, not war and war prevention based on US hegemony.” Planned by Global Action to Prevent War, Coalition for a Strong United Nations, United for Justice with Peace, and World Federalist Association of New England. Requested Donation: \$10. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: MIT's Lutheran Episcopal Ministry.

Monday, January 27

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

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – TA Wizard Test. Accessibility Test with Rich & stephani . free. Room: N42 Integration Lab. Sponsor: Usability at MIT, Financial Systems Services.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Secure File Transfer Options . This informal session will provide a brief overview of MIT's recommended options for secure file transfer, which include FileZilla and SecureFX on Windows, Fetch on the Macintosh, and secure command-line FTP on Unix/Athena. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

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

5:00 p.m. – List Foundation Fellowship Application Deadline. Established in 1992 with support from the Albert A. List Foundation, the List Fellowship annually awards up to \$5,000 to an MIT undergraduate to support the year-long pursuit of a project in the performing, visual or literary arts, including a mentorship program to work with established artists of color. The program is administered by the MIT Office of the Arts in collaboration with MIT faculty. List Foundation Fellowships are open to sophomores and juniors of color who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Room: Office of the Arts, E15-205. Sponsor: Office of the Arts Special Programs.

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – International Festival of Transgender Film. . free. Room: Building 35, Room 225. Sponsor: Office of the Arts, Committee on Campus Race Relations, Women's Studies Program, Comparative Media Studies.

7:00 p.m. – Missing. Based on a true story, “Missing” illustrates U.S. support for fascism abroad. The Chilean military overthrows the elected government in 1973 and begins a reign of terror. Charlie Horman, an American journalist, vanishes. Why won't the U.S. Embassy help his family find him? When director Constantin Costa-Gavras pre-screened the film at MIT twenty years ago, the room was packed. We won't have him here this time around, but we will be joined by someone who knew Charlie Horman and worked with him in Chile. The film is part of our January series of “Monday Night Movies.” All films in the series are either in English or sub-titled. Free. Room: MIT 2-105. Sponsor: MIT Western Hemisphere Project.

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. – Palestinian Dabkeh Dance Lessons. The MIT Arab Students Organization invites you to its IAP Dabkeh lesson series. Dabkeh is a form of dance common in many places in the Middle East (Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan). Dabkeh is a stump dance usually performed in groups at weddings and parties. Zaitoun, a local Palestinian Dabkeh dance group, will be teaching the sessions, focusing on the Palestinian version of this dance. Everyone is welcome at any or all of the sessions! free. Room: Morss Hall (Walker). Sponsor: Arab Student Organization.

Tuesday, January 28

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Aero/Astro Doctoral Oral Qualifying Exam. Oral part of the doctoral qualifying examination for Aero/Astro graduate students. Exam applications will be made available in early November, and will be due in mid December. More info. will be mailed to all students. free. Room: TBA . Sponsor: AeroAstro.

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

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

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

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. – Toastmasters@MIT Evening Meetings. 77 Mass. Avenue, Cambridge, Building 2, Room 4-159. . free. Sponsor: Toastmasters.

6:00 p.m. – Women's Swimming vs. Tufts University. free. Room: Zesiger Pool. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

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

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – International Film Club- Film Seminar. Educational Film Screening. free. Room: 54-100. Sponsor: International Film Club.

THE ARTS

FILM REVIEW ★★★1/2

The Hours: Well Worth Your Time

Nicole Kidman is Stunning as Virginia Woolf

By Kevin Der
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

The Hours
Written by David Hare
Based on the novel by Michael Cunningham
Directed by Stephen Daldry
Starring Nicole Kidman, Julianne Moore, and Meryl Streep
Rated PG-13

I never would have thought it possible that I would enjoy a film about three women and a novel by Virginia Woolf. Ordinarily, such a picture would have carried an unsurpassable potential for boredom and malcontent. Yet there is nothing at all ordinary about *The Hours*, which follows three women in three different time periods, who are all linked by Woolf's novel, *Mrs. Dalloway*. The incredible acting talent of the entire cast makes *The Hours*, which won

Best Picture (Drama) at Sunday night's Golden Globe awards, one of the best films of the year.

In *Mrs. Dalloway*, title character Clarissa Dalloway gets out of bed one day, prepares to throw a party, and suddenly realizes she is not happy. In *The Hours*, one woman writes this novel, another reads it, and the third lives it — but all three emulate the life of Clarissa in some way. These three storylines, which each span a single day, though occurring at different time periods during the twentieth century, are presented concurrently during the film.

Nicole Kidman plays the first of the three women, Virginia Woolf, whose mental illness and repeated suicide attempts led caring husband Leonard to bring the couple to a small country home away from London. The opening scene, one of the most disturbing I've seen with the exception of those from

several Kubrick films, has Woolf walking into a river with her coat pockets filled with stones, and establishes the gloomy and depressing tone that exists throughout the entire picture.

Kidman's performance as Virginia Woolf is extraordinary. She earned a well deserved Golden Globe award for it last Sunday. The author's silent broodings and preoccupation with her writing perfectly are captured perfectly, as are the situations in which Woolf struggles to find the right words, both to speak and to put down on paper. Kidman is remarkable in the incredibly moving scenes in which we see her condition degenerate further. At one point, Woolf lies down on the ground and stares at a dead bird, as if examining death, a central theme in the film.

Julianne Moore's character, Laura Brown, is a housewife whose story takes place after Woolf's, in the 1950s. She is reading *Mrs. Dalloway* while preparing a cake with her son for her husband's birthday. Despite her loving family, Brown eventually contemplates suicide, feeling that her role as a housewife is trivial. The result is a portrait of a desperate mother and wife who feels imprisoned by life and cannot bear to face another day.

I feel this is Moore's best performance to date, although I have not yet seen *Far From Heaven*, for which Moore was nominated for a Golden Globe. She, like Kidman, perfectly conveys the emotional torment of her character. It is impossible not to be disturbed when Moore, crouched in the bathroom, stifles her sobs from her worried husband as she ponders about abandoning her family.

The third and final story features Clarissa Vaughan (Meryl Streep), who finds herself living Woolf's novel in the present day as the main character, and she is even called Mrs. Dalloway by her friends. Clarissa is preparing to throw a party for her life-long friend Richard (Ed Harris), an award-winning poet suffering from AIDS. Like the two women before her, Streep's character also becomes



Virginia Woolf (Nicole Kidman) struggles to write her novel, *Mrs. Dalloway*.

CLIVE COOTE—PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Hours, Page 10

FILM REVIEW ●

Hollywood Cuts Costs With Computer-Generated Pictures

Kangaroo Jack Haired as Achievement of the Digital Age

By Amandeep Loomba
STAFF WRITER

Editor's Note: Like the film it covers, this article is a joke.

On January 11, 2002, Hollywood ushered in a brave new era of entertainment by releasing its first 100 percent digital motion picture. *Kangaroo Jack*, the story of two young men from Brooklyn chasing a kangaroo that stole \$50,000 of mob money, was created using nothing but the latest in digital technology. "It's truly e-mazing," said Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).

