

## Administration to consider housing shift East Campus, Sr. House residents would switch with Ashdown

By Jay Glass

The MIT administration, faced with growing graduate housing shortages, plans to examine a housing proposal that could affect over 1,000 undergraduates and graduate students living on campus.

Suggested by Dean of the Graduate School Kenneth R. Wadleigh, the proposal would entail moving the undergraduates now in East Campus and Senior House into Ashdown and Next House after completion of the latter in the fall of 1981. The graduates now in Ashdown would be transplanted into the east campus dormitories.

The net effect of the housing switch would be to create 190 new single graduate housing openings in the east campus, reducing the chronic shortage of housing for single graduates.

The proposal calls for the east campus to become a center of graduate life, with a renovated Walker Memorial as the focus.

Undergraduates would likewise be consolidated in the west campus. Presently, only 25 percent of the graduate student population lives on campus.

According to Wadleigh, the idea of an east campus graduate center "has been on the docket since 1957." He added, "It's a dream I've had since I became DSA in 1961." Wadleigh is presently responsible for MIT's long-range housing plans.

Three reasons were cited by several administration officials for the present reconsideration of the proposal. "Our concern about graduate housing is increasing every day," said Vice-President Constantine B. Simonides, a sentiment that was echoed by most other administrators.

Another motivation was the large financial and renovation problem of east campus dining in Walker Memorial. "The President and the Chancellor decided that it would not make sense to do the work at Walker Memorial

now," commented Simonides.

The construction of Next House was perhaps the greatest reason for reconsidering the housing shift. Given the current undergraduate overcrowding, the additional spaces opened by the completion of Next House will provide the needed "flexibility" for a cross-campus shift, according to Acting Dean for Student Affairs Robert Halfman '44. Ashdown alone could only house about two-thirds of East Campus and Senior House.

A decision on the proposal seems unlikely in the foreseeable future. "We're still miles away from a definite commitment," said Chancellor Paul Gray '54. "It's an absolutely nowhere near decided issue," agreed Associate Dean for Housing Robert Sherwood. Sherwood added the issue would be kept "on a back burner" until the new Dean for Student Affairs Shirley McBay assumes her office in April.

According to Halfman, a "task

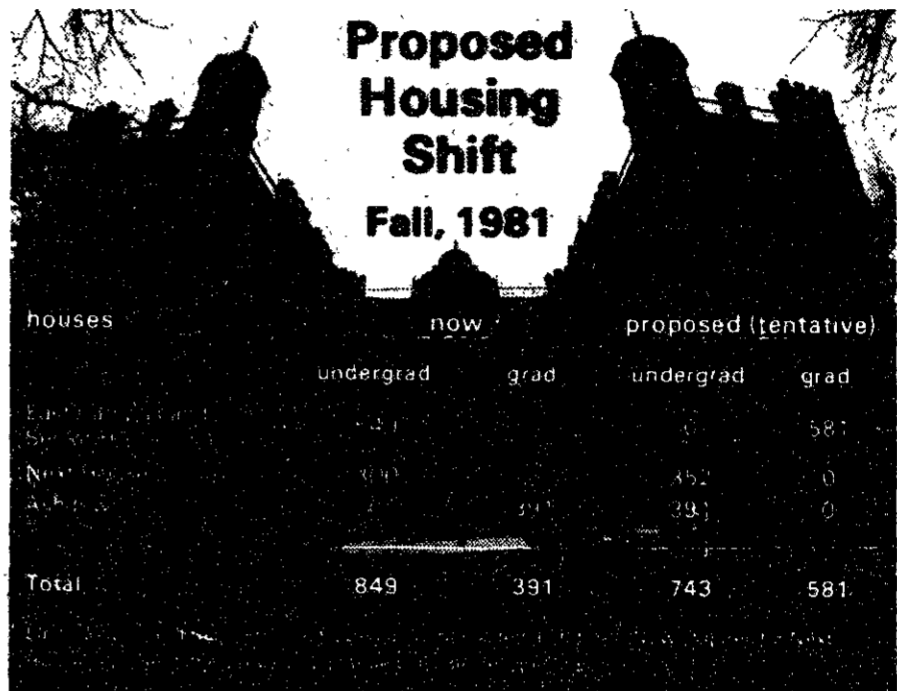


Photo by Kevin G. Osborn

force will then be formed by Wadleigh to examine the potential cost and the social impact of the shift. Sherwood assured that "we plan to bring it [the proposed shift] up with all affected student groups."

Asked about a possible timetable for approval of the shift, Simonides replied, "I cannot tell you how fast this will be done," but he added, "It may have several phases."

Halfman said also the final decision would not be made by

the administration. Citing the size of the necessary capital improvements and moving costs, he said, "The Corporation would have to approve the funds."

The proposed shift is one of the reasons Next House will be expanded to 352 beds from the previous plan of 300, mentioned by both Halfman and Sherwood. The ends of Next House will be extended to provide the additional capacity.

Changing Ashdown from a

(Please turn to page 2)

## Student budget for next year will approach \$10,000

By Steven Solnick

Next year's student budget will fall \$20 short of the \$10,000 mark, according to Director of Financial Aid Jack Frailey. The dormitory rents, a part of the budget, were set at an Undergraduate Rent Review Meeting last Friday.

The \$9980 student budget, used to calculate Financial Aid awards, was approved by the Academic Council two weeks ago but is "still under review at the moment" according to Frailey. It represents a 12 percent increase over last year's \$8900 budget.

Dormitory rents will be going up an average of 13.8 percent, according to Director of Housing and Food Services Eugene Brammer. Each dormitory was represented in the rent review, and undergraduate participants confirmed rents will be reviewed again at the end of the fall term, and a mid-year increase may be necessary if energy costs continue to skyrocket. Brammer indicated that \$124 of the average \$188 increase in rents for the academic year is due to rising utilities costs. If a mid-year increase were to occur, Frailey said, "It would perhaps entail a mid-year review of financial aid. He said he was not yet aware of such plans.

While dormitory rents will be going up nearly 14 percent, the room and board portion of the

house	rate/term (dollars)	increase from 79 - 80
Baker House	709	73
Bexley Hall	692	88
Burton-Conner	855	109
East Campus	732	93
MacGregor House	853	91
McCormick Hall	860	109
New House	815	104
Senior House	680	87
Random Hall	597	78

Note: rents may be reviewed again after fall term.

student budget is increasing only about four percent, from \$2685 to \$2800. The difference is attributable to the new dining plan under which, according to Frailey, board cost will be "heavily subsidized" by the Institute. Frailey said, "School subsidization will result in roughly no increase in board costs." Brammer concurred, explaining that, "If anything, dining costs are going down a bit" under the new dining plan.

According to the specifics of the dining plan as announced by the Chancellor, the Institute will continue to subsidize the dining service at the same level in the future. The initiation of the subsidy and the expected increase in

participation in Commons next year will more than offset the inflationary increases which would have been expected. Nevertheless, dining costs would again be expected to increase with the level of inflation after next year.

Other components of the \$9980 budget are the \$6200 tuition and a \$980 allowance for books and additional costs. According to Frailey, the \$980 books and miscellaneous allowance is "the largest in the United States," and is up from \$915 this year. Travel allowances, which are added to the \$9980 total, are also expected to go up.

Rents for Baker and MacGregor are actually rising only 11.5 and 12 percent respectively, while other dorms will cost 14.6 percent more next year. Brammer explained that this year there is a Residence Fee of \$85 for Baker and MacGregor Houses and \$50 for all other dormitories to support the Dining Service. Under the new dining program a fee of \$50 for all dormitories will be incorporated into the rent, resulting in a net \$35 savings for the two dormitories currently supporting dining halls. Brammer said the \$50 will now go to "reserve funds" to support special dining related programs encouraged by the new dining plan.

