

Five profs form DNA firm

By Ivan Fong and
Jerri-Lynn Scofield

Five prominent MIT and Harvard professors have founded a subsidiary of the Damon Corporation to pursue the commercial development of biotechnological research.

The subsidiary, Damon Biotech, Incorporated, will concentrate on research and development of many biotechnological techniques, including those of recombinant DNA, tissue cultures, and Damon's proprietary microencapsulation processes. These techniques may be employed to produce interferon, vaccines, and monoclonal antibodies, as well as other biological products.

The MIT professors who are members of the Science Board of Damon Biotech are Herman N. Eisen of the Center for Cancer Research, Harvey F. Loeish of the Department of Biology, and George M. Whitesides of the Department of Chemistry. Harvard Professors Howard Green of the Medical School's Department of Physiology and Irving M. London of the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences are also board members. Jerome B. Wiesner, Institute Professor and President Emeritus, had already been a Director of the parent corporation.

The five professors were selected "because of their broad-based specialties," said Gary Mansur of the Damon Corporation. "They will act as key advisors/consultants/directors in their respective disciplines," he continued. "The institutions are

totally at arm's-length, however," Mansur noted, in reference to any possible patent conflicts between the universities and the firm.

Institute officials see no conflict of interest between the professors' academic responsibilities and their newly-assumed commercial ones. Of the five professors, only Green was available for comment at press time, and he referred all questions to Mansur.

"I don't see that the area itself defines any conflict," noted James L. Kinsey, head of the MIT Department of Chemistry. Robert M. Byers, Director of the MIT News Office, confirmed this, saying there is no conflict of interest inherent in the situation.

"The forming of firms by

professors is a time-honored practice," noted Kimball Valentine, Jr., one of MIT's attorneys. "I don't see any conflict of interest in forming a company in one's own field of speciality."

The Damon Corporation is currently engaged in a number of joint research efforts with scientists at MIT, Harvard, the Medical College of Virginia, the Rockefeller Institute, Connaught Research Institute of Canada, and the National Cancer Institute.

"There has been no money invested by the five [scientists]," Mansur explained. "The five will receive equity positions. . . . When the company is financed, they, as founders, will receive something for it."



Institute President Emeritus Jerome B. Wiesner is a director of Damon Corporation. (The Tech file photo)

Bulletin boards are vandalized

By Frank Hrach

Several instances of vandalism of bulletin boards in the Institute have been brought to the attention of the MIT Human Relations Board and the Dean for Student Affairs Office. The Zionist Alliance bulletin board and the Mexican-American Student Association (MASA) bulletin board were both vandalized on March 18 between 7:30pm and 10:30pm. Both of these bulletin boards are located in the "Infinite Corridor."

Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert Randolph said, "It tends to be the minority groups' bulletin boards that are vandalized," and added, "People are only concerned about this kind of thing when it's their bulletin board that is vandalized."

Jeremy Barkan '81, a member of the Institute Human Relations Board as well as the Zionist Alliance, said, "A number of problems have come in succession this term." He mentioned the vandalism of bulletin boards, the defacing of Hillel posters, the Pi Lambda Phi incident, and the defacing of a Martin Luther King poster as examples and added, "This shows that this is not just a

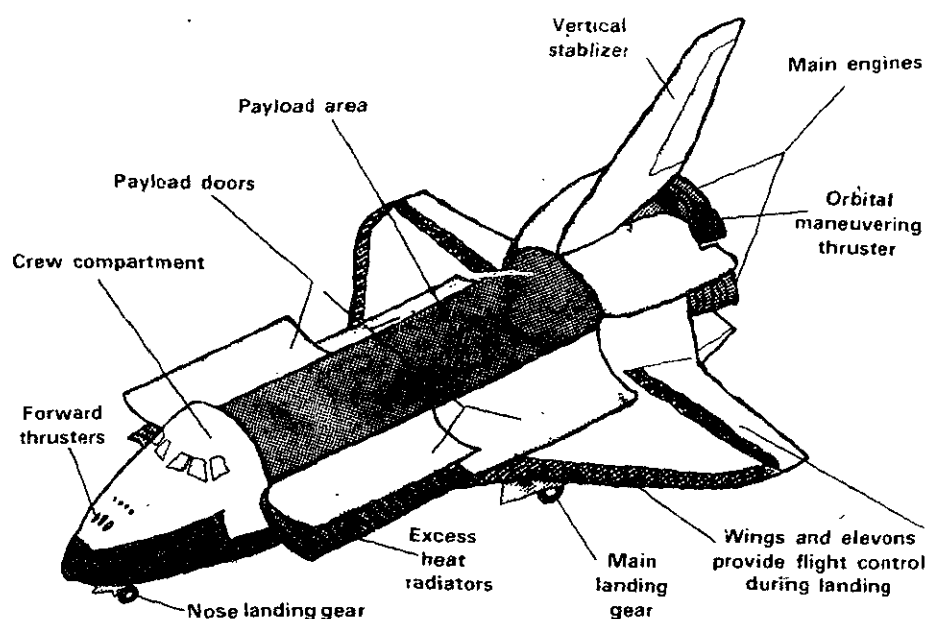
few isolated instances." Barkan said that the Human Relations Board intends to draft a statement next week to be published in *The Tech* which will "show that the Institute in no way condones this kind of activity."

Barkan hoped that other groups such as Gays at MIT (GAMIT), Hillel, and MASA will help the Human Relations Board draft this statement, but he was concerned that "we're not getting input from the student body."

Randolph commented, "We're really interested in raising the consciousness of the community and having a community response rather than a Dean's Office response."

According to Randolph, the bulletin boards are located in well-traveled areas around MIT, and "students see whoever does these things." He was encouraged by a few instances in which students kept vandals from destroying MIT property.

"The issue is clear," according to Randolph. "Do we want this kind of community?" He answered "no" and then said, "The question is: what can the individual do about it?"



(Graphic by Robert W. Leishman)

Feature

Shuttle set to launch today

By Jack Link

Launch countdown continued on schedule early this morning toward the first orbital flight test of the space shuttle (STS-1), with lift-off scheduled for 6:50am from Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, Florida with astronauts John W. Young and Robert C. Crippen aboard.

The launch window will be open until 12:50pm. In the event of a hold greater than six hours due to unfavorable weather conditions or technical difficulties this morning, the launch would be delayed two days.

The nation's first reusable Space Transporter System, the 4.5 million lb. STS-1 at launch consists of the orbiter Columbia strapped vertically to two solid fuel rocket boosters and an expendable fuel tank.

The astronauts aboard Columbia are expected to complete 36 orbits before making a 225 MPH dead-stick landing on a dry lakebed Sunday afternoon at Edwards AFB, California, 54½ hours after launch and twenty years to the day since USSR cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man to orbit the earth.

Shuttle commander Young, age 51, is a nineteen year veteran of the space program. STS-1 will be his fifth space flight. Young flew Gemini 3 and 10, orbited the moon in Apollo 10, and walked on it as commander of Apollo 16. He is one of the three Apollo era astronauts still on active status.

