



C A L I G V L A E

PONY EXPRESS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SENIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE

ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION ISSUE

PRESIDENT DISAPPEARS

REAPPEARS MONTHS LATER

Pfister cites multiple crises, vows never to lose contact again

BY CRAIG SHERMAN and LETTA CHRISTIANSON

Boston University

President Erica Pfister vanished late last year, only to make a miraculous reappearance at the MASCL's meeting on January 23. According to the minutes taken for that meeting, "The last sighting of Erica took place in late October. Her last communication was on November 18th." After the League placed V.P. Sterling Darling in charge, and moved on to new business, the missing president returned without warning that same meeting, at approximately 3 p.m. Erica explained that she went home for Thanksgiving, an uncle had a crisis, then things got very busy, she ended up resigning another activity, and now she's returned. Although her disappearance mirrored that of last year's president, Allison Perkins, Pfister assured her constituents that "I did not get kidnapped by Spanish sheep".



Earhart, missing since 1937



Pfister, missing until Jan. 1999

Pfister explains disappearance in her own words

BY ERICA PFISTER

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

I managed to fall victim to the same absence that claimed Allison Perkins, the MASCL's 97-98 President (see lead story, 1998 CPE), during nearly all of her term in office. Unfortunately my excuses weren't quite as good as being out of the country for half a year, nor did I do anything as interesting as hang around with sheep from Spain. It's much more mundane - I got sucked under by too much work, too many colds, and a few family crises. During the fall term of 1998, I was also serving as the Managing Editor of The Tech, MIT's student paper. This ended up being a huge time sink for me, and left me with little time for both classes and for running the MASCL. Luckily the fall doesn't tend to be the SCL's busiest time, but there was still enough to be done. When I started to slip behind in some

classes, however, school work took priority over offices, then getting over my cold(s) took priority over problem sets. Then Thanksgiving vacation gave me a chance to get back on my feet - or so I hoped. When my uncle fell seriously ill, I had to extend my vacation a few days; I ended up with little relaxation and no work done, plus was further behind. It's college and it's MIT, you work until you drop; being busy isn't a particularly glamorous reason for being invisible, but that's my reason. I managed to make it to the November meeting, but then was too swamped to make it to the next one and didn't reappear until January. When other members sent me email asking where I was, I would feel guilty enough that I wouldn't answer right away and they ended up being buried deep in my inbox. I felt quite bad about this entire sequence of events; I was the Vice President during Allison's

(Continued on page 2)

EXCLUSIVE!

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Various obstacles rock Pfister presidency

(Continued from page 1)

extended absence, and I remember (not very fondly) how much of a strain it can be having to take up the slack, not knowing whether the President has been eaten by those sheep or if she'll be answering your email sooner than a month from now. I am very thankful for the patience and work of my fellow officers and our advisor. I really appreciate that they cared enough to call my home in Ohio at the February meeting before I resurfaced, leaving a message saying, "Your daughter's not around, we think she's disappeared," scaring my parents to death (but all with the good intention of making sure I was all right, of course). Luckily, I got my classes back under control and nothing terribly exciting has happened for a few months now. I'm not sure if the fact that I returned and kept doing my job means that I've broken the "President's jinx" or not, but I do know that leaving other officers and members in the lurch is something every future officer ought to be careful of. Personally, I'm glad I was able to finish out my term on a few high notes, because I've greatly enjoyed working with the other MASCL members and establishing the MASCL more firmly as a state chapter. ☐

MASCL supports Certamen winners with trophy

BY CRAIG SHERMAN

Boston University

In a move of unprecedented magnanimity, the Massachusetts Senior Classical League invested over one hundred dollars in a trophy to be awarded to the upper-level Certamen champions each year. Kevin Fu, who arranged to get the trophy, describes it as "a 6" bowl with 4 plates for names from Rader's Engraving in the jewelers' building downtown. The bowl is steel with silver plating. It has a wooden setting (cube). Engraved on the bowl is 'Scientia Est Potestas,' in cursive. On the front of the cube reads 'Presented by the Massachusetts Senior Classical League to the Upper Level Certamen Team Winner' On the other three plates we can engrave years and school names." ☐



