



Tech photo by
Omar Valerio

Despite heads up play, MIT lost to Nichols last Saturday. See Sports update, page 12.

IFC tables motion on sorority

By Thomas Huang

The InterFraternity Conference (IFC) heard about successful attempts to exempt fraternities from the state meals tax, and tabled a motion to establish a sorority at MIT at its meeting last night.

"We have been trying to get an abatement of the fraternity meals tax because a lot of people thought it was unjust," said Thomas Maples '84, IFC Financial Management Chairman.

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue exempted Kappa Sigma and Number Six Club from the state's five percent meals tax, according to Maples. Sigma Phi Epsilon is trying to apply for an exemption as well.

About two years ago, MIT tried to get meals tax exemptions for its fraternities through legislation but did not succeed, according to Stephen D. Immerman, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. The two recent exemptions stem from individual fraternity appeals to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

MIT fraternities pay an average of \$1000 a year in meals tax, said Maples. Restaurants are required to collect meals taxes from their patrons. The Department's decisions were based on the contention that a fraternity is more of a family operation than a restaurant business, according to Immerman.

The Revenue Department sent a letter to Number Six Club stating Massachusetts fraternities are exempt from the state meals tax, Immerman said. He suggested the other fraternities wait for the full thirty-day billing period on their next meals tax bill, to see if the exemption applied to all houses.

The IFC also considered a proposal for an off-campus sorority. The Expansion Committee of the IFC recommended in a May 5 report a sorority be formed at MIT as long as "the percentage of women undergraduates should reach 30% overall within the current MIT coed living facilities prior to any consideration of rush privileges, and that the women requesting . . . the sorority should establish and maintain a stable off-campus living facility."

The sorority would be a non-voting participant in the IFC and might have to pay half the regular IFC dues for at least its first calendar year. The sorority would not be allowed to rush freshmen during this time.

Discussion of the sorority proposal was postponed until the next IFC meeting to resolve details about the sorority's dues to the IFC and its rush procedures.

Thirty women are expected to live in the proposed sorority. The process of forming a sorority would take a few years, noted Robert A. Sherwood, Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

City demands MIT apology

By Ed Schmit

The Cambridge City Council ordered MIT Wednesday to apologize to several government agencies for a phenol leak in an Institute trash compactor and to promise such leaks will not happen again.

The leak occurred when an assistant in a recombinant DNA laboratory left some chemical bottles in a hallway outside his laboratory. An MIT Physical Plant custodian then dumped the chemicals in the trash compactor behind the Kendall Square fire station.

Some phenol may have leaked into the Charles River, said Cambridge Mayor Alfred E. Vellucci. Vellucci scolded MIT officials at the meeting for polluting the Charles following the extensive effort made to clean up the river.

MIT Safety Office Director John M. Fresina told the council it was unlikely any phenol entered the river, since Kevin Doherty, Cambridge Public Health Coordinator, ordered the leak

area covered and diked with sand to absorb the spill and prevent drainage.

MIT has not yet received any official order from the council, according to Walter L. Milne, Special Assistant to the President for Urban Relations. Milne denied any pollution of Charles, citing the excellent work of the cleanup crew and the lack of evidence of phenol traces in the catch basin in the MIT storm drain.

The council unanimously voted to order MIT to send letters of apology to the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering and Attorney General, the Middlesex County District Attorney, the Metropolitan District Commission and the City of Cambridge. The letter to the city, the council voted, must include a promise such an accident will not occur again.

Every reasonable precaution will be taken in the future, Milne said, to prevent such accidents from happening again. This inci-

dent, he said, demonstrated MIT has the capability to cope with waste disposal problems.

The council also discussed ways to prevent chemical spills, including more stringent cleanup regulations, identification labels for hazardous chemicals, and increased frequency for inspections.

Chomsky criticizes US policy

By John J. Ying

Four panelists, speaking Wednesday night to an overflow crowd in 26-100, described the brutal behavior of Israel and her Phalangist allies in the invasion of Lebanon that culminated in the massacres in the Beirut refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila.

The panelists, Noam A. Chomsky, Institute Professor of Linguistics, Dan Connell, Lebanon Affairs Person for Oxfam America, Roger Hurwitz, a researcher in MIT's Political Science Department, and Lena Jayussi, a Palestinian sociologist spoke at an emotional forum sponsored by the MIT Socialist group.

The lecture started with a fifteen-minute slide show, by the America Friends Service Committee, documenting the destruction of the Lebanese war.

Chomsky emphasized the duplicity of the U.S. in criticizing Israel for its actions while providing material and moral support. It is "hypocrisy to condemn Israel when we pay for them to invade, hypocrisy to condemn Israel for heavy bombing and shelling of dense population zones when we provide massive military assistance," Chomsky claimed. "One can see why every Israeli government has resorted to brutality. As long as the U.S. supports them militarily and politically, including the rewriting of history, Israel will continue."

Chomsky also blamed Israel, and not the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), for provoking the invasion of South-

ern Lebanon. "The critics are completely missing the point. The point is the invasion of Lebanon was carried out mainly because the bombs were too quiet. The PLO could no longer be portrayed as murderers. The government hopes the PLO will return to its former terrorism. This way it will lose the political credibility it has gained."

Three main reasons Israel invaded Lebanon, according to Chomsky, were to "integrate" the bulk of the occupied territories into Israel, to destroy "any manifestation" of Palestinian nationalism, and to control Southern Lebanon and its resources.

Chomsky directly blamed Israel for the massacres in Sabra and Shatila. He noted Colonel Haddad's Christian militia was transported from Southern Lebanon to the refugee camps and commented that the Phalangist forces were chosen by "precedents for their history of savagery and brutality . . . All this [the massacres] takes place below Israeli observation posts. Close by, they [the Israelis] were hearing shrieks of people getting murdered."

Jayussi, a Palestinian who has lived in Lebanon, asserted the present Lebanese invasion is "an attempt by Israel to impose a final solution to the Palestinian question. What we are witnessing in Lebanon is a holocaust, a holocaust against Lebanon and the Palestinian people . . . It is an attempt to establish an Israeli imperialistic dominance over the entire Mideast region."

About Sabra and Shatila, Jayucci notes, "There is no way I could see," that the Israeli Army could let the Christian Militia into the camps "without knowing that a massacre would occur . . . Genocide as an end product lies in the end as the heart of every colonial assault in the Third World."

Jayucci strongly defended the PLO and the Palestinian people's right to exist. "We refuse to disappear into the shadows. . . The PLO is the Palestinian people. They remain the sole legitimate representative of the Arab people . . . They are the only ones who can resist the assault of a barbaric people. . . The only way to stand against genocide is to stand for a national self-determination of the Palestinian states."

Connell, a former journalist just returning from Beirut, vividly described of suffering and stressed the civilian casualties in the war. He said wounds from phosphorous bombs could smoulder up to 24 hours and talked about assembly line amputations. "In the hospitals; the ratio of casualties of military to civilian was 80 percent civilian. . . the civilians were worse off. . . the military was better protected. . . in trenches."

Hurwitz, a member of the New Jewish Agenda and one of the founders of Mokked, an Israeli peace group, also attacked the Israeli government. "It has been a summer of hell for the Lebanese and the Palestinian people."

inside

Harvard's President
Derek C. Bok lectures on
genetic research —
Page 2.

Women's Volleyball team
experiences finest season
ever —
Page 12.

MIT fraternity spends
\$450,000 on house
renovations —
Page 2.

Sports Editor Martin
Dickau '83 discusses the
trials and tribulations of
sports reporting —
Page 12.

TDC gets new roof

By Andrea Marra and John J. Ying

The brothers of TDC have a new roof over their heads — not to mention a new library, a new roof deck, and a half-dozen new rooms.

Theta Delta Chi (TDC) added a story to its house at 372 Memorial Drive this summer. The \$450,000 addition was funded with a loan from MIT's Independent Residence Development

Fund (IRDF).

Alumni of MIT's fraternities support the fund, which makes loans for capital improvements to independent living groups. The IRDF charges three percent interest on its loans.

A three-member alumni board reviews funding requests submitted by the alumni corporations of the individual fraternities. The board investigates the financial condition of each alumni corpo-

ration to determine if it can support the loan and if the loan will result in an unfair taxation of the members of the house.

Architect Victor Karen '74, a TDC alumnus, designed the new floor for the house.

The floor was built mainly to alleviate overcrowding. The house now includes eight singles, two doubles, and eleven triples. In previous years, forty members lived in the fraternity; this year there are forty-five.

