

114 frosh left in limbo; 352 pledge fraternities

FIRST-ROUND FRESHMAN HOUSING ASSIGNMENTS					
house	first choices		total assigned		beyond capacity
	m	f	m	f	
Baker	87	41	35	38	8
Bexley	11	5	30	5	0
Burton	90	23	64	34	33
East Campus	85	25	98	30	35
MacGregor	101		110		0
McCormick		60		60	10
New House	59	13	42	11	5
Next House	132	48	50	48	10
Random	12	2	24	2	0
Senior	23	7	48	7	2
French	9	3	1	4	1
German	8	1	3	1	0
Russian	4	2	4	2	0
Spanish	4	3	4	3	0
Remaining in limbo: 114					

87 percent of frosh get first choice dorm

By Barry S. Surman
The Dean's Office assigned 84 percent of freshmen to their first-choice dormitories in the first round of the freshman housing

Near goals, some frats may crowd

By Jerri-Lynn Scofield
"As of 9pm [last evening], there have been 352 pledges," said Mark Sorrells '83, Inter-Fraternity Conference (IFC) chair-

man. Sorrells and Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood set this year's fraternity pledge goal at 380 students, roughly broken down to 365 freshmen and 15 transfer or readmitted students, according to Sorrells. "From what I've heard from [Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert] Holden . . . fifteen transfer students have pledged already," Sorrells added.

Most fraternities and independent living groups have already met their rush goals, and several of them are considering overcrowding their facilities to accommodate additional freshmen, Sherwood noted.

"There are some houses that have not filled their houses yet," Sorrells noted. "A number of houses have expressed interest in having overcrows."

Houses interested in meeting additional freshmen are: Alpha Delta Phi, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Chi Phi, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Fenway, Nu Delta, Phi Kappa Theta, Phi Sigma Kappa, Zeta Beta Tau, and Zeta Psi, Sorrells continued.

Sorrells attributed the success of the 1982 fraternity rush to the degree of cooperation shown by fraternity rush chairmen this year. Individual fraternity chairmen seem to be "sincerely interested in the freshmen as opposed to being just interested in the house," Sorrells observed.

Sherwood compared this year's rush to that of previous years, "The fraternities seem to be really ahead of this time last year."

lottery, but 114 students were left "in limbo" without assignments following the Monday night draw.

The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA) assigned 767 freshmen to dormitories, 104 more than the houses' capacity. Since overcrowded freshmen live in doubles, triples, and quads, each freshman assigned over capacity puts an average of 2½ freshmen in overcrowded rooms, explained Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood.

The number of overcrowded rooms is likely to change, however, as more students arrive at MIT, freshmen pledge fraternities, and subsequent rounds of the lottery assign additional students to dormitories. The second round of the housing lottery, scheduled for this morning, will include freshmen "in limbo" — those not assigned housing in the first round or requesting another chance in the lottery.

About 25 freshmen indicated they will arrive at the Institute after housing assignments are completed, Sherwood said. The Dean's Office has not yet decided how these students will be assigned to living groups, he noted. So far, 1104 freshmen have checked in at the R/O center.

East Campus leads the list of overcrowded dormitories, at 35 freshmen over capacity, after the first round.

Ninety-three percent of the women in the freshmen housing lottery were assigned to their first-choice dormitories, while 84 percent of the men received their top choices.

500 Memorial Drive was the most popular dormitory with this year's entering class: 180 freshmen named Next House their first choice.

Bexley Hall, Random Hall and Senior House each attracted about half the freshmen first choices needed to fill allocated spaces. Twenty-one freshmen assigned to Senior House, 18 assigned to Bexley, and 9 assigned to Random ranked their assigned dormitories below their third choices.

Freshmen to take new test to diagnose writing weaknesses

By Barry S. Surman
Members of the Class of 1986 will take a diagnostic writing test Friday, as the Institute moves closer to fully implementing its new writing requirement.

While freshmen are not required to take the diagnostic test, said Associate Professor Kenneth R. Manning, chairman of the faculty Committee on the Writing Requirement, the committee expects "a great turnout."

Freshmen taking the test will be given one hour to write an essay on one of two topics provided, Manning said. His committee will contact students after evaluating their essays.

"We are trying to encourage that the freshmen do take it," Manning said. This year's test, he explained, is designed to provide freshmen with an "indication" of any weaknesses in their writing ability, and to assist his committee in evaluating the writing needs of incoming students.

"It's stated in the *MIT Bulletin* that [the test] is not required for graduation" for members of the Class of 1986, Manning declared. Students entering the Institute beginning with the Class of 1987 will, however, be obligated to meet the new general Institute requirement.

The writing requirement will be met in two stages: basic expository writing proficiency, including diagnostic testing and remedial measures, demonstrated in the freshman year, and experience in more specialized writing related to the student's major, gained after a year at the Institute.

Manning praised the Undergraduate Academic Support Office (UASO) for its help in planning Friday's test.

"We're helping with logistics," said Peggy Richardson, head of UASO. Her office will serve cookies to freshmen taking the exam, she said. "We're trying to make it as light as possible."