## UROP program to raise wages to \$4.50

By John Shiroma

As of June 1, 1980, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) will have a new wage guideline of \$4.50 per hour and an increased summer stipend limit of \$2,200. The permanent wage increase represents a 28 percent increase over the old \$3.50 guideline, and the summer stipend increase represents a 46 percent increase over the previous stipend level of \$1,500.

The wage and limit increases are only guidelines, however, as they apply only to those students being subsidized by UROP funds. "Students who are 100 percent supervisor-paid often receive substantially higher wages than the guidelines," stated UROP director Margaret MacVicar, professor of physics. In addition, students funded under the College Work Study Program (CWSP) are not subject to the UROP pay limits, although their total stipend is limited by the amount of CWSP money allotted to them by the Financial Aid Office.

Under CWSP, students receive 20 percent of their wages from their employer, and the other 80 percent is paid by the Federal government. The deadline to apply for CWSP eligibility is March 31.

The guideline increases are not expected to have a significant impact on UROP's actual budget, as only 20 percent of UROP students receive wages instead of academic credit. Of that 20 percent, the great majority receive their wages from their UROP supervisors, instead of from the actual UROP budget. UROP funds are only used to subsidize a student when a project supervisor cannot afford to pay 100 percent of the student's wages.

The decision to raise the wage levels came about because of a concern on the part of the UROP administration that today's often beleaguered student needed a boost. MacVicar said, "there is so much bad news out there that we wanted to be able to give the student something positive to think about. If money is going to be a problem, we want to be able to help. Every undergraduate ought to feel he has a crack at UROP." The figure of \$4.50 was arrived at after consultation

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### inside

Nightline, now in its second year of existence, provides a needed service at MIT. **Page 3.**

Despite its unusual plot, *Simon*, the new Alan Arkin movie, fails to provide solid laughs. **Page 6.**

The Boston Lyric Opera's production of Verdi's *Il Giorno* loses out to poor staging. **Page 6.**

Our fencing team exceeded all expectations by placing high in all-American competitions. **Page 8.**

## Joseph Everingham

Professor of Literature Joseph Dec Everingham, founder and Director of the MIT Drama Program, died in his sleep late last week. He was 63.

Professor Everingham came to MIT in 1954, when Kresge Auditorium was just being completed. He created the MIT Drama Program and directed the MIT Dramashop for 23 years, until the arrival of Assistant Professor Robert

Scanlon.

Although in partial retirement for the last three years, Everingham continued to direct one major production each year. He was to have held auditions for this year's show, *Man and Superman* this week. Scanlon will now direct the show after spring vacation.

A memorial service for Professor Everingham will be held Thursday, March 20, in the Chapel at 3pm.

# Walker to become Grad. center

(Continued from page 1)

graduate to an undergraduate dormitory might "free up" money for east campus renovations and for reopening of Ashdown's dining hall, said Sherwood. "It's better than Walker," he added. Asked about the possibility, if the shift occurred, of a combined room-and-board plan in Ashdown, he said, "I think so." Sherwood did not expect this to be a factor in next fall's living group selection. "Unless that [the proposed shift] were loudly yelled in their ear as they went from room to room, it would not be a major stumbling block to East Campus and Senior House's R/O." Halfman raised the prospect that many undergraduates might transfer to one of the east campus dormitories next year in order to get a space in Ashdown after the shift.

Student leaders reacted non-committally to the proposed switch. "I won't take a position yet" was the reaction of Graduate

(Please turn to page 3)

# UROP use advocated

(Continued from page 1)

after consultation with the UROP supervisors. A figure was needed that would be substantial enough to help students, but not too large as it would make it difficult for professors to pay.

UROP has grown tremendously since its inception 11 years ago, according to the UROP staff. They cited the increase in the amount of advisor-paid wages as an accurate measure of its growth. In 1969 it totalled \$73,000, and last year it totalled over half a million dollars. According to the UROP staff the growth could not have occurred without the cooperation of the departments. UROP staffer Norina McGavern called it a "benign collusion."

In a related matter, Chancellor Paul Gray has said that student employment wages will increase as well.

# news roundup

## World

**Deng to leave post** — Deng Xiaoping, China's most powerful leader, plans to give up his post as senior Deputy Prime Minister late this summer, as part of a program to install a stable team of successors. He relinquished his job as chief of staff of the Chinese Army several weeks ago.

## Nation

**Reagan deemed favorite** — Many leading Republicans say that barring some unexpected turn of events, Ronald Reagan has become the overwhelming — if not insurmountable — candidate to beat for the Republican presidential nomination. Said Senator Howard Baker, who dropped out of the race 12 days ago, "Reagan is far ahead and I don't see any forces that will stop him."

**Tax cut ruled out** — Secretary of the Treasury G. William Miller ruled out a tax cut this year, underscoring the Administration's new stress on fiscal austerity. This virtually assured another large increase in Social Security taxes would go into effect next Jan. 1 without a compensating cut in income taxes.

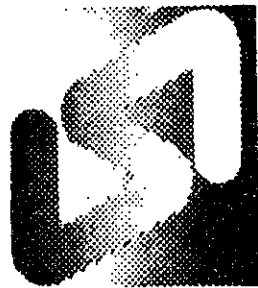
By Richard Salz

## Weather

Rain continuing this morning, heavy at times, ending this afternoon after depositing heavy rainfalls all over New England. Highs today in the middle 50's. A cold front will pass through this evening, followed by clearing skies and cooler temperatures. Lows tonight in the low 30's. Sunny and mild Wednesday with highs 46-50. Lows Wednesday night in the 30's. Chance of rain near 100 percent today, 40 percent tonight, 20 percent tomorrow.

By James Franklin

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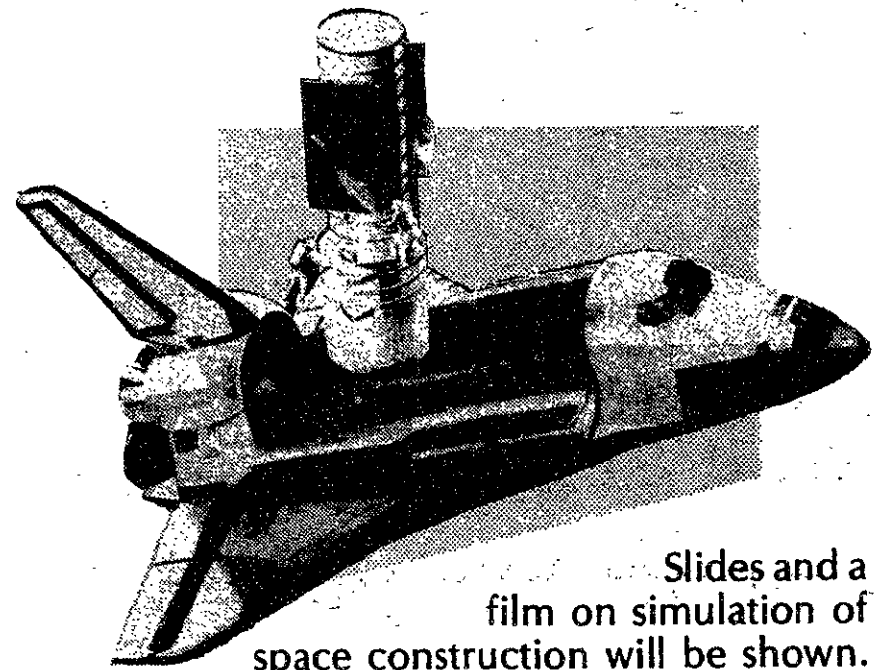
For more information contact Dean Phillips dl7378.