"The involvement of the students living here while construction was going on was very key," said Karen. The students helped the contractor, Bowdoin Contracting Corporation, and worked on the construction at a "maniacal pace" to complete the job by R/O Week, he said.

This year's work week at TDC was especially hectic; one week before rush began, the new floor had no carpeting, furniture, or windows.

The addition may have contributed to TDC's successful rush week. "On Sunday we offered seventeen bids, and by Monday morning, which is the first day anyone could pledge, we had seventeen pledges," according to Victor Iannello '83, house president. "This is the first time that's happened here."

Bok discusses genetic research

By Ron Norman

Derek C. Bok, president of Harvard University, discussed the issue of genetic research in universities at the Cambridge Forum Wednesday.

Bok's lecture, entitled, "Does biogenetic research endanger universities?", supported genetic research, stressing that the research can be useful if the development is controlled. The research, Bok said, can be applied to present-day problems.

Examples of this usefulness, Bok maintained, could include the development of interferon as a reliable cancer-fighting drug, and the elimination of genetic defects.

Bok favored informing the public of new developments and research. This communication, he implied, is necessary to maintain a safe and healthy relationship between the public and universities.

Along with this open policy, however, Bok claimed the patent system remains useful so information can be effectively translated into goods and services.

Much of the funding for genetic research comes from government grants, explained Bok. A common problem, therefore, is with public demand for tangible and useful products from the research.

Universities must "struggle" to find practical applications for biological research, Bok said, including patent programs, bilateral agreements with companies, and direct consultation between professors and companies. Direct consultation agreements may cause problems, however.

Muriel Cohen, education writer for *The Boston Globe*, asked Bok if such agreements could influence curriculum, citing personal financial agreements as a problem area. These disloyalties, Cohen said, could precipitate curriculum changes to attract more private grant money. Also, professors having direct consultation agreements with private companies may sacrifice educational standards to economic consider-

ations, she said.

These situations, Bok responded, will not pose serious problems, explaining that company grants comprise only a small portion of university budgets, and little money is made from patent programs. Universities must be careful, however, to hold professors' loyalties in education, he added.

The initial safety of genetic research is the university's responsibility, Bok maintained, but the government, society, the professor and the university are responsible for its final outcome.

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news roundup

World

Israel assisted Phalangist refugee camp operation — The Israeli army requested and helped plan the Phalangist entry into Palestinian refugee camps, Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon said Wednesday. The Phalangists massacred hundreds of civilians at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps last week. "When the picture became clear, when we saw the enormity of the tragedy, it was too late, too late to do anything, although we intervened at the rise of the first suspicion," Begin contended at an acrimonious debate in the Israeli Knesset.

USSR denies plot to kill Pope — The Soviet Union denied alleged connections with the May 1981 attempt to assassinate Pope John Paul II. NBC News recently broadcast a report claiming the Kremlin backed that assassination attempt. Tass, the Soviet news agency, contended the CIA planted the story.

Thatcher visits China — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of England met with Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang and other officials in Peking to discuss the future of Hong Kong. Most of Great Britain's lease on the territory expires in 1997. Thatcher arrived in Peking Wednesday, following a six-day visit to Japan.

Tony Zamparutti

Nation

Helms' amendments die in Senate — Constitutional amendments prohibiting abortion and requiring prayer in public schools died in the US Senate yesterday. Following the fourth unsuccessful attempt to end a bipartisan filibuster against the anti-abortion measure, Senator Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina), sponsor of the amendments, said, "You never really lose when you're fighting for a good cause."

Local

King endorses Dukakis — Massachusetts Governor Edward J. King yesterday announced his endorsement of former governor Michael Dukakis following a fifteen-minute meeting between the two Democrats at the State House. The two men disagree on many issues, King said, but he will support his party and attempt to change its policies from within. King seemed to rule out a personal role in the campaign, however, when he said he could not actively support a candidate supporting a woman's right to choose to have an abortion. Dukakis stressed similarities between his and King's positions on education and jobs.

Nuclear freeze referendum to appear on November ballot — Citizens of Massachusetts will have a chance to vote on a referendum asking the US government to work to secure a mutual nuclear arms moratorium and reduction with the Soviet Union and other nations. The legislature passed, and Governor King signed, a measure placing the question on the November ballot just before yesterday's 5pm deadline for such action.

Barry S. Surman

Sports

Minor leaguer files Chicken suit — Quad City (Iowa) Cubs pitcher Don Schulze filed a \$2.5 million damage suit against The Chicken Co. which manages Ted Giannoulis, the actor who plays the San Diego Chicken, in Federal District Court in Iowa. Schulze hit a home run in a game between the Cubs and an old-timers team. As the plaintiff was rounding third base, the suit alleges, the Chicken tackled Schulze, separating the pitcher's shoulder in the fall. Schulze was on the disabled list for most of the season.

Gaussian elimination claims Red Sox — The chances for a Boston pennant this year reached the limit $1/n$, as n approaches infinity (or the end of the season, whichever comes first). The Milwaukee Brewers beat the Red Sox 3-1 Wednesday night in Milwaukee.

Robert E. Malchman

Weather

Pleasant weather returns to Boston this weekend, with mostly sunny skies both today and tomorrow and highs in the low 70's. Tonight will be partly cloudy, with a low in the middle 50's.

Barry S. Surman

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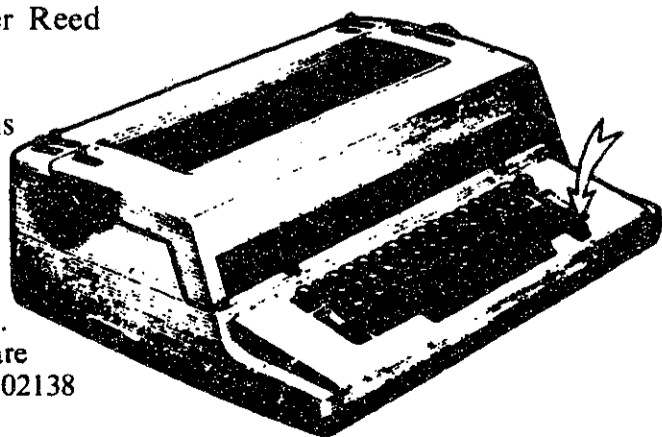
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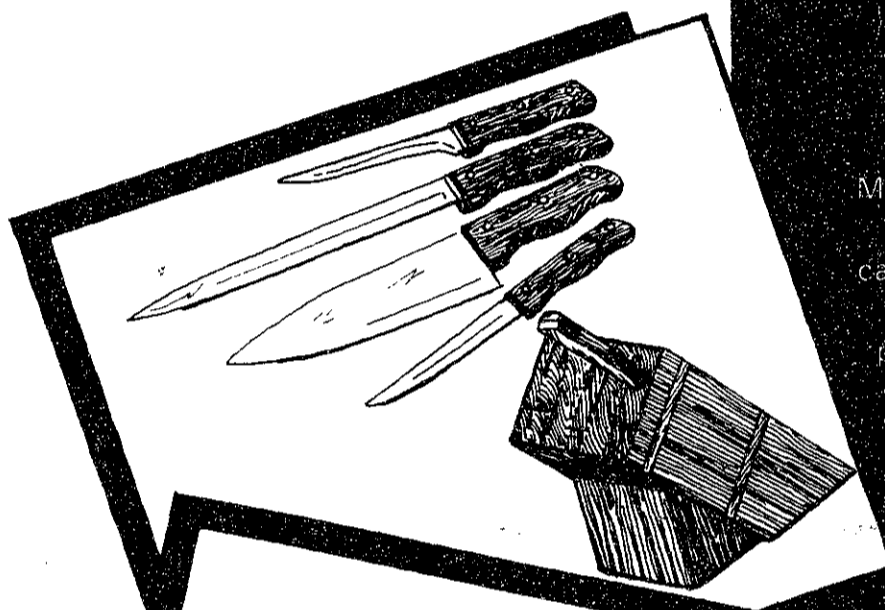