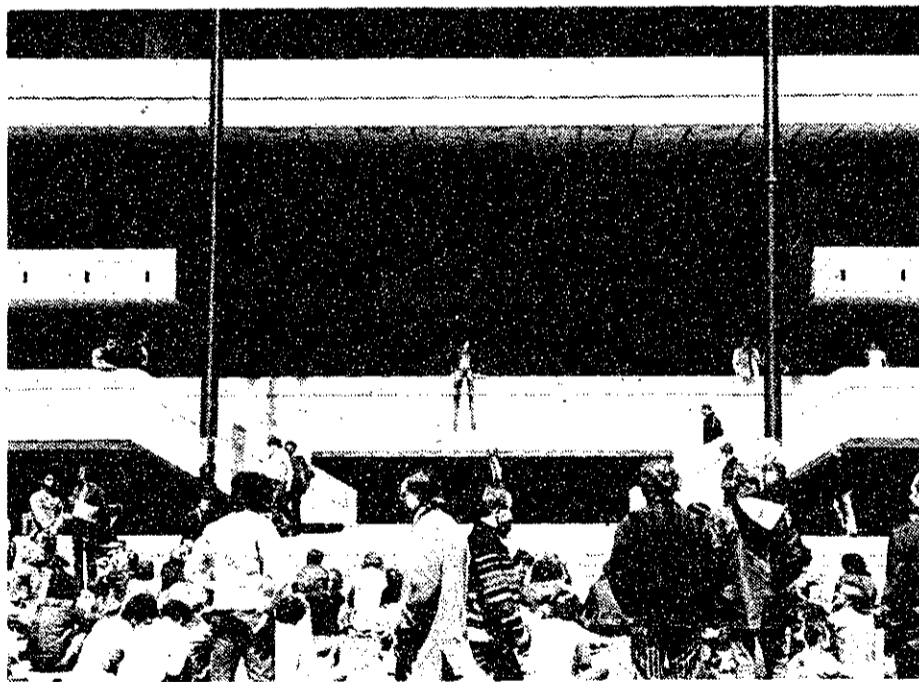
Manning would not say if next year's test will follow the same format as this year's. "We haven't decided all the things about next

year," he said. "I don't want to say anything about next year right now."

The Committee on the Writing Requirement is expected to work out final details of the requirement, including the format of the

diagnostic test, during the academic year.

This year's test will be held in the Athletics and Special Events Center at 10am Friday. Only freshmen will be allowed to take the test, Manning said.



Tech File Photo

The Julius Adams Stratton Building (a.k.a. The Student Center).

Student Center suffers from poorly used facilities, lack of lounge space

By Laura Farhie
(Editor's note: This article is the second of a two-part series on the Student Center Committee's re-

port to the Corporation Visiting Committee on Student Affairs.)

The MIT Student Center suffers from a lack of lounge space, segregated student activities offices, outdated and poorly utilized facilities, and excessive use by non-student functions, according to a draft report prepared by the Student Center Committee (SCC).

"The lack of visible and open lounge space prohibits students from feeling comfortable and relaxed in the Student Center," the report states. People quickly realize there is no place to sit at the Student Center, the draft report claims, so they spend their time in libraries, living groups, or other areas instead.

A new student who wanders

into the Student Center "would feel alienated from most areas since they are closed and segregated into student activities offices," the report continues.

Student activities offices, the 24 Hour Coffeehouse, and the TV room should be more open and visible to attract new members and increase social interaction between activities, SCC recommends.

The barber, optician, and bowling alley are poor utilizations of Student Center floor space, according to the SCC report. The barber and optician, operated by the Harvard Cooperative Society, and the bowling alley, operated by MIT Physical Plant, occupy a large portion of

(Please turn to page 7)

Erratum

In Monday's story on residence/orientation week, *The Tech* incorrectly reported the dates for three orientation events. The correct dates and times are:
Activities Midway
Thursday, 7-10pm
Athletic Midway
Thursday, 7-9:30pm
Writing Evaluation Test
Friday, 10am-12noon

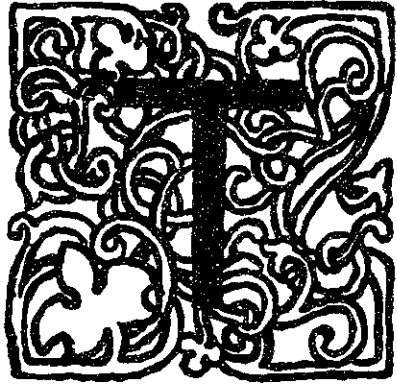
inside

Meet Reverend Ratliff.
Page 4.

Arts takes you from the Hyatt Regency on Memorial Drive to the final frontier. Page 5.

"This is MIT . . ." Two Senior House residents change the famous dormline tape. Page 7.

Sports is back. Page 8.