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# Dormitory officers all opposed to dorm switch plan

(Continued from page 2)

Student Council President Reynold Verret. Verret complained MIT was only paying "lip service" to the graduate housing problem, and comparing Ashdown to the current condition of the east campus dormitories, he maintained. "It would not be a fair switch." Dormitory Council President Dean Phillips '81, citing a lack of information, explained, "We're not going to jump the gun and make foolish moves at this point." Despite Phillip's cautiousness, east campus dormitory officers seemed almost un-

ited against the proposal. "I don't think it should happen," said Senior House Vice-President Paul Reim, '81, voicing a typical view.

Undergraduate Association President Jonathan Hakala '81 seemed nonplussed that the administration had not notified him of the proposal previously. "I find it incredible that with such a major change in the dormitory system being contemplated neither the Dormcon president nor I have yet been consulted." Halfman expected an all-west-campus undergraduate dormitory system could satisfy the varying

needs of students, saying, "When the people who weren't here when the shift was made get here, we will have sufficient variety." Halfman said also the infirmary building may be converted to an undergraduate dormitory once the infirmary is moved to Carleton Street in 1981.

Sherwood, in a related matter, mentioned that a dormitory residence limit for graduate students is now under consideration. Such a measure would tend to increase the number of dormitory openings for incoming graduate students.

## Feature

# Students offer information

By Liz Storch

The room is barely furnished; it has a couple of rickety, overstuffed sofas and a few posters on the walls. A recently-built partition with painted racing stripes brightens the place up a bit. A small clock radio plays softly in the background.

From their office in Ashdown basement, Nightline, the student-run help and information service, has been operating two telephones from 7pm to 7am for over a year. There they respond to questions ranging from "What is the LSC movie tonight?" to questions about sexuality.

Mark Childs '81, this year's coordinator for Nightline, stressed, "We don't counsel. We talk to people. We're not in the position to dispense the truth." Childs did say, however, that he might offer his own personal opinion.

All conversations are strictly confidential. Staffers are there to talk and give information, having a thorough knowledge of campus and city-wide services.

George Caan '80, a staffer since the inception of Nightline, sees it as a low-key organization. He works there because it fits in with his philosophy. "I

talk to callers just as I would talk to a friend," he explained. He and Elaine Thomas '80, another staffer, both feel Nightline provides a service that MIT sorely needs.

At present, Nightline is staffed by approximately 30 people. They receive little professional training, but consider themselves adequately trained for the job. They are striving to assemble a staff which reflects the MIT community. Currently, they have an approximately even ratio of male to female workers. So, most nights a caller may talk to either a male or a female.

At last tabulation, Nightline was receiving 1.9 calls per night. Childs feels that the number of calls has climbed since then. They receive about 7 calls per night when the service is advertised. They receive more calls asking for information than from people just wanting to talk.

Nightline is funded by the Institute, and Childs hopes to move Nightline to a facility that is more accessible to "drop-ins". He feels Nightline is a success and is optimistic about its future. They can be reached at 253-7840.

# Blood Drive raises 1760 pints

By Ivan Fong

This year's annual TCA-Red Cross Spring Blood Drive ended last Friday afternoon, with a total of 1760 pints donated by the MIT community. MIT fraternities donated 624 pints and dormitories 623 pints, the closest finish in the long-standing rivalry on record, according to Blood Drive chairman Jim Murray '82.

Murray commented he was "very pleased" with the turnout, and that there were "no major problems," even though the drive fell short of its 1900 pint goal.

"The major reason for this shortfall," said Murray, "is that four living groups were deferred because a member of the living group had contracted hepatitis. This resulted in a loss of about 100 pints."

The greatest increase came from the faculty, staff, and graduate students, reported Murray, and was a major factor in the success of the drive.

There was a five-way tie in the Interfraternity Conference contest for top donator. Phi Gamma Delta, Sigma Chi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Theta Xi, and Zeta Psi all had 100 percent participation. Delta Tau Delta won the "most

improved" category, with an increase in participation of 10 percent to 89 percent.

In the dormitory contest, East Campus 2nd East was the top donator, with full participation, beating out 1st East and Russian House, with 93 and 92 percent participation, respectively. The most improved dormitory was Burton 3, with 88 percent of its members donating.

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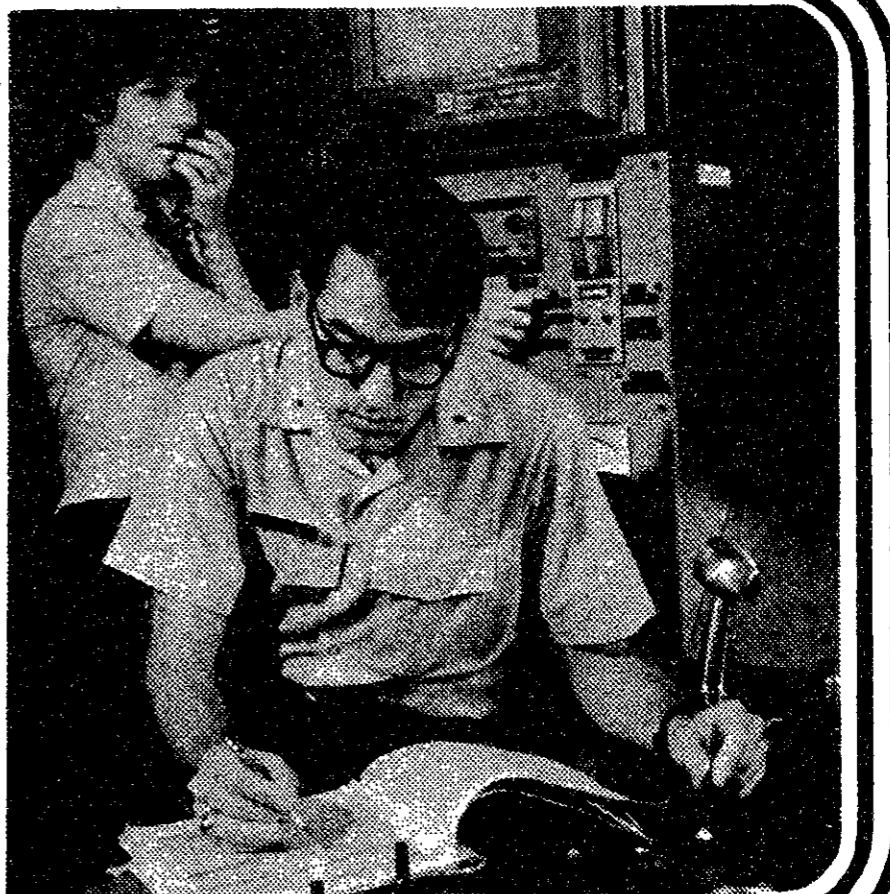
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## Editorial

**Reversing the trend**

In recent meetings with East Campus and Senior House students, Chancellor Paul Gray announced the administration's intent to examine switching East Campus and Senior House residents with those of Ashdown.

This grand opportunity to encourage student participation in decision-making gives the President-elect a chance to change the drift his administration has been taking toward isolating the student body. Such a trend, which may be as much a matter of perception as of substance, has only served to cloud the atmosphere of student-administration-faculty relations.

The dorm switch, if made, would not only affect over 1,000 students, but it would affect them in an area close to us all — our home. Because this issue is so important, it is vital students are not only requested to be involved, but that they make a real effort to become involved with the decision-making.

Because the issue is so emotion-laden, a look at some of the issues involved is in order:

- It is important for us all to remember that MIT is a community of over 15,000 people. Of these, over 8,000 are students, almost equally split among graduates and undergraduates. The switch would go a long way towards recognizing that *all* members of the community deserve an equal share of attention. Under the plan, both graduates and undergraduates would have special attention paid to their distinct needs, and each would emerge with a more consolidated share of the campus.