At a press conference before the film's premiere, Valenti pointed out that "films have been heading in the digital direction for some time. As we have crossed the digital divide into the 20th (sic) century, Hollywood is proud to make the transition from atoms to bits. And bit by bit, we're finding that machines make better pictures than people do."

In a cheery, sing-song voice, Valenti noted, "They can make machines to save us labor. Now, they're doing our hearts the very same favor."

Kangaroo Jack was assembled by a cluster of high-powered computers running software developed by programmers at Warner Brothers studios.

"By feeding the computer a number of examples of previous films that met with success, we can generate movies that seem entire-

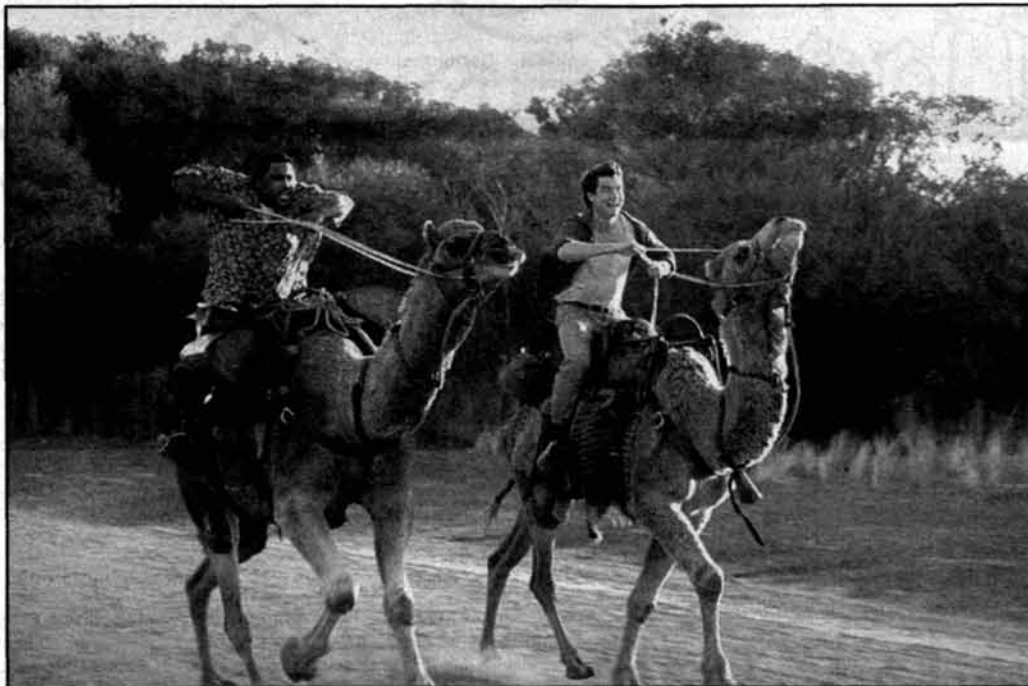
ly new using only successful recycled ideas," explained Marcus Bayes, the programmers' press liaison.

"To tell the truth, it's not very different from the way most Hollywood movies are made. Computers are just better at putting it all together," he said.

The highly sophisticated software ranks individual ideas and assembles them into a kind of matrix where the potential for entertainment is maximized. "For instance, the character

Louis Fucci was developed by the computer to appeal to black audiences. So the computer wrote him as a sassy, sharp-tongued black man. However, the computer calculated that he could be 30 percent funnier by also making him overweight. So the film featured a portly, sassy, sharp-tongued black man and at least two scenes in which that character had no shirt on."

Bayes added, "We're not sure why the Louis



WARNER BROS.

Would you want to pirate this movie?

Jack, Page 10

RENTAL ADVISORY

Freaks

Welcome In Ed Wood

Tim Burton's 1994 Opus
Uncompromising
and Irrepressible

By Amandeep Loomba
STAFF WRITER

Rental Advisory is a regular column that aims to guide you in your weekly selection at the video store (*Hollywood Express*, not *Blockbuster*; or if you must, *NetFlix*). By distilling each film to a single moment of importance, the column aims to present the sort of economical viewing strategy that time-strapped MIT students are forced to employ in their film appreciation.

I'm not too sure where my freak flag is these days. I certainly haven't flown it in a while. Perhaps it's wrapped up in storage somewhere, or maybe it got tossed out in last semester's move. Now that I've remembered it, I must say that there is a part of me that really misses it.

On the other hand, there is the part of me that's moved on. The part of me that walked out on the freak-show a long time ago. And though the freak-show is pretty willing to let anyone in, I'm not sure I'll ever be going back.

Tim Burton's *Ed Wood* is easily one of the freak-friendliest films out there. Unlike those sophomoric geek melodramas such as the *Revenge of the Nerds* films, *Ed Wood* makes real characters out of its freaks and weirdoes.

Wood himself, magnetically played by Johnny Depp, is the supremely irrepressible loser. And in spite of the utter crap he slung onto the screen in his filmmaking days, you really gotta love the guy. In fact, you gotta love him and his whole carnival sideshow of friends. Together, they put together some of the worst films ever made, and they had a freaking great time doing it.

Watching the film, you can't help but be at once repulsed and entirely engaged by Wood dressed as a belly-dancer entertaining his film crew at the wrap party for *Bride of the Atom*. It's not one of the strangest moments ever committed to film, but it is the sort of moment that makes you shift a bit in your seat and wonder if this really ever happened. When he concludes the dance by pulling out his false teeth with a grand flourish, the crowd goes wild, and you're left wondering what the most appropriate way to react to this is.

In the end, you're in one of two camps. That is, you're either with the freaks or against them. Sarah Jessica Parker, playing Ed's girlfriend Dolores, figures out at just this moment that she's really not with the freaks. Out comes the tirade against them:

"You people are insane! Take a look around! You're all freaks! You're wasting your lives making shit! Nobody cares! These movies are terrible! I can't take it any longer!"

The room fills with incredulous looks as Dolores storms out. The expressions on the faces of these delicate oddities of society fall somewhere between "Did she really just say that?" and "Are we really freaks?"

Such is the confused reaction whenever the freak receives the jarring blow of conformist rage. Imagine that guy in front of you in the Infinite Corridor. You know, the barefoot one with the cape and miniature computer display attached to his head. Now remove him from our "freaks welcome" MIT atmosphere and place him on the street of a Brooklyn neighborhood. Or better yet, send him to a small town in Midwestern America. The result is culture shock, likely to be followed by physical assault.

What to do in such a situation? Should you let your freak flag fly, or fold? I'll tell you one thing: Ed Wood never let his freak flag fold. It's Wood's resilience that makes this film so darn enjoyable. No matter what critics or horse-faced crybabies like Sarah Jessica Parker said, he kept his freak on.

DEF TUU TUU OPER OPER

Kidman Golden in The Hours

Hours, from Page 9

emotionally distraught and depressed, and feels her life has no purpose.

The interaction between Clarissa and Richard is one of the strongest bonds shown in the film. Richard's tremendous suffering is disturbing and saddening. Eventually we see the dying man perched in an open window and ready to jump, in front of Clarissa's eyes — the third attempt at suicide in the film.