Shuttle pilot Crippen, age 44, like most of the current astronaut corps has never flown in space before. He was selected as an

(Please turn to page 5)

GSC presents demands

By Nicholas Rowe

The Graduate Student Council (GSC), concerned with the issues of housing, tuition, and financial aid among MIT graduate students, presented three resolutions regarding these issues to the Executive Committee of the Corporation on April 3.

In remarks made before the Corporation, GSC President Sharon H. Lee G said, "You may not know how dismal it is to see new students who can't find housing or to see our colleagues who have been here a semester or two leave for financial reasons. Or to see talented students with the same aspirations we have turned down MIT because they cannot

afford to attend."

The GSC, a representative body of delegates from each of the graduate departments, living groups, and international student organizations, also issued a unanimously supported statement regarding graduate housing.

The GSC's Executive Committee and standing committees on Housing and Community Affairs and Academic Projects and Policy have been pursuing these issues since last year, and after meeting with various Institute bodies and related offices, proposed the three resolutions and the statement on housing. They were passed unanimously by the full GSC body in meetings on January and

February of 1980.

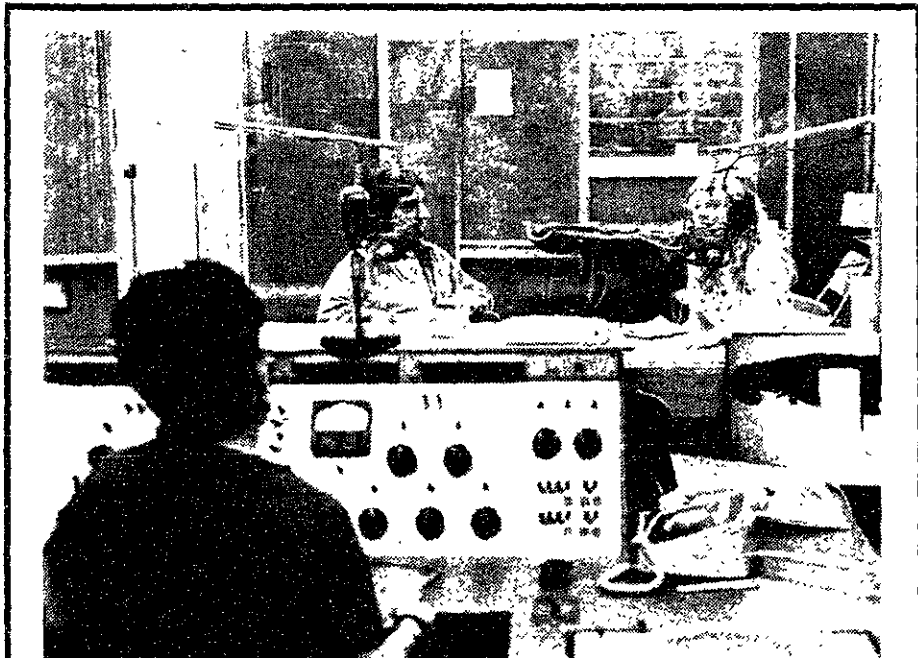
Lee, along with George Huffman G, Chairman of the Committee on Housing and Community Affairs, and Linda Laatsch G, made the following recommendations in the meeting:

"Graduate students need to be recognized as a distinct group with separate needs for scholarship funds and financial aid.

"That graduate students take part in discussions with the Administration throughout the tuition rate setting process.

"That a designee be appointed by the President to accurately define the consequences of the possible problems related to increasing tuition, housing and other costs." In a telephone interview, Lee also said that adequate data have not been obtained to estimate the impact on the student body.

The statement on housing said that "Simply put, there is not enough graduate housing at MIT." It further mentioned that MIT graduate student growth, off-campus housing reduction, and the lack of new graduate housing since 1972 have created grave problems concerning housing. There were some suggestions for possible solutions, including the acquisition of living space by buying, building, or renovating old non-residential buildings, or as one of a few short term solutions, the creation of a graduate section at 500 Memorial Drive.



WMBR prepares to celebrate its 20th anniversary as an FM station with a retrospective featuring highlights from past radio shows. (photo by Steve Cohen)

Another probation for Pi Lam

By Stephanie Pollack

Pi Lambda Phi has been placed on probation until April 1, 1982, by the Interfraternity Conference Judicial Committee (IFC JudComm) for events which occurred during initiation in February.

An open letter from JudComm to the MIT community [see text, page 4] called the probation a "corrective," rather than a "punitive," measure. During the period of probation, the JudComm Chairman will review the "rush program, pledge education

activities, ... [and] initiation practices outside of the house."

JudComm Chairman Chip Hance '81 said that the IFC "saw [the incident] as a pretty serious situation and felt that it reflected poorly on the fraternities." Hance thought that the probation would "focus the IFC's attention on Pi Lam," allowing the other "houses to offer what little experience" they had to assist Pi Lam.

Pi Lam President Jay Napoleon '81 declined comment, saying he had "nothing to add."

The JudComm action was prompted by Pi Lam initiation activities including the placement of five goat's heads around the Institute and the staging of a mock anti-gay rally in Harvard Square. The IFC letter stated that "the IFC does not condone PLP's actions and recognizes them as a serious disregard for the feelings of others and a serious misunderstanding of the lifestyles of others."

JudComm actions are usually confidential, but this decision was made public to demonstrate IFC's concern and "enlighten our living groups and the entire community," according to the letter, which was dated March 30. Pi Lam had one week to appeal the decision, but declined to do so.

Hance characterized the situation as "a mistake and an isolated incident," noting that fraternity hazing has diminished during the last ten years. Hance said that "this decrease was responsible for 'the return to fraternities nationwide' which has occurred in the last five years.

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Housing tight until 1985

By Barry S. Surman

In his recent address to the faculty, President Paul E. Gray '54 affirmed that MIT housing policy calls for "guaranteed housing for eight terms for all students who enter as freshmen, as well as housing for transfer students and for students readmitted after leaves of absence or time away." Gray and others admit, however, that the policy is not likely to be fully implemented until 1985.

"There is," said Gray, "no room for transfer students or for readmitted students, and the Institute houses this past fall were extraordinarily crowded."

The burden of inadequate housing space for undergraduates will be borne by transfer and readmitted students until the problem is solved. "Next year, 90 out of 125 [transfer students] will be able to get into the dormitory system, in addition to 80 readmitted students," said Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood, Head of Residence Programs.

"Transfer and readmitted students will be guaranteed only one year of campus housing until there is room enough in the dormitories to provide for them on the same basis as for all other students," said Gray. The administration is hoping that decreasing the freshman class size to 1000 in the next three years will alleviate the overcrowding.

Sherwood views the role of his office in the coming years in assisting transfer and readmitted students as two-fold — to "provide housing as a transition" for one year, and to "help [students] to find off-campus housing."

Another housing issue addressed by Gray was how MIT will provide sufficient housing for the increasing numbers of women students. According to Sherwood, the new dormitory at 500 Memorial Drive will be composed of at least one section of single-sex living area for women and as much coeducational space as demand may dictate.

