Faculty approves writing req't, psychology degree

By Ivan Feng

The MIT faculty passed a motion on April 22, 1983, approving a Bachelor of Science degree in Cognitive Science and adopting a set of motions to recommend an Undergraduate Writing Requirement at a monthly meeting of the faculty Wednesday. The Corporation must approve the Writing Requirements before it takes effect in 1985.

The Psychology Department's proposal, presented by Department Head Richard M. Held, was prompted by the emergence of Cognitive Science as a discipline, the minimum standards of evaluating such a program, a perceived interest on the part of students and demand on the part of industry, and a $2.5 million grant from the Sloan Foundation to the Center for Cognitive Science in 1980.

The proposed undergraduate degree in Cognitive Science, if approved by the MIT Corporation, is scheduled to begin in the fall of 1982. The program has already been approved by the Committee on Educational Policy and the Committee on Curricula, Held indicated.

The faculty approved an amendment to the proposal by Chairman of the CFP Ethics F.L. Yi, that the "Cognitive Science program at MIT be designed to train the first generation of people capable of thinking about the relationship between the mind, the brain and the nervous system, with a view to the analysis of the neurophysiological, psychological and computational aspects of mental activity and the development of a scientific tool for the investigation of human and artificial intelligence."
Coop Group challenges current Coop leadership

(Continued from page 1)

up less than 38% of the Coop’s total membership... 25,000 Har-
vard and MIT alumni live or work near the downtown Har-
vard Club. The Coop had an obligation to serve those alumni.”

The nine members comprising the 1982 Coop Group hope to con-
tinue a trend begun by the original Coop Group last year.

“I don’t feel that we’ve done a great deal” in the past year, Guy
Molyneux said. “The most im-
portant thing, we have established
a tradition” of checking
managerial decisions, particularly when the decision will adversely
affect the student’s interests.

“We’re very much the out-
growth of last year’s group,” Eric
Reiff said.

One of the main issues in the
Coop Group’s platform is the
plan to reduce textbook prices,
possibly by reducing the Coop’s
rebate.

“We’d do it only if it would benefit
the students.”

Brown felt reducing textbook
prices would be harmful to the
Coop. Golub claimed the Coop,
selling at a mark up, lost $7,000
on textbooks in 1981.

Coop Group members claim
the management was openly op-
posed to a unionization drive last
year, and wants to prevent this
policy in the future. The union
that sought last year to organize
Coop employees charged in a
National Labor Relations Board
case that the Coop management
corrupted workers in a massive anti-
union campaign, the union was
defeated by Coop employees 273
to 136. The outcome of the case is
not yet known.

“We don’t know what the out-
come will be,” Reiff said. “I’d
almost like to say it’s likely
they’re found guilty. We are ab-
solutely committed to not being
pro-union, but anti-anti-union,”
Will McDonough agreed, saying
it was “terrible” to coerce
workers to vote one way or
another.

“We saw the student-union is-
\issues as linked,” said Meredith
Kane, a current Coop Group
Board member. “This is our
money you are spending on
fighting the unions,” she said.

Lars Toomey ’82, a current
Board member, said the Board
concluded that a union would
create a more antagonistic at-
mosphere and was not needed at
the Coop. Defeat of the union
“was interpreted as a pretty
strong denunciation against the
union. But equally to have about
150 vote for it meant there were
some significant problems.”

These problems were con-
sidered during the year and
changes were, claimed Toomey. A
new personnel manager was hired
and a new personnel package
devoted.

“I have taken no public or
private position on a union,”
Brown said, later adding, “I think
we could operate much better
and more easily without a union.”

Some student candidates are
unfamiliar with both the name
and the platform. Gordon Hunter
G said, “I haven’t heard of them
at all.”

Fighting the unions,” she said.

Whatever you do, pour it on. Build up a burning thirst, then
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no other beer can match.

So why settle for ordinary when you can have extraordi-
nary: amber Dos Equis or golden Dos Equis Special Lager.
news roundup

World

Britain proposes Falklands peace plan — The British has decided to propose a peace plan that would result in Argentine surrender over the Falkland Islands. British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym flew to Washington yesterday to confer with Secretary of State Alexander Haig. "It is important that they, not we, are generally seen as the obdurate foes; the hand that finally made war inevitable," said one member of Parliament describing the British plan.