These three storylines are linked in more ways than mere plot similarities. The most central idea is that the same mindset is shared by all three women, and that they experience the same emotions. It is an extraordinary fact that their entire lives can be wholly captured in a single day of storytelling. The film employs abundant and effective symbolism of flowers, eggshells, and shoes, among other things, which further connects these three human beings.

I feel the fundamental question of *The Hours* asks which of these three women was the happiest, and why. Indeed, this is difficult to answer, since none of them are very happy at all in the time that we see them. Love and relationships clearly play a central role in this answer, as do illness and death. Perhaps Kidman's most influential words in the film are, "Someone has to die so the rest of us can value life more."

The Hours makes us ponder, it makes us probe at our own existence. It will deeply affect anyone who values thought in cinema. *The Hours* is a fantastic film with outstanding acting and an incredibly human theme.

Jack: Laughing All the Way to Bank

Jack, from Page 9

character has his shirt off in those scenes; we had to trust the computer on that one."

The computer also determined that the Fucci character would work best against a white male with an Italian name. Thus, the character of Charlie Carbone came into existence. While the computer did find that audiences found homosexuals in the media to be entertaining, it also discerned that the film required a heterosexual love story. Thus, the computer generated the compromise of having the Charlie Carbone character be a straight, but slightly effeminate, hairdresser.

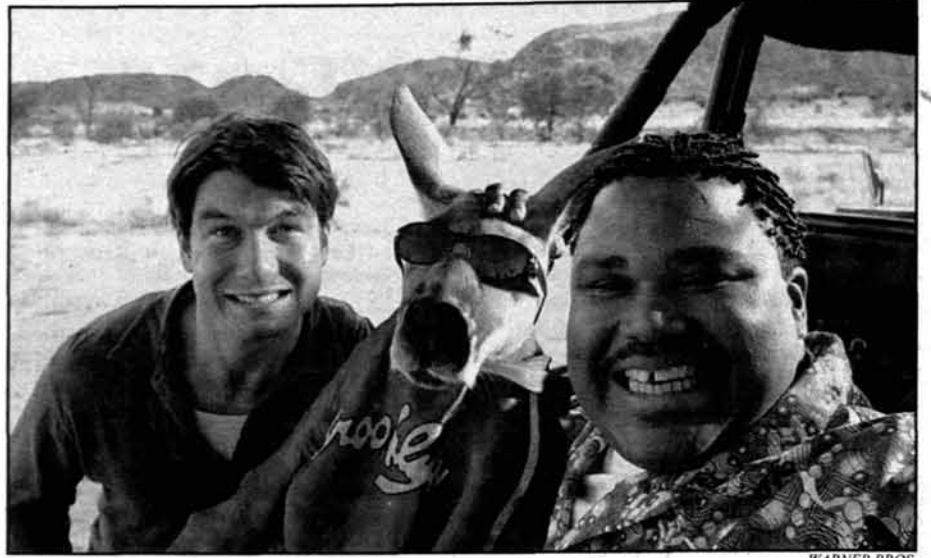
The software was additionally configured to appeal to the age group of 5 to 55, and to maintain a PG rating. "We found that as you lowered the age factor, the chances of having fart jokes in the film were raised significantly. But having the camels do the farting, now that was pretty much genius on the part of the computer," said Bayes.

Of course, some bugs still remain in the system. But the developers remain confident that they will soon be worked out. The film's digital music consultant, Alain Touring, explained the difficulties they ran into while generating the score for *Kangaroo Jack*. "We were using the latest version of Windows Media Player to catalog music that would be used as a basis for the 'new' music in the picture. Unfortunately, we came across a bizarre copyright bug and were only able to digitize a single album."

That album, Dr. Dre's *Chronik 2001*, served as the sole source of musical inspiration for the computers that scored the film. "Actually," Touring recalled, "we could only get it to accept two tracks off the album. So the whole film sounds like reworked versions of two Dr. Dre songs."

"However," he added, "they are pretty catchy."

A digital picture, however, allows for perfect digital copies. When asked about the dan-



Perhaps some of 6.270's less successful robots would find *Kangaroo Jack* entertaining.

ger of the film being pirated on the Internet, Andrei Markov, *Kangaroo Jack*'s lead programmer, said that "while no anti-piracy method is foolproof, we have taken a number of measures to counteract pirating of the movie."

"First and foremost," Markov proclaimed, "we worked on the 'social engineering' aspect of anti-piracy. That is to say, we needed to attack people's reasons for wanting to pirate the film in the first place."

To accomplish this, Markov and his development team tweaked the parameters of their custom software until the film achieved its goal of being almost 100 percent unwatchable. The research conducted by production company Jerry Bruckheimer Films showed that "movies that nobody wants to watch tend not to be pirated," according to producer Jerry Bruckheimer.

"We've found virtually zero percent penetration of pirated copies of *Armageddon*, *Jury*

Duty and the *Police Academy* films on all the major file sharing services. So we're quite confident that the film will not be pirated."

Bypassing the traditional method of hiring writers, actors, set-designers, cameramen, and virtually everyone else associated with the production of a film greatly sped up the film-making as well as making it more convenient, according to Bruckheimer.

As the man largely responsible for the film's production, programmer Markov said his own favorite films were "probably Kieslowski's *Decalogue* and the films of Jean Renoir in the 1930s."

When asked how he felt about making films with no human beings involved, Markov said, "Well, we don't expect human audiences to respond so well to *Kangaroo Jack*. But maybe some computers or high-end calculators will enjoy it."

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Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

Gilbert & Sullivan Players Present Their IAP Show



The MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players presented *Sweeney Todd* last weekend in Kresge Auditorium.

(top) Judge Turpin (Graham T. Wright G, center) and Beadle Bamford (David Daly, left) warn the young sailor, Anthony (Ben Hellman, right) to stay away from the window of Judge Turpin's pretty ward, Johanna (Caitlin J. Smythe G, background).

