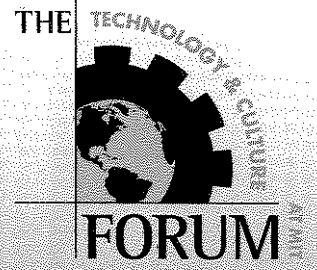


ANNUAL REPORT

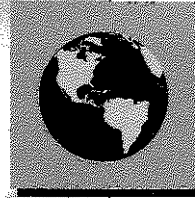
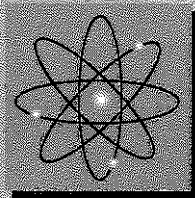
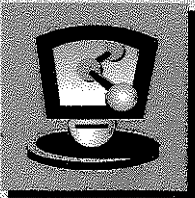


2000/2001

THE TECHNOLOGY & CULTURE

FORUM

AT MIT



Twelve months ago I imagined that 2000-2001 would be a year of fine programming, relationship building, and fund raising for the Technology and Culture Forum at MIT. An abundance of issues suggested a multitude of compelling programs; new Dean of Student Life, Larry Benedict presented exciting possibilities for partnerships within MIT; and our endowment campaign was making steady progress toward our million-dollar goal. A September dinner for donors hosted by Episcopal Bishop of Massachusetts M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE revealed the high regard people at MIT and in the Diocese have for the Technology and Culture Forum.

While poised for a year of growth, what we encountered instead was a year of transition. In November 2000, at the request of my bishop, I took charge of a large, urban parish in Lynn, Massachusetts while continuing to coordinate T&C through the academic year. Despite my departure from MIT and the demands of carrying out a national search for a new T&C coordinator, the Technology and Culture Forum sponsored eight excellent programs, expanded its webcasts and audio archive, and crossed the halfway point in its endowment campaign. The commitment of the T&C Steering Committee, and the creative and competent leadership of Associate Coordinator Patricia-Maria Weinmann allowed the Forum to thrive in demanding times.

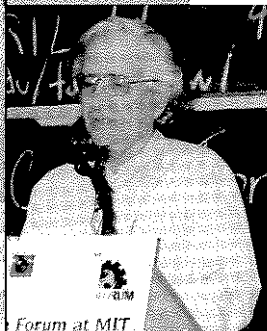
On September 28 we responded to summer headlines with "Mapping the Human Genome: How Do We Make It Serve the Common Good?" Moderator Lily Kay opened the conversation noting the limits of what the genome actually reveals. Whitehead Institute researcher David Page raised questions about what mapping the genome means, what scientists know and agree upon, and what mapping the genome

suggests in the dynamic of genetic determinism and human variation. He worries that the knowledge gap between the scientific community and the public could result in poor policies and practices motivated by fear and misinformation.

Interleuken Genetics CEO Philip Reilly contended that biotech firms are high-risk ventures motivated by both the possibility for profit and the desire to make a positive difference. He also reminded us that, although mapping the genome may be a media event, it's not a big deal in terms of science; known sequences already have and will continue to offer "enormous rewards and benefits". MIT biologist and Council for Responsible Genetics Board member Jonathan King outlined why patents on genes and the extreme commercialization of biotechnology don't serve the common good. He argued persuasively that patents retard biomedical research and slow the development and delivery of healthcare.

On October 4, in anticipation of the first "democratic elections in cyberspace", we hosted "ICANN and Internet Privatization: Technical Coordination or Cyberspace Governance?" Not surprisingly, this program drew a larger on-line than in-person crowd. Having been part of the technical coordination of the Internet from the beginning, moderator Scott Bradner moved with grace from his opening discourse on uniqueness and why oversight of the domain name system matters to a cogent history of how and why ICANN came into existence. Internet historian Scott Mueller outlined clearly the conceptual appeal of ICANN; then he described the myriad ways in which the vision has not been fulfilled.

ICANN staff member Andrew McLaughlin made clear that ICANN exists to provide international coordination, accountability within the system, transparent management, open competition, and mechanisms for conflict resolution in the assigning of domain names and IP addresses and the coordinating of the DNS root server system. ICANN critic Hans Klein argued persuasively that "ICANN puts in place mechanisms for strong, centralized governance even if the scope is limited now." He surveyed authority, law, sanctions, and jurisdiction and determined that, over time, ICANN could exert governance if the directors desired.