The response of upperclassmen wishing to move to 500 Memorial Drive has pleased Sherwood. "Ninety-one students have signed up to move in ... 62 in groups and 29 individuals. We're trying to work out an equitable room assignments policy for groups and individuals." He noted that Dormitory Council officers and other interested upperclassmen are establishing that policy and writing a house constitution.

Housing for graduate students is seen by the administration as an important concern in the coming years as well. Graduate students

"are being forced to move further and further away from campus because of the spiralling rents and condominium conversions in the Boston area," said Gray.

Professor Arthur C. Smith, Chairman of the Faculty Committee on Student Affairs (CSA) commented, "Our concern is that the Cambridge housing market is likely to dry up and the Boston housing market is going to dry (please turn to page 3)

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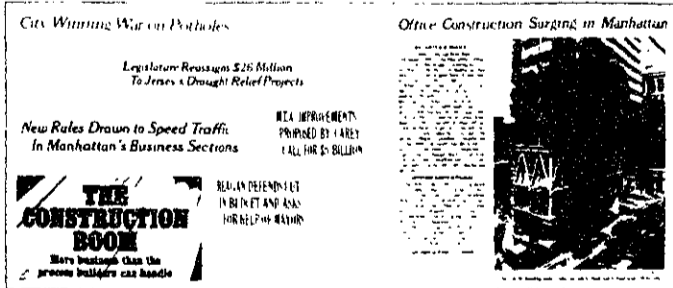
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NASA budget cut 10 percent

By Tom Lored

At the expense of many long-range scientific projects, NASA is keeping the budget for the Space Shuttle virtually intact despite a \$604 million budget cut from the Reagan Administration.

"The overall NASA budget has been cut ten percent from Carter's Fiscal Year 1982 budget, explained Professor Joseph H. Binsack, Assistant Director of MIT's Center for Space Research. "The shuttle program has escaped unharmed... [the budget reductions] are devastating to the planetary science people."

According to Professor Herbert S. Bridge, Director of the MIT Center for Space Research, the Carter Administration's NASA budget for 1982 included a "healthy increase for science." The Reagan Administration, however, cut this budget by \$604 million, directing NASA officials not to allow the cut to slow production of the shuttle. As a result, almost the entire cut has been absorbed by science programs, causing a 20 percent cut in NASA's 1982 science program.

The resulting concentration of budget cuts in science will affect research, notably at MIT. Bridge noted that the cuts do not hit MIT's short range programs drastically but that "building for the future is affected very seriously." In particular, he said that the cuts "affect the planetary program very seriously."

The new NASA budget has cut and delayed the development of the Venus probe drastically. MIT has a big stake in this program which was going to map the obscured surface of Venus using synthetic aperture radar.

NASA's attempts to maintain a \$60 million reserve to support problems with the shuttle by taking money from other projects with congressional approval has increased the effects of the cuts. For example, NASA is trying to cancel the solar polar mission for this purpose. Congress has not yet gone along with this cut, according to Bridge. Professor Stanislaw Olbert of the Physics Department noted that cutting this project would be very disappointing to many solar scientists. The project was to make solar observations, including coronal and solar wind observations out of the ecliptic plane.

The cuts have also resulted in the cancellation of the Halley

comet interceptor, a solar electric power project, and unspecified delays in the development of a gamma ray observatory.

Non-space missions supported by NASA will also be hurt severely by the cuts. Support of airborne observations will be cut substantially. It was with such observations that Professor Jim Eliot of the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department discovered the rings of Uranus. In addition, ground-based programs in basic science will suffer from the cuts. The reductions have resulted in the planning of few new missions.

Professor Bridge noted that the direction of the cuts was "a very complicated business" since many advanced long-range projects depend on the success of the shuttle.

Housing discussed

(Continued from page 2)

up." A study of this issue mentioned by Gray is not yet complete. "We haven't yet been able to digest the facts," said Smith.

Sherwood suggested "building on campus, building off campus, or encouraging private parties to build and rent to students" as possible solutions to the housing crunch.

Gray cited four factors in the approval of the recommendation by the CSA that the housing policy be implemented by 1985 by the Academic Council and the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs. "First, on-campus living is an important aspect of the un-

dergraduate educational experience. Second, in recent years, more upperclass students have tended to stay in the dormitory system rather than move off-campus, in part because of a tighter, more costly apartment housing market. Third, support of a campus living situation is especially important to those students who are readmitted after having taken some time away because of academic difficulty. Fourth, we wish to provide on-campus housing to transfer students because they bring a healthy diversity of backgrounds and perspectives to the undergraduate experience after having studied at another school."

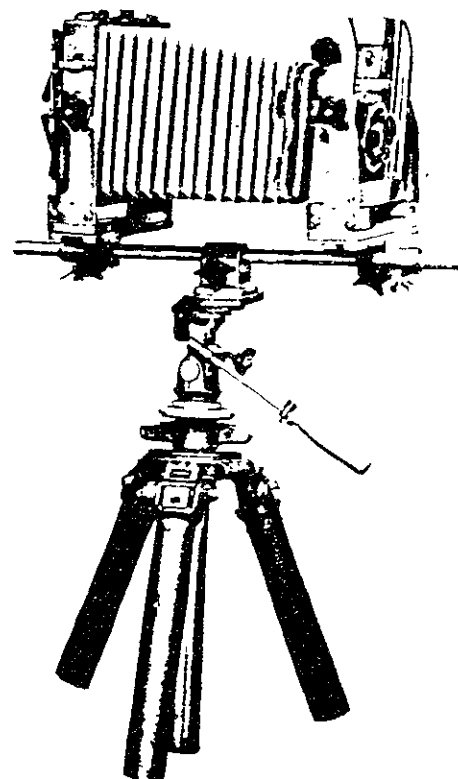
IRWIN SIZER AWARD NOMINATION SOUGHT

Nominations are being sought for the IRWIN SIZER AWARD, established by the Graduate Student Council in 1975 to honor Irwin Sizer, former Dean of the Graduate School from 1967 to 1975, presently President of the Health Science Fund and Consultant to the Resource Development Office. The Award is presented for "the most significant improvement to MIT education," to encourage innovations and excellence in MIT academic programs. The recipient of this Award, selected by a committee of the Graduate Student Council in closed session, will receive a certificate and a cash award of \$150. Any person or group in the Institute community is eligible, though in any year the Award Committee may decide to give no award.

Nominations may be made by letter, should include references and/or supporting material, and be submitted to Linda Laatsch, Walker Building, Room 50-222, no later than April 17, 1981.

Previous Awards have been given to the leaders of the Writing Program (1975), Independent Activities Program (1976), Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (1977), the InnoCenter at Sloan (1978), Office of Minority Education (1979), and the HUD Minority Intern Program (1980).

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Stephanie Pollack

Food for thought

What is ten feet long, three feet high, three feet wide and contains 275 pounds of Crisco?