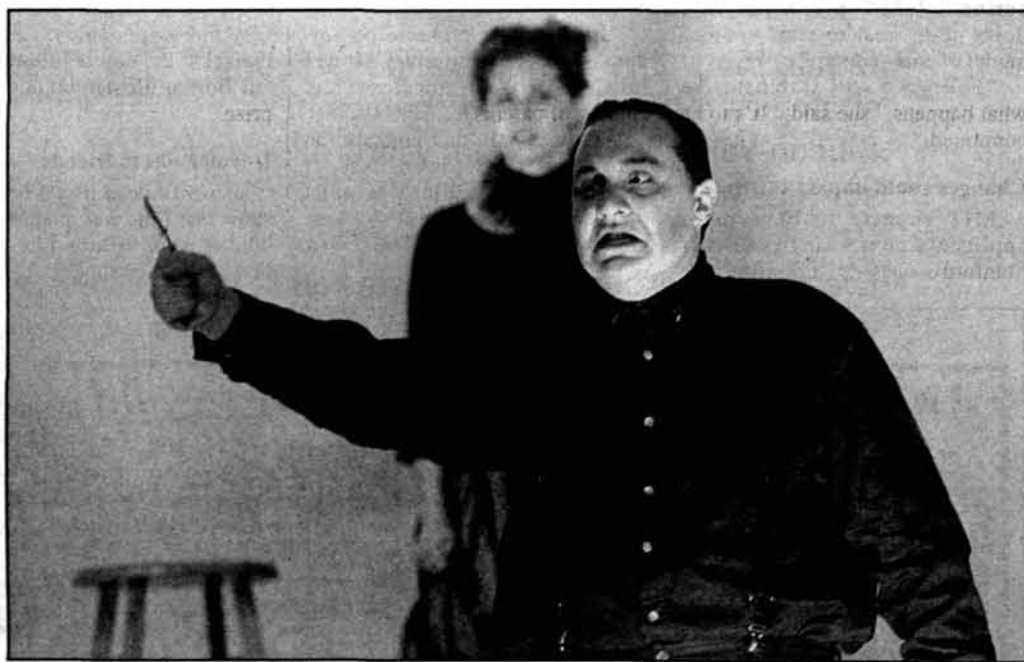
(middle left) Sweeney Todd (Evan Xenakis) attempts to slit the throat of Judge Turpin before he is interrupted by Anthony, who has barged into the barber shop to tell Sweeney about his plans to marry Johanna.

(middle right) Having just failed to kill Judge Turpin, Sweeney Todd resolves in "Epiphany" that all people deserve to die, even him and even Mrs. Lovett (Kristin R. Brodie '03, background).

(bottom left) Sweeney Todd and Mrs. Lovett share a laugh as they sing "A Little Priest," a song about baking all types of people into their meat pies.

(bottom right) Sweeney Todd mourns the murder of the Beggar Woman (Noe Kamelamela '05) who is revealed to be his wife, Lucy. Lucy was raped by Judge Turpin 15 years ago.

Photography by Stanley Hu



Institute To Watch, Wait on Admissions

By Shan Riku
STAFF REPORTER

MIT accepted 15 percent of early admission applicants this year, a year that has seen significant admissions policy changes around the country.

This year, 3,584 students applied to MIT for early admission and 524 were accepted. Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones said she expects between 56 percent and 60 percent of early applicants to accept MIT's offer.

"It's pretty close to last year," Jones said. Last year, MIT accepted 520 of 3,608 early applicants.

Demographics also remain similar. "Both last year and this, we admitted 47 percent women," Jones said. "Last year we admitted 21 percent minorities, this year we admitted 22 percent."

Other schools go to early action

Yale University and Stanford University announced in November that they were moving from early admissions to a form of early action beginning next year.

Presently, both Yale and Stanford University admissions programs called "early decision" programs, which allow students to apply for early admission to only one university and require them to matriculate if the school offers admission.

Starting with the class of 2008, both schools will adopt non-binding early action policies. Students will still be required to apply to only one school for early admission.

"That's not really truly early action," Jones said. "They are doing their best to start another model of early action."

"Everyone will watch to see what happens," she said. "It's to be continued."

Changes could impact Institute

MIT expects to have more applicants next year because of Stanford's change. "I wouldn't be

surprised to see more students applying here, because they're applying to Stanford," Jones said. She said that many students apply to both MIT and Stanford.

Still, Jones said she welcomes this change. "The good thing is that we get more talented people in the applicant pool," she said. "In the end, it's best for MIT to have the chance to admit the best in the world because many would choose to come to MIT."

Jones said this change is good for students as well. "I think it's in everybody's interest to have much more freedom as early as possible," she said. "The more with early action, the better for everyone."

No changes planned for MIT

MIT has not yet planned to change its early admission policy. Professor Donald R. Sadoway, chair of Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid, said that the changes at Yale and Stanford would affect MIT, but that there were currently no plans to change MIT's admissions policy.

"MIT is data-driven," Sadoway said. "We will go through the next cycle to see the effect."

Last year, MIT had a meeting with other Ivy League Schools, including Yale, about early admission policies, when the president of Yale University published his opinion in *The New York Times* that "he preferred to eliminate all the early admissions programs."

Jones agreed, saying, "We feel that early programs are not the best in terms of high school education."

"It puts more pressure on students to decide sooner," Jones said. "It certainly increases the anxiety of parents."

Sadoway said that competition with other schools is an issue. "I have no strong feelings except I don't want MIT to be in adverse competitive position," Sadoway said.

One Dinette Set and 6,800 Miles Later, Price is Right Fans Happy

Game Show, from Page 1

from their group would become a contestant.

Hovan, the only member of the group to compete on the show, was lucky enough to be one of the first four audience members to be called down to contestants' row.

After outbidding the other three contestants on a dinette set, he became the third player on the show to make it up onto the stage for a pricing game.

Hovan lost the game, but had better luck in the "showcase showdown." He bid within \$1,000 of the actual price of a set of three vacations, good enough to win the prizes.

Students studied for the show

These were not, of course, typical contestants. In true MIT style, Hovan and company rigorously studied prices of the products that are typically featured on the show.

The students noticed that the show often reuses the same items, and tried to remember the prices of the most common items. Hovan and his friends made flashcards of the items and got to work.

"The whole idea is to watch the show and get an idea of what things cost," said Dennis O'Connor, director of program practices for CBS.

O'Connor said that specific models of prizes are not reused, and for cars, the options change, changing the price somewhat.

Unfortunately, the MIT tradition of never-ending studying did not pay off for Hovan. None of the items he had studied were on the show, with the exception of the very first prize, which had been on the show the day before the group left Boston. Hovan did not win this prize.

Hovan looks to friends

Hovan told himself before the show that if he was a contestant, he "didn't want to look like that guy that always turns around [for audi-

ence help]."

"But as soon as I got up there, it was seriously impossible to think," Hovan said.

Hovan turned to his friends for help, especially Focht, who Hovan said is "amazing at pricing."

The group had agreed that if anyone became a contestant, they would all choose what to do with their prizes, rather than trying to split anything.

Because it is not possible to exchange prizes for money, Hovan now has to find time to take the three trips, and a place to put a new dinette set.

The students said that the trip was not just about winning the prizes.

Focht said he was "just really happy to see the show" and would not have been disappointed even if no one from the group was a contestant.

"Just to see it was insane," Hovan said.

"Roadtripping is as fun as it gets. Even after 6,800 miles, we still didn't hate each other," he added.

Hovan said the best part of the show was the end, when all of his friends rushed up on the stage to celebrate with him.

Despite his memorable cameo role in the 1995 Adam Sandler classic *Happy Gilmore*, host Bob Barker was "really nice," according to Hovan. Barker asked each of them where they were from and took their questions.

Behind the scenes

Ever wonder how contestants are chosen to "come on down"? The morning of the show, audience members line up outside the studio, and producers walk by and perform interviews. Producers choose the contestants, but do not inform them that they have been selected until they are actually called down to the famed "contestants' row."

This process sounds tedious, but CBS officials have found it worth

the trouble.

"If you go random, you might get someone who's a snooze. They want people who are exciting," O'Connor said.