Salvadoran rebels continue to receive weapons — Thomas O. Enders, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American affairs, said in a hearing before the House of Representatives that leftist guerrillas in El Salvador continue to receive arms from Nicaragua and Cuba. Cubans are using drug traffic via as a cover for shipping arms to Latin America. Enders claimed.

Israeli jets bomb PLO villages in Lebanon — Over twenty were reported dead in Israeli air strikes Wednesday in Lebanon; the bombing broke a five-month-old truce between Israel and the PLO. The air attack, which reportedly killed 23, followed a land mine explosion in southern Lebanon that killed one Israeli soldier and wounded another. An Israeli spokesman claimed two Syrian jets trying to intercept the bombing raids, both MiG-23s, were shot down.

Tsongas, Mayor White, and Celtics manager testify in favor of a new arena - Massachusetts General Court bill is co-sponsored by House Speaker Thomas W. McGee (D-Lynn) and Senate President William M. Bulger (D-South Boston). The arena would be built next to Boston Garden, which would be demolished on completion of the new complex.

Nation

Fire in Anaheim leaves thousands homeless — A fire in Anaheim, California, Wednesday morning destroyed four blocks of apartments and left more than 10,000 people homeless. At least eight were injured in the blaze, which caused an estimated $50 million of damage. Fire officials specialized sparks from high voltage wires whipped by 70-mileper-hour gusts ignited the fire.

Husband wins $30,000 toxic shock suit — A Federal jury concluded Proctor & Gamble must pay damages to Michael Kehm, whose wife died of toxic shock syndrome contracted from using Rely tampons, manufactured by the company. A spokesman for Proctor & Gamble said, "We have sympathy for Mr. Kehm and his family, and we will consider the jury did too. However, we cannot be satisfied with anything short of Rely's total vindication, and we are reviewing our legal options, including an appeal."'

Local

Thousand support building a new Boston arena — Senator Paul E. Tsongas, Mayor Kevin H. White, and Celtics manager Red Auerbach testified in support building a new Boston arena at a hearing before the House of Representatives that leftist guerrillas in El Salvador continue to receive arms from Nicaragua and Cuba. Cubans are using drug traffic via as a cover for shipping arms to Latin America. Enders claimed.

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WHERE THE STEAK STEALS THE SHOW.
Finals week again

I think many MIT professors plan courses on the assumption that students take a lot of exams during the last week of class — the term — their gradations which want to be sure that student workload do not become unbearable in the weeks before finals. Normally, the system is realistic, however, and both professors and students eventually acknowledge each other's interests when planning schedules.

Instead, some faculty has had rules which attempt to assure that student workload do not become unbearable in the weeks before finals. These rules, as interpreted by the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), assume all MIT students adhere to a standard four or five course schedule, including periodic tests, quizzes, and finals examinations. They also assume that students announced early enough in the term to allow students to complete them.

Few actually know what the faculty rules say. Among other things, they prohibit:

- take-home exams that fall due past 9am on the Monday of the last week of class — with the exception of exceptions of subjects which have no final exam, and have no quizzes or other assignments due during the last week of class.
- assignments of any kind from being given and falling due after the last regularly scheduled meeting of the class for that subject. This obviously does not prevent an instructor from giving an extension to an individual student, but an extension should not be given to the majority of the class.
- classes, examinations, or exercises of any kind scheduled beyond the end of the last regularly scheduled class in a subject, except for final exams scheduled with the Registrar's Office.

The faculty policy permits a short reading period before final examinations. Many students can never utilize this period; for them finals week is a do-or-die time. To alleviate student workload, the CEP must revise MIT's final examinations policy. Tests should be handled as they are for graded classes; all final examinations should be administered in finals week.

Many courses, particularly humanities, social science, and upper level math and science courses, have assignments due the last week of the term. Instead, in a misguided attempt to reduce student workloads, professors should announce early enough in the term to allow students to complete them. Neither point of view is natural conceit; if instructors would recognize my egocentricity and faculty members would realize that based on this policy, Mr. Weatherall, but I don't see the point of view.

The Commonwealth, a 135-foot cruise ship owned by the Bay State-Spray & Provincetown Steamship Company, had just moored at Long Wharf. The young people streamed down the two metal gangplanks, laughed and smoked cigarettes as they walked the two hundred yards to waiting buses.