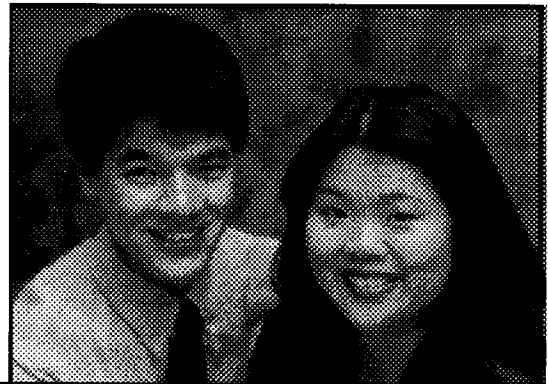
Sorry, ladies, he's spoken for!

Kevin Fu to marry

ANNOUNCEMENT PROVIDED BY KEVIN FU

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Teresa K. Lai and Kevin E. Fu will be married June 12, 1999 in Holland, Michigan. They met while designing lego robots at MIT. Now neither can lego. Teresa currently works for Information Systems at MIT while Kevin is starting the doctoral program in computer science at MIT. Both are members of the NSCL. ☐



MASCL GOES HOLLYWOOD!

League assembles at B.U. to screen diverse student films

This man
has just seen
too much.
And now
he must pay.

Bruce LeBlanc Amy Treco
FAWNING
a film by Craig Sherman and Scott Salley



FAWNING Craig Sherman, 1998

Fawning tells the story of Actaeon, a hunter who accidentally stumbles upon the goddess Diana bathing. In this modern version, Actaeon (Bruce LeBlanc) accidentally walks into the wrong dorm room, which he quickly realizes belongs to the "goddess" Diana (Amy Treco). He hears the shower running, and his hormones get the best of him. Although he gets an eyeful (worthy of an R rating), he did not anticipate Diana's Magical Transformation Mist (Cherry Scent). ☠

Hrotsvitha's *DULCITIUS*

Essex H.S., 1996

Written by Hrotsvitha, a ninth century nun of Gandershire, "Dulcitus" is a morality play in the style of a Roman comedy. Three saintly young maidens, Agape (played by Kristen Gray), Chionia (Meagan Cavanaugh), and Irene (Katherine Lochbrunner), refuse the offer of pagan marriage from the emperor Diocletian (Josh Winslow) and the advances of the twisted officer Dulcitus (Matt Ewalt). The three are put to death (thus becoming martyrs) by the cruel count Sisinnius (Andrew Gray) and the milites (Andy Kish, James Robinson). On October 15, 1996, the class traveled to Dartmouth College to once again put on the play they had so diligently translated and staged, hoping Hrotsvitha, who had called herself a "clamor validus," would have approved. ☠



Katherine Lochbrunner (second from left), and Kristen Gray (second from right) both appeared in *Dulcitus*.