Hovan noticed that most of the audience members and other contestants were college students. O'Connor said this is likely when shows are taped during a college break. Plus, "young people are willing to stand outside at 3:00 in the morning, waiting to get in."

On *The Price is Right*, audience members are chosen to "come on down" and compete with three other contestants to guess the prices of prizes. The contestant whose guess is closest to the actual price without going over moves up to the stage to play one of several games in which they try to guess the price of a prize or of household items in order to win a prize.

The game ends with a "showcase showdown" in which two contestants, selected by spinning a huge wheel, each bid on one of two showcases of several prizes each. Again, the player whose bid is closest to the actual price without going over wins their showcase.

The show will air on Feb. 3 at 11 a.m. The group of students who were in the audience will watch it in the second floor lounge of the student center, exactly where they have been watching it regularly for over a year.

Solution to Crossword

from page 15

L	A	R	A	J	I	N	C	U	S	L	O	A	D
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A	O	N	E	S	L	A	M	S	S	T	E	M	
M	E	S	A	E	L	S	A	S	E	S	S	O	

Another Arts Success Story!!!!

(Next Grants Deadline: January 31!!!!)



My days were filled with frustration - could anyone understand how I yearned to express myself artistically?

One day my office mate, Ted, seemed particularly fulfilled....

Why so happy, Ted?

I just got funding for my video project!

Wow! How did that happen?

I applied to the Council for the Arts at MIT Grants Program!

I stopped by E15-205, the Office of the Arts.

Just fill in this application and supply some supporting material... How about my resume? And letters of recommendation?

About one month after the deadline, it was time to meet with a member of the Council to talk about my project



I brought a tape of my work and those updated budget figures you asked for!

The next day....



I got the Grant! Now my artistic yearnings won't wither and die due to lack of funds!

My site visit with a Grants Committee member went well. Encouraging? And how!



Bill, I am confident that your song cycle "Problem Sets", will have a great deal of relevance for MIT students....

That's right!
You too can be part of an
ARTS SUCCESS STORY!!!
Apply to the
Council for the Arts
at MIT Grants Program!!!!!!

Council for the Arts at MIT
Grants Program

It is strongly suggested that you make an appointment to discuss your application

To schedule an interview or for general information, contact Susan Cohen at: cohen@media.mit.edu

Grants Guidelines: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/grants/grantguide.html>

Application form: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/grants/grantform.html>



Robin Schoenman / Equity Trading Analyst / Stamford April 2002

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We are accepting resumes from the Class of 2004. We welcome those interested in Equities, Fixed Income & Foreign Exchange or Information Technology to apply via your career office by **Tuesday, January 28, 2003**.

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MIT Singing Groups 'Scramble' for Space

Music Rooms, from Page 1

ment had no obligation to make them available.

Although non-department groups will not be able to check out keys for the rooms until after 9 on Monday through Thursday, the rooms will be open all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Groups look for new space

With the change going into effect this spring semester, the capella groups have had to move quickly to find alternatives. The groups chose Julia P. Patriarco '05, a member of Resonance, to bring their concerns to Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict.

The change will have "a big impact in a bad way on our rehearsal schedules," Patriarco said. "Basically, we're just going to have to scramble to get rooms."

"It's tough," said Michael M. Yang '05, director and member of the Logarithms. He said that the Logs are currently looking for alternative spaces in the Student Center or Walker.

Patriarco said she was currently compiling a list of the times during which the groups use the rooms to practice and that she intended to

send it to Dean Benedict as evidence of the change's effect.

A capella groups currently use almost all available time in the Building 4 rooms, Lyons said. Only the Muses currently practice elsewhere. Weifang Sun '04, a member of the Muses, said that even though they don't use the rooms, they are actively supporting the other groups "in case we would ever need it."

New spaces possible

Lyons said the Music Department was looking into the possibility of a new rehearsal space in the next five years, but until then they have no plans for expanding.

While it may be possible to put pianos into other departments' classrooms, they would have to get permission and the departments are often just as short on space as the music department, Lyons said.

Although the Chamber Music Society's membership fluctuates from year to year, Lyons said he anticipates that "it will stay as it is, or it will grow."

The Music Department has 11 rooms for rehearsals in all, including the three at issue, which are used by about 400 to 500 people. In general, he said, "space such as this is almost nonexistent."



JASON CHATZAKIS

Lauren M. Nowierski '06 battles for the puck during MIT's first game against Salve Regina last Friday. Salve Regina won 8-3.

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6.270: Montezuma's Revenge!



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Competition!

January 30th, 6:00 p.m.

View:

26-100 (Contest Arena)
34-101 (Live CCTV)
MIT Cable

Additional rounds, if necessary, will be
held in 26-100, at 11:00 a.m. on the
same day.

Contact: 6.270-organizers@mit.edu
<http://web.mit.edu/6.270/>

Acme Hunt Lengthy, Rewarding



Cindy Chung '04 performs on the balance beam, scoring an 8.85, during the gymnastics meet against Brown University. MIT lost 173.45-186.2.

RAMANA NANDA

Hunt, from Page 1

found the pieces to an important clue hidden within the first-round puzzles. The clue, "take the red pill," hinted at a *Matrix*-inspired second world of puzzles.

Our team spent Friday night on vain attempts at solving rounds 1 and 2, and reading through the many bits of spam sent to each team from Acme Corp.. We established our team headquarters in Baker House and worked on the first few rounds until early on Saturday. I managed to solve an entire puzzle before finally nodding off.

Saturday

We woke up on Saturday morning after dreaming of puzzles, and started right in on another one, this time trying to assemble a document that had been shredded into tiny pieces. Later, as we grew more and more frustrated, the team decided to split up so that we could work on as many individual puzzles as possible.

Emily Proctor and I went shopping for our secret ingredient from puzzle 2.1, "A Company Picnic." Our task was to prepare a whole meal — appetizer, main course, and dessert — that obviously tasted like our secret ingredient: limes. After spending four hours making lime-flavored quesadillas, lime-flavored chicken, and key lime pie, I don't ever want to see another lime again.

Late Saturday night Danielle and I went looking for different bathrooms across campus. One puzzle, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," had pictures of bathrooms from across campus, and it was our

task to find a connection between them.

Teams start getting desperate

Desperation took over our team early Sunday morning, and we decided to spam various mailing lists in an attempt to gather some of the items for the scavenger hunt. Finding items like "A newsprint copy of the Tech" seemed simple enough, until you looked closer and realized that they wanted one that is not from 2002 or 2003.

Acme released more and more hints as time passed, and the hunt broke records for length.

Later in the afternoon we met up with the members of the AEPi team, and we decided to combine our efforts and share some of the solutions we had found. We made some further progress, but nonetheless decided to retreat to bed early, in the hopes that some other team would find the coin before morning and the madness would all end.

'Kappa Sig' finds the coin

We woke to the news that

Kappa Sig, the team representing Third East, had found the coin at 7:26 am. The coin had been hidden in Jofish's (Joseph N. Kaye's '98) pants, on the top of some pipes in the basement of building 16. Their team consisted of mostly undergraduates, whereas many past winners have been teams of alumni or professional puzzlers.