- More to the point, the need for additional graduate student housing can no longer be ignored and undergraduates should be sensitive to this. A limit on length of residence in the graduate dorms would go a long way toward making living spaces more accessible to new graduate students and must be considered. The ever-present need for more housing for transfer and readmitted undergrads must not be forgotten, though, as the allocation of rooms in Next House is finalized.

- Creating a graduate "mini-campus," also makes the conversion of Walker into a Graduate Student Center feasible. The Graduate Student Council has been appealing for something like this for several years. With graduates comprising almost half the student population, there can be little doubt of the need for such a center.

- If Walker were to become a graduate student center, then a new home might need to be found for the student activities currently with offices there. The set shops of the drama groups, WMBR, the Radio Society, GAMIT, the Black Student Union, and other groups primarily serving the undergraduate student body may be out-of-place in a building oriented for graduates.

- Many students would be inconvenienced by the switch. Not just the physical act of moving, but the dissolution of existing hall and floor groups would force many to start over in forming relationships. The benefits of the plan, and there are many, would need to outweigh the disruption.

- Many residents of East Campus and Senior House have claimed their lifestyle would "vanish" were they to be shifted from their present home. A lifestyle is a very nebulous thing, however, and no one can say for sure what type of architecture supports or encourages a particular lifestyle. Lifestyles change with time, in any event, and that change is not necessarily bad.

- A drawback is obvious: Ashdown was originally a hotel, and not designed to encourage interaction among undergraduates living there full-time.

On first inspection, the proposed scheme has some benefits which cannot be denied. Several areas are still much too vague, though, and leave many details to be worked out before an intelligent decision can be made. Administrators claim the plan is a long way from implementation, yet an implementation date of fall 1981 has also been cited. If both these statements are true, it is apparent a great deal of work needs to be done in a very short time. It is important that students not be forgotten in the rush, and that their input be intelligent and based on the issues.

**The Tech**

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 Volume 100, Number 12  
 Tuesday, March 18, 1980

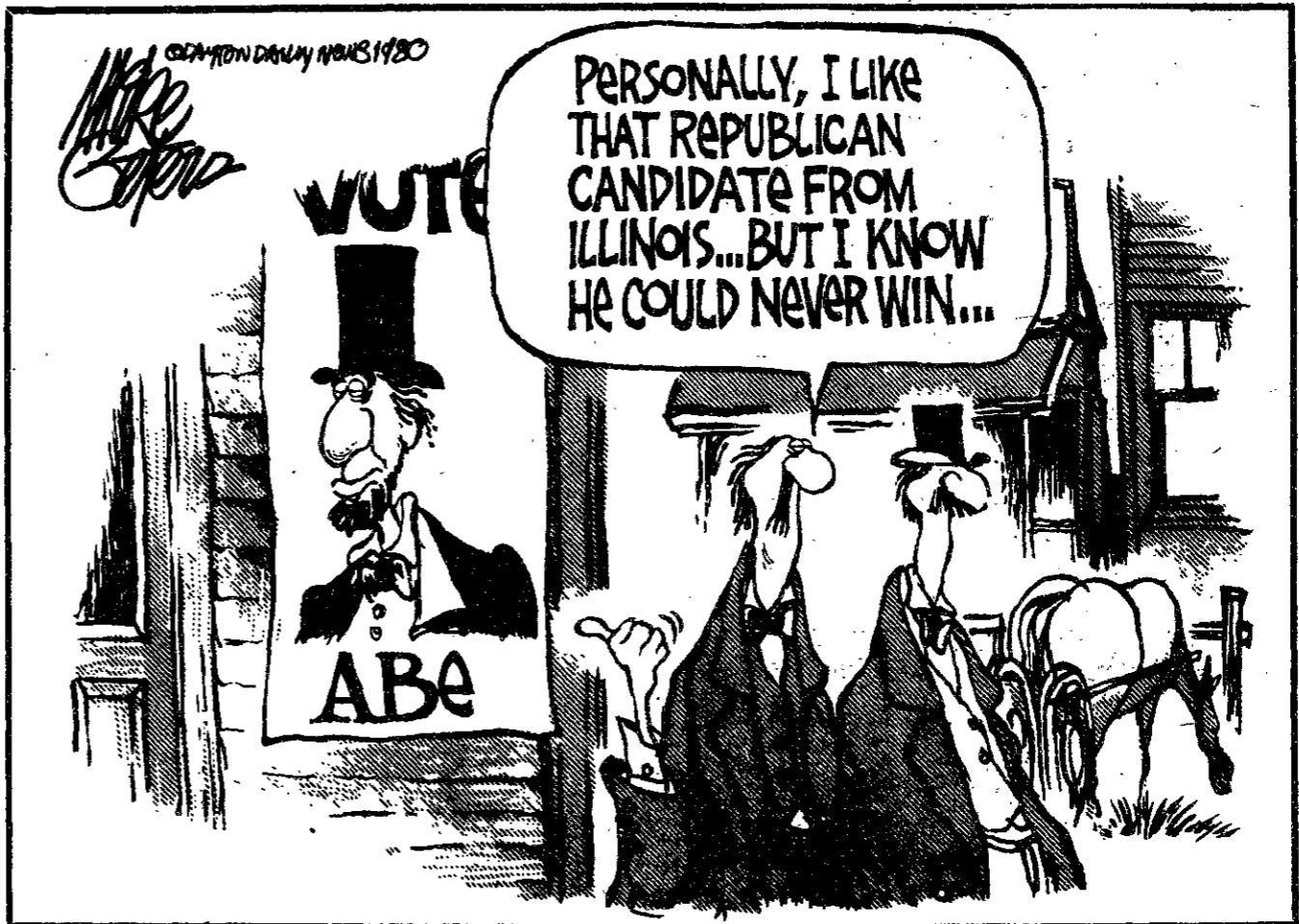
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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published twice a week during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), weekly during January, and once during the last week in July for \$7.00 per year Third Class by The Tech, 84 Massachusetts Ave. R n W20-483, Cambridge, MA 02139. Third Class postage paid at Boston, MA. Non-Profit Org. Permit No. 59720. POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139. Telephone: (617) 253-1541. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. © 1980 The Tech. Printed by Charles River Publishing, Inc.



John Molitoris

**A conjuror among scientists**

Part one of a two-part discussion of science and pseudoscience.

The short white-bearded man before me could be mistaken for Santa Claus, except he was wearing a three piece suit instead of the traditional red and white one. We sat down facing each other. He motioned for my watch and I obliged. He took it, stretching it out by the band and noted the time: seven minutes to noon. I was then instructed to hold out my hand, palm facing up. In a quick motion he turned the watch face away from me and set it face down on my palm. Getting suspicious and finally realizing what this was all about, I interrupted him and said, "You're going to advance the time?" He nodded. Expecting sleight of hand I picked up the watch and looked at it, only a few seconds had passed. Slightly embarrassed I replaced the watch in my palm.

My bearded friend now had me press it down with the index finger on my other hand. "Now let me say some mumbo-jumbo and I'll make four minutes fly by." He muttered some familiar words (ala-ka-zam, etc.), then tapped my hand and had me turn the watch over. It was about three minutes to noon.

This man did not purport to advance my watch by magic; he told me that it was sleight of hand. The thing is, even though I looked for sleight of hand, expected sleight of hand, fully aware that this was sleight of hand, I could not pick it up. Most people can't. This man was James Randi, known in professional circles as The Amazing Randi — illusionist, conjuror, prestidigitator. He does legerdemain well. He should since he has been doing it for a long time. The young Randi was an exceptionally bright fellow who became disillusioned with high school and quit before he graduated. In his own words, "I felt that they were teaching me what to think about instead of how to think." He then ran off and did something that today one only reads about: he joined the carnival.