MASCL raises funds in helpful, inventive ways

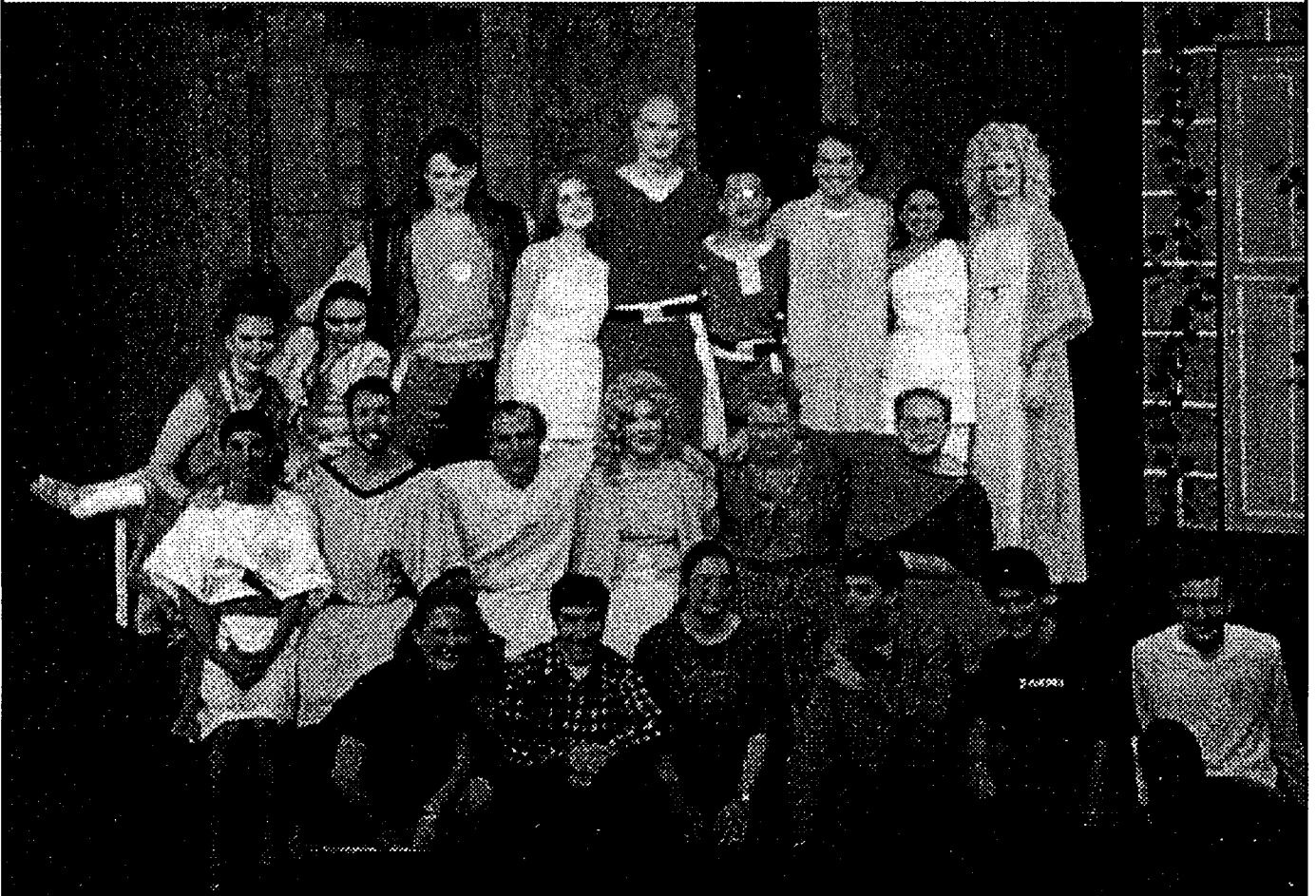
BY JANET FILLION, ADVISOR

Boston Latin Academy

For the second year in a row, MASCL has raised money by supplying the MJCL with written materials. Last year MASCL wrote a variety of test questions for the state convention. This year it was Certamen questions. The Certamen questions were more of a group effort. We worked in teams: there were the MIT writers (Erica, Kevin, Jeff, and Aaron), the BU writers (Craig, Katherine, and Letta), and the Harvard writer (was that just you Sterling?). There were some missing questions, so I finished up the missing ones. After compiling the questions, they were handed over to Jim O'Neil, the technology chair for the NJCL but also, the veteran writer of the MJCL Certamen questions. He has stopped writing Certamen because he can no longer do them and fulfill his national responsibilities. We do an exchange of our questions with another state, so, our Massachusetts JCLers don't get the questions that the MASCL wrote. But, as a matter of fact, the MJCL does sell them. At every state and national convention, the MJCL has a bazaar table and they sell packets of Massachusetts Certamen questions from 1995 till the present. So, now MASCL is a permanent part of the record! It is not clear that we will be asked to do the questions next year. It is up to the MJCL whether they want us to or not. If they don't, anyone with any new fundraising ideas?



Funny thing happens to MASCL on way to Forum



No, you're not seeing things, that is your very own MASCL sitting on the bottom row with the MIT Theatre Group's cast of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Now, we're all pretty connected—it was Erica who told us about the show in the first place—but in order to get this kind of picture, some strings had to be pulled. Fortunately, Craig Sherman (bottom row, second from left) had befriended the play's director, Sheridan Zabel, at an earlier, unrelated event, and so was able to get her cast back on stage (despite, even, one actress's sprained ankle (upper left)) to pose with us. Ain't it cool?