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Costs Too High, MIT To Sell Talbot House

By Beckett W. Sterner

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Necessary and expensive renovations, as well as declining demand, have led MIT to put the venerable Talbot House up for sale.

Donated by Laurence Rockefeller in the 1960s, the Talbot House, located in Vermont, has served as a retreat for students, faculty and staff for decades. However, it now requires significant construction, including making it handicapped-accessible, improving the foundation and exterior, and possibly drilling a new well for a secondary water supply in case of fire, said Director of the Campus Activities Complex Phillip J. Walsh.

Adding handicapped accessibility could "cost us more than the property is worth," Walsh said, with a good wheel-chair lift possibly costing \$100,000 alone. He said that MIT is hoping to sell the property for about \$400,000 to \$450,000.

Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict said that the proceeds from the sale would be rolled back into the student life budget, with the intention of making leadership development programs a primary use of the funds.

"I envision a leadership institute," he said, funded by an endowment made from the proceeds and private donations, as a "long term prospect" for the money and programs at MIT.

Benedict said that one of the major remaining uses of the Talbot House was leadership development retreats for various student groups, and that MIT is looking into other possible locations for retreats, including MIT's Endicott House, typically used more as a conference center.

Undergraduate Association President Harel M. Williams '05 said that "if we spend enough time and energy to find alternatives," the sale of Talbot House would not adversely affect student life, but it is "still sad, though. ... [Talbot] was a land-

mark."

He said that the UA, the Graduate Student Council and Senior Associate Dean for Student Life Stephen D. Immerman, among others, would form a committee to discuss uses for the proceeds, but it was not clear whether proposals for the money or alternatives to Talbot would be ready by fall term, when student groups often hold retreats with new recruits.

Talbot sees decline in use

Walsh said that the decision to sell Talbot House was not reached quickly. He said there has been "a trend that's been going on for some time" of "diminishing participation and attendance at the house."

He said that while they had not found any specific reasons for the decline, he suspects the two to three hour travel time, and its consequent high cost, had become more and more burdensome to students as more possibilities for activities had opened up on campus.

Benedict said that MIT had discussed the possibility of selling the Talbot House with the Rockefeller family last fall, and that they had not expressed any serious concerns with the decision.

Walsh said that the death of donor Laurence Rockefeller earlier this summer had not played any role in MIT's decision, and that "this has been in discussion for ... maybe six years."

In part because of lower usage, Talbot House lost approximately \$25,000 net of its operation expenses last year, Walsh said, which was made up from other funding for other operations.

"When it comes down to where do you spend your funds, obviously there are a lot needs here in Cambridge," he said, and one of the factors in deciding to sell was the lack of a clear revenue source to pay for the renovations, especially since the house itself did not make money.

LAMP To Return in Oct.

By Tongyan Lin

NEWS EDITOR

The Library Access to Music Project, shut down last October for legal reasons, will likely return this October, but changed.

LAMP, an iCampus project, allows students to select music online from the LAMP database to be played over one of the MIT cable channels designated for the project.

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It was widely lauded as an innovative alternative to downloading music when it was first launched last fall.

Keith J. Winstein G and Joshua C. Mandel '04, co-creators of LAMP, shut it down last October after learning that Loudeye Inc., the company from which they had pur-

The Tech will next publish daily from Aug. 31 to Sept. 3 during Orientation, and will resume its normal schedule on Sept. 10.



SPECIAL DNC
COVERAGE INSIDE



OPINION

Inside the "free speech zone" with Ruth Miller.

OPINION

Looking for a Fight

Ruth Miller

My friends know I'm never happier than when I'm compiling another anecdote for my never-to-be-written autobiography. Being a fan of *Fight Club*, *Rage Against the Machine*, and political science, the Democratic National Convention seemed like the perfect opportunity to see a riot.

When President Bush is scheduled to visit a location, the Secret Service arrives ahead of time to order local police to set up a "free speech zone," where people opposed to Bush's policies are quarantined away from the sight of media. This sounds like classic John Ashcroft-brand First Amendment. Isn't our entire country supposed to be a free speech zone? Rather than capitalize on the GOP's blatant abuse of the Constitution, someone apparently thought this was a good idea and created a one in Boston for the DNC. If a riot was my Holy Grail, the free speech zone must have been my Castle Aaaagh.