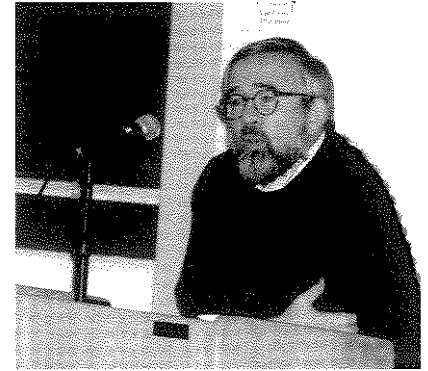
ON APRIL 10, MORE THAN 700  
GATHERED FOR OUR ANNUAL  
EVENING WITH NOAM CHOMSKY

On November 9, Christopher Lydon, host of public radio's *The Connection*, took the stage with Robert McChesney for "Rich Media, Poor Democracy". Lydon's years of media work for various commercial and public media shaped his insightful questions and energized the conversation. McChesney provided a quick summary of recent media consolidation and illustrated the inherent contradiction of an egalitarian political structure and an inegalitarian economic system. Whether describing the coverage (or lack thereof) of the WTO protests in Seattle or the Nader campaign, he made clear that the national media provide virtually no news critical of corporate capitalism. "Safe", "owner-sensitive" journalism has become the way of our time. He contended that true democracy depends on the people believing they can make a difference; the system being altered to facilitate the broadest possible political participation; and the media being willing to take risks and to confront the status quo.

February 8 we continued our focus on the media as David Barsamian, producer of the award-winning syndicated radio program *Alternative Radio*, addressed "The Rise and Fall of Public Radio". He provided a vivid account of the history of public radio focusing on the 1967 Carnegie Foundation report which advised that "public radio funding should be protected from corporate or government standards" and that it should "help us to see America". He laments the abandonment of these principles and the current ownership of public radio and TV by corporate America through underwriting. He contends that we now need to look to the Internet and independent radio stations for the most comprehensive and open reporting of news stories, unbiased by corporate or governmental influence.

On February 13, with the new Bush administration eagerly considering strategic defense initiatives, we sponsored "Missile Defense: Technology and Politics". Moderator Kosta Tsipis's opening questions about technical feasibility, motives, US interests, responses of allies, and political realities of SDI framed the conversation wonderfully. Frances Fitzgerald, author of the award-winning *Way Out There in the Blue*, set the stage as she discussed the political, economic, and social realities of Reagan and Starwars. She used stories to shape compelling interpretations of why history unfolded as it did and to challenge us to take responsibility for our future. She linked the persistence of missile defense systems, despite consistent rejection of the possibilities by the scientific community, to the US's sense of destiny combined with our denial of vulnerability.

Missile systems expert Richard Garwin discussed why a missile defense system based on mid-course interceptors is not technologically feasible. He also made clear that even "rogue states" are unlikely to launch nuclear attacks against the US and that no missile defense system will ever protect against terrorism. Many, who think of Garwin as an opponent of missile defense systems, were uncomfortable as he discussed the potential technological feasibility of boost-phase interceptors. He further challenged conventional thinking by naming deterrence as a missile defense system. Garwin left the audience with challenges, not easy answers. As scientist, political analyst, and philosopher, Philip Morrison was the perfect wrap-up speaker. He set the question of missile defense in historical context as he reflected on the economic and psychological motivations for missile defense systems. He challenged