Today Randi performs and crusades. The crusade is against charlatans who claim that there is more to magic than sleight of hand. Indeed, Randi carries a check for \$10,000 with him and a challenge to go with it. The challenge is to perform any paranormal act that he cannot dispute. If he can't spot the sleight

of hand, he will sign the check.

Randi is part of a committee organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to investigate pseudoscience and the paranormal. I met him at the AAAS meeting in San Francisco last January. He is the only member of the committee who lacks a Ph.D. (in addition to an undergraduate degree). Although he is the only man without a degree to ever address Great Britain's prestigious Royal Society, he feels that the degree has cost him credibility. Randi commented that when he spoke before the Royal Society there were a number of scientists who boycotted the meeting because he lacked the educational background. He believes that this same lack of respect troubles him in the AAAS. Randi's point is that someone trained in legerdemain can spot it better than someone who is not trained in it.

Although the main concern of the AAAS is the investigation of pseudoscience (pseudoscience is a broad term — it includes not only the paranormal but also such things as UFO's, the Loch Ness monster, etc.), there is a move in the AAAS to remove the paranormals from the organization. Some factions hold that the paranormal requires investigation; others hold that it has been investigated enough. For the moment, the investigation of the paranormal is part of the AAAS. In their own words: "Science is a complex enterprise, and cannot be described simply as a technique or a recipe for measurements." It has its points of view and standards of significance (and lack thereof), its successes and fads and failures. At the January meeting, there were a series of talks entitled: Science and Pseudoscience, which explored some aspects of science — what it is, and what it is not; how it has its pathologies; how some recurrent themes claim to be science by dressing themselves in the garb of the moment; how beliefs can be confused with science; and how the human observer can all too easily be misled.

The last point is probably the most important, how to know if you are facing the real McCoy or not (if indeed there is a real McCoy). From our training at MIT we can see that the scientist might be somewhat at a disadvantage. From our first class,

(Please turn to page 5)

"From now on anybody who lives in this dormitory has to eat commons."



GRAY'S

He loves you.  
Do what he says.

Jim Sutton 3-18-1980

# opinion

## feedback

### Chomsky misuses facts

To the Editor:

Noam Chomsky's speech at the March 4 Coalition, "United States Foreign Policy," was so ludicrously false, both philosophically and factually, that it was amazing to hear it given before a college audience. His position was that the United States has been using aggression, Soviet and otherwise, as a pretext for pursuing a jingoistic campaign of repression throughout the non-communist world. Should America, in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, send arms to Pakistan? No, said Chomsky. Weapons dispatched to that country, instead of being used for defense, might be employed against the once-rebellious Baluchis in western Pakistan.

Country A, in other words, should not send arms to mortally threatened Country B because B, instead of using them against imperialist superpower C, might use them against faction D, who, for ideological reasons, probably despises A and may actually be in league with C! How absurd! Any good people when faced with the mortal threat posed by the USSR must have arms sent to it — and immediately. Independence must take precedence over everything else.

Should the United States sell arms to Israel? No, said Chomsky. Why? Oh, well, you see, the Israelis use American weapons illegally in southern Lebanon. What's that you say? The '67 war? The one in '73? Never heard of them!

To illustrate how the United States uses aggression as a pretext for militarism and repression, Chomsky cited an article by reporter Hedrick Smith that appeared in *The New York Times* shortly after our hostages were seized on November 4th in Teheran. Policymakers, said Smith, according to Chomsky, declared that the Iranian situation would pull the U.S. out of its

post-Vietnam reticence and make it possible to carry out plans to unleash the CIA, build new missile systems, establish a ring of bases around the Indian Ocean and assemble a 100,000-man rapid deployment force.

The fact is that the Smith article, published on December 2nd, said nothing about new missile systems and reported that new bases around the Indian Ocean were, by order of Defense Secretary Brown, ruled out. Though a rapid deployment force was discussed, nowhere does Chomsky's figure of "100,000" appear. Carter's request of \$300 million for both hardware and personnel would indicate a much smaller force. "As for intelligence efforts," Smith writes, "though some members of Congress would like to see President Carter take the lead in lifting some of the legal restrictions... they appear to be a minority. Most members are still wary of lifting restrictions on the Central Intelligence Agency too far."

No Chomsky lecture, no matter how brief, is complete without at

least one quotation taken out of context. The March 4th offering was taken from a *New York Times* editorial of August 6, 1954 published after a new oil agreement between Iran and the West brought to an end four years of turmoil. The speaker quoted it from memory as follows: "This will be a lesson to underdeveloped countries with rich resources that go berserk with fanatical nationalism." What Chomsky did not say was that *Times* told the Western powers that they had lessons to learn also. The paper continued: "The West, too must study the lessons of Iran and take account — before and not after great losses have been incurred — of the great forces which now move people everywhere in Asia, Africa, and South America. Partnership, even more in the future than in the past, must be the relationship between the industrialized Western nations and some other countries less industrialized, but rich in raw materials, outside Europe and North America."

Roger Kolb

### Cancel the Senior Class Gift

To The Editor:

My residence in the MIT dorm system has been characterized by active concern for and participation in the continuing high quality of student life. I consider myself to be one of many "experts" (having been East Campus President and a Next House Planning Group member) in MIT dorm life and routine interactions with "The Administration." My disgust with "The Administration's" *modus operandi* reaches new levels each week.

I am one senior who has had enough. I find it difficult to express my rage over recent decisions by "The Administration" concerning both dining and housing. Two examples are:

(1) The adoption of a mandatory board program for dor-

mitory residents despite the persistence of overwhelming student disapproval, and

(2) The retention of the \$50 "Residence Fee" in dorm housebills to support the dining program despite the return of a mandatory board program. These are major issues; I could name many minor issues of concern to all dorms and I am sure that my peers from my Dormcon days could do the same.

In my opinion "The Administration's" actions are *intolerable*. These actions affect people who shall soon be alumni and whose stake in MIT's future is every bit as real as that of "The Administration".

"The Administration" has callously abused our friendship. It has flaunted and misused its

### Of science and pseudoscience - Wallace & Darwin

(Continued from page 4)

throughout our professional careers, we search for reality and solutions to problems in reality. We are taught where to look, and how to look. If someone can make us look where they want, we can be deceived. At times our professional prestige may even get the better of us. ("If I can't explain it away, it must be real").

Then what does a respected scientist do when he commits himself and later realizes that a mistake has been made? How can he save face and still admit the mistake? It is hard to believe that a scientist can professionally commit himself to something he does not fully understand, but look at Linus Pauling and his tenacious commitment to vitamin C. Let me finish with a more relevant commitment — one relevant to pseudoscience itself.

The name of Alfred Russel Wallace is not well known in modern biology, although in his time (the 18th century) he ranked with the likes of Darwin and Lyell. Wallace wrote a letter to

Darwin on June 18, 1858; with that letter was a manuscript describing Wallace's theory of species by natural selection. This was the very same theory that Darwin had been working on since 1839, but had never published anything on. Darwin's originality was smashed. Darwin and Wallace worked out a compromise and a presentation of the ideas of both was given at the Linnean Society of London on July 1, 1858.

There are a number of factors which have stripped Wallace of his fame, but one of them is his encounter with the phenomena of spiritualism, such as mysterious raps that answered questions in code, levitating tables, and the materialization of objects out of thin air. Wallace wrote that, "They (inexplicable phenomena) compelled me to accept them as facts, long before I could accept the spiritual explanation of them. There was at that time "no place in my fabric of thought into which it could be fitted." (A.R. Wallace, 1875). Wallace recounts one experience where a six foot sunflower appeared out of nothing and fell upon the table, still having a large mass of earth about its roots. Wallace went on to defend mediums, even in a court of law, and put his professional reputation on the line. Needless to say, he suffered.