The zone was nearly impossible to find. If it hadn't been for a special on the Daily Show weeks earlier, I wouldn't even have known where to look. We stumbled onto the zone Monday afternoon, and under the chain link fence, netting, razor wire, overpass, and snipers, there was a small collection of protesters, press, and other thrill seekers. The walls, sidewalks, and signs bore anti-Democrat messages: "Democrats cage free speech," "Terrorists are loose; patriots are caged," "Pens are for animals, not Americans," "2 Johns; 2 faced;

no balls; no more Bushit," "Palestine looks like this every day."

These weren't the vegetable-oil-powered car hippies of Boston Common. These were well-spoken, well-dressed, angry protesters. Standing in such a cage was a surreal experience, and it resonated louder because there were so few people there with which to share it. Regardless of our feelings for Kerry or Bush, we left the area ashamed of this obvious degradation of free speech. Aren't Democrats supposed to protect our First Amendment rights? Maybe they really aren't any better than the Republicans. Is this why people flock to Ralph Nader?

Still looking for a fight, some of us returned the next day. The cage was still there, the tension was still there, but the faces had changed. These weren't the same people as before, and there was more of everything: more signs, more protesters, and more press. The new crowd trampled the vibes of abandonment and patriotism from the day before. I asked a representative of Boston 2004 who designated the free speech zone. Not surprisingly, Kerry did not hand down an edict to punish the freedom lovers. This was just the closest Boston's Mayor Tom Menino would allow protesters to gather to the FleetCenter.

Boston Commons was covered in protesters. Flip, Flop and "Billionaires for Bush" traversed the city. "Run DNC" assembled itself on streets throughout Boston and Cambridge. "Run Against Bush" ran, "Boycott Oil" cycled, and the "Kerry Kills Babies" vans

drove through the streets all week. These were all much more visible than the angry protesters hidden under the razor wire. It appeared that the protesters near the FleetCenter had chosen to assemble in a pen to protest being forced to assemble in a pen.

Thursday, on what was to be a return trip to the free speech zone, I was sidetracked by a troupe of mimes demonstrating in front of a large crowd at Quincy Market. At the exact moment I was sipping a peanut butter smoothie in Faneuil Hall, the protesters in the free speech zone were burning a John Kerry effigy. They threw a flag on it. The riot police showed up. The police estimated there were over 400 protesters. The press estimated about 150 police. The protesters lined up nose-to-nose with the riot cops. The riot police pulled out their clubs in a single, graceful motion. The press looked on. Only a handful were injured, and the next day *The Boston Metro* published numbers and a picture of a riot cop sitting on a bloodied protester.

I love my First Amendment, but was this really the most important thing they could speak of? People exercise their freedom of speech on a subject. It is a means toward an end. The more visible protesters scattered throughout the city spoke of an ends — each with a message. While the scenery inspired emotion, the protesters below had conflicting messages. Under the razor wire, the protesters spoke, the cops spoke, and the press listened.

It looks like I wasn't the only one looking for a fight.

The Sad Song of Politicians

Ken Nesmith

Last Sunday, Rock the Vote held a convention kickoff concert party. Regarding the ostensibly nonpartisan group's goal of getting youth to vote, emcee DJ Biz Markie implored attendees to "each get ten of your friends to vote" — so far, neutral enough — "AGAINST BUSH this November!" (Did you catch the non-neutral part?) But Biz Markie's tragic crowd leadership, comprised mostly of throwing his own voice over popular tracks to replace key lyrics with pseudo-political slogans (Not if you have a fifty dollar bill, but "If y'all want democratics put your hands up!" Democratics? Is that a word?) were not the highlight of the evening.

The highlight came later, at closing time at Avalon. A youngish crowd chanted "We want Bill!" but got Hill instead when Laurny Hill headed onstage instead of the promised Mr. Clinton. Hill sang just one song, "Politicians Bring My Spirit Down." Concluding it, she asked the crowd, "Wait, can y'all hear me? I want you to listen closely now, listen to the lyrics." Hill clearly enunciated her chorus and a verse, lamenting the convoluted sycophancy of politicians. She unsettled the crowd a bit. Was she talking about George Bush and Republicans? Then it'd be okay to cheer.