A blue sedan slowly worked its way along the crowded pier. Long Wharf was more crowded than it had been in recent memory. The Chart House was doing a healthy business; the Boston Marrow drew through to drink in its new bars, to eat in its new restaurants, and just to see the new hotel. Though crowded, it was a comfortable night, the kind of night one associates with the sites of Long Wharf drifted across the water to berth "C" on Long Wharf, about half a mile down the harbor and the row of yellow buoys. A blue sedan slowly worked its way along the crowded pier. Long Wharf was more crowded than it had been in recent memory.

The Chart House was doing a healthy business; the Boston Marrow drew through to drink in its new bars, to eat in its new restaurants, and just to see the new hotel. Though crowded, it was a comfortable night, the kind of night one associates with the New England Aquarium. "Please, we are on a special diet," the sign said. "Cans, bottles, or other objects are hazardous to our health." Two young girls, six or seven years old, gazed at the seals and shared a giggle.

The cold, black water of the harbor lapped softly at the stones of Aquarium Wharf, at the foot of the dense crowd at the foot of Long Wharf, about half a mile down the harbor from "C." A blue sedan slowly worked its way along the crowded pier. Long Wharf was more crowded than it had been in recent memory.

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8pm-1am  New Athletic Center

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### Activities

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**Friday Afternoon Club**

- All Tech Sing
  - 7pm in the Sala
- Kaleidoscope Picnic
  - featuring Working Class
  - free chicken
  - 12-4pm
  - on Kresge Oval

**Rain location in the Sala**

- Music by Bellevista
- Free food

**Midnight Movie**

- The Great Train Robbery
- 12 midnight in the Sala

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- $4/$3 with MIT ID
- Free food
Faculty approves writing requirement

(Continued from page 1)

The Committee shall also "act with power on implementing the Writing Requirement under the General Guidelines set by the Faculty; it shall specify standards and criteria for satisfying the requirement and develop mechanisms for recording fulfillment." The faculty adopted the general guidelines, calling for diagnostic testing and technical writing, at its March 17 meeting.

The amendment was changed so the Writing Committee would be required to report to the faculty by March of 1983 instead of "the spring of 1983," in response to a request by Undergraduate Association Vice President Kenneth J. Meltsner '83 that students and faculty be given sufficient time to debate the Committee's recommendations for implementation of the requirement in the fall term of 1983.

The faculty also endorsed the proposal to have the Writing Requirement become a degree requirement beginning with the Class of 1987.

Gray speaks on tuition, Dunes conf.

(Continued from page 1)

other departments continued to require stable resources, he indicated.

Last month's conference at Pajaro Dunes, California, with representatives from the California Institute of Technology, Stanford University, Harvard University, and the University of California at Berkeley concerned the opportunities and problems with the biotechnology industry's involvement with research institutions. The 37 participants emphasized full disclosure and open and prompt disclosure of research results, a bias toward non-exclusive licensing of contractual arrangements, and caution in university involvement with a company in which a professor has personal investments, claimed Gray.

The guidelines developed at the conference do not contradict MIT's current policies, Gray noted, although MIT may license exclusively in special cases. "MIT has a long history of dealing with outside professional interests of its faculty," he said.

FUTURE TECHNOLOGICAL DIRECTIONS FOR THE U.S. NAVY

by

COMMANDER CLARK GRAHAM, USN
and

DR. HENRY COX

THE SECOND ROBERT BRUCE WALLACE LECTURE

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1982
3:00 TO 5:00 PM
ROOM 10-250

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Seven Campus Tour

When the New England Billy Graham Crusade is held this spring, it will not be limited to one city or one week of meetings. Instead, it will involve many cities and universities throughout the New England States. Beginning in April, Billy Graham will give evangelistic lectures at seven new England colleges and universities, and during April and May, seven major New England cities will hold Crusade meetings before the Crusade in Boston, Massachusetts, May 30 through June 6 at Boston University’s Nickerson Field.