If you guessed the world's largest Twinkie, you're right. The monster munchie made a short-lived appearance in Fancuil Hall earlier this week. Baked into the cake was a check for \$50,000, the first prize in Twinkie's fiftieth anniversary sweepstakes. Luckily, the check was sticking out of the side of the Twinkie. A moral dilemma would have arisen had the check actually been hidden somewhere in the giant cake. Is it worth \$50,000 to eat over one ton of Twinkie?

Snacking can often be painful. A story is told of a group of MIT students who gathered to cook chili and artificially stimulate themselves into the weekend. The two activities, it seems, do not mix well. When the time came to add the Tabasco sauce to the chili, the chefs were so fascinated by the splash of the orange hot pepper sauce against the boiling red of the chili that they emptied the entire bottle into the pot. Then, being quite hungry, they consumed the entire pot of chili. "Munchies," one said later, "have never been so painful."

The gathering of food can be equally annoying, and time-consuming. Obsessive desire for Chinese food at odd hours of the morning is a particularly bothersome time sink. It is even more dangerous than the mid-afternoon cravings for watermelon with hot fudge sauce which once plagued a pregnant acquaintance of mine.

An inexplicable longing for egg rolls drove one well-known MIT woman to journey into Boston's Chinatown at about 3am on two successive mornings last weekend. Her craving was not satisfied, however, until Sunday afternoon. She then proceeded to have Chinese food again Monday afternoon, Monday evening, and Wednesday evening—and she didn't eat on Tuesday.

Everyone has his favorite food, although most people try to restrict their consumption somewhat. I am especially fond of chocolate Easter bunnies. One of the best things about bunnies is that one company makes them kosher for Passover, creating an alternative to honey cake and macaroons as snacks for the week. Easter bunnies can also be used for psychological testing. Which part of the bunny do you bite first?

This year, Passover coincides with Spring Weekend. Those who observe the holiday will be unable to participate in the Junior-Senior drinkoff, team speed beer drinking or the picnic on Sunday. Perhaps a speed Manishevitz drinking contest should be organized for the devout.

Missing the free food offered during Spring Weekend is almost as painful as eating Thermodynamic chili. There is nothing quite like the pursuit of free food to get juices flowing. Sometimes the chase is so much fun that it is unnecessary to consume the ill-gotten gains.

The desire for no-cost eating should not, however, be confused with a willingness to be paid to eat the unusual combinations of food dished out in diet experiments. Commons is generally agreed to taste awful, yet people do pay to eat it, sometimes voluntarily. Can you imagine how vile something must be before it becomes necessary to pay someone to eat it? No thanks—I'd rather take my chances with 2200 pounds of Twinkie.

The Tech

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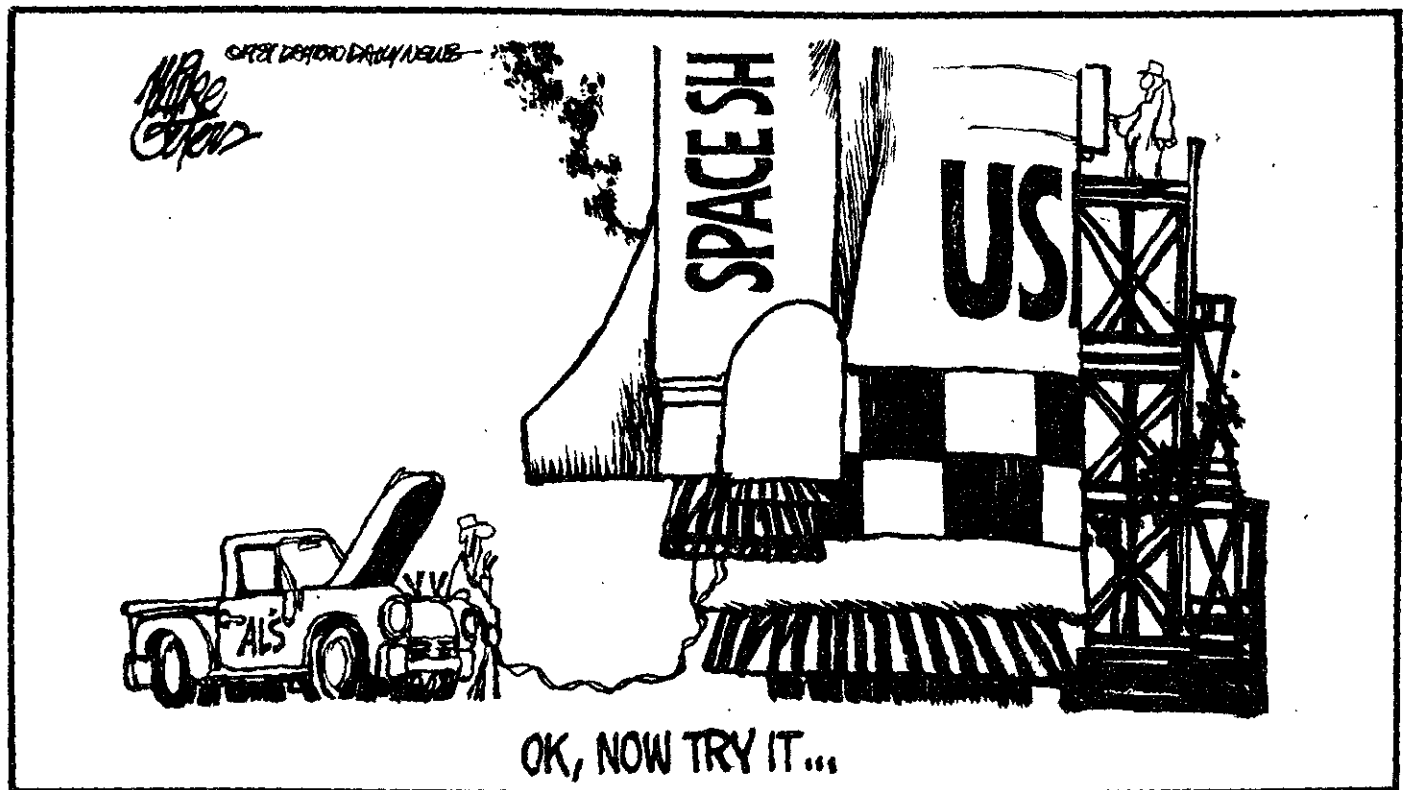
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→ **feedback**

Lynch threat curbs rights

To the Editor:

Lately there have been many articles in the media about the increase in incidents that lead to the repression of individual rights. Like most people, I discounted these reports. However, a recent incident that happened to me has changed my views in this area.

My name is Charlie Brown. Being named Charlie Brown is not exactly the world's greatest blessing, but after a while you get used to having people laugh in your face when you tell them your name. When I got to MIT, I found out that there was another Charlie Brown already here, and that this Charlie Brown was president of GAMIT. It didn't exactly make my day when I found this out, but being a president of any group is anyone's right, so I accepted the fact.

This past weekend I got a call from a member of the MIT community, asking me if I wanted to help lynch the GAMIT president. This person said that, due to the presence of the other Charlie Brown on campus, people might think that I was "bi," and that I should be glad to join an effort to lynch the other Charlie Brown.