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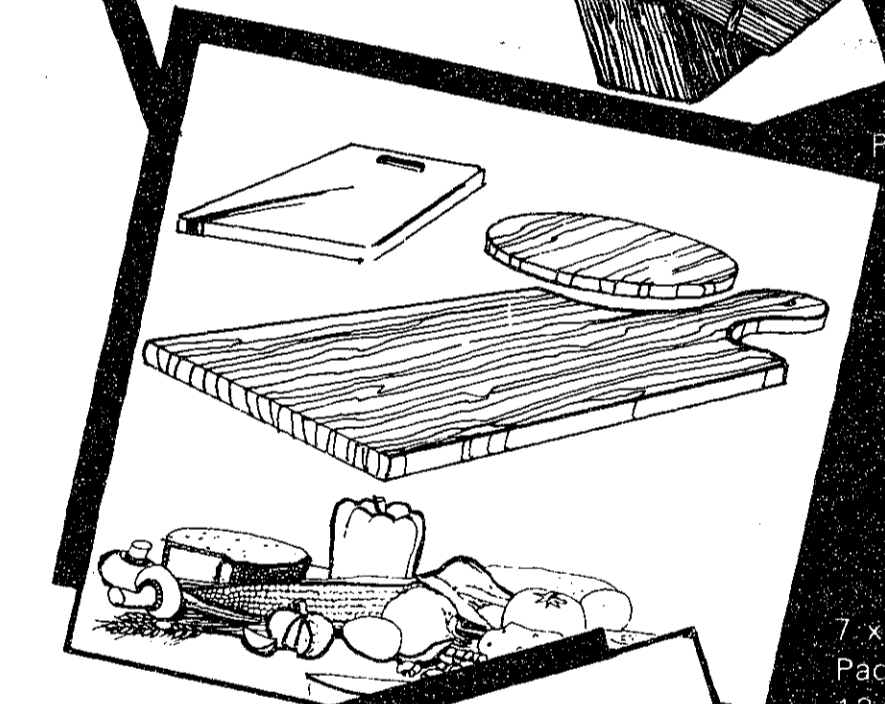
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MIT Student Center



Opinion

Jerri-Lynn Scofield

Frosh need pass/fail

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) has proposed several major changes to the freshman grading system at MIT. As these changes are considered both faculty and students should focus attention on several underlying issues. First, what should the role of grades be at MIT? Second, what would the educational effect of the proposals be? Third, is there a better way to give students constructive feedback?

Evaluation systems should enable students to understand how well they are performing. Grading systems are all too often just arbitrary vehicles that allow insiders and outsiders alike to make often meaningless comparisons among students. MIT's grading system, particularly during the freshmen year, should be designed to help students become better students. A grading system should not exacerbate tensions and pressures.

MIT has a reputation for excellence, and rightfully so. Yet, unfortunately, that reputation rests to a large extent on her research prestige and her ability to produce competent graduates, rather than on the quality of the MIT educational experience itself. For many MIT undergraduates, contact with professors, especially those who teach large lecture courses, is minimal. Professors often do not recognize the names of students in their departments. Students often receive inadequate assessments of their work in courses. Admittedly, it is difficult for a professor to tell any individual student how to improve his performance when he teaches over a hundred students.

For \$8,700 dollars a year, however, students deserve more than a merely adequate educational experience that prepares them for a high-paying job in industry. MIT students, among the most talented in the world, should receive a superior education. Students deserve high quality teaching, useful evaluations, and professorial attention. MIT does not place enough emphasis on these priorities; the pushy MIT student must often demand them for himself. Much of the MIT experience is devoted to forcing talented, ambitious students, into arbitrary classifications. Departments, courses, and professors too often forget to let students know how, and in what ways, they may improve and become more educated, more talented individuals.

MIT should start paying more attention to the quality of the undergraduate experience. That attention should begin in the freshman year. Otherwise, students may start flocking to Georgia Tech or other state schools. Maybe they pay no greater attention to undergraduate education than does MIT, but at least you don't have to sell your sister to afford them.

The CEP proposals would radically alter the current pass/fail system for freshmen. I agree the pass/fail system needs improvements, but not in the direction the CEP has chosen. The CEP has proposed that complete internal grades will be computed in all courses and freshmen will receive internal grade reports, starting this spring. They argue this doesn't weaken, but strengthens, MIT's commitment to pass/fail during the freshman year. I think the reverse is true.

The CEP's report claims concrete freshman grades are necessary to enable sophomore advisors to provide better advice to students entering departments. Has anyone done any serious study to show this need indeed exists? I know of none. If I ever tried to draw a conclusion in a research paper using the CEP's type of anecdotal evidence, I would be crucified. Come on, this is MIT, the most sophisticated scientific institution in the world. Surely there are people here who could design valid surveys to determine if reestablishing an arbitrary grading system is warranted. Why haven't any formal studies been conducted? I wonder if the CEP really believes in the validity of its evidence. If they do, they should verify their assertions. Students and faculty are entitled to more than anecdotal evidence as justification for a major policy change.

At the end of each term, the old narrative evaluation forms will be replaced with new, simpler check-off forms. Was there any reason to do this? The old forms were not always useful because students and instructors failed to return them, yet there are other ways to ensure forms are returned that don't necessitate redesigning them. The new forms are supposed to be easier to complete. But are they more useful? No one has really knows. For the amount of money a freshman pays for an MIT education, I think he can insist that an instructor take ten minutes twice a term to fill out the old form. The reasons for redesigning the form are, at least to me, less than compelling.

These new methods of feedback are designed ostensibly to provide better communication between student and advisor. I ask, respectful of all the time and attention the CEP spent designing this proposal, how? All the advisor now has is some method of measuring student A's performance against student B's. Yet he has no way of knowing why student A's performance is not adequate, or is exceptional. The new system will make it easier to pit all freshmen against each other,

(Continued on column 5)

The Tech

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Ivan Fong

The MIT-is-a-bubble syndrome

The recent intensity of military conflict in the Middle East and the sudden advent of job-hunting season for many MIT seniors are two sobering thoughts that, unrelatedly, jolt me to reality and strike an inner chord to reflect on my seemingly ethereal stay at the Institute.

A common complaint about MIT students is that they don't care about the outside world. Aside from the imprecision of any such generalization, I feel that such a statement does not do justice to the Institute. Most MIT students I know, believe it or not, are fairly knowledgeable on foreign affairs and domestic policy, if not exceedingly opinionated on these topics. This interest, however, and the pursuit of this interest, are sometimes unfortunately put on hold during most of the term.

If one accepts that MIT students are truly interested in culture and the world around them, the obvious reason for this phenomenon is the rearrangement of priorities due to the workload the Institute demands. While admittedly keeping abreast of foreign politics may not be high on any student's list of "Things to Do," it is close enough to the bottom to be among the first to get cut (as does getting eight hours of sleep a night or eating breakfast regularly). It is all too easy, nonetheless, to use studies as a scapegoat for not listening to one's

conscience. We all know we should read world, national, and local news every day, and many students do (well, most of the time). Yet these are choices students live with, for now.

Despite MIT's location across the river from the Hub of the Universe, many students hardly ever see it. Perhaps this is reason enough for encouragement of living groups to participate in community service projects, but there is an additional advantage. Visiting a local orphanage or reconstructing low-income housing can be education in itself — learning from the suffering of others. Seeing little children once in a while (for short periods of time, of course) can do wonders for one's outlook on life, as well. Again, however, there is often both little time from lectures and little sympathy from lecturers for such constructive benevolence.

Another facet of the "MIT-is-a-bubble syndrome" comes from a suggestion that students are not exposed to the peer group diversity expected at many colleges. Diversity in the sense that one can have dinner with a Renaissance art major or take more than one humanities class a term without people wondering why. The argument that even students at schools large enough to offer such heterogeneity do not take advantage of it misses the point. Large and purportedly diverse universities can serve a distinct

educational goal that takes effort to find at the Institute.

The focus of my observations is that students at MIT, especially engineers, are, for the most part, training for a career. While there is nothing inherently wrong with career-mindedness, the subtle difference between training for a career and getting an education lies in the opportunity to enrich one's life. Campus life and educational policy follow trends of pre-professionalism and, nationally, play a significant role in the future of American higher education. MIT and its students must be careful not to allow further degradation of non-academic offerings while continuing to ensure a superior classroom environment.

What all this boils down to is the meaning of a college education. No one would suggest that college life simulates "real" life, yet we expect it to prepare one for life. *Time* magazine this week published a special essay analyzing undergraduate education in America, and, in doing so, made many interesting observations. In my view, what is relevant to MIT is the caution that the pursuit of technical excellence not deprive students of faith, curiosity, and perspective. My optimism with respect to the Institute remains. MIT has its share of activists, artists, athletes, musicians, and snobs — they just happen to be scholars as well.

On pass/fail

(Continued from column 2)

yet it will not help further any one's education. It again will place arbitrary emphasis on grades, but it brings us no closer to knowing what those grades mean, or how we may improve our performance.