But she couldn't mean John Kerry? Not Democrats? Not them, too? Nervous cheers raised and died. This was a party, right? And the democrats are good and that's what Hill meant? Beat Bush, etc?

A hum of chatter suggested a lack of complete attention in the crowd. Some turned towards securing the gains they'd made that night, connections with fellow interning collegiate youth. Steeped in alcohol, the crowd's clumsy sexual attempts met with varying success, from osculation to rejection. The body language debate resembled that at any other club; the guy leans in close to speak into the girl's ear (only because it's so loud in here!), she'd shift away; he'd reset and restrategize, nervously playing it cool before making another move. The song ended, the clock struck two, and the whole game died.

The convention was a social thrill. The urgency and social competition of politics was on display in full force. I bought into it, appreciating the ubiquitous sense of energy. Michael Moore and Howard Dean delivered action. Clinton and Obama performed masterful speeches advocating a national unity; complicating Republican campaign strategies. Ron Reagan made a quick and compelling case for the stem cell research. John Edwards added some hawkish military talk to his usual spin about two

Americas.

Kerry threw a knockout punch. He came off as friendly, spirited, and vigorous, to the approval of focus groups across the country. He coopted Bush territory of military and culture, and preempted Republican blows against him. His promises to bring unity and to "restore trust and credibility" to the White House were a brilliant reshaping of Bush's similar promises made four years ago and now broken. His time in Vietnam contrasts starkly to Bush, Cheney, and Clinton slouching off during that war. Kerry plunged into battle confidently, "earning his medals the old-fashioned way," as his soft-spoken wife Teresa put it. Bush can really have nothing to say for himself on this issue.

Worse, Bush has nothing to say for himself on several other issues. His free drugs healthcare plan is an expensive, dishonest joke. He could've handled Iraq better. His tax cuts were great, but could've been structured better politically; cuts aside, he's made an unrestrained spending spree. He bangs the Bible like a drum. His plan to go to Mars is a disaster not waiting to happen, likewise his work to amend the Constitution to keep gays down. He betrayed the cause of free trade. His new slogan,

Politicians, Page 4

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter let-

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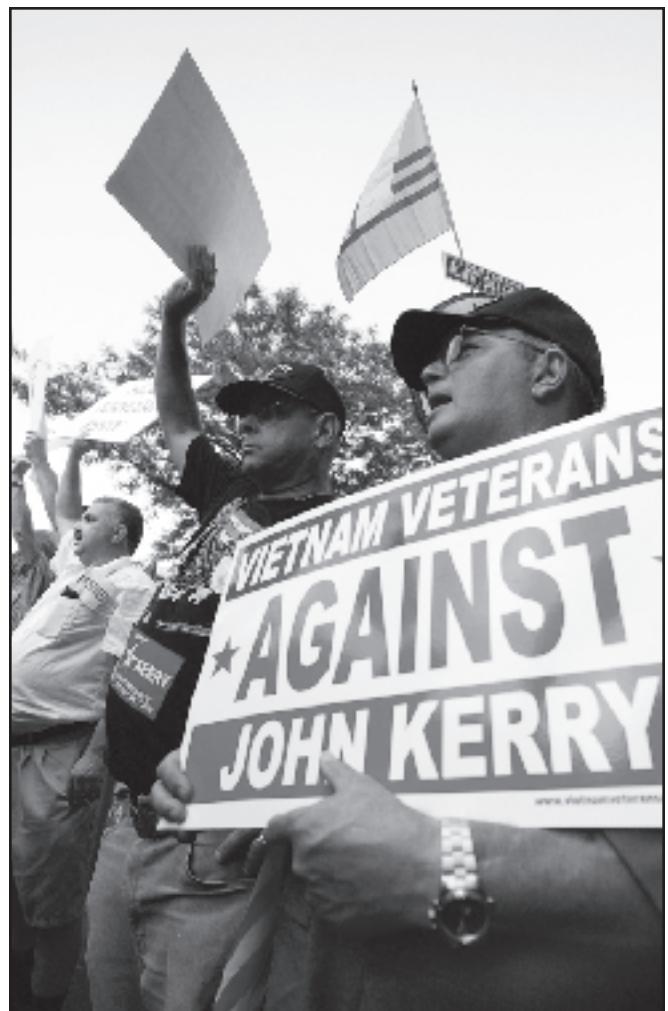
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DNC 2004 in Boston