This person was serious in his call, and wouldn't have made it unless he had talked to other people who shared his view. This indicates that there is a group of people on campus who feel that it is their right to curb the rights of other individuals. From here, it is

a small step to racial, political, and religious persecution.

It is said that the social attitudes on our college campuses are the trendsetters for those of the country as a whole. The above would seem to indicate that the 1980's are going to see a return to the racist policies and the McCarthyism of the 1950's. Only

strong action, from both students and the administration, to protect everyone's rights as an individual can alter the situation that exists on our campus.

What shall it be?

Charles P. Brown '84

Charles Brown is a member of The Tech staff.

PLP on probation for 'irresponsibility'

Editor's Note: This is a copy of a letter directed to Pi Lambda Phi and the MIT community.

To the Editor:

During the initiation of Pi Lambda Phi, (PLP), several events occurred which offended the outside community and showed insensitivity to others. In response to this, the MIT Interfraternity Conference Judicial Committee, on behalf of its member houses, has investigated PLP's actions and attitudes. Normal Judicial Committee practice is to keep all proceedings confidential, but, it is felt that publication of this decision demonstrates our concern and will enlighten our living groups and the entire community.

The IFC Judicial Committee has placed Pi Lambda Phi on formal Judicial Committee probation until April 1, 1982. Any further offense by PLP or default

on the terms of probation will result in immediate investigation and a full hearing before a general meeting of the IFC. The terms of probation are:

- 1) Initiation practices outside of the house must be reviewed by the IFC Judicial Committee Chairman two weeks prior to initiation ceremonies.
- 2) The Rush program and pledge education activities must be submitted to the IFC Rush Chairman two weeks before the 1981 Rush Week.

This probation is not to be considered as a punitive measure, but instead a corrective one. The terms of probation are designed to place a spotlight on PLP. It is hoped that this focus will encourage other living groups to provide assistance to PLP during their period of transition and development. We recognize that PLP has made improvements in their internal organization during the past year and we expect these improvements to be reflected in their outside interaction shortly.

With regard to the gay community, our concern is that the ignorance demonstrated by PLP may represent the values of more than a few individuals at MIT. PLP has suggested that they sponsor a forum on understanding the gay lifestyle. We urge community-wide participation in the hope that further misunderstandings can be prevented.

The thirty-three MIT independent living groups of the Interfraternity Conference apologize to the gay community, the MIT community, and Cambridge residents for the insensitivity and irresponsibility shown by one of our member houses. The IFC does not condone PLP's actions and recognizes them as a serious disregard for the feelings of others and a serious misunderstanding of the lifestyles of others.

Chip Hance '81

Judicial Committee Chairman

Ron Tyler '81

Judicial Committee Secretary

Need harsh penalties for dangerous nerd women

To the editor:

We were truly shocked to learn that a group of dorm nerd women from the yet unnamed all girls dorm (several come to mind) perpetrated a hack against the PBE fraternity. I can imagine the terror and disgust of the poor defenseless PBE brothers as they were overwhelmed by the hordes of physically superior dorm nerds. We regret the theft of such important items (the loss of the pool balls must have been deeply felt) and hope that all of the stolen goods and furniture have been returned.

It is clear that swift action must be taken by the administration in cases such as these. If this incident is allowed to go unpunished the MIT campus will be overrun by marauding bands of women and lawlessness will reign. Only the most severe penalties will work in this case. The women involved

should be prohibited from having any contact whatsoever with any of the boys in the fraternity system for a period of 1 year. During this period of prohibition, separate seating areas will be arranged at all lectures and LSC movies for the dangerous nerd women, and they will only be allowed to go on dates with dorm nerd men. If after this punishment the women continue to misbehave, the Student Center Library should be closed at night to really punish the nerds.

This may sound overly harsh but the dorm nerds must be taught their proper place on the MIT campus. These women, with their thoughtless acts, are going to ruin the reputation of MIT's entire nerd community. We can only hope that incidents like these will be avoided in the future.

Signed by 38
dormitory residents

Space Shuttle

(continued from page 1)

astronaut in 1969 and is a captain in the Navy with more than 4,300 hours of flight time.

The astronauts' duties during the test flight are largely operational, including the televised testing of the cargo bay doors one and one-half hours after lift-off (at T plus 1:30). The final 173 high mile orbit will be achieved during the sixth hour of flight, after which the Reaction Control System will be tested.

A flight progress report will be televised at T plus 10 hours and the astronauts will have their first meal in orbit, then sleep for eight hours. Flight tests will continue until one hour before landing, when the maneuvering engines will be fired to begin reentry.

The Columbia will be the first rocket plane to land on a runway after orbiting the Earth. As early as 1963, however, three pilots flew the X-15 rocket plane past the arbitrary 50 mile boundary into space, but did not achieve orbit.

In 1963, the X-20 Dyna-Soar project, similar to the space shuttle concept, was cancelled. Instead, NASA was given a blank check to reach the moon before 1970.

Now 18 years later and two years behind schedule, the NASA shuttle is ready to fly the first Americans into space since 1975. No blank check was given to the shuttle project.

Originally set at \$5.2 billion, expenditures through STS-1 are already over \$10 billion, and now represent one-third of NASA's budget.

"We still don't know" what the cost to NASA will be for each mission once the shuttle becomes operational, according to NASA spokesman Ken Censtad.

"The cost to the payload user for the first flights will be cheaper than for conventional, expendable booster rockets," said Censtad, but he could not even give a ballpark figure for costs to NASA and taxpayers. "NASA will evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the shuttle after three years of operations."

"Congress has increased the cost per mission by cutting the program down to four orbiters," said Censtad. "We're still aiming for 44 flights per year, depending on the outcome of this test." NASA hopes to have the Columbia ready for its second test flight in five months.

Three more orbiters are in various stages of construction. The many design changes since the orbiter Enterprise flew in five earlier dead-stick landing tests (after being carried aloft aboard a Boeing 747) preclude its use in space, at least for now.

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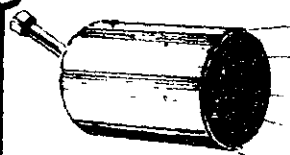
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Those Blue Collar Crime Blues

Thief, starring James Caan, Tuesday Weld, and Willie Nelson; produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and Ronnie Caan, directed by Michael Mann; a United Artists release, now playing at the Sack 57.

On the surface this movie is no more than a plug-and-chug formula film. James Caan is an independent jewel thief. He's a real nice guy but the Mob is squeezing him on one side and the law is hassling him on the other. He's got Willie Nelson, his aging mentor, who is dying in prison and he's got Tuesday Weld who wants to raise his kids. The script may be pre-packaged but director Michael Mann is pursuing loftier goals.

In Vonnegut's *Breakfast of Champions* there is a jailbird named Wayne Hoobler who has developed a hallucination of future happiness. He pictures the name of his dreamworld flashing in bright lights: "Fairyland." When we meet Frank (no last name) he is a self-employed thief who has spent eleven years behind bars forming his own Utopian dream. He carries it in his pocket, a small collage of the things that he wants from life: a wife, a kid, a house, the stuff of respectability.