Finally, the coin had been found, and we could rest without being haunted by puzzles. After we all got some sleep on Monday, the puzzle organizers and hunters from all of the teams gathered in 4-370 to award prizes, share amusing stories of puzzle experiences, and explain solutions to some of the puzzles.

When all was said and done, I walked away from the hunt feeling tired yet accomplished, and amazed at the complexity of some of the puzzles. All of the teams who participated have earned my undying respect, especially those who came close to finding the coin. I am already looking forward to next year's hunt, which Kappa Sig, this year's winning team, will organize.

Why "IAP" also means

"Intensive Anime Period"

MIT Anime-sponsored events:

Friday showings

(Fridays, 7pm, 6-120)

From classics to latest: *Alien 9*, *Photon*, and more

FLCL: Fooly-cooly, Furi-Kuri

(Jan 19, 8-11pm, location TBA)

Bass-swingin', baseball-playin', macha-havin' GAINAX goodness. A frantic 6-episode sprint.

Masamune Shirow before Ghost in the Shell

(Jan 26, 8-10pm, location TBA)

He did great things before *GitS!* Come watch two short, futuristic titles: *Appleseed* and *Black Magic: M66*.

Fansubbing

(Jan 27-31, 1-4pm, 1-150; enrollment limited)

Learn fansubbing—the process of adding subtitles to Japanese animation.



Other events:

Giant Robots and the Secret of Life

(Jan 11, 18, 25, 3-6pm, 24-619)

Anime on Saturdays, with deep philosophy.

Comics: Theory and Practice

(Jan 13-17, 9am-4pm, 1-135, enrollment limited)

Scott McCloud teaches comics.

AniJam

(Jan 23, 28, 1-3pm, 56-167)

Be an animator!

Love in the Age of Cyborgs

(Jan 28, 29, 2-5pm, 10-250)

Metropolis×2: German (1927) and Japanese (2001)



A public service announcement of the MIT Anime Club. Updates: <http://web.mit.edu/anime/www/iap.html>



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MIT Washington Summer Internship Program

Final Information Sessions

Thursday, Jan. 16th
3:00 pm
4-145

Wednesday, Jan. 22nd
10:00 am
4-145

Tuesday, Jan. 28th
1:00 pm
4-145

MIT Undergraduates!

Apply your scientific and technical training to public policy issues. If you're selected to participate in this program you'll receive a paid policy internship in the offices of government agencies, the private sector and advocacy groups. Complementing the summer internship are a trip to DC during spring break and a 12 unit HASS seminar on policymaking that meets before and after the summer internship.

Past summer interns have worked in the White House Office of Science & Technology, the Office of the First Lady, the House of Representatives Science Committee, the US Department of Commerce, the US Department of Energy, the American Electronics Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, NASA, the American Association for World Health, the American Enterprise Institute, the American Public Health Association, the March of Dimes, the Center for Democracy and Technology, the Heritage Foundation, the Congressional Research Service, the Brookings Institution, the Economic Policy Institute, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Institutes of Health, the Climate Institute and the MIT Washington Office.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2003

For more information call 253-3649, send email to iguanatw@mit.edu, or check out our web site at <http://web.mit.edu/summerwash/www/>

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midterms, finals, **spring break**

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Includes air & accommodations from Boston. Prices are per person. Some taxes & fees not included. Other departure cities and destinations available.

MIT Student Center
W20-024

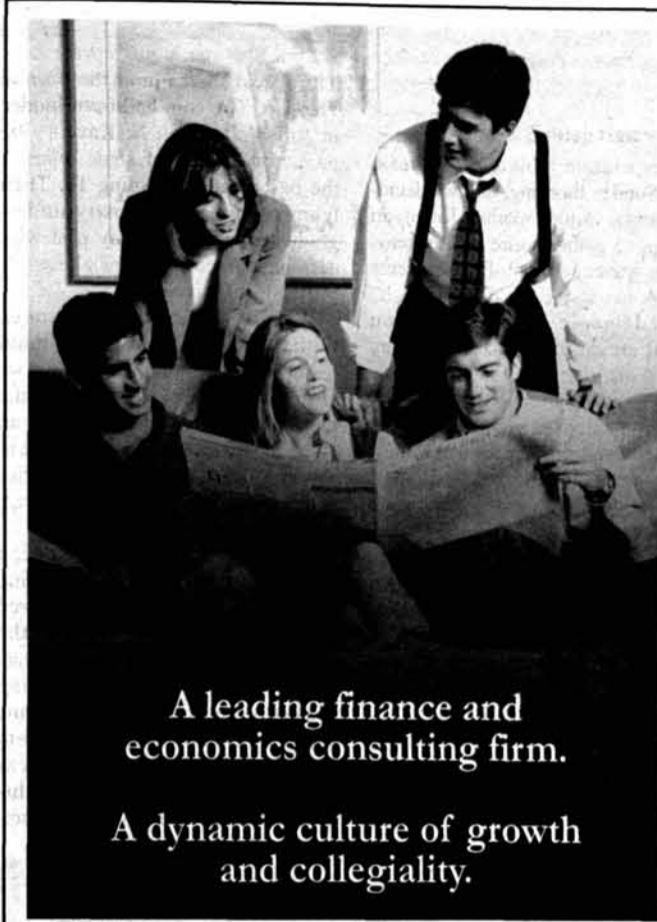
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NEW COURSE:

**Learning Together-Working Together:
 Enhancing Race and Ethnic Relations at MIT**

Mondays 2-5 p.m.

Spring 2003

15.969, 17.908, 24.293

(6 or 9 units: 3-0-3 or 3-0-6)

6 Unit Option: Half Term, February 10-March 17

9 Unit Option: Half Term plus Project Workshops

This course provides an opportunity for students to develop a deep understanding of the personal, inter-personal and institutional dynamics of race, ethnic and cross-cultural relations at MIT, practice in the skills needed to work effectively and lead diverse groups and teams, and an opportunity to participate in a focused project aimed at improving some aspect of campus race relations. Through the course participants will:

- Acquire an understanding of the history of race relations at MIT
- Examine the origins of their own attitudes and history that inform their responses in cross-racial and cross-cultural dialogues
- Identify areas of personal strength and areas for improving how they contribute to and provide leadership in multi-racial groups and interactions.
- Develop, implement, and evaluate strategies for addressing a particular issue within MIT related to the theme of the course.
- Identify resources available through CCRR and other sources to support efforts to improve race relations.

Class Size limit: 30 students

Open to Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Cross listed in the Sloan School and the Departments of Linguistics and Philosophy,
 Political Science, and Urban Studies and Planning.
 Sponsored by the Committee on Campus Race Relations

For more information contact one of the following course instructors:
 Francine Crystal (fcystal@mit.edu) Regina Caines (rcaines@mit.edu)
 Sally Haslanger (shaslang@mit.edu) Thomas Kochan (tkochan@mit.edu)
 Ceasar McDowell (ceasar@mit.edu) Tobie Weiner (iguanatw@mit.edu)

<http://web.MIT.edu/CCRR/CCRR/courses.html>

join@the-tech.mit.edu

LaVerde's To Correct 'To Go' Label Errors

Some Salads, Sandwiches Had Wrong Date

By Keith J. Winstein

NEWS EDITOR

LaVerde's Market, which for the past several weeks had been misrepresenting some of its locally packed foods as more recently made than they really were, will cease the practice.