(top left) Democratic party delegates, guests, and members of the media packed the FleetCenter for the four nights of the Democratic National Convention.
 (top right) Joe Macshane (left) and Ken Vezina (right), who served in Vietnam in 1969, protest against John Kerry on Thursday afternoon. The protest presented a stark contrast to the events that night inside the FleetCenter, where the crew of the Swiftboat Kerry commanded in Vietnam took the stage.
 (above left) Delegates from New York show their support for their senator, Hillary Clinton, as she spoke Monday night.

(below) Attendees of the Democratic National Convention wave American flags during the speeches.

crowded FleetCenter, the officers forced members of the press, delegates, and other would-be attendees to the DNC out of the FleetCenter's lobby.

(above right) Democratic vice-presidential nominee John Edwards delivers a crowd-pleasing speech on Wednesday night. Delegates cheered and held signs to highlight his message that "Hope is on the Way."

(left) Delegates from New York show their support for their senator, Hillary Clinton, as she spoke Monday night.

Photography by Jina Kim and Jonathan Wang



OPINION

Hypocrisy Exposed

Chen Zhao

The Democratic National Convention is over and Bostonians can finally come back from wherever they were hiding. The pundits have declared the very carefully scripted convention an undisputed success for the Democratic Party.

Inside the FleetCenter, Democrats all over the liberal end of the ideological spectrum, from the moderate Bill Clinton to the ultra-liberal Ted Kennedy to the almost Chomsky-like Dennis Kucinich, united behind the Kerry-Edwards ticket. There were no unending disputes over the party, no riots akin to those in 1968, and no massive protests. In fact, it almost seemed there were no protesters at all. That would be because protesters were not allowed anywhere near the FleetCenter and unless you looked carefully enough, it seemed that this convention was missing something that is an expected element of all political conventions.

Huddled underneath abandoned train tracks and behind chain link fences, a few protesters tried to get out their message. Not

surprisingly, few delegates heard them. After all, they were relegated to a so-called "demonstration zone." The zone has been likened to an internment camp or even Auschwitz. That may be a bit extreme, but an area bounded by two chain link fences, separated by concrete barriers, surrounded by black mesh to repel liquids, and covered by another black net topped with razor wire is certainly no beacon of free speech. The protesters in the area look like nothing if not prisoners within this cell with no access to tables, chairs, and sanitary facilities, lacking even the ability to pass written materials to outsiders.

Groups have challenged the city's right to limit protesters' access to the FleetCenter area, but a federal judge agreed with the city in the name of homeland security. Even after calling the demonstration zone "an affront to the idea of free expression," the judge ruled that the city's actions were justified by the need to protect convention delegates from the "threat" that these demonstrators posed.

So because of the city's sudden affinity for limiting the constitutional rights of protesters, all that the country saw on TV was an incred-

ibly passionate and united effort by the entire Democratic Party. But let us remember why the party is so passionate about defeating President Bush. It is because in an election in which he received less of the popular vote than his challenger, Bush won because the Supreme Court decided on an issue that according to the Constitution should have been settled by Congress. It is because Bush has bullied the country into a war by stifling dissent and then has dismissed the slightest opposition as being unpatriotic. It is because Bush and John Ashcroft forced the Patriot Act on this country, infringing on our basic constitutional rights like no legislation ever has before in our entire history. It is because Bush and his administration have, in clear violation of the Bill of Rights, arrested and detained people, including American citizens, for years without allowing them to have a trial or consult with an attorney simply because they were given the arbitrary title of "enemy combatant".