After the original Planning Committee made clear to Dr. Graham that the invitation to New England included a unique sweep of college campuses, 12 formal invitations were received from colleges and universities across New England. While the number of lectures had to be limited to a few campuses, eight actual lectures have been scheduled with Billy Graham speaking at Northeastern University in Boston on April 15; University of Massachusetts in Amherst on April 18; Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, on April 19; at the Harvard-Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge on April 20; Harvard University in Cambridge on April 21; Boston College in Boston on April 22; Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) in Cambridge on April 28; and at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, on May 26.

The lectures are the result of invitations by student groups on the campuses. The foremost criteria was the commitment and coalition of the Christian community on campuses that issued the invitation. Dr. Graham desires for his ministry to complement what is happening on campus already, where it will be a constructive part of an ongoing ministry.

When Dr. Graham addresses the seven major New England college campuses, his approach will reflect the milieu and mindset of these potential future leaders of our country, Crusade officials explained. Because of the climate in the academic institutions, the evangelistic message will be tailored to reach the students.

"It’s more the idea of free inquiry, where Dr. Graham presents what we know and believe to be the truth, and invites students to consider it and respond to it. So, it is just a free exchange of ideas. That’s what we’re shooting for. Dr. Graham and the General Committee felt that students need a direct approach, a one-on-one encounter with him," according to Greg Strand, Collegiate Coordinator for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

In this evangelistic lecture format, Dr. Graham will not be offering the conventional invitation to come forward that he does for the city Crusades; rather, he will present a challenge for students and faculty to seriously consider the message especially in view of current world situations and nuclear tension.

Thomas Hawkes, Assistant Collegiate Coordinator, stated about the collegiate campus, "It’s a different place. There are different people who have different ways of responding. Students are much more critical and cynical, and less church-oriented than people who attend the city Crusade. They won’t respond as well to those things in a typical Crusade setting, that are geared to people who are familiar with the church."

Strand added, "What Dr. Graham wants to do is make sure that people understand what the Gospel really says and that they have an opportunity to respond in a way that is not threatening. His purpose in coming to the New England campuses is to serve and help students and faculty by clearly communicating the Gospel of Christ, of hope, and of peace."

Paid Advertisement

The New England Billy Graham Crusade comes to MIT on April 28

EVANGELISTIC LECTURES

Billy Graham Auditorium, and members of the YS.

Tickets are almost a ticket you won’t it to Room 4416 We look for
The Man Behind The Message

Away from the world’s best-known evangelist

From the glass towers of Manhattan to native villages in Nigeria, people of all ages and every walk of life come to hear Billy Graham. For more than 30 years he and his team have preached face-to-face to nearly 100 million people, with hundreds of millions more receiving his message through television, radio and films. 1,100,000 attended the closing session of his Seoul, Korea, Crusade, one of the largest gatherings of its kind in the history of Christianity. Why do they come? Who is this man?

Growing up on his father’s dairy farm during the Great Depression, Billy Graham had no inkling that he would become the world’s best-known evangelist. His parents were deeply committed Christians, but “Billy Frank” was not particularly religious and was thinking of becoming a professional baseball player. Then, at age 16, he took the step he now asks other people around the world to take: he accepted Christ as Lord of his life. A few years later while attending Bible College he sensed the call to preach. It was the most difficult decision of his life for it meant being willing to go anywhere for God at any time. Then, too, he had reservations about some aspects of evangelism, particularly an emphasis on emotionism and the prevailing view fostered by the film Elmer Gantry that some evangelists were in the ministry for financial gain. But after much prayer he said yes, and the most widely publicized evangelistic ministry of our time was born. Bible College had given Billy a solid foundation in the

Graham Invited To
Speak in Moscow
Church, Conference

Billy Graham has just accepted an invitation to proclaim the Gospel and to address a conference of religious leaders in Moscow in early May, 1982. Prior to his Moscow trip he will be speaking on the same topic in university campuses across New England. He has been invited by Patriarch Pimen of Moscow to attend a worship service on May 9 at an Orthodox Cathedral in Moscow and to proclaim the Gospel to the congregation during the morning liturgy while extending fraternal greetings.

At the evening service Dr. Graham will be preaching at the Moscow Baptist Church, which has 5,500 members. On Tuesday, May 11, Billy Graham will address a conference convened by Patriarch Pimen. International religious leaders representing many major religions will be there; it is not just a conference of Christian leaders. Dr. Graham will be attending the conferences as an observer. He will be speaking from the Bible on the Christian’s understanding of peace in a nuclear age. The official title of the conference is “World Conference: Religious Workers for Saving the Sacred Gift of Life from Nuclear Catastrophe.”