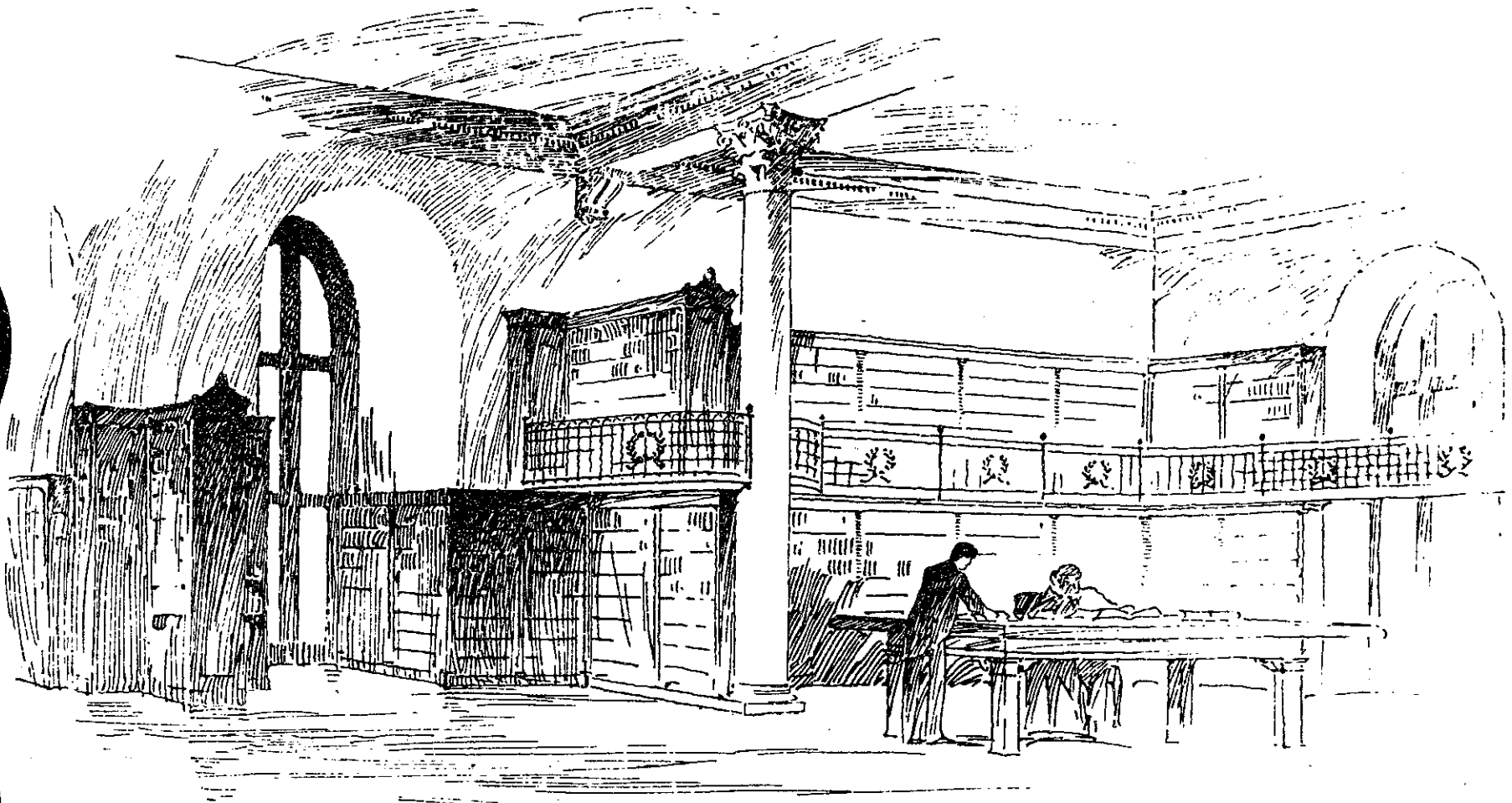
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A CORNER OF THE NEW LIBRARY IN ROGERS BUILDING.

news roundup

World

Poles arrested in Solidarity demonstrations — Polish officials reported the arrests of several hundred Polish citizens following rioting by ten thousand demonstrators in Warsaw yesterday. The demonstrations marked the second anniversary of the independent labor union Solidarity. Police dispersed the protesters with tear gas and water cannons.

US to sanction British firm for USSR trade violation — A British company, John Brown Engineering, is shipping US-built turbine parts to the USSR, in violation of President Reagan's embargo on the export of US technology for the trans-Siberian natural gas pipeline under construction in the Soviet Union. A White House spokesman said the administration will continue the trade restrictions in an effort to put an end to martial law in Poland.

Nation

White House claims economy is improving — Leading US economic indicators rose 1.3 percent last month, up a total of 4 percent since March, figures released yesterday showed. Commerce Department economists have interpreted the figures to mean the recession has bottomed out and the economy is rebounding.

Cuba jams US radio signals — WHO-AM in Des Moines, Iowa was among five US radio stations overpowered by Radio Cuba yesterday. George Carpenter, general manager of the Iowa station, said the Cuban action is a warning to the US government to drop plans to broadcast news and music into Cuba from south Florida.

Defense Secretary promises more US aid to Lebanon — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger left for a week-long visit to the Middle East yesterday, and promised continuing US military aid to Lebanon. The aid, Weinberger said, is essential to ensure the sovereignty of the Lebanese government and a lasting peace in the region. The Defense Secretary will visit Lebanon, Egypt, and Israel.

Weather

Increasing cloudiness this afternoon will develop into afternoon showers, with temperatures in the low to middle 70's. The showers will continue overnight and into the day tomorrow. The low tonight will be in the lower 60's, the high tomorrow in the mid-70's.

Barry S. Surman



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Wellesley to Washington, D.C.	40	10.18	6.58	35.4
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Opinion

Jerri-Lynn Scofield

Message from New York City

Every week, Henry Ratliff sends me a letter. Reverend Ratliff, a minister on New York's East Side, hasn't singled me out because I am special; he regularly corresponds with dozens of college and city newspapers. For years, Henry Ratliff was a running joke in our office; I suppose his often off-the-wall material caused many chuckles in other newsrooms around the country. Somehow, as the stranger than fiction actions of Ronald Reagan and his cohorts grabbed the headlines of the national press, Ratliff's usually poignant letters assumed special relevance. Ratliff, further inspired by recent government actions, began to type and photocopy his messages, rather than write in his personal, childish scrawl.

Ratliff's writing is usually brief. His unpunctuated, ungrammatical ramblings are strangely eloquent. He doesn't waste words; every one counts. For example, no one's carefully reasoned tome says more about fundamental rights than Ratliff:

FREEDOM OF SPEECH/ASSEMBLY

Helluva lot of folks talk about it — few practice it.

No one can accuse the good Reverend of not airing his political views, even when his grammar makes his thoughts difficult to follow.

NOVEMBER

Criminal negligence not go to polls and not vote out Reaganites en-masse.

I think Ratliff's ministry puts him in close touch with humanity. He is particularly concerned about the Reagan Administration's cuts in social welfare programs. His commentary is abrupt, unlike the smooth, concealing style cultivated by nationally famous writers. Ratliff doesn't obfuscate.