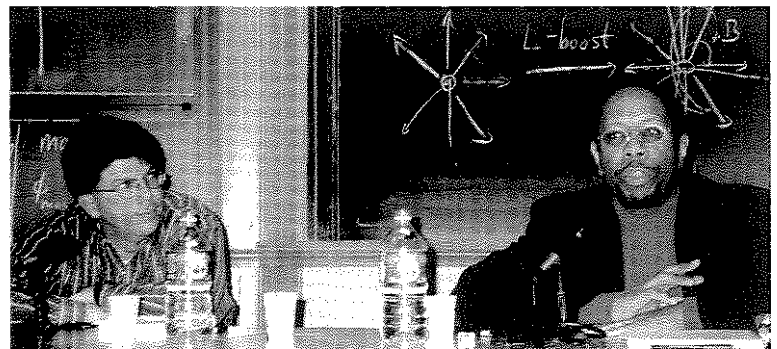


**PHILLIP REILLY ADDRESSING THE ROLES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN RESEARCHING THE HUMAN GENOME**

technologists, politicians and engaged citizens to work for a more open world in which we replace features of warfare with disarmament agreements in which the US participates.

On April 3 author and activist Frances Moore Lappe addressed "Diet for a Small Planet; What We've Learned in 30 Years". As she spoke about recent research she and her daughter Anna have done, she described "a world driven by fear" and "mental maps that deny our truest selves and deepest needs". She asked, "What happened to our deep needs for effectiveness and connection?" Her stories from India, Kenya, Brazil and the US inspired us to believe that the dominant paradigms of materialism, consumerism, and competition can be toppled. She challenged us not to hope for lives free from pain, loss, messiness and fear, but to hope for expanding hearts that we might live effective and connected lives.

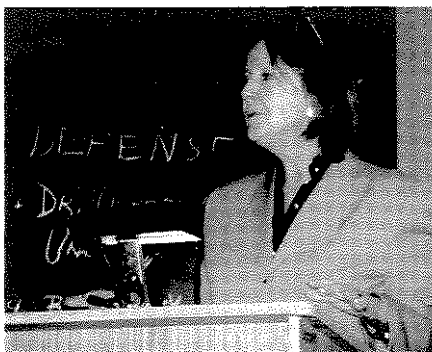
**KEVIN MURRAY LISTENS AS FELLOW RESPONDENT CESAR MCDOWELL DISCUSSES COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION**



Respondent Ceasar McDowell, Director of MIT's Center for Reflective Community Practice, added substance with his snapshots of individuals and communities transformed by people coming together and sharing their stories. His vignettes moved from Bob Moses and the Civil Rights movement to Ernie Cortes and the IAF to Thai garment workers in California. Respondent Kevin Murray, Executive Director of Grassroots International, challenged Lappe and the audience to address the issue of power in a focused manner, to determine concrete ways to encourage people to step out of comfort and into uncertainty and dissonance, and to organize from the ground up. He insisted that a new world is possible but, to reach it, we must "save the pessimism for better times".

On April 10 we held our annual Evening with Noam Chomsky-- "Institutions vs. People: Will the Species Self-Destruct?" Chomsky seemingly effortlessly worked his way across continents and through decades illustrating the US's historic evasion of the responsibility that comes with power and privilege. As we contemplate the increase in concentration of power and privilege and the decrease in true democracy, our future as a species does indeed look bleak. However, the 700 plus young people who listened to Chomsky with rapt attention and would have held him in conversation through the night seem committed to "protecting the species with public discussion".

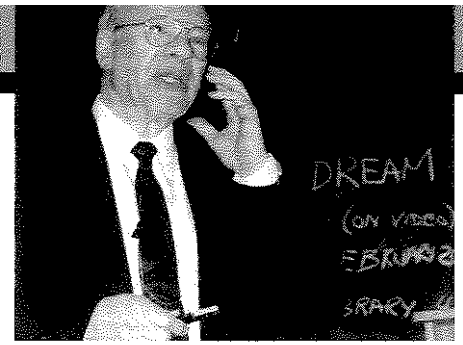
**FRANCIS FITZGERALD INTERPRETS  
US MISSILE DEFENSE POLICY FOR  
AN SRO CROWD IN A-120**



On April 11 we closed the year with a T&C classic "Can AIDS Be Stopped? A Partnership for the Future of Botswana". Bringing together the Director of Health Services for the government of Botswana, a Harvard scientist, and a Merck company executive to address a critical issue surely fulfills T&C's mission brilliantly. Patson Mazonde spoke eloquently about the cost of AIDS in Botswana. He described with painful clarity the unbearable burden of HIV/AIDS-- overwhelming the healthcare infrastructure, limiting productivity due to worker absenteeism, undermining both culture and community due to the high number of orphans, and reducing consumer spending due to medical expenses and funeral costs. The hope for his country rests in the Botswana-Harvard-Merck-Gates Foundation partnership to create a "coordinated and comprehensive global response to HIV/AIDS" providing critically needed care.