In a recent news release Dr. Graham said, “It is my sincere prayer that this visit will make at least a small contribution to better understanding between the peoples of the Soviet Union, the United States, and other countries of the world. We trade with each other, we have cultural exchanges, and we have continued political negotiations in spite of our differences. I think it is now time that we move into a spiritual dimension as well. My purpose in going to the Soviet Union is spiritual, and it is not my intention to become involved in political or ideological issues.”

Sciences but he was then, as he is now, an avid reader and enthusiastic learner, and he added academic background to his Biblical knowledge by enrolling at prestigious Wheaton College in Illinois. Wheaton gave him more than an education; it was there that Billy fell in love—he at first sight, he says—with a beautiful fellow student, Ruth McCue Bell, daughter of a missionary surgeon in China. Ruth had many other admirers but there was something special about the tall, serious young preacher from North Carolina, and in 1941 they were married. After graduating from college, Billy joined “Youth for Christ,” an organization designed to bring the Gospel of Jesus to servicemen during World War II. With “Youth for Christ” he preached across the United States and Europe, steadily emerging as an evangelist.

In 1949 he decided such a meeting in Los Angeles and with this he unknowingly set in motion the events that would make him famous. The Los Angeles meetings opened in September, scheduled to run for three weeks. Eight weeks later they continued to a triumphant conclusion. It was generally agreed that there had been nothing like the crowds that flowed into the tent at the corner of Washington Blvd. and Hill Street since Billy Sunday’s New York Crusade three decades earlier.

The Los Angeles Examiner gave the meetings banner headlines which were picked up by other papers across the country as well as by the Associated Press. Sparked by Los Angeles, a very successful Boston meeting followed and invitations began coming to Billy from cities across the country and the world.

Today Billy Graham is perhaps at the height of his ministry. An international Christian leader, he is the confidant of royalty and presidents, yet the comforter of the poor, the oppressed, the prisoner and the unknown. Famous people have come to Christ because of his ministry, as have multitudes of not-so-famous men, women, and young people who have recognized in Billy’s message the answer to their own deepest and often unexpressed needs. His ministry and influence have been recognized by a broad spectrum of the religious community. The American Jewish Committee honored Billy with its first Inter-religious Award. Many of the public meetings during his tour of Poland were hosted by Roman Catholic churches and cathedrals. The Most Reverend Robert Runcie, 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury, invited Billy to his enthronement at Canterbury Cathedral in expression appreciation of Billy’s impact on his life and ministry. The Gallup Poll finds Billy Graham year after year among the top ten of the world’s most admired men. He has preached in crusades on every continent and in almost every major country on earth. At an age when most men begin gearing down for retirement, this man presses on enthusiastically ahead in a work that takes him hundreds of thousands of grueling miles around the globe each year.

Billy Graham goes “home” to a small town in the mountains of North Carolina where he and his wife live. At home, the Grahams attend the local Presbyterian church where Mrs. Graham is a member. Billy is an ordained Baptist minister but he frequently attends churches of other denominations in his travels. The Grahams, who are often away, still find time to be active in their hometown affairs; they have many local friends, and everybody knows them.

Billy and Ruth Graham are parents of five children and grandparents of fifteen. Muhammad Ali, a recent visitor, best describes Billy’s life away from the limelight: “I thought he’d live on a thousand acre farm, but [with Billy driving] we drove up to this house made of logs. No mansion with crystal chandeliers and gold carpets, but the kind of house a man of God would live in.”
In the matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer, at the Nuclear Science, 216 Hanover St. (in the North End, Boston, Mass., Wednesday — Sunday, through May 22. Admission $5.

The paper-maché bomb in the lobby should have been a tipoff. Heinar Kipphardt's In the matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer begins to deal with the moral dilemma faced by twentieth-century science, but any substantive investigation is obscured by inadequate staging, overplayed characterizations, and an unnecessary politicization of the production. Oppenheimer recounts hearings held in the 1930's by the Atomic Energy Commission to determine if Oppenheimer, "the father of the atomic bomb," should retain his security clearance, amidst speculations of ties to the Communist Party and disloyalty to the United States. The play takes place within a government hearing room — not admitted, the most visually interesting of settings.