This is just the type of "misleading" that James Randi crusades against. Perhaps in the case of the paranormal, Randi's training in the carnival rivals eight years of education in the sciences, since he does know where to look. Incidentally, the trick I opened with, plus a few more are described in the January 1978 issue of *Technology Review*.

Next: Work done at the Stanford Research Institute in the paranormal and some encounters with Uri Geller.)

power and our tolerance of that power.

As an alumnus, I would not give any money to MIT because it has hurt me personally. However, I would only hurt future students more if I did not give... and I care about future students. MIT does not!

I strongly suggest the only viable form of action possible by student leadership. I call upon the officers of the Class of 1980 to lead the student body through a symbolic act of protest: Cancel the Senior Class Gift to MIT. Use the money elsewhere, for charity or a party.

When future classes fail to give, MIT will begin to listen. Thank you.

Martin Plys '80

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## "Simon" mocks contemporary values

*Simon*, written and directed by Marshall Brickman, starring Alan Arkin and Madeline Kahn.

*Simon* opens with a short tour of a top-secret research facility somewhere in the Northeast. Five of the country's greatest minds work here, the narrator informs us, with an unlimited budget from the federal government and no questions asked. Presumably they are working to better America — but in fact, we learn, they are the ultimate hackers, a hoarde of brilliant nerds unleashed on a dumb, unsuspecting American public. One has developed a device to screw up the Nielsen ratings so that *Donny and Marie* remains on the air indefinitely. Another is attempting to make men sexually attracted to cockroaches in-



Prudently covered with symbols from the major religions, Alan Arkin, who portrays Simon, appears to be ready for anything, instead of women — to create a new species of roach/humans. A third spends his time developing new viral forms of venereal disease. Their latest "practical joke" is to brainwash a college professor named Simon Mendelssohn (Alan Arkin) into believing he is an extraterrestrial, then sit back and take notes when they make their "space invader" known to the public.

This is a pretty good premise for a satire

or farce, and writer/director Marshall Brickman (he collaborated with Woody Allen to write *Annie Hall* and *Manhattan*) brings a good number of devilish ideas to this, his first film. He also has a cast of first-rate comic actors working for him. So why does *Simon* fall flat? Well, a comedy is more than just jokes, the same way a soufflé is more than just eggs. *Simon* lacks proper pacing, never builds to any extraordinarily manic or spontaneous sequences, and, worst of all, at bottom seems neither satiric, pessimistic, nor optimistic — just heartless.

Once the very funny premise is established, the film begins to lose its grip on our laughter and imagination. Simon is brainwashed by immersion in a darkened, water-filled "sensory deprivation tank" for a numbing 200 hours — enough to "turn his neurons into tapioca," as his seductive (and traitorous) assistant Cynthia (Madeline Kahn) explains. When he is eventually released from the tank, Simon has "de-evolved" back into plankton or some such prehistoric protist, and must re-evolve through a marvelously inventive pantomime (which, unfortunately, includes the inevitable parody of 2001). Once returned to the stage of *Homo sapiens*, it is easy for the dastardly eggheads to implant memories in Simon's mind of an alien mother, who describes him as being built "something like a toaster" before abandoning him at an orphanage doorstep and flying away in her glowing spaceship. Convinced he is indeed an extraterrestrial, Simon begins to develop a messiah complex.

Okay. Comic situation finally set up. But the development goes nowhere. Simon's girlfriend back at college (Judy Graubart, from *The Electric Company*) realizes it's up to her to rescue the nut before his hosts grow tired of the joke and decide to have him liquidated. From here on the film seems alternately reminiscent of *Sleeper* and *Network* as our two heroes escape through a futuristic landscape with a remote video hookup so that Simon can

terrorize the airwaves with his pronouncements (banning such things as Muzak in elevators and the phrase "get centered"), and get involved with a commune that worships the television set (at their services they read TV Guide instead of the Bible: "And Mary begat Rhoda who spun off Phyllis who spun off Lou..."). The space shuttle and the National Guard even make cameo appearances before everything finally settles down.

And when everything does settle down, we realize *Simon* has done nothing but

same gumwrapper mentality he carps at so thoroughly in his film.

Yet I hope Brickman keeps making movies. He's got a lot to learn, both about writing a film and directing it. Brickman has little sense of cinema; his instinct seems to be to line up the actors in front of the camera and send them through their paces. (This is often Woody Allen's technique, but Allen usually has somebody like Gordon Willis to bail him out with vistas of Manhattan.) But he can only get better, and I'd say he has a lot of potential.



Convinced that he is really a visitor from another planet, Simon, who is portrayed by Alan Arkin, gets ready to start making lofty pronouncements on the quality of modern-day American life.

make us giggle occasionally. Unlike *Annie Hall* or *Manhattan* or even *Sleeper*, *Simon* offers no emotional stakes to give its comic claims any sincerity. Simon, his girlfriend, and the researchers are cut-out caricatures for Brickman to throw his comic pies at. He develops no sympathy for his characters, not even the victimized Simon; we never find ourselves rooting for anyone in this movie. And when Simon suddenly wreaks an abrupt, final revenge on the head scientist, the film reaches its most unpleasant and unfunny moment, and the facile epilogue that follows does little to dispel the bitter taste. In the end, with his cheap character motivations and superficial satire, Brickman seems to espouse the

There's certainly plenty to amuse you in *Simon*, whether you know a nerd, are a nerd; or just worry a lot about government conspiracy. I especially liked Doris, the researcher's computer, who looks just like a giant touch telephone, is sexually excited by the buttons on her control panel ("Don't touch me there!") and finds a perverse pleasure in retrieving information from her memory banks (Yes... it's there... I can... feel it... it's... it's... coming...")

So if you've got four dollars you don't know what to do with, go see *Simon*. Or you could save your money and wait till LSC gets it.

Thomas Garvey

## Boston Lyric Opera presents Verdi comedy

The Boston Lyric Opera Company returns with its first production in three years, Verdi's early comedy *King for a Day*, directed by John Haber and conducted by John Balme, on March 13 and 16.

A company is reborn... After three years of hibernation, the Boston Lyric Opera Company under the steam of its new musical director John Balme. The first production of its new life is Verdi's *Il Giorno di Regno*, translated for production in English as *King for a Day*. *Il Giorno*, one of Verdi's earlier operas, is seldom heard anywhere. Despite its absurd story, it is a delightful farce of disguise, intrigue and love. The music demonstrates the essence of Verdi's skill of creating sound that is catching to both the ears and the emotions. A key-note to this production is the excellence of the orchestral playing under Balme, which is taut and well-balanced the evening through, being central to the performance without encroaching on the singers.

Robert Honeysucker sings the Chevalier Belfiore, who is pretending to be King of Poland. A mighty, flexible voice and strong personality make his the central role. J. Scott Brumit, as the Treasurer, who is due to marry Gioletta who, of course, really loves Edouardo, also establishes a strident but endearing personality. There is an innocent glee in Brumit's performance which, coupled with vivid movement and

expressive voice, is responsible to a large extent for giving the evening life and fun. Baron Kelbar, sung by Keith Kibler, is keen for his daughter to marry the Treasurer. We were left in no doubt as to Edouardo's love for Gioletta in a rendition that fully utilized the lyricism of the music. Valerie Walters sang Gioletta with feeling, although she lacked power. Susan Larson as the Marchesa, the young widowed niece of Baron Kelbar, who is due to marry the geriatric Count Ivrea but really wants to marry Belfiore, was magnificent. Beautiful

voice and well-studied action made the Marchesa into a great personage. She is the only real character in the opera, and Larson gave her warmth as well as humor, the prototype of a great Verdi role.