SSA

If mendacious Reagan gets his teeth into Social Security, he'll never take them out.

Ratliff took a trip around the world last spring, yet he didn't cease writing. Instead he sent his wisdom across the globe, written in the old familiar handwriting on the backs of exotic post cards. In the midst of some feverish night in Australia, Ratliff was compelled to write this passage about world peace.

DEFENSE

Kindergarten children learn conversational Russian. Does more for defense than Reagan Strillion.

Reverend Ratliff, a man of peace, is more concerned about the threat of war than any other issue. Although he often writes about other subjects, his comments on nuclear disaster are his most effective. Henry Ratliff warns of the horrors of impending Armageddon. It is a message we all should heed.

WAR

Roll of drum — bugle call — unfurled flag — burnished brass — playing band — marching column — cheering crowd — martial song — demonic emotion; lead to mutilation/death in youth or age.

MYSTERY

How any veteran from battlefield of rotting unburied bodies can participate in patriotic exercises is a mystery no one understands.

THE HARD WAY

Must we see — smell — hear buzzing flies: unburied — stinking — maggot infested corpses all over America to develop hatred of war?

FANTASY

When terrible stink of millions of dead bodies from history's battlefields breaks through our mythology and fantasy of war, the military tradition will die.

The Tech

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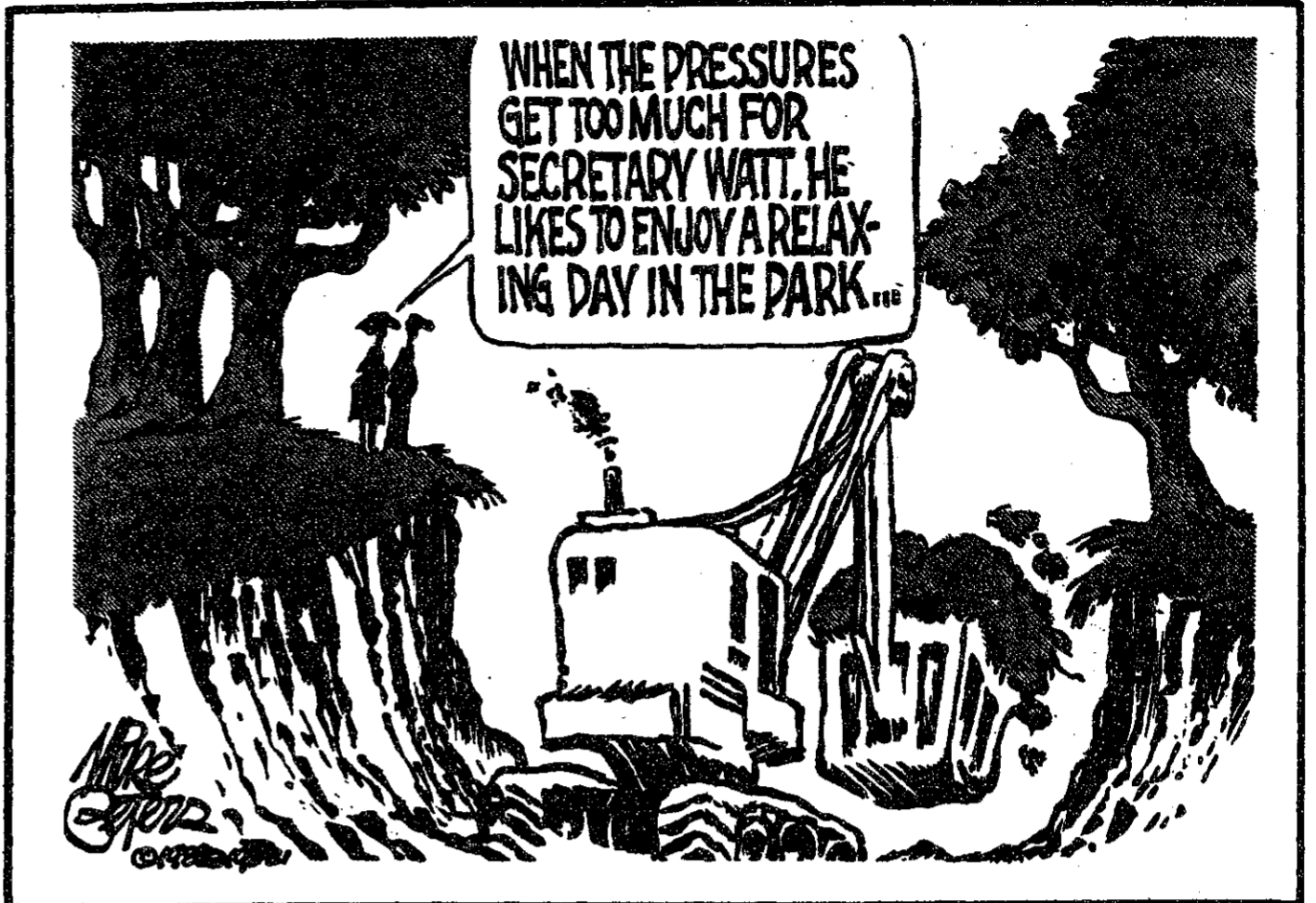
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Column/Mark Timpler

Leaders must address the budget

Over a year has elapsed since President Reagan guided his package of record tax cuts for businesses and individuals through Congress. As he energetically argued for his proposals in the hopeful days of 1981, he claimed that they would immediately restore investor confidence, balance the budget by 1984, and set off a supply-side economic boom. Using his tremendous lobbying skills, he was able to convince many Americans that his plans would solve the country's economic problems.

After a great deal of debate, the Congress also decided it was important to "give the President a chance" by enacting his tax cuts. It voted to give Reaganomics a field test by passing the President's program essentially intact, with a few sweeteners added for special interest groups.