The new check-off forms do not tell students how to improve. After receiving a completed form, I might know my class participation is exceptionally good and my homework is not adequate. Why? Is it because my instructor lost four of my assignments? Is it because I never handed them in? Is it because I did the wrong assignment? Or is it because I hadn't figured out how to integrate yet? Did my teacher even bother to look at my homework?

Grades, to many students, are often a worthless means of assessing performance. I have taken many examinations which, when I got them back, had nothing but a single letter grade scrawled on

Column/David C. Linglebach

Differences abound between US and Britain

(Editor's note: This is the second installment in a two-part series describing differences between British and U.S. educational institutions. Part 1 appeared Tuesday.)

Many commentators have suggested that Great Britain is in a period of decline. It is; no one would dare compare Margaret Thatcher with William Gladstone. Anthony Powell with Charles Dickens, or the British fleet of the Falklands with the one that controlled the Atlantic and Indian Oceans during the late 1800s. For every scintillating debate in the Parliament, there is a drunken brawl by angry soccer fans or sickening taunts directed

at Britain's ever-increasing "colored" population. The British are inveterate consumers of television programs, but the quality of these shows is descending into the realm of General Hospitalism and cheap violent dramas. Anyone who has witnessed the current state of socialized housing, particularly in the industrial Midland cities, cannot relish the future for the institution of the English family; a whole generation of glueheads, skinheads, punksters, and petty gangsters burgeons from the trash-heap of England's feeble economic performance.

(Please turn to page 8)

(Please turn to page 5)

CEP moves wrong way

(Continued from page 4)

them. I sometimes wonder if the professor ever bothered to read the assignment, particularly if I reread my own work and discovered some confusing passage. I can't believe a professor wouldn't at least note certain passages didn't make any sense, if he bothered to read my prose.

Grades are an even worse way of evaluating complex research papers. Sometimes I have spent months working on a particular paper, only to get it back marked "A" or "B". Well, what do those marks mean? Where did I succeed? Where did I fail? Being a fairly diligent (read paranoid) student, I will often make an appointment to see a professor to discuss my work. Our grading system should encourage students, especially freshmen, to discover where their work is strong and where it is weak, rather than forcing them to pay attention to their performance relative to all other MIT freshmen. If any changes are made to the present freshmen evaluation system, they should be made in the direction of subjectivity, rather than encouraging arbitrary classification.

I realize that it is impossible to abolish grades at such a competitive institution as MIT. Yet there is no reason I can discover that justifies returning freshmen to a more formalized grading system. Recognizing these facts, I propose the following alternatives to the CEP proposals, which I think could improve the average freshman's MIT education. Unlike the CEP proposals, I think my suggestions would actually help freshmen learn where they are doing well and upon what they need to improve, rather than making it easier to rank individual members of the freshmen class.

First, I agree there is a problem with freshman evaluation forms that are not returned, but it's not the same problem the CEP suggests. Citing the same type of anecdotal evidence as the CEP is so fond of, I would like to note when I was a freshman, I turned in every single evaluation form on time. I got less than half of them back. You can't convince me all those forms were lost in interdepartmental mail. All instructors should be required to treat freshman evaluations with the same seriousness they treat letter grades. When was the last time you heard that a professor forgot to turn in grades? The departmental secretary usually makes sure they get in, rather than risk the wrath of the Registrar and the Committee on Academic Performance.

Second, students must recognize the importance of turning in their forms. Evaluation forms should be made mandatory for every freshman course. Any student who fails to turn one in should receive a grade of Incomplete for the course. This policy change will ensure that each freshman will treat the forms with the respect they deserve.

Third, evaluation forms alone

do not sufficiently allow a student to know how he is progressing in a course. I suggest that personal conferences be a mandatory part of the evaluation process. Shortly after mid-term, the professor or recitation instructor in a course could schedule brief meetings with each of his students. These sessions need not last more than 15 minutes or a half hour. They would be valuable for several reasons. First, professors could get to know their students as more than faces in a crowd, and might learn something about the various pressures that affect student performances. Second, the student could learn where his individual weaknesses lie. Third, both professor and student might ask questions both might not wish to bring up before the rest of the class, such as, "Did my last lecture make sense?" or "I still do not understand how to solve problems involving surface integrals."

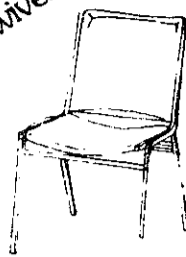
Last, there is much confusion over the current system, whereby some professors compile hidden grades and others do not. Freshmen are often confused about what MIT's policy actually is. There is one simple solution to this problem. Eliminate all hidden grades. There are much better ways to evaluate student per-

formance that do not involve assigning arbitrary A's, B's, C's, D's, or F's. MIT, as a path-breaking institution, should utilize personal, narrative performance assessments.

If as the CEP's own evidence indicates, no one outside MIT relies upon freshman grades, why keep them? They are not effective feedback, in fact, they are often a cop-out to legitimate feedback procedures. As the CEP has noted, only Johns Hopkins Medical School requires students to submit freshman grades. In the future, tell them they do not exist and that MIT's faculty is committed to the pass/fail system. If Johns Hopkins had to choose between rejecting all MIT students or accepting MIT's stance on pass/fail, I have enough faith in MIT's reputation to bet Johns Hopkins would back down. I wish the faculty shared my conviction.

MIT has a reputation for maintaining rigorous academic standards and rightfully so. Yet if the faculty uses their October 22 meeting as an opportunity to reject the CEP proposals and reaffirm their commitment to the pass/fail experiment that it made over a decade ago, MIT could truly defend its place as one of the premier educational institutions in the United States today.

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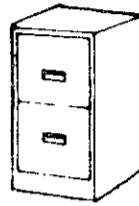
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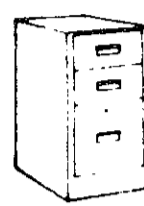
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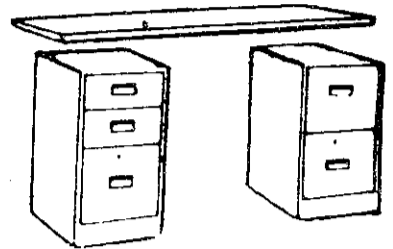
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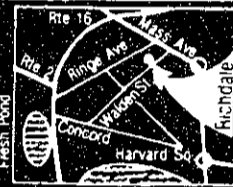
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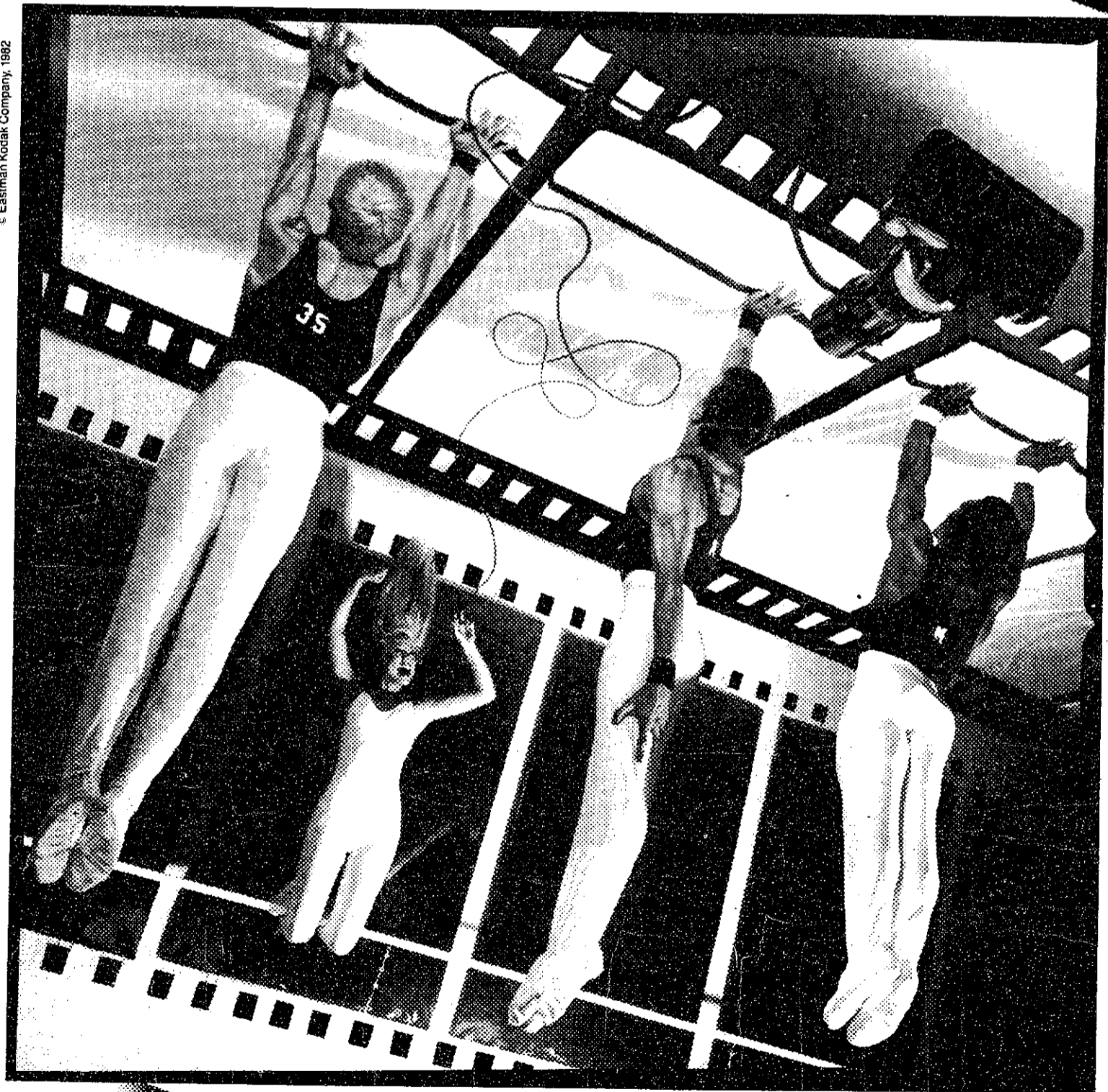
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Off the Beaten Groove