Given the number of high-quality individual performances, it is a real shame that John Haber's stage production was so boring. It seems he maintained the convention that, so long as the singers sang, nothing else mattered, and it trapped the action in a vacuum. Although some principal singers did succeed in establishing

identities, much of the singing was accompanied by spurious holding out arms or putting hands over heart, actions which real people do not produce. The result is an impression of a static and false environment. To attract young audiences to opera, and to stimulate older ones, the reborn company must be adventurous and strive to find more exciting ways to perform. *King for a Day* indicates a good start, but the danger of taking the obvious and undemanding route must be resisted.

Jonathan Richmond

### ON THE TOWN

#### MIT

MIT Chapel Concert; Mark Kroll, harpsichord, will play an all-Bach recital, March 20, MIT Chapel, noon, free.

A public exhibition of recent works in welded steel by the sculptor George Greenamyre is on display at MIT's Center for Advanced Visual Studies (40 Mass. Ave.) through March 28. Gallery hours are 10-4, Mon. - Fri. Admission is free.

#### THEATER

Gemini, Broadway's longest-running comedy, is having its Boston premiere at the Charles Playhouse, 76 Warrenton St.,

Boston. Performances Tuesday-Sunday. Tickets are \$9.50-12.95. For reservations, call 426-6912.

Hasty Pudding Theatricals is proud to present its 132nd annual production, *A Little Knife Music*, a Victorian tale of love, lust, revenge, murder: all the little things that make life worthwhile (and short.) The show runs through March 19 at the Hasty Pudding Clubhouse, 12 Holyoke St., Cambridge. For ticket information, call 495-5205.

The New Hampshire Mime Company will perform *Corporeal Mime* on March 20, 1980 at 8pm at Wheelock College Auditorium, 180 The Riverway, Boston.

Tickets are \$4 and may be purchased at the door. Call 734-5200 for information.

#### MUSIC

Harpsichordist John Gibbons will perform the *Italian Concerto* and *French Overture* from Bach's *Clavier-Übung, Teil II* at the Museum of Fine Arts at 7pm on March 18. Tickets \$5, \$3 for students. For information, call 267-9300, ext. 340.

The John Oliver Chorale will present a program featuring works by Sessions, Britten and Stravinsky at 3pm, Sunday, March 23 at The First Church in Cambridge Congregational, 11 Garden St. Tickets \$7, \$5, and \$3 by mail, at Bostix, or at the door.

## AWARDS NOMINATIONS

### Stewart Awards

The William L. Stewart Awards are given to students in recognition of a single, outstanding contribution to a particular activity or event.

Send nominations to the Awards Committee, Room W20-345.

### Compton Awards

The Karl Taylor Compton Awards are the highest awards given to students by the Institute community and reflect the belief that real excellence and devotion to the welfare of the MIT community in any area, with emphasis on lasting or sustained contributions to the MIT community as a whole, should be recognized.

### Murphy Award

The James N. Murphy Award is given to an Institute employee whose spirit and loyalty exemplify inspired and dedicated service, especially with regard to students.

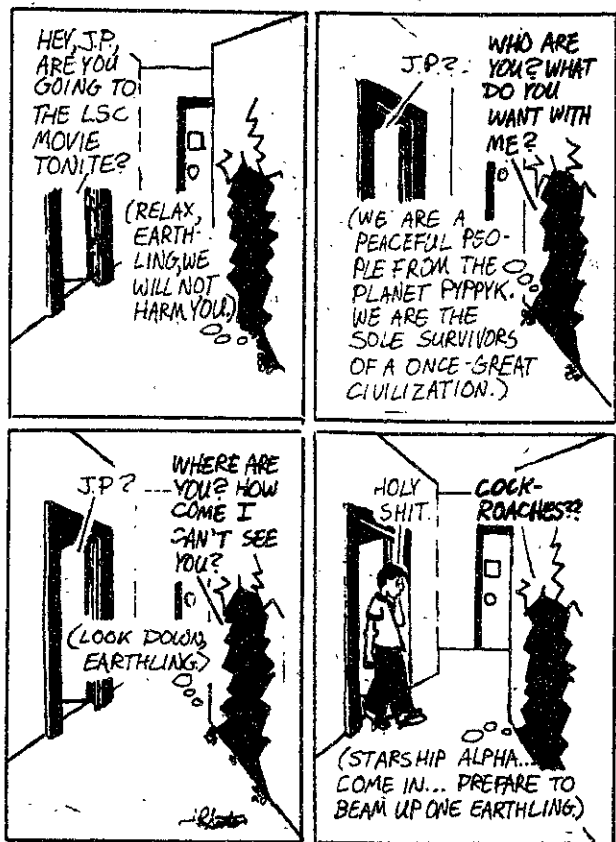
DEADLINE DATE: APRIL 11

# comics

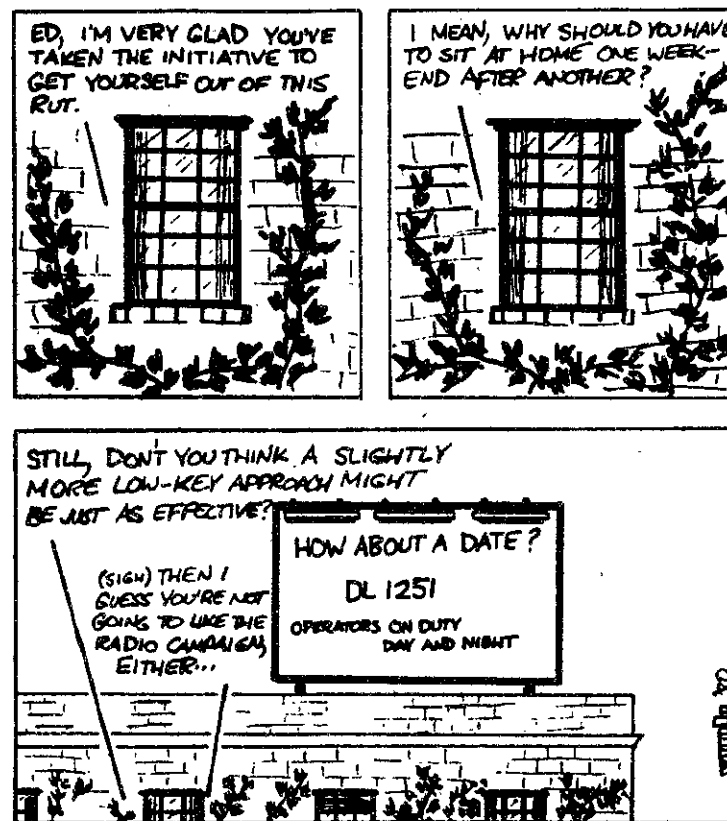
Dybosphere  
By Appleman,  
Plotkin, and Bradley



Sick Puppies  
By Jim Sutton



Outside Looking In  
By V. Michael Bove



Stickles  
By Geoff Baskir



# Undergraduate

\*\*\*\*\* Association \*\*\*\*\*

# & Class Officer

elections will be held

# Wednesday, April 16.

\*\*\*\*\*

Election forms will be available in  
**W20-401 on Monday, March 17.**

Questions? Call x3-2696

# MIT Fencing Team Takes Third in Nation

## Two Fencers Named all-Americans

By Rich Auchus

In a fitting climax to an outstanding season, the MIT fencing trio of George Gonzalez-Rivas '80 in sabre, Geoffrey Pingree '81 in epee, and Eric deBeus '82 in foil finished third in the NCAA Championships this weekend at Pennsylvania State University. Wayne State retained the title with 111 points, and Penn tied MIT with 106 points; however, Penn gained second place on touches. This was the highest finish ever in the NCAA's for MIT fencing.

Gonzalez-Rivas, the team captain, took third place in sabre, going 18-5, and thus earned the title of all-American in this weapon. deBeus gained the all-American title in foil with a sixth place finish, and Pingree placed 10th in epee.

Rivas' accomplishments are truly remarkable, considering that he never saw a fencing match before he came to MIT. In fact, Gonzalez-Rivas was a member of the pistol team during his freshman year.