Unfortunately, the euphoria of 1981 has been replaced by the economic slide of 1982. The President's policies have not worked as promised. Instead of prosperity, there are now over ten million unemployed Americans, tens of thousands of bankrupt businesses, near-record interest rates, and 150 billion dollar deficits. While inflation has been reduced as a result of the deep recession, the prospects for long-term economic growth appear to be very bleak. And because of the President's massive tax cuts and defense buildup, there is no end in sight to gigantic budget deficits and high interest rates — recent drops in the prime rate

notwithstanding.

As stifling interest rates have suffocated economic recovery, there have been a number of proposals to rein in the galloping budget deficits that have run up the government demand for credit. In particular, Republicans led by Senator Bob Dole have fashioned a bill to increase taxes by 98.3 billion dollars over the next three years by closing tax loopholes; increasing levies on cigarettes, liquor, and phone service; and strengthening the enforcement of tax laws already in place. Not surprisingly, the conservative supply-side gurus, led by Representative Jack Kemp, warned that such a tax reform would stymie economic growth and contradict the principles of Reaganomics. But much to the dismay of his right-wing supporters, President Reagan disregarded the advice of the supply-side magicians and persuaded a bipartisan Congressional coalition to pass the tax increase legislation.

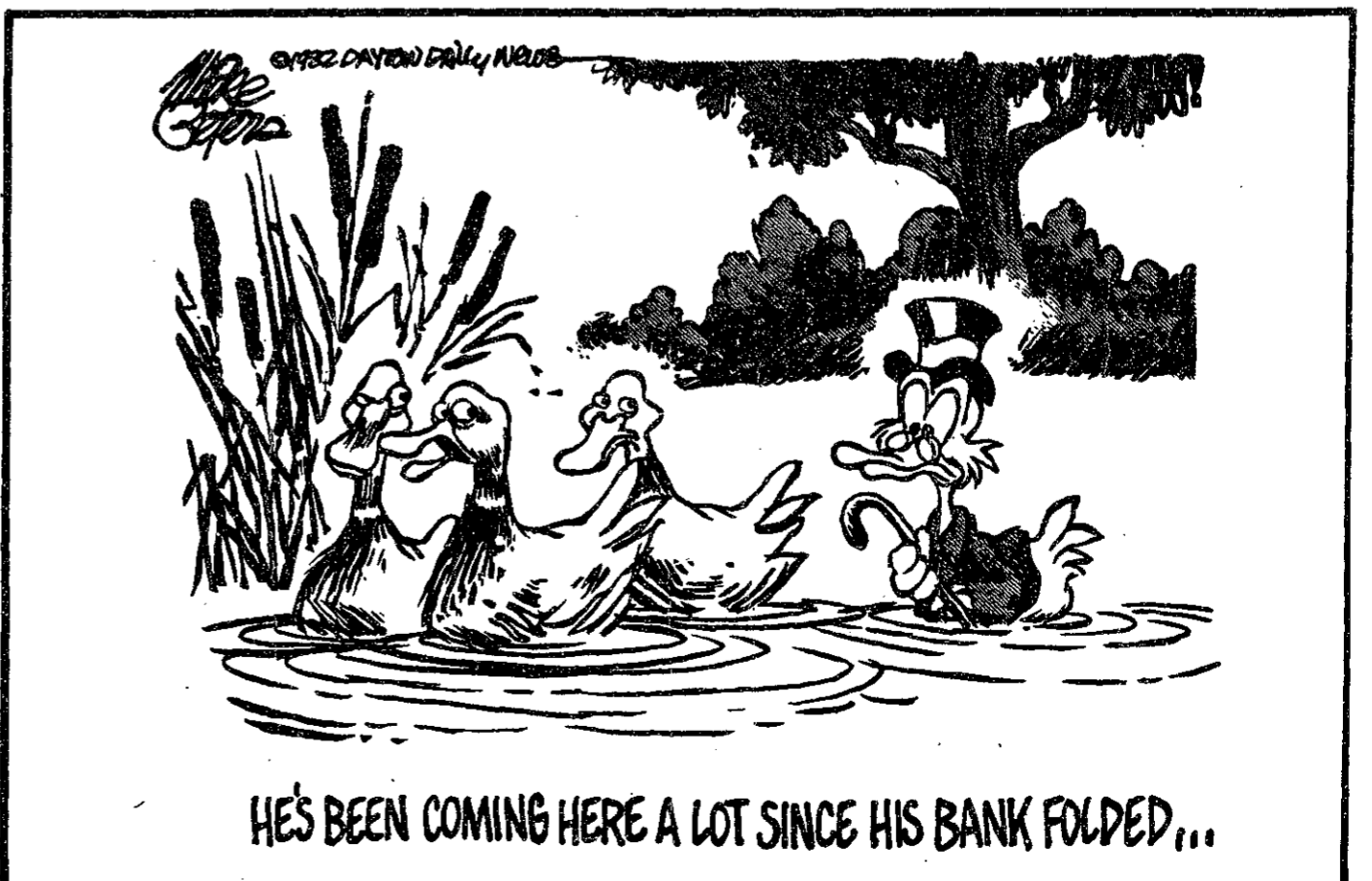
This unexpected turn of events may indicate that the Reagan Administration has finally received a long-overdue dose of economic reality. The financial world certainly feels this way; the passage of the tax bill and lower short-term interest rates have sparked an unprecedented bull market on Wall Street and renewed hopes for economic recovery on Main Street.

The President's support of the Dole tax reform bill could be a sign that he is now willing to put national interests ahead of my-

opic ideologies. He and the Congress showed a great deal of courage by supporting a tax hike in this election and recession year. They have taken an encouraging step in the right direction.