AR

Call of the West, Wall of Voodoo on I.R.S. Records.

Wall of Voodoo observes the world from rented offices above the decay of Hollywood Boulevard. The non-stop freak show in that cesspool of excitement has necessarily jaundiced their point of view, but they still remain a bunch of nice guys. After their last Boston show (November '81) I had the opportunity to find out how weird these nice guys really were. In between sips of "attitude juice" (Perrier), vocalist/lyricist Stanard Ridgway talked about Wall of Voodoo and its place in the current music scene.

"The last time we played in Boston, people told us that we were more of an art band and that we should have played at the Underground. But when we went to England people thought we weren't slick enough, we were too harsh — I guess they were expecting OMD or the Human League. After the initial shock, though, they really liked us."

Once the initial shock wears off you'll probably like them, too. Not just another band from L.A., Voodoo play a unique music that draws equally from electronic experimentation, country and western music, and the classic spaghetti western soundtracks written by Ennio Morricone. They've gone as far as recording Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire," and they are fond of playing the theme from *Hang 'em High* during their performances. Voodoo layers thick keyboard chords (played "claw method" style by Chas Gray) over Marc Moreland's twanging, choppy guitar; all to the accompaniment of rhythm machine Ace Kalamazoo and percussionist Joe Nanini. Ridgway acts as method front man, singing, adding additional keyboards, and berating the audience.

Call of the West further explores the themes set out on Wall of Voodoo's earlier work (insecurity on the job, the inability to relate, and the harsh reality of the machine age) and adds a few new ones: gambling (Voodoo's greatest obsession), spy movies, and procrastination. Ridgway's best observations, however, are those that hit closest to home, as in "Factory:"

*I got another factory back home
Got a little backyard, pink mustang,
fenders chrome*



*At nine o'clock I'm in my chair sat down
Just lately now when my wife talks
back to me
I slap her around*

The record isn't all cynicism and misanthropy, however; there's a healthy dose of humor in "Tomorrow," a song about procrastination, and "Mexican Radio" (I understand just a little/*No comprende* - it's a riddle). "Radio" was released earlier this summer as a single, but the album version is substantially different — the single is worth obtaining for the dub version found on the flip side.

Call of the West is Wall of Voodoo at their most lyrical and also their most

musical. Gone is the harshness that overrode the EP, and the simple melodies that plagued the *Dark Continent* album have been replaced by nonconventional song structures. "Lost Weekend," a tale of two losers, is as close to a ballad as Voodoo will ever come, but it is poignant nonetheless. "On Interstate 15" is a homage of sorts to Westerns, and acts as a continuation of earlier soundtrack experiments. The *tour de force* is the "Call of the West," a mini-epic tale of a poor soul's trek through the desert in search of a new life. Over a heavy, gradual keyboard buildup Ridgway tells his tale:

"They've come all the way out here to sell

Time/Life books and to have some chili every maybe to own their own and take drugs and to have above all, above all to have get a piece of the rock and and to spit out the window not have the wind blow it be

Although I've done a lot of listening to *Call of the West*, I can't make Wall of Voodoo a New York. If they make enough money they can move out of Hollywood.

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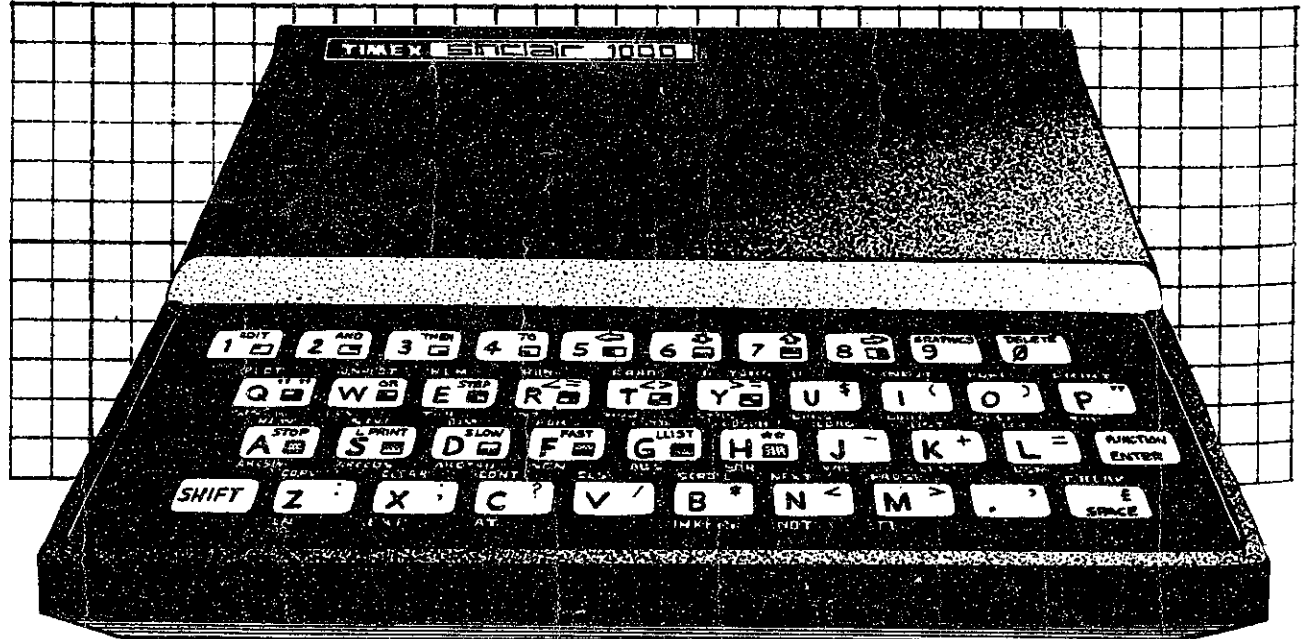
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HARVARD COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

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feedback

sports update

Vendors needed

To the Editor:

I write concerning the recent events concerning the food vendors who frequent this campus. Why is the solution to any problem always to add more regulation? When the campus dining services cannot handle the people wishing to eat lunch in a finite amount of time, why does this school not solve the problem with good American free enterprise? I happen to like eating pizza from the Blue Goose over on Ames Street. I can also attest to the fact that I am not the only one. The long lines at the truck demonstrate this. How was the number four chosen for the number of trucks to be allowed to operate? What if more than four wish to operate, who decides which is in and which is not? I am not making accusations, but in a state where corruption is not uncommon, why open the door for kickbacks in return for a parking spot?