Linda Distlerath offered an impressive description of Merck's efforts to bring the "best of the public and private sectors together" to stop the spread of AIDS in Africa. She noted that the solutions found must be both viable and sustainable which will require a long-term commitment by the partners to achieve their goals of reducing infection and transmission, facilitating health care delivery, and improving access to care and drug therapies. Harvard's Richard Marlink emphasized that success of the partnership depends on listening to and working with local AIDS care experts, maintaining access to training and resources, and relinquishing Harvard's right to authorship and copyright. Clearly this project challenges in important and creative ways how universities, foundations, corporations, and governments might envision working together for the public good.

The vision of the Steering Committee and the commitment of the staff ensured a stellar season in 2000-2001 for the Technology and Culture Forum. All eight programs were broadcast live at the updated T&C website and are maintained on the web in an audio archive. In addition, MIT's Center for Advanced Educational Services (CAES) incorporated the Chomsky talk into their distance learning resources.



**RICHARD GARWIN ENLIGHTENS  
THE AUDIENCE ABOUT  
MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS**

T&C occupies an important place at MIT as it prepares students, faculty, and staff to be ethically reflective leaders for our highly technological, rapidly changing world. Likewise, it serves a critical function in the church as it focuses the church's attention on the ethical implications of scientific discovery and technological innovation. New T&C Coordinator, the Rev. Amy McCreath, has a solid foundation from which to build. She brings to the Forum experience in the field of bio-ethics, a sharp intellect, an ability to form alliances with disparate people and groups, and a passion for the critical issues of our time.

Seven years ago when I assumed leadership of the Technology and Culture Forum at MIT we had sufficient resources to maintain T&C through November of that year and we had no programs planned for the fall. We now have an endowment of over \$500,000, a dedicated group of benefactors, a significant annual giving program, a committed steering committee, the experience to shape significant and appealing programs, the ability to reach broad audiences, and a respected place at MIT. I am proud of the work we've done and I look forward to watching T&C grow to full flower under Amy McCreath's leadership.