But even with this tax increase, much work remains to reduce Federal budget deficits. There are a number of lucrative, but unnecessary, tax loopholes and pork barrel projects for special interests that must be eliminated. These include the Synthetic Fuels Corporation, the business tax lunch deduction, the Clinch River Breeder Reactor, the safe-harbor leasing tax breaks, the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway, tobacco and sugar subsidies, and a host of other unproductive boondoggles. There are also many examples of imprudent spending in the Defense Department: weapons that do not work, strategic systems that are not needed, and procurement practices that are grossly inefficient. Finally, the government must regain control of runaway expenditures on entitlement programs for the middle class, including social security.

Thus far, the President and the Congress — especially the Democrats — have shied away from these politically sensitive issues. Now, however, for the sake of the country, they must face them. Perhaps, in the same spirit that led to passage of the tax increase bill, America's elected leaders in Washington will go beyond their rhetoric and join together to meet the serious budget challenges that loom ahead.



Take a walk



The City Observed: Boston; A Guide to the Architecture of the Hub, by Donlyn Lyndon, published by Random House.

Foremost, *The City Observed* is a discussion of the history of Boston taken from the perspective of a former MIT Architecture Department chairman. Through a series of fascinating walks in 19 sections of inner Boston, Lyndon introduces the reader to architecture as an overall subject, as it pertains to the Hub, and to the architectural, civil, and political histories of Boston.

Lyndon begins with the Old State House: "Among the features of the building least admired by citizens of the newly formed republic were a lion and unicorn embellishing the gable at the State Street end, emblems of the power of the British throne. Removed in a bit of patriotic censorship, they have since been restored, to the everlasting credit of resurrectionists. Shorn of their threatening implications,

they provide a wonderful air of fantasy: two preposterous animals benignly surveying our scene." Step by step, one can tour Boston with Lyndon — either carrying the book as a guide or from an armchair.

Even if you are not an architectural buff, you can't help being taken in by Lyndon's fascination with the work of art we call Boston. While discussing The Tudor: "The building itself wiggles up Joy Street, starting with a round bay on the corner, then a metal-clad quarter-round, then a couple of jogs, one for the entrance, another with a little carved balustrade making the stair, then a round bay, which straightens out, another jog and another round bay. Then suddenly a great right-angled piece rises up to a large arch at the top, embedded in which there's a copper-clad bay. Fantastic. This splendid eccentric fits into the hill perfectly."

While the current MIT buildings are not discussed in great detail, one fraternity house, Chi Phi at 32 Hereford Street, is mentioned as being the 1884 precedent to

the Boston Public Library, built by the same firm four years later. Lyndon points out that the original MIT Rogers Building (no longer standing) was a sibling to the remaining Bonwit Teller building which itself was formerly the Museum of Natural History (1863). The original MIT structure was "MIT's first building in the area, later to be joined by several others in the vicinity of Copley Square. Most were vacated in 1916, when MIT moved across the river to its more extensive temple in Cambridge."

As for the Tute's current location, it is explained to the reader as he stands on the south side of the Harvard Bridge: "A quick survey, left to right, of the Cambridge shore will show you the Hyatt Hotel by Gund, MIT housing towers by Stubbings, low, new brick terraced housing by Sert, Jackson Associates, the beautiful, long, sinuously bending wall of Aalto's Baker House dormitory, the pompous gray main buildings of MIT designed by Bosworth, two towers designed by Pei and Catalano, and the model apartment build-

ing at 100 Memorial Drive... all notable works."

The City Observed: Boston is the second in a planned series of books from Random House. The first was a guide to Manhattan in 1979. Twelve pages at the start of the Boston text are set aside for a discussion of architectural terminology. Maps and photographs are liberally used throughout. If you have been trying to get through MIT without setting foot in Boston, grab a copy of *The City Observed: Boston*; if it still doesn't get you to visit The Hub, at least you can answer people during the summer when asked, "Whaddaya think of Boston?"

If you've lived here all your life and know everything there is to know about Boston, pick up a copy anyway. There's enough fascinating trivia embedded in each discussion of each building that you may view the entire city anew your next trip across the bridge.

Stuart Gitlow

Beam me up



Star Trek II, original motion picture soundtrack, composed and conducted by James Horner, a digital recording on Atlantic Records.

The highlight of 1979's *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* was the score composed by Jerry Goldsmith. The music ranged from the tenderness of "Ilia's Theme" to the hard-hitting clicking of "Klingon Battle" and the grandeur of "The Enterprise." Quality control at Columbia Records was not up to par at the time and many pressings were of poor quality — not to mention V'ger being spelled "Vejur" on the label. The movie itself also left a great deal to be desired; fortunately, Paramount realized the demand for a good *Star Trek* motion picture remained, and lo! *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* was born.

While revamping the legend of *Star Trek*, Paramount Pictures made two decisions. One was the switch to Atlantic Records, whose new soundtrack album is

beautifully clear and crisp; the digital recording has brought through the full texture of the music. The second decision concerned the switch to James Horner as composer. Although Horner incorporated the original A. Courage series music within the new composition, his soundtrack lacks variety. There is a theme for the Enterprise (Kirk), a theme for the Reliant (Khan), and a short motif for Spock.

The two main themes revolve about one another, change a bit here and there, and cavort throughout the album. Although the music itself is occasionally lacking in the high end, what there is of it is very well done. The Enterprise theme is notably romantic, the Khan theme is notably barbaric, and between this and the high quality of the recording, the album is worth the price. Even Nimoy's narration at the end of the movie ("Space, the final frontier...") is included on the album.

Stuart Gitlow

The Hasty Pudding Theatre presents **Hair, the American Tribal Love Rock Musical**. Performances are at the Theatre on 12 Holyoke Street, Cambridge; tickets are \$8 and \$6; performances begin at 8pm Tuesday-Saturday, and at 3pm on Sunday. For more information call 497-5477.