This thief is inherently a good guy and though he deserves to make it, his quest is illusory at best. His attempts to build a family portrait are characteristic of his pre-fabricated approach to happiness. He selects a mate as one would select a suit and his beautiful suburban home is a gift from



a mobster. His son is a black-market baby, paid for with Mob money. What is wrong with this picture? Plenty. As you might expect, it doesn't work out in the end.

There is an effective gaff used here to hook the working-class viewer. Frank is depicted as the quintessential blue-collar

man, willing to work for his money, but unwilling to share it with cops, capitalist mobsters, or other leeches. He handles his tools and plies his trade with the pride of a union garment worker and he decries organized crime that would profit from the "yield" of his labor. It's American individualism personified and Caan brings authenticity to a potentially hokey role.

Morality is not a big issue here. We have to root for Frank because everyone else is so much worse: crooked judges, grafting cops and willing burglary victims who are out for insurance money. There is no opportunity for us to pause and consider what is right. Frank wants the same things that we do and that can't be wrong.

Jim Belushi, in his first screen role, plays Frank's sidekick, an electronics whiz. Jim has served his time doing stage, repertory, and TV work and his dramatic range may even be broader than his brother's. But his resemblance to John Belushi is so complete that I kept waiting for him to turn into "Samurai Cat-Burglar." It is unlikely that he can survive in Hollywood looking like a serious John Belushi.

Tuesday Weld does a solid turn as the female lead but she too is operating in a shadow, her own. The blonde sex-kitten still looks like everybody's favorite Barbie

ARTS

Doll but here she's masquerading as Raggedy Ann. This from the starlet who turned down *Lolita* because, as she puts it, "I didn't have to play Lolita. I was Lolita." In a sense, her presence is a bit of casting genius because she underscores the futility of Frank's artificial future. He can't turn Tuesday Weld into a wife and mother any more than he can buy respectability with stolen loot.

Musically, this film contains some very pleasant surprises. The bluesy electric score by Tangerine Dream is not used to heighten tension or to elicit tears. It's just there. It's something to tap your toes to while watching the action. An upbeat soundtrack may seem incongruous in a sordid action drama of this type but the effect is to remove the sharp edges from the scenes of violence and make them more palatable.

None of the artists mentioned here will be lining up for Oscars next year: it's not that kind of movie. But it is a good example of how to take a standard plotline and put some meat on it. **Peter Thompson**

Successful Start for Simulcasting

Not Quite Kihnetic

Rockinroll. *The Greg Kihn Band on Beserkley records.*

What is it about studios that saps the strengths of even the most determined bands? Greg Kihn notes in the press release for his sixth LP, *Rockinroll*, "We're a pretty hardrocking band and we wanted *Rockinroll* to capture that — to literally jump off the turntable at you." While eminently listenable and free of the rock 'n' roll pretensions that mar the work of similar artists, the damn record stays on the turntable without much difficulty. On stage, the Greg Kihn Band is relatively impassioned, but their studio work is only vaguely related: the essential components are there, but things remain lukewarm, the band never "cuts loose," as they say. Like their colleagues on the Beserkley label (the Rubinos, Jonathan Richmond), the Greg Kihn Band is unforced and without affectation — they aren't trying to "inflict art" or prove they can do anything faster-and-louder-all-night-long. Their modesty becomes and undermines them.

I give them more credit on albums where they made less of an effort to duplicate their live sound and went for a more relaxed approach (cf. "Remember," from *Next of Kihn*). On this LP, the songs inhabit an uncomfortable middle ground — no one's kicking out the proverbial jams, but the pop approach suggests that someone ought to. *Rockinroll* features the addition of keyboards, which makes the sound much

fuller than it's ever been before: "Valerie" is the best cut on Side I, a song that refreshes all the cliches that the Records epitomized in "Starry Eyes," but does so with some amount of sincerity. "Trouble in Paradise" and "Can't Stop Hurting Myself" are getting some WBCN/WCOZ airplay, but merely because they're blandly accessible: John Hiatt vocals, Tom Petty guitar, and "way up front guitar sound." Side II is notable for "Sheila" (wot about Valerie, then?) which is upbeat and poppy, and "The Girl Most Likely," which employs, at last, a little bass work, something the whole album could use more of. The last 45 seconds of "True Confessions" are jubilant and enthusiastic, as if in signing off they could allow themselves the luxury of letting go.

Kihn seems doomed forever to the status he's achieved at this point in his career. It's heartbreaking to think of his 1977 version of "For You," a tune Bruce Springsteen penned but which Kihn rearranged and performed in the version Springsteen has since adopted. Kihn's version of "For You," which appeared in its best permutation on a New Wave (?) sampler in 1977, is a song of rare poignancy and trauma, far superior to Springsteen's own recording, a song possessed by a euphoric and sentimental vitality that (especially given this latest LP) I doubt Kihn will ever achieve again.

Sheena

In what one hopes will become a regular practice, MITV cable and WMBR radio presented the first ever MIT simulcast, "Pieces," on April 6th. Producer-Director Kate Sasanoff is an MITV intern who feels that great potential lies in this relatively neglected field. The first simulcast was filmed in the WMBR studios in Walker Memorial basement, which didn't allow for a lot of movement and exploration, although the setting was adequate for a debut effort.

Two local jazz artists, Tony Rondolone and Wolfgang Bayha (an ex-Los Angeleno and a retiring Swiss, respectively) performed a set of original material beginning with "P.S." and finishing with "Flying to Europe" (the two plan to do some gigging in Europe, where they feel their work will be better received) and "Atlanta," a piece dedicated to the child victims in Atlanta. In between the musical material, an interview was conducted, a bit off-handedly. Their compositions are chaotic and forceful, and lend themselves well to both radio broadcast and filming. Bayha is a competent drummer, although far less engaging than the very photogenic Rondolone, whose contortionistic, emotional sax-playing and assorted percussive efforts provided the video focus.

The staff seemed a little unfamiliar with the simulcast format, and host Jon Garelick allowed for a few embarrassing "dead air" gaps; but camera work by the ultra-talented Pat Hearn and the slightly more reserved Yuriy Siwolop kept things moving.



(photo courtesy of WMBR)

The performance was tense and consistent, and therefore well-suited filmically to the haphazard photography, to the very immediate, studio-based quality of the performance. There's definitely room for improvement, especially on the radio-broadcast end of things, but such an interesting union of music, technology, and art augurs good things. With 500 cable drops hooked up plus dorm video access, there will be opportunities to catch this particular program again (check *Tech Talk* for schedules.) Future efforts promise to be even more intriguing as well as more polished. (I'm hoping for a simulcast of *Human Sexual Response* on the roof of Building 66...)