The Tech reported that complaints from the MIT community prompted this action. Who are they and do they represent a ma-

majority? Again, the numbers of people waiting in line for food probably indicate that a majority may welcome the food trucks. Cambridge city ordinances were also cited as grounds for dismissing the operators. That is only a tool to eliminate undesirables. Move the trucks if they block the bus stops, etc., but is the entire campus a bus stop or public parking space? Sanitation problems were noted — what sanitation problems? Some trucks supply trash receptacles for customers. None that I have seen dump sewage onto the streets. I would not eat from a truck that appeared unsanitary. If the new rules are indeed adopted and enforced, why are the hours of operation to be restricted? Again, why not let free enterprise decide the hours. If customers are in need of food, then let it be sold.

To sum this up — I am tired of bringing peanut butter and jelly sandwiches from home for lunch.
Scott Ewing G

(Continued from page 12)

England in the opener and a 3-1 victory over Pine Manor — before dropping a tough 3-2 decision to Nichols in overtime Wednesday.

Football — Quarterback Vin Martinelli '85 was named co-offensive player of the week by the New England Collegiate Football Conference. Martinelli had five completions for 109 yards and two touchdowns, and ran for another in the team's 20-8 victory over Roger Williams Saturday.

Golf — The golf team raised its record to 4-0 with wins over Bentley and Boston College last Tuesday, finishing ahead of Boston College by 13 and ahead of Bentley by four. Captain Pat Fowler led the team with a 78.

Pistol — Coach Pasquale Melaragno won the National Pistol Championship in the Reserve category (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force) last summer in Port Clinton, Ohio, with a score of 2623 out of a possible 2700. The fifty-two-year-old has been competing in the championships for the last twenty-five years. He last won the title in 1963.

the "A" rugby team lost 10-3, while the "B" and "C" teams both won by identical 8-6 scores.

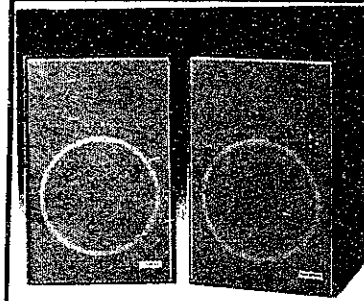
Men's Sailing — The men's sailing team placed 10th of 16 schools competing at the Nevins Trophy in Kings Point, New York last weekend. The previous week, MIT finished third of seven in the Penobscot Bay Open hosted by Maine Maritime.

Women's Sailing — The women's sailing team finished 8th out of thirteen at the Man-Labs Trophy last weekend after coming in sixth in the President's Trophy at Boston University the week before.

Soccer — The men's soccer team lost to WPI Tuesday by a score of 1-0. The men's record now stands at 0-3.

Men's Tennis — The men's tennis team lost to Clark in the finals of the Prince Invitational Tournament hosted by RPI last Sunday, to finish second out of seven teams competing.

Women's Tennis — The women's tennis team dropped to 0-2 on the season after losing to both Brandeis last Thursday and Babson on Tuesday.



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On of's role in acronym

To the Editor:

Since when does the word "of" get a letter in an acronym anyway?

Kenneth H. Segel '83
Undergraduate Association
President

British view differs

(Continued from page 4)

England, however, continues to be an example for the rest of Continental Europe. From France, the land of culture *à la American*, to Italy, the people of the disintegrating currency; from the Federal Republic of Germany, where students spend more time fomenting revolution and perusing obscure leftist tomes than they do in training their minds, to the Netherlands, home of window-shopping for sex; from Czechoslovakia, where time stood still in 1948 and fled in terror in 1968, to Greece; all of the European peoples realize, at the end of the day, that the British have maintained a standard of civilized conduct for the individual and a nation. Admittedly, it is a shabby and Victorian code of ethics, and more than a little conservative in orientation, but it constitutes a standard of conduct nonetheless.

To their credit, the British have not chosen to define progress in wholly material terms, as is the case in America and its cultural colonies. Precisely this juxtaposition, I fear, will interrupt the Western Alliance's attention to the menace of the Soviet Union during the coming decades. Whether dazzling American shallowness and comfortable British shabbiness can establish more of a relationship of understanding is an eternal question: John Adams, Edmund Burke, Franklin Roosevelt, and Henry Kissinger have all asked it in their own times. It is unfortunate that more students in both America and Britain have not begun considering its answer.

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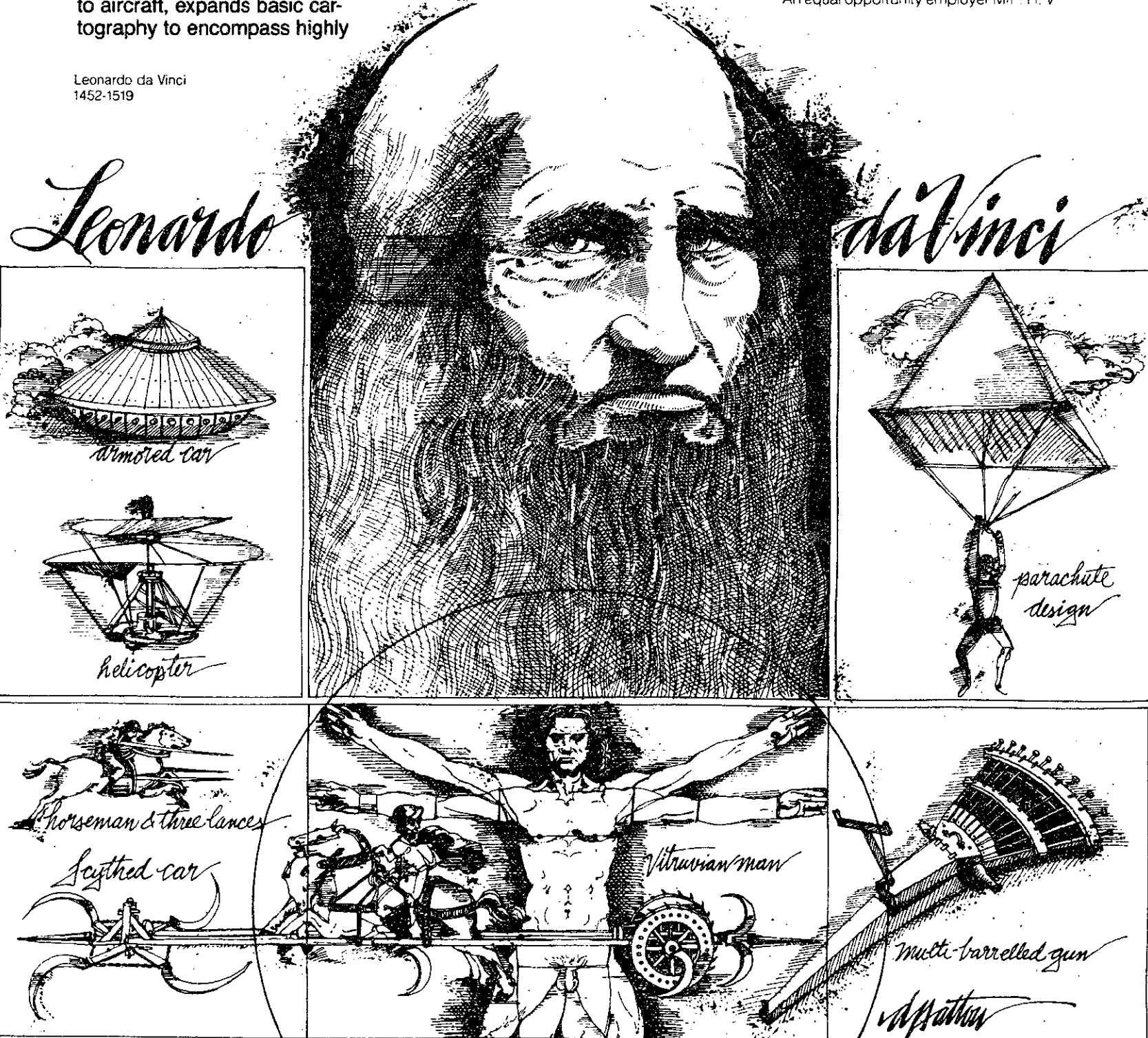
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Our Melpar Division will be on campus interviewing November 9.

Where are they now?

(Continued from page 12)

work too well either. And no one but a sports writer knows how difficult it can be to track down a coach at any given time of day or night. So, coverage is restricted to what the number of reporters permits.

Unfortunately, very few people appear happy with the sports page. Those in the neglected sports grumble about lack of coverage. Some complain that the sports staff is sexist. Others want coverage of national sports. And even those involved with the sports that do get covered are sure to point out the errors in the reporting of the particular event.

Only MIT Sports Information Director Ken Cerino, football club coach Dwight Smith, and fencing coach Eric Sollee have ever offered me compliments or encouragement, or have taken the time out simply to talk. I'm sure some of the other coaches are relatively happy with their team's prominence on the printed page. But does anyone else really care one way or the other?