The MIT Musical Theatre Guild presents Stephen Sondheim's **Company**, in the Kresge Little Theatre. Performances on September 3, 4, 9, 10 & 11 at 8pm, with a matinee on September 4 at 3:30pm. Tickets are \$5/\$3 with MIT ID, available in Lobby 10 or at the door. For information and reservations call x3-6294.

This weekend's LSC movies:
Animal House, Friday, 7 & 9:30, Kresge. **Free for freshmen!**
Blazing Saddles, 7 & 9:30, 26-100.
Dr. Strangelove (or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb), 6:30 & 9, 26-100.

Mission of Burma and The Neats will be at Jonathan Swift's in Harvard Square this Friday, for information call 661-9887.

Heaven Can Wait, the MidNite Movie, Saturday, September 4, second floor of the Student Center.



Tonight Coolidge Corner Cinema presents a **Silent Film Festival** featuring Harold Lloyd's *Speedy* at 5:15pm, Buster Keaton's *The Cameraman* at 6:35 and Keaton's *The General* at 8:05. For more information call 734-2500.

Reggae lovers should attend Thursday's **Black Uhuru** concert at the Metro, 15 Lansdowne Street, Boston. The vocal trio's band will include master rhythm section/producers Robbie Shakespeare and Sly Dunbar. Doors open at 8pm, tickets cost \$8.50. Hey, natty dread! You be a bumclot to miss this a one.

The **Hayden Planetarium** at the Museum of Science presents the final performances of **Best Hits**, a collection of sights and sounds from previous productions of *Heavy Water Lightshow*. Special effects include laser, video, and computer animations set to the music of Pink Floyd, Van Halen, and Santana. Shows are Friday at 8:45 and 10pm, and Saturday at 5:30, 7:30, 8:45 and 10pm. Admission is \$3.50.

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Senior Hse. residents "fix" dormline tape

By Robert E. Malchman
A Senior House resident entered MIT's dormline telephone exchange in the basement of Ashdown House early Sunday morning and replaced the recording played to outside callers with one devised by himself and an accomplice.

The usual message, "This is MIT. Collect and third-number calls will not be accepted at this number," was replaced by one saying, "This is MIT, where the phrase 'Sport Death' has been censored by the Dean's Office. Collect and third-number calls will not be accepted."

"Sport Death" is the motto of Senior House. In May, the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA) ordered the phrase removed from the Residence Book sent to freshmen because the term is potentially embarrassing to the Institute or offensive to freshmen or their parents, according to Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood. The Dean's Office publishes the book and exercises editorial control over its content.

The dormline prank was a response to this action, according to the perpetrator, who requested anonymity. Making the change "was pretty trivial," he said. "I have a key to the room where the machine is." The two Senior House residents recorded the message on a cassette tape, he said, then transferred it to the phone recording.

The perpetrator returned to Ashdown House Sunday night and restored the original message. "I wanted to get it back to normal before Monday," he said, "so the people at dormline wouldn't have to deal with it."

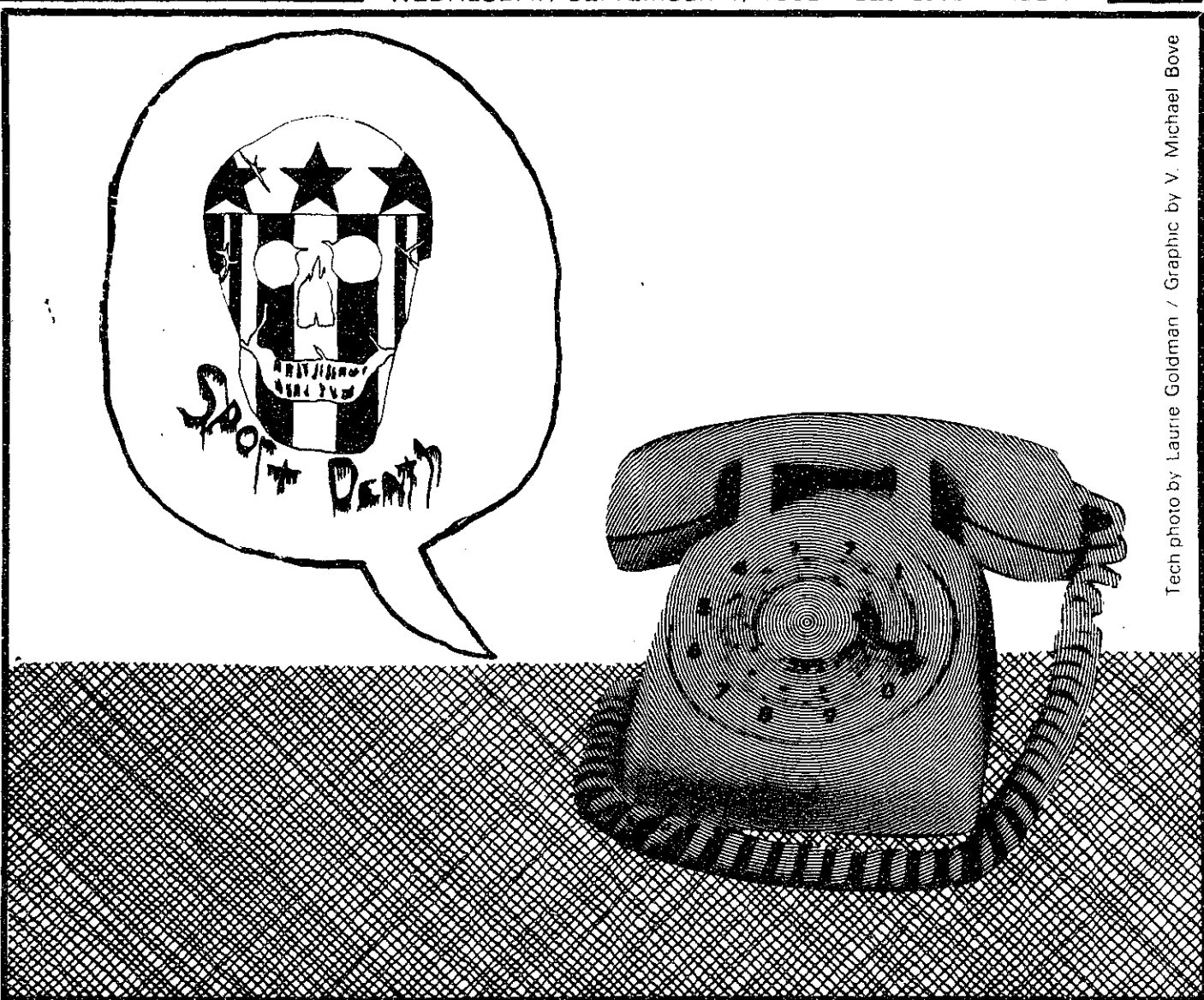
Neither the Dean's Office nor the Telecommunications Office had been fully apprised of the situation by Tuesday afternoon. Sherwood said he had "heard