"I took a physical education class in fencing and won the class tournament," he recalls. "Silvio Vitale [former MIT coach] suggested I go out for the team, so I called Eric Sollee second semester my sophomore year and showed up for practice.

"Eric had me doing lunges for a couple of months, then gave me a foil and started me on a lesson. After watching a bout, he and Mark Smith '78 [former MIT all-American and now a member of the US Olympic squad] decided sabre was the best weapon for me.

"I fell in love with fencing and started working out four to five hours a day. I'm always thinking fencing because there's a lot to know. If anything, I'm always mentally prepared when I fence."

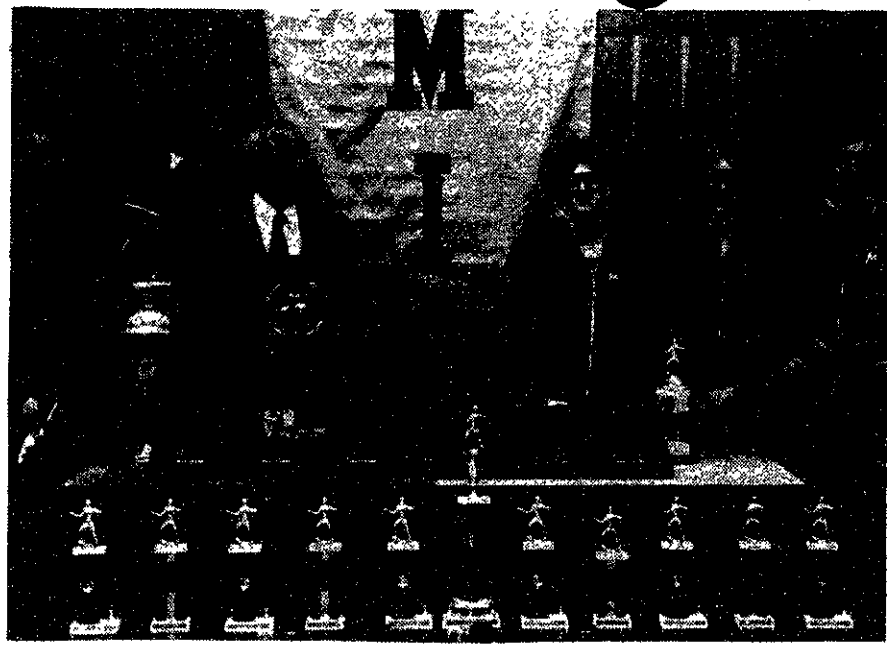
Rivas's going from phys-ed tournament champ to third in the nation in less than four years is truly one of the most remarkable achievements that MIT sports has ever seen.

deBeus, in fact, is the only fencer of the trio who fenced in high school. Pingree's interest in fencing began when he took a fencing course at the YMCA during high school. He met Sollee at the athletic midway during his freshman R/O week, and he decided to come out for the team.

Pingree earned "A" classification at an AFLA tournament earlier this year. "It was there that I really felt my game coming together." After winning the IFA

epee corwn and placing in the nation's top 10 in epee, he adds, "There's always more to learn," and he has another season to learn more and to do even better.

Though any coach would hate to lose a fencer like Gonzalez-Rivas to graduation, MIT will field another fine team next season. deBeus and Pingree will be back, and the back-up fencers from this season have the savvy to go for the top like Gonzalez-Rivas did. Since most of MIT's fencers are "home-grown," that is, recruited from phys-ed classes, there is no reason to doubt that MIT will continue to produce top-caliber fencers with great desire and ambition. As coach Eric Sollee so aptly put it, "The Tech fencer delivers."



(left to right) NCAA Fencing Coach of the Year Eric Sollee, Director of Athletics Ross Smith, Geoff Pingree '81, Eric deBeus, and George Gonzalez-Rivas with the awards the MIT fencing team has won this year. Photo by Kevin Osborn.

## Sollee Coach of the Year

By Bob Host

MIT fencing coach Eric Sollee was named the National Fencing Coach of the Year at the conclusion of this weekend's NCAA Fencing Championships held at Penn State University, in which MIT finished third.

Sollee termed the vote by his fellow coaches "a complete surprise" and noted that usually the award goes to the host school or the winning school's coach. He was quick to point out, however, that the feeling by some that MIT's third place finish out of 50 teams was a complete surprise was "not true." As examples, the coach mentioned foil specialist Eric deBeus '82, who was named all-American; deBeus finished 15th in last year's NCAA tournament. He added that George Gonzalez-Rivas '80, who was on this year's first team all-American squad, was last year's New England champion. However, Sollee conceded that epee specialist Geoff Pingree '81 "came out of nowhere" to finish second in New England, win the

Easterns, and finish 10th in this year's Nationals, one place shy of receiving an honorable mention for the all-American squad.

"MIT fencing has been improving," Sollee said, emphasizing that the Engineers do no recruiting, noting that the championship team, Wayne State, recruited from abroad. He was not surprised that the team finished third, but did not expect a first team all-American, although he mentioned that Gonzalez-Rivas "fenced like a demon."

Sollee generally did not credit himself for the team's performance, saying that it was the fencer on the strip who did all the work. However, in looking back over his "most successful team" and looking forward to next year's squad, in which there will be a "very strong foil team," in addition to a strong epee team, Sollee noted that with new fencers taking over for the top two men in sabre, more trophies may be forthcoming.

## Klincewicz all-American

By Rich Auchus

At the AIAW Division III Championships this weekend, Karen Klincewicz '82 earned all-American status in four events; she is the first woman in MIT history to achieve all-American honors in swimming. Klincewicz captured sixth place in the 400-yd individual medley with a new MIT record time of 4:48.6 and finished ninth in the 200-yard individual medley. She also placed 10th and 12th, respectively, in the 200- and 100-yard butterfly events.

In the first women's national swimming championships in which more than one person represented MIT, the Engineers finished near the middle of about

50 teams. Seniors Sheila Konecke, Karen Fabricius, and Marh Krull closed out their MIT careers, and Laura Gooch '82 gained an experience which will undoubtedly improve her performance next season.

Coach John Benedick expressed great satisfaction about the successful conclusion of the women's season. "Our major goal this year was to qualify for the nationals... just to participate was a tremendous honor." Indeed the women swimmers have accomplished more than they had anticipated and have given another boost to the growing women's swimming program at MIT.

**Translators**  
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## UA NEWS

### Beaver Shirts Are Back!

Once again, the Senior Class is selling their Beaver Shirts in Lobby 10. A short-sleeved polyester and cotton sport shirt; the Beaver Shirt is ideal for spring-time wear. At only \$9.95, it is much less expensive than similar shirts in stores. The sale will end on March 21, 1980.

### Senior Class Solicitors

In preparation for the two week Senior Pledge Program, scheduled for mid-April, the Pledge Program Chairman and Coordinators are recruiting solicitors. Each solicitor will visit about ten fellow seniors, explain the MIT Alumni Fund to them, and ask that they make a pledge. We are in most urgent need of people to visit seniors who live in apartments. If you would like to serve in the Senior Pledge Program, please call Chuck Irwin, Program Chairman, at 536-0534.

**It's Your Vision.**

Hear the real facts about contact lenses on a recorded message.

Call

547-3215

7 p.m.-midnight, Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat., or all day on Sunday. No cost or obligation.

## 1980 Summer College Work-Study Program

There will be a College Work-Study Program during the coming summer. Work-Study funds may be used to subsidize employment in *sponsored research* at MIT or in positions *off-campus* with public and private non-profit organizations. Details on the program and Request for Participation forms are available at the Student Financial Aid Office, 5-119.

Deadline for applications is March 31.

Announcements of eligibility will be made on April 11.

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