Chris Silverio, LaVerde's assistant manager in charge of produce, said that the store will no longer put salads and sandwiches in its "to go selections" area with a "Packed On" date later than when they were actually packed.

"I don't know why that happens," he said, adding that he had been unaware of the practice until alerted by a reporter and would stop it.

Silverio said it was possible the one-day postdating occurred because "sometimes the scale goes down and doesn't boot up properly."

Salad packed tomorrow, label says

LaVerde's generally makes and packs a large number of salads and sandwiches during the day, but doesn't immediately put them all out in its "to go selections" area

because of space restrictions, Silverio said.

Instead, some of the items are reserved and not put out for purchase until 10 p.m. at night. It is apparently these items that LaVerde's had been mislabeling as "Packed On" the next day, with a consequently later "Sell By" date.

Customers shopping in the evening may have noticed the phenomenon because their salads indicated they were "Packed On" a day that had not yet arrived.

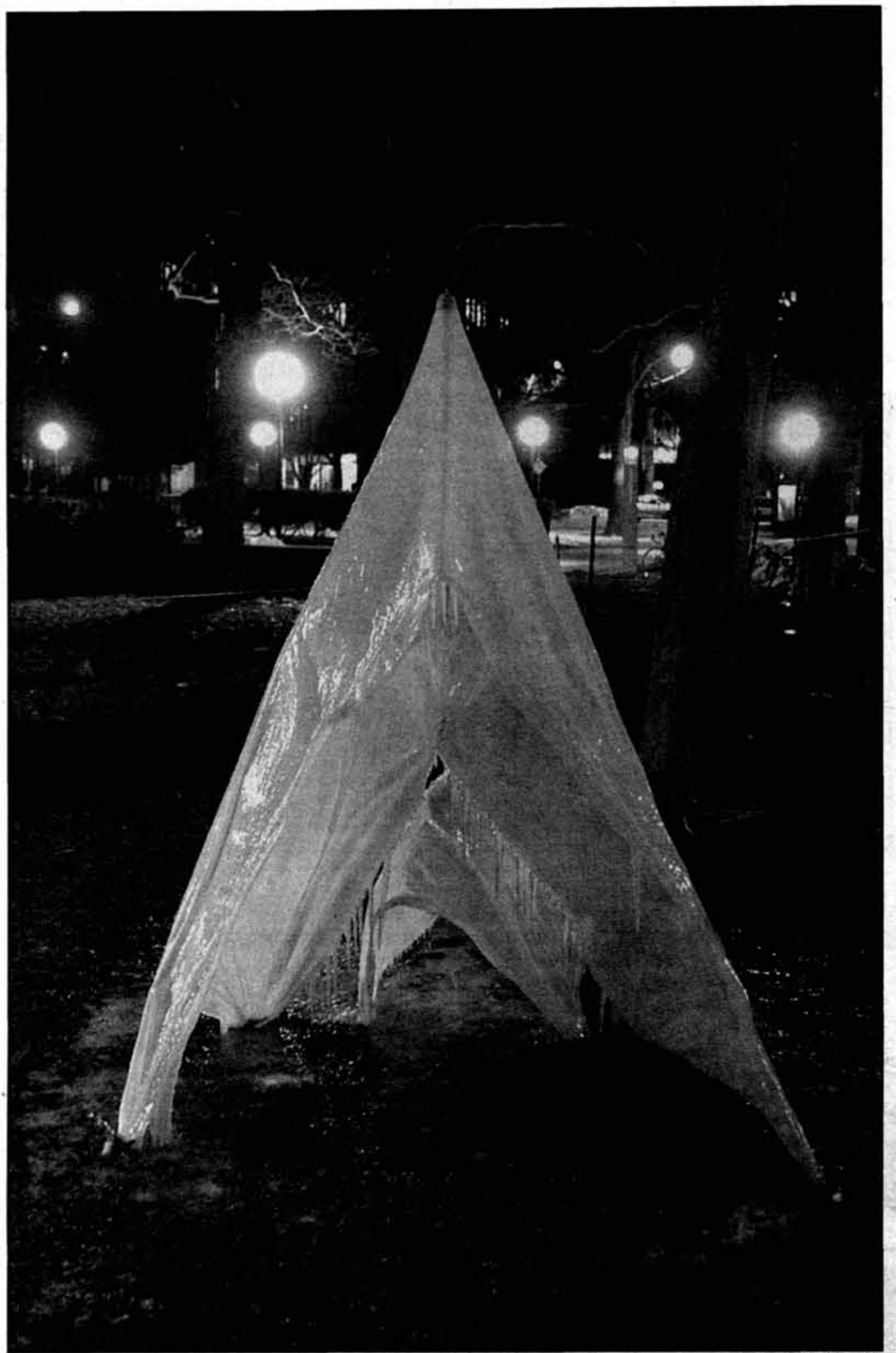
It is unclear how long the practice has persisted.

Shoppers untroubled by error

LaVerde's customers shopping last night were generally untroubled by the mislabeling, but some indicated they might reconsider their purchases.

"It probably will affect my future buying" at LaVerde's, said Boston resident Jane Erickson, who was about to purchase a tuna roll-up last night.

Had she known about the mislabeling, "I probably wouldn't have bought it, because I did look at the date," she said.



DONG WANG—THE TECH

Lead by Paul E. Kassabian G, enthusiastic students created this world of frozen wonder in front of Kresge last Wednesday.

MIT Department of FACILITIES

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Simmons Hall

For enhanced security, the safety office has requested that the lowest row of windows on each floor be limited to a four-inch opening. Some new window hardware has been installed. A temporary card swipe has been installed at the front entrance of the building; a more permanent system will be in place soon.

Vassar St. Utilities

As of Tuesday, January 21, pedestrians will walk behind Building 48 on a newly constructed temporary walkway for several months to allow Vassar St. work to continue. The parking lot and loading dock between Buildings 45 and 48 has been restored in preparation for use as MIT parking.

Vassar Streetscape

All pedestrian traffic now travels on the south side of Vassar St. to the west end of Building 36. Pedestrians cross the street and travel along a new walkway that begins near Building 45. New light poles are currently being installed along the south side of the street. Concrete work on the Building 34 steps is underway. Installation of drainage piping from Mass. Ave./Vassar St. intersection heading west is ongoing. Traffic to Building 39 has again changed to one-lane in and one-lane out from one entrance.

Amherst Alley Steam Repairs

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

Building 7 ADA accessible entrance

Interior work is approximately 80 percent complete. Outdoor work is 40 percent complete. Concrete for the ramp and steps will be installed soon.

Lobby 7

Construction on Bosworth's café in Lobby 7 is nearing completion. The café will open sometime in early February.