something about the telephones, but didn't know the specifics."

Supervisor of Administrative Services Morton Berlan "heard about it from my staff [Tuesday] afternoon," he said. Berlan is investigating the matter. "I have technicians checking it out," he said. "We'll take steps to see that it doesn't happen again."

"This is the first instance in the year I've been here," said Donald Green, Supervisor of Telecommunications. Green will ask his student employees at dormline about the incident. "If I find the guilty party," he said, "I'll say 'it wasn't appreciated and if it happens again you'll get booted out.' I'd be a lot more concerned if there had been any destruction or theft."

Sherwood said the Dean's Office has no plans to investigate the matter unless "someone files a complaint with us. As it stands now, it's a non-issue."



Tech photo by Laurie Goldman / Graphic by V. Michael Bove

SCC assesses Student Center's faults in report for VisComm

(Continued from page 1)

space in the basement, SCC says. These facilities should be replaced with a student pub, an automatic bank teller machine, an ice cream or pizza parlor, or a "more stylish" barbershop, the

committee suggests.

Non-student functions using Student Center facilities on a daily basis often conflict with student events, says the report. Outside conferences and inside seminars create "a rigid and formal atmosphere in the Student Center

which discourages student use of the building."

The report was prepared at the request of the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA), for presentation to the Corporation's Visiting Committee on Student Affairs November 7-9.

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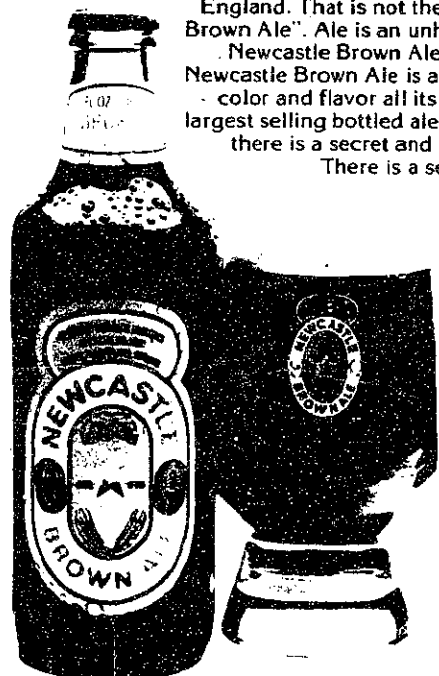
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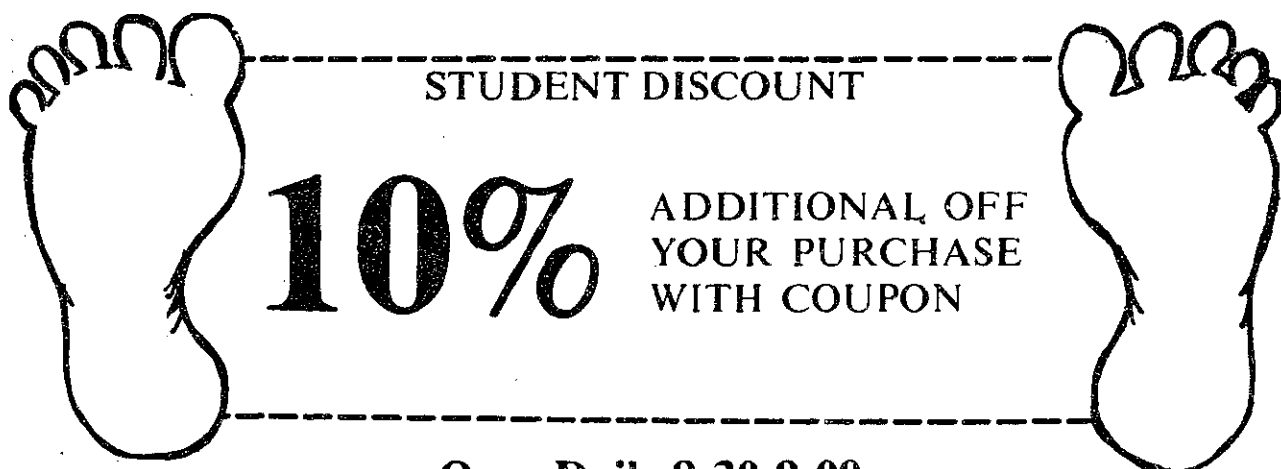


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