Sheena

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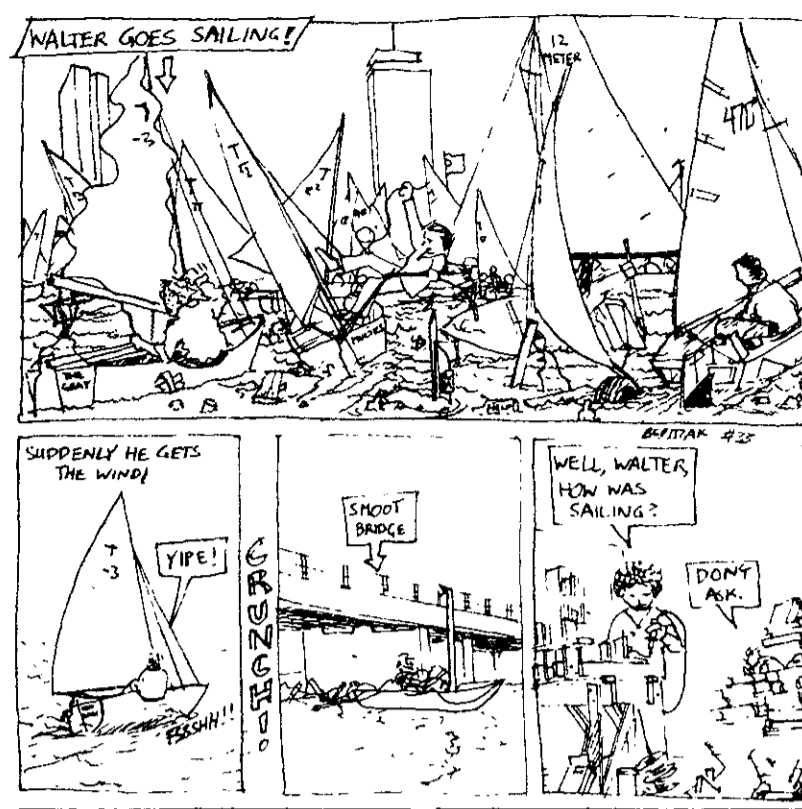
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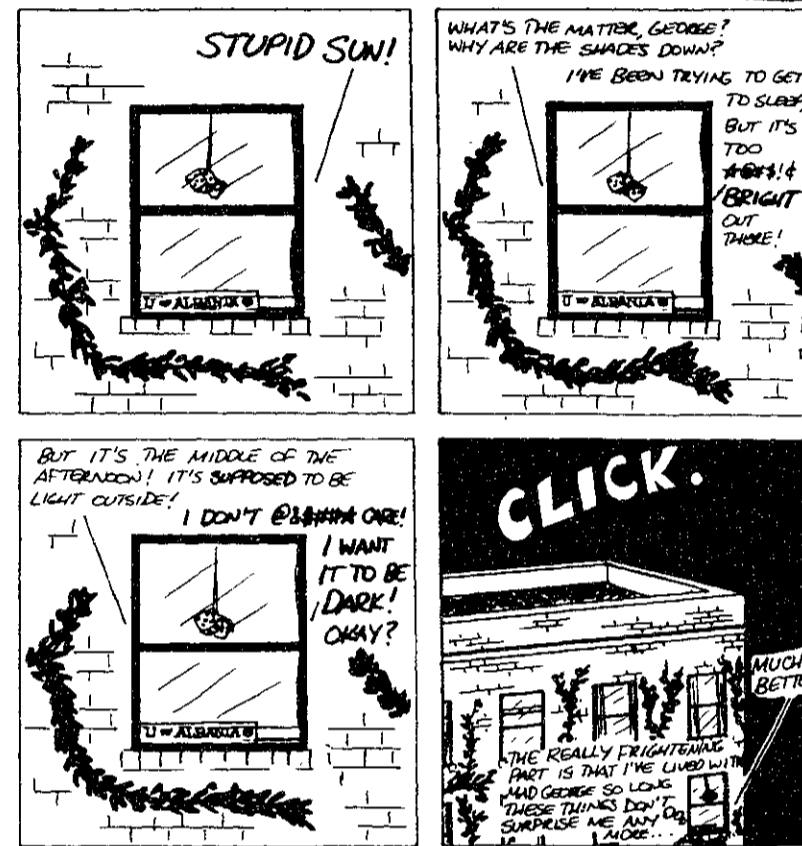


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Women's X-C becomes varsity

By Eric R. Fleming

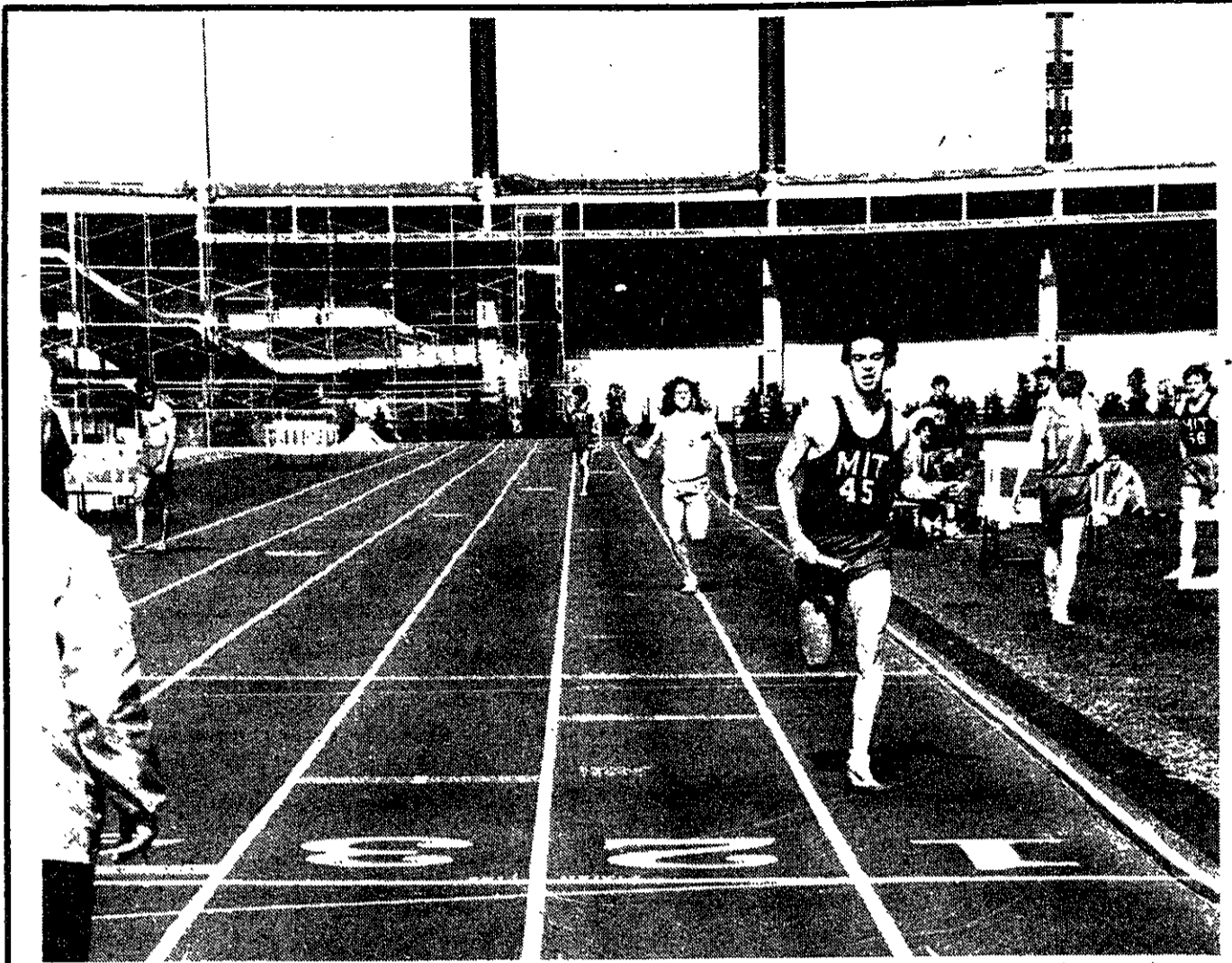
Women's cross country, a club sport intermittently for the last five years, was made a varsity sport this week by unanimous approval of the Athletic Board. The team will begin varsity competition this coming fall.