Last year I was sitting in my

room when the phone rang. On the other end of the line was a member, probably a pledge, of some MIT fraternity. The object of his call was a column I had written that appeared on *The Tech's* sports page. I was informed that my column, which had made some attempt at being humorous, was not funny. Not only was it not funny, but the members of the fraternity had hung the clipping up on the wall under a sign that said, "Why MIT should not have a student newspaper," or something to that effect.

At first I was stunned and a little hurt by the call. I soon realized, however, two very important things, both of which encouraged me to continue on covering sports. The first thing I

realized was that my column must have been funny. How could anyone have realized that it was meant in a humorous vein if it did not seem funny?

The second and most important realization was that people do read the sports page. A column cannot draw criticism if nobody bothers to read it. Furthermore, why would anyone bother reading anything appearing as sports if he did not habitually read that page?

So, I am urged on by those who would have discouraged me. I thank that member of that unknown fraternity for his call. My only hope is that those people out there who want more done will pitch in and help do it. Arthur, Robert, Jim, and I will do our part.

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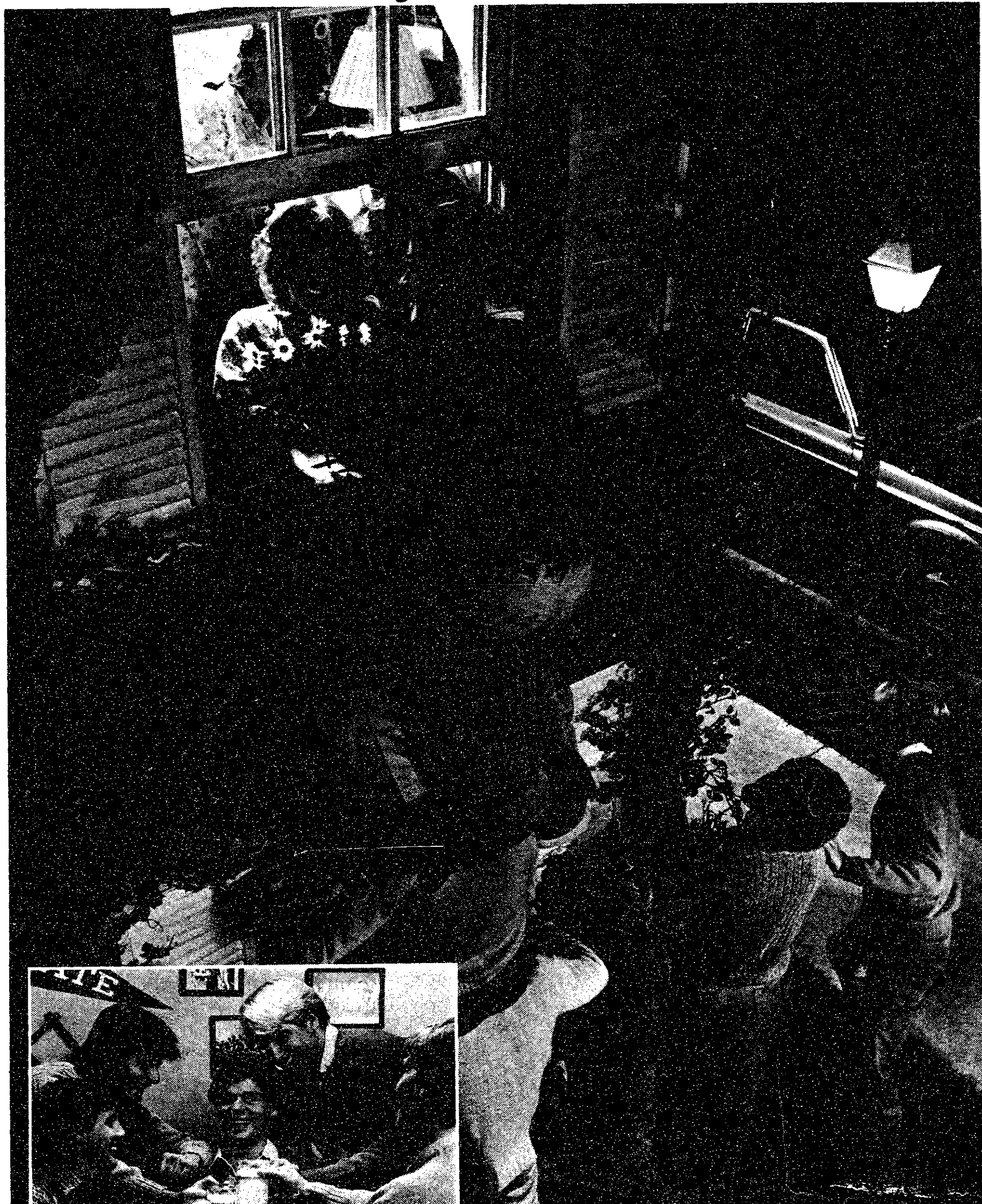
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Outside Looking In by V. Michael Bove

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I SUPPOSE I COULD WEAR MY KILT, BUT MARCIE BORROWED THE SWEATER THAT GOES WITH IT...

(SIGH) I ENVY YOU, KITTY - HAVING A LIFE FREE OF MAJOR WORRIES.

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Space Epic by Bill Spitzak

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Dolpha by Joe Cerami

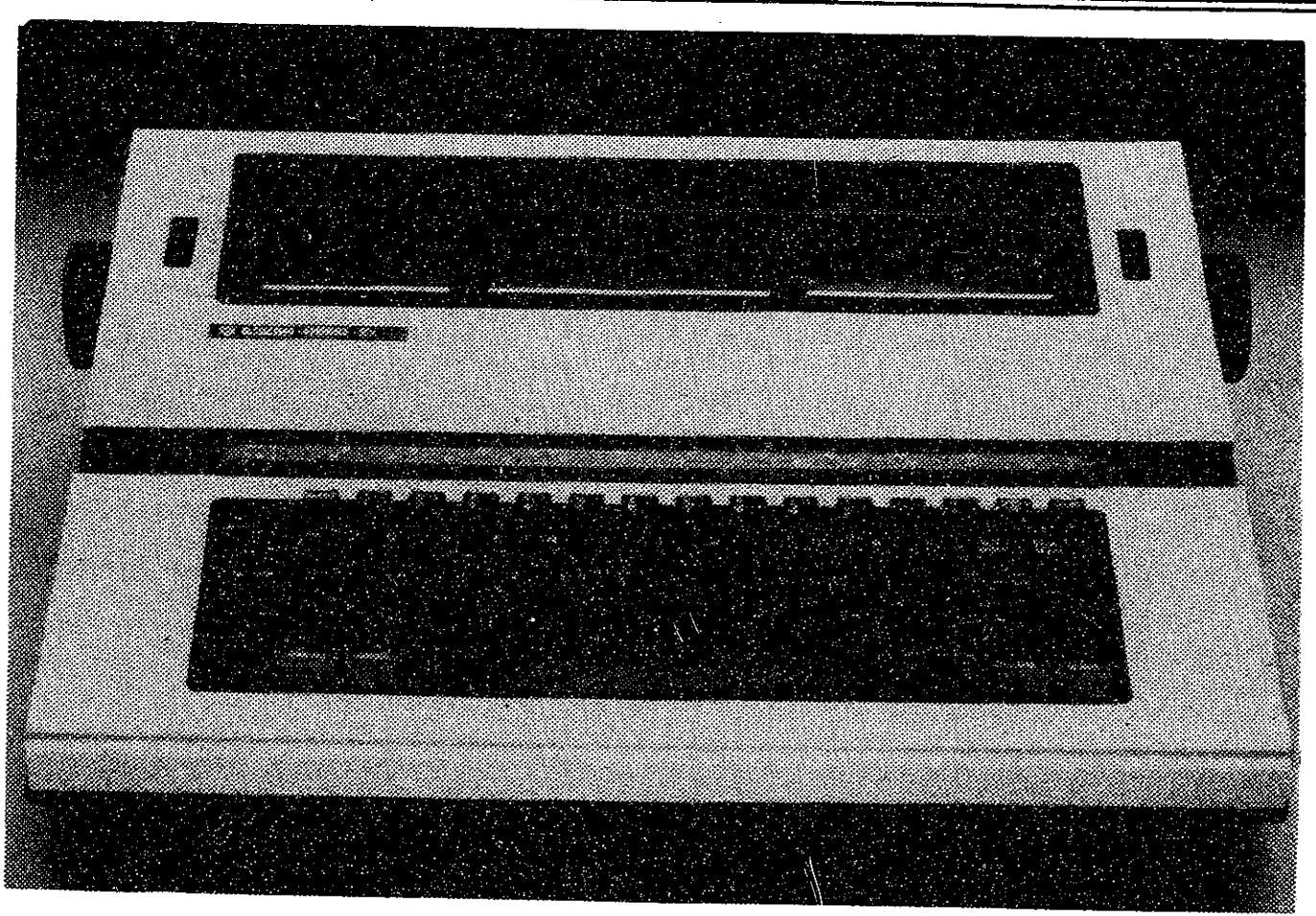
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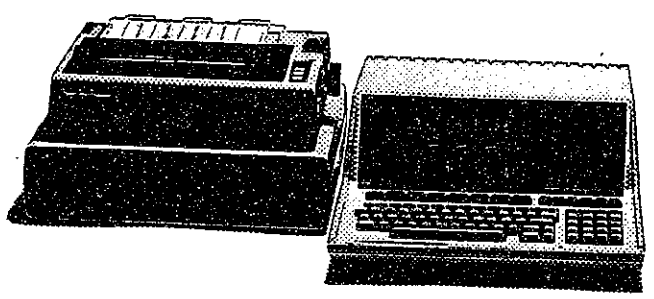
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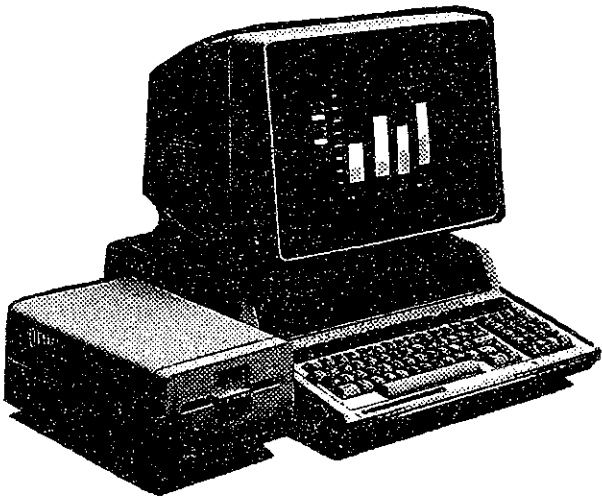
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sports