Sincerely,

(The Rev.) Jane Soyster Gould

Thursday Sept. 28, 2000	<p><b><u>MAPPING THE HUMAN GENOME: HOW DO WE MAKE IT SERVE THE COMMON GOOD?</u></b></p> <p><b>Jonathan King</b>, Professor, Biology, MIT; Council for Responsible Genetics  <b>David Page</b>, Member, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research;  Chair, Whitehead Task Force on Genetics and Public Policy; Professor, Biology, MIT  <b>Philip Reilly</b>, CEO, Interleukin Genetics; President, American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics;  Associate Professor, Pediatrics, Tufts University  Moderator: <b>Lily Kay</b>, author, Who Wrote the Book of Life? A History of the Genetic Code;  visiting scholar, MIT; Associate, Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology</p>
Wednesday October 4, 2000	<p><b><u>ICANN and INTERNET PRIVATIZATION: TECHNICAL COORDINATION OR CYBERSPACE GOVERNANCE?</u></b></p> <p><b>Hans Klein</b>, author, "Cyber-Federalist"; School of Public Policy, Georgia Institute of Technology  <b>Andrew McLaughlin</b>, Chief Policy Officer, ICANN  <b>Milton Mueller</b>, Co-Founder, ICANN's Non-Commercial Constituency; School of Information Studies,  Syracuse University  Moderator: <b>Scott Bradner</b>, Senior Technical Consultant, Harvard University  Co-sponsored with Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility and the Internet Democracy Project</p>
Thursday November 9, 2000	<p><b><u>RICH MEDIA, POOR DEMOCRACY</u></b></p> <p><b>Robert McChesney</b>, author, Rich Media, Poor Democracy: Communication Politics in  Dubious Times; Institute of Communications Research, University of Illinois  Moderator: <b>Christopher Lydon</b>, host, "The Connection"  Co-sponsored with authors @ MIT</p>
Thursday Feb. 8, 2001	<p><b><u>THE RISE AND FALL OF PUBLIC RADIO</u></b></p> <p><b>David Barsamian</b>, producer, "Alternative Radio"; author, Eqbal Ahmad: Confronting  the Empire and The Future of History: Interviews with Howard Zinn  Moderator: <b>Patricia-Maria Weinmann</b>, Associate Coordinator, The Technology and Culture  Forum at MIT  Co-sponsored with South End Press</p>
Tuesday Feb. 13, 2001	<p><b><u>MISSILE DEFENSE: TECHNOLOGY AND POLITICS</u></b></p> <p><b>Frances FitzGerald</b>, Pulitzer prize recipient; journalist; author, Way Out There in  the Blue: Reagan, Star Wars and the End of the Cold War  <b>Richard Garwin</b>, Philip D. Reed Senior Fellow for Science and Technology,  Council on Foreign Relations; IBM Fellow Emeritus, Thomas J. Watson Research Center  <b>Philip Morrison</b>, Institute Professor, Physics, MIT  Moderator: <b>Kosta Tsipis</b>, Director, Program in Science and Technology for International  Security, MIT</p>
Thursday April 3, 2001	<p><b><u>DIET FOR A SMALL PLANET: WHAT WE'VE LEARNED IN 30 YEARS</u></b></p> <p><b>Frances Moore Lappe</b>, co-founder, Center for Living Democracy; author,  Diet for a Small Planet  Respondents:  <b>Cesar McDowell</b>, Director, Center for Reflective Community Practice, MIT  <b>Kevin Murray</b>, Executive Director, Grassroots International  Moderator: <b>Ruth Perry</b>, Professor, Literature, MIT</p>
Tuesday April 10, 2001	<p><b><u>INSTITUTIONS vs PEOPLE: WILL THE SPECIES SELF-DESTRUCT?</u></b></p> <p><b>Noam Chomsky</b>, Institute Professor, Linguistics, MIT</p>
Wednesday April 11, 2001	<p><b><u>CAN AIDS BE STOPPED? A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE OF BOTSWANA</u></b></p> <p><b>Linda Distlerath</b>, PhD; JD; VP, Public Affairs, Merck &amp; Co., Inc.; President, Merck  Company Foundation  <b>Richard Marlink</b>, MD; Director, Harvard AIDS Institute  <b>Patson Mazonde</b>, MD; Director, Health Services, Ministry of Health, Botswana  Moderator: <b>The Rev. Jane Gould</b>, Coordinator, The Technology and Culture Forum at MIT</p>

77 Massachusetts Ave.  
MIT Building W11  
Cambridge, MA 02139



## THE TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE FORUM STEERING COMMITTEE 2000 / 2001

### The Technology and Culture Forum at MIT 2000-2001

#### STEERING COMMITTEE

**Samuel M. Allen** — *Materials Science and Engineering*

**S.W. Chisholm** — *Civil and Environmental Engineering*

**Joel Clark** — *Materials Science and Engineering*

**John Paul Clarke** — *Aeronautics and Astronautics*

**James Fay** — *Mechanical Engineering, Professor Emeritus*

**Henry Jacoby** — *Sloan School of Management*

**Jay Keyser** — *Linguistics and Philosophy;*  
*Special Assistant to the Provost*

**Jonathan King** — *Biology*

**William R. Leitch** — '56

**Robert Mann** — *Mechanical Engineering,*  
*Whitaker Professor Emeritus*

**Louis Menand, III** — *Special Assistant to the Provost Emeritus*

**Philip Morrison** — *Physics; Institute Professor Emeritus*

**Ruth Perry** — *Literature; Program in Women's Studies*

**Fleming Ray** — *Graduate Student*

**Kosta Tsipis** — *Program in Science and Technology*  
*for International Security*

#### STAFF

**The Rev. Jane Soyster Gould**, *Coordinator*

**The Rev. Amy McCreath**, *Coordinator, July 2001*

**Patricia-Maria Weinmann**, *Associate Coordinator*