And let us recall one of the dominant messages of the convention — Bush has divided the country, refusing to allow the opposition to speak, but Democrats will unite all Americans,

letting everyone be heard. Convention speakers railed again the president for his unconstitutional actions. After Sept. 11, they said, we were all Americans, not Democrats and Republicans, but President Bush antagonized the opposition and polarized our nation. Well, we Democrats are nothing but hypocrites and are no better than the administration we have condemned in the arena of protecting constitutional rights if we feel that we must stoop so low as to force protesters behind razor wire and black mesh.

I understand the need for unity in order to beat the Republicans and I understand that the Democratic losses in 1968 could largely be blamed on the riots during the Chicago convention which revealed a divided party. But unity cannot be forced and putting protesters in cages will only make the Ralph Nader ticket seem like a more salient alternative to Bush. We need to remember why we are running against the Bush administration and what we find so distasteful about them. We have proclaimed that a belief in free speech is what differentiates us from them, but the Stepford Wives-like convention last week called our bluff.

Good Ideas Missing

Politicians, from Page 2

"Results matter," might as well have been written by the Kerry camp. Results do matter. Most Americans don't like his.

In that light, Kerry's message of unity, honesty, and hope felt welcome. Now for the campaigning! But wait — what does Kerry actually want to do? Repairing some alliances is fine, but that won't really get us far. France and Germany aren't good for much, North Korea will still be a threatening mess, and Iraq will still stumble along. Raising taxes on those with high incomes really isn't called for, but he'll need the funds to hugely expand federal spending across the board. More money for public education won't solve its problems; ditto for most of the tax and spend endeavors he'll undertake. Mostly, Kerry will have to hope for some cyclical economic growth that he can both take credit for and tax, a la Clinton, to pay off the deficit and finance his new spending.

What's that Lauryn Hill said? Ah, yes, politicians bring my spirit down. At the end of the rush, after all the fun speeches and dashes in and out of hotels tracking celebrity politicians, little more than bad ideas remain. It's downright depressing. The friendliness, unity, and energy politicians trade so masterfully is an unfortunate illusion. At convention's end, I feel a bit like the guys at the concert, seeing 2 a.m. approaching and realizing that the night hasn't yielded much. They reached for a girl; I'll go home and do other things.

NEWS

LAMP Seeks Licenses Directly

LAMP, from Page 1

chased the music, did not have the proper licensing to distribute the music to MIT.

"Loudeye illegally copied those CDs," Winstein said. He said they would not be using the music they got from Loudeye, and they were able to get their money back.

The new LAMP format, which will require students to select groups of songs to play rather than a single song, will be "50 percent as cool," Winstein said.

LAMP creators find alternative music sources

Winstein is attempting to obtain licenses to play music directly from record labels. Of the five major record labels, he said he has talked to all of them and "some have been friendly, some not so friendly." Winstein said that "for the labels we can't get licensing, we're going to buy physical CDs and broadcast

them." The CDs can be ripped legally for this purpose if they are temporary copies, according to copyright law. Radio stations, such as WMBR, typically do this with CDs "because it's easier to broadcast them this way," Winstein said.

"For the past year, we've been talking to MIT's lawyers to make sure our temporary copies are absolutely legal," Winstein said. He expects the new method of obtaining music will be "a little more costly," but he added that "we do think we might take donations of people's CDs in the future."

As for the new music, Winstein does not know what CDs he will purchase yet.

"The goal of LAMP was to create a music library" that was available 24 hours a day and "accessible in student rooms," Winstein said. "I'm disappointed it won't be as cool as last October, but I still hope it will be worth it."



The Council for the Arts at MIT

announces its

2004 - 2005 Grants Schedule

First Round:

Application Deadline
Site Visit & Committee Review
Projects must begin on or after

Friday, September 24, 2004
Wednesday, October 27, 2004
Wednesday, November 10, 2004

Second Round:

Application Deadline
Site Visit & Committee Review
Projects must begin on or after

Friday, January 28, 2005
Thursday, February 24, 2005
Thursday, March 10, 2005

Third Round:

Application Deadline
Site Visit & Committee Review
Projects must begin on or after

Friday, April 8, 2005
Thursday, May 5, 2005
Thursday, May 19, 2005

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

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