Volleyball opens beats Salem

By James Egan

The 1981-82 Women's Volleyball team experienced the finest season in the squad's short seven-year history. The year included a 31-8 record, the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (IAIW) Massachusetts Division III championship, and a trip to the AIAW Eastern Regionals held at West Point, New York, where the team finished fifth.

In spite of this showing, the squad suffered some losses due to graduation that it will have to overcome. The departure of Linda Plano will hurt the most. According to Engineers' head coach Dave Castanon, Plano was a key player, whose role was crucial to the team's success.

Another problem facing Castanon's crew is the dissolution of the AIAW and transfer of control over women's volleyball to the NCAA. It will be more difficult

for the team to qualify for post-season competition. Instead of participating in regional elimination tournaments, potential participants in the single national tournament will have to receive bids from the NCAA.

In spite of the obstacles, Castanon feels confident about the season's outlook. A nucleus of eleven lettermen will be returning as a foundation, and several promising freshman prospects are available for the coach to work with.

The team opened its season Wednesday night, defeating Salem State 3-1. This weekend the squad travels to Salem State for the school's invitational tournament. MIT holds the title for that competition. The event also allows the Engineers to play schools from out-of-state, and thus enhance their chances of receiving an NCAA bid.



John English scores against Nichols in varsity soccer action last Saturday.

Tech photo by Omar Valerio

What is sports news?

By Martin Dickau

With the fall sports season upon us, the sports desk here at *The Tech* gets pretty busy at times. When I read the sports page(s), I always feel a sense of regret. MIT fields teams in more sports than any other college in the country, yet rarely does more than one or two articles about specific teams appear in an issue. Someone recently asked me why we never seem to have any stories. Isn't there more to the MIT sports scene than football, soccer,

on deck, notices, and an occasional rambling column?

My answer can only be, "Of course!" For instance, at this writing, the field hockey, baseball, water polo, and golf teams are all undefeated. Today I learned that the golf team has had winning seasons for the last ten years. And all of this says absolutely nothing about intramural sports. So many people participate in intramurals that it seems ludicrous that coverage of them is limited to a list of stand-

ings whenever there is no other sports copy to fill the pages.

Once, a helpful person spent half an hour trying to tell me that the only way to do justice to all of the teams is to assign a reporter to each one. Of course, the teams outnumber available reporters two and a half to one, and that ratio tends to increase as the semester wears on.

Asking team managers or statisticians to call in results doesn't

(Please turn to page 9)

sports update

Baseball — Enjoying a fine fall season, the baseball team upped its record to 5-0 with a 3-0 blanking of the Suffolk Rams last week.

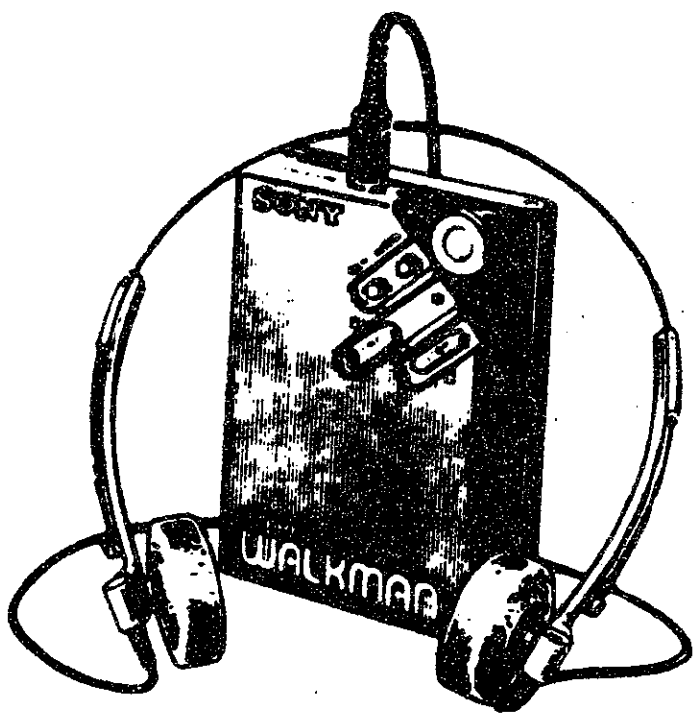
Men's Cross Country — Led by new head coach Halston Taylor, the men's cross country team finished second in the Engineers Cup last Saturday, losing to host RPI and downing WPI. MIT's Bob Walmsley '84 was the individual winner, covering the five-mile course in 26:14. Paul Neves '83 was second at 26:36.

Women's Cross Country — In its second year of varsity competition, the women's cross country team finished third of five teams participating in the Stonehill invitational last Saturday, topping both Stonehill and Simmons. Sarah de Leon '85 placed seventh overall to lead the Engineers.

Field Hockey — With Mary Ellen Martin taking over the reins as coach, the field hockey team began the season with two wins — a 4-0 shutout of Western New

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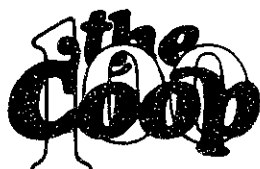
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Technical Graduates

If you're interested in electronics — its technologies, work environment and career opportunities — then you'll be interested in three events coming up on campus soon. Mark your calendar!

September 28

Find out about the NAVSTAR Global Positioning System at Phil Ward's lecture on "NAVSTAR GPS — A Proven Satellite Navigation System." Phil is a senior member of the technical staff at Texas Instruments, the company that invented the NAVSTAR GPS multiplex receiver and a wide variety of other state-of-the-art government electronics.

The lecture is sponsored by the MIT Student Faculty Committee of the EECS Department and will be held at 4 p.m. in Room 10-250.

September 29

Here's your chance to learn more about Texas Instruments, one of the leading technology companies in the world. Coordinated by the Office of Special Events, our Recruiting Presentation will be held in Room 5-234 at 4 p.m.

October 13-15

Find out what it's like to work at the leading edge of technology, talk with technical professionals from several divisions of TI.

Interviews will be held at the Placement Office from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sign up early!

If you can't come to these events, but would like more information about TI, write: Bryan Rollins/
Texas Instruments/P.O. Box 405, M.S. 3426/
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