Terry Sutton '83, a two-year member of the club squad, said that the group of five or six women was "ecstatic" at the board's decision. In recalling some of the history of the cross country club, Sutton remarked that in 1979-80, the team had only

one meet, but that the women had participated in the Greater Boston Conference (GBC) and New England championships along with other schools this past fall. Chris Lane, former assistant men's track and head cross country coach, provided the squad with much help in the last two years, according to Sutton, who participated in track and cross country during her high school career.

The team is primarily composed of first-year students and it is that the record number of admitted freshmen for the class of 1985 will supply the fledgling team with talent. As for a coach, Sutton noted that Assistant Athletic Director Jane Betts is assisting in the search for a coach.

In a related development, the women's track club has cancelled its initial meet scheduled for April 15 with Northeastern. Not enough women came out to practice sessions in order to have a team or run a meet.



Senior co-captain Frank Luedtke will lead the Tech Track team against Bowdoin starting at 12:30pm Saturday at Steinbrenner Stadium. Luedtke competes in middle distance events for the Engineers. (Photo courtesy Sports Information Office)

sporting notices

Tuesday's *Tech* reported incorrectly that the MITAA meeting on Wednesday, April 15 will be held in the West Lounge of the Student Center. The meeting will be held in the Mezzanine Lounge, third floor of the Student Center.

on deck

Friday, April 10

Lacrosse vs. Holy Cross ... 3pm
Softball at Clark, ... 3:30pm
Men's Tennis vs. Colby, ... 3pm

Saturday, April 11

Heavyweight Crew vs. Columbia, ... 10:30am
Lightweight Crew at Yale
Women's Sailing, Powder Puff Trophy at Rhode Island
Outdoor Track vs. Bowdoin, ... 12:30pm
Men's Tennis vs. Williams, 2pm

Sunday, April 12

Men's Sailing at BU Invitational
Women's Sailing, Victorian Urn at Radcliffe

Saturday-Sunday, April 11-12

Men's Sailing, STAAKE Trophy, 3Crew Team Race, ... 11:30am
Men's Sailing, Friis Trophy at Tufts

scoreboard

Baseball 8, Babson 12
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Softball 3, St. Anselm's 4
Lacrosse 8, Bowdoin 16

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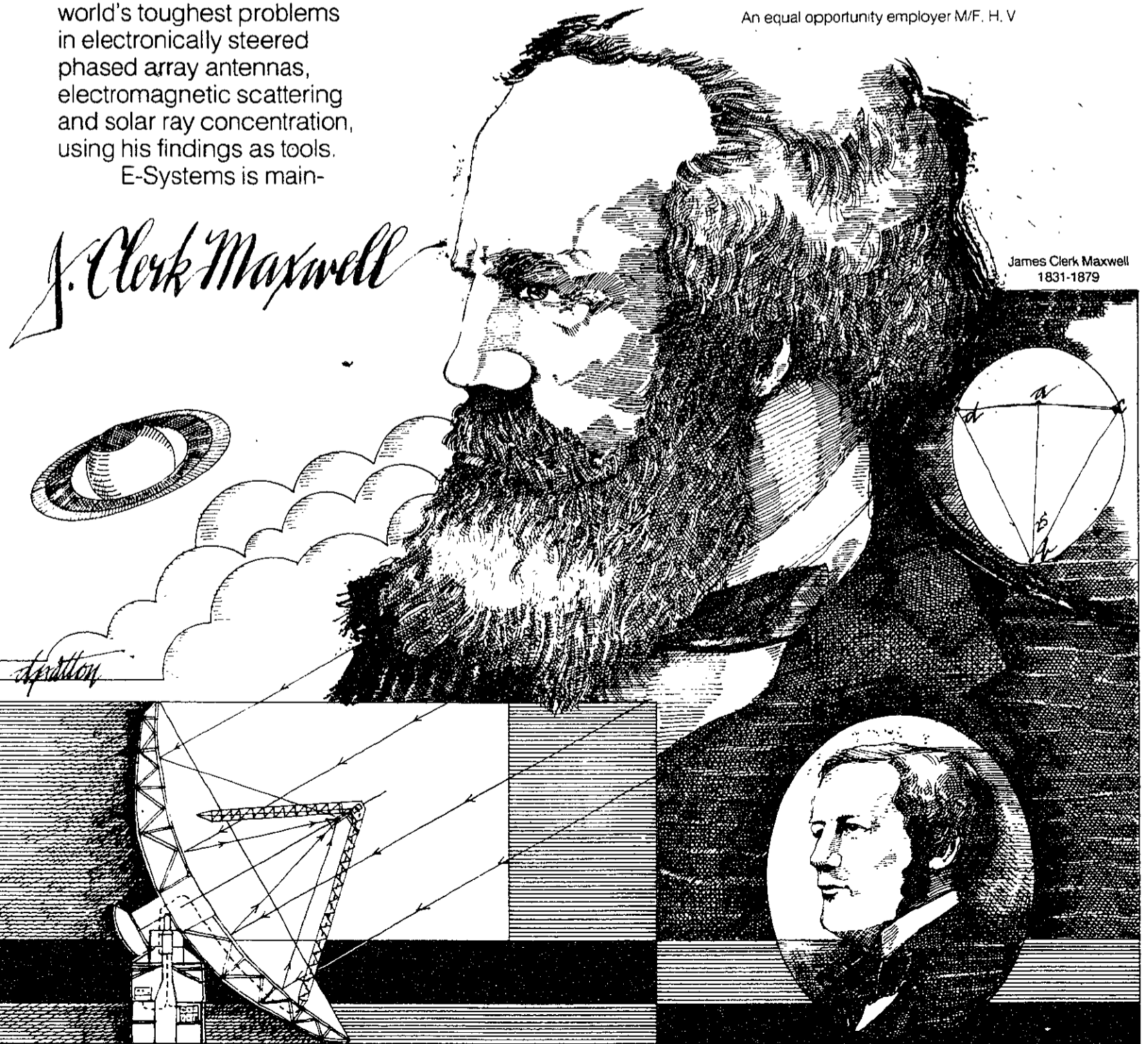
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