Building E19 Renovations

The fifth floor of Building E19 is being converted to laboratory space for new faculty associated with the McGovern Institute for Brain Research and the Picower Center for Learning and Memory. Construction includes new ducts for supply and exhaust and plumbing installation. Asbestos abatement will begin soon. All work in occupied areas will be accomplished either at night or weekends. The dismantling or moving of any systems furniture is not anticipated.

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

LSC First Club to Take MIT Card

LSC, from Page 1

"We presented a proposal at one of their meetings and received an allocation," Rolfe said.

MIT charges a fee of four percent of each purchase to use the system, but Rolfe was not con-

cerned about the commission. "It's small enough compared to the convenience the people get when using the card," Rolfe said.

LSC first to use TechCASH

LSC will be the first student group to accept TechCASH. While the other student groups may follow, no arrangements have been made.

"We're doing this for the LSC," McDonald said. "If things go well,

other student groups will [probably] be able to use it also."

Students were positive about the change and said that it would be more convenient. Some students said they were more likely to go watch movies at 26-100.

"I think it's cool that they are accepting the card," said Lisa R. Messeri '04.

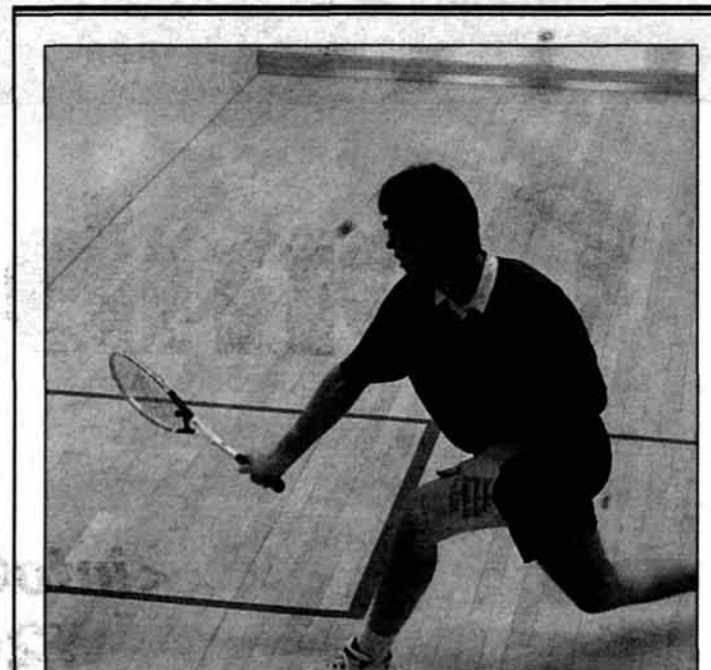
"Definitely," said Jennifer A. Miller '04. "Yeah, it's definitely more convenient."

Explore Educational Technology at MIT!

*Come to the Ed Tech Fair
January 28th, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Lobby 10 and the Bush Room*

MIT faculty and students will demonstrate educational technology projects and tools they have developed to improve teaching and learning. MIT professionals will be available to discuss their educational technology initiatives, media services and resources.

This IAP event is sponsored by the Council on Educational Technology, Academic Computing, Academic Media Production Services (AMPS), and the Teaching and Learning Laboratory (TLL).

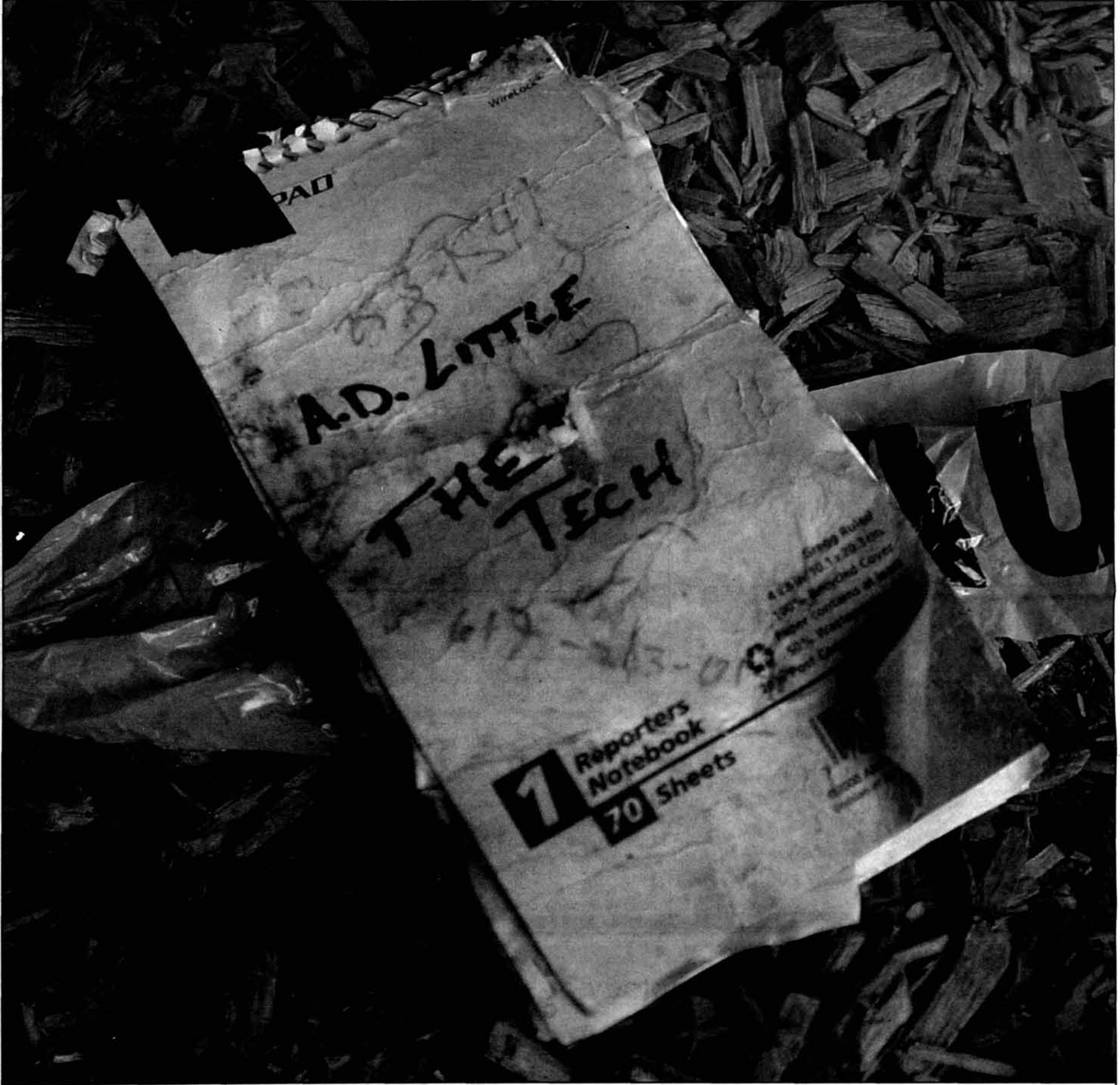


HASSEN ABDU

Tyler B. Horton '03 hits a shot from the corner in a match last Saturday against Bates College's Chad Mountain. MIT lost 8-1.

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