Director David Rothenthal attempts to overcome the inherent limitations of the hearing room scene in two ways; he places witnesses testifying before the hearing board in the audience and brings the case's principals downstage to soliloquize within a tight spotlight. Both techniques fail.

The testimony-from-the-audience, while it might be effective in another theatre, is plainly unsuitable for the Nucleo Eccles, located in the basement of the European Restaurant, the theatre is broken up by four pillars supporting the ceiling. These poles block portions of the stage from all but the best of seats; they eclipse much of the action off the stage as well.

The protagonists' soliloquies fail on two counts. Rothenthal's blocking uproots the characters from their positions in the hearing room, bringing them downstage to speak directly to the audience. Rather than promoting closeness to the audience, this device impairs the continuity of the action; as the actors dash out from behind their tables to center stage.

These discourses seem superficial and, indeed, misplaced. The drama begins with Oppenheimer (Eugene K. Bobe) recalling, for the first time he entered the hearing room, establishing him as a first-person presence. What he tells the security board hearing the case and opposing counsel speak to the audience, a fly-on-the-wall perspective is suggested. This question of perspective is never resolved by playwright Kipphardt. The substance of the soliloquies cannot justify the ambiguity; they serve only to force-feed the audience all-too-locategorical issues and questions.

Bobe's portrayal of Oppenheimer is superb. He convincingly presents the central character as honest, quietly eloquent, unostentatious, and firm in his "scruples." Unfortunately, many of the other players were mired in overly didactic exposition. Board member Thomas A. Morgan (Edwin Thorton), defense attorney C. A. Wollander (Thomas Joseph), and Major Nicholas Radzi (Merion Aspinwall) all seem to come off the central casting shelf as stereotypical industrial giant, the stereotypical Air Force officer, and stereotypical Air Force operative, respectively. The stereotypes provide an inadequate space for shallow, undeveloped characters.

Physical Edward Teller (Michael Frank) and Isador Isaac Rabi (Woody Satz) perform admirably, transcending stereotypes to create complex, human characters. Questions about the role of the scientists in the social responsibilities of scientists for the consequences of their discoveries are nicely presented in the diatribe of Teller, on one hand, and Oppenheimer and Rabi, on the other. Teller believes that scientific and military decisions should be left to the politicians and the military, abdicating any responsibility for his role in the development of the atomic and hydrogen bombs. Rabi and Oppenheimer defend the application of "moral scruples" to their work.

It is quite clear that both playwright and director side with Rabi and Oppenheimer. A gratuitous bit of scenery, looking remarkably like a sixth-grade science fair diorama, depicts a mushroom cloud over a demolished Boston skyline, identifiable only by the cracked golden dome of the State House. It is conspicuous, never explained, never part of the play; it serves only as a graphic reminder of the purpose of this drama — to serve not art, but politics.

Hans Bethe (J. D. Kimmel) testifies, "Good ideas are expensive, and I like to hear well." Not all good ideas are expensive. Hans: Save the $5 and eat a good dinner upstate.

Barry S. Surman

The Seagull, by Anton Chekhov, directed by Jane Armitage, at the Peoples Theater, Cambridge, Thursdays through Sundays to May 22. Tickets $5.50 (Thurs., Sun.) and $7.00 (Fri., Sat.).

When members of the security board hear testimony in the case of Oppenheimer, the director suggests, it might be effective in another theatre, is plain unsuitable for the Nucleo Eccles, located in the basement of the European Restaurant, the theatre is broken up by four pillars supporting the ceiling. These poles block portions of the stage from all but the best of seats; they eclipse most of the action off the stage as well.

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Barry S. Surman
Diner, Rated R. Directed and written by Barry Levinson. Starring Steve Guttenberg and Daniel Stern.

There has been welcome trend in film of late. Hollywood has been making realistic films about ordinary people. The success of Robert Redford's Ordinary People attests to how well these films have been received. There was The Four Seasons, The Great Santini, and the lesser known Return of the Secaucus Seven. Now this is Diner.

Diner is an intelligent film. It has a familiar theme—the evolution from young man to adult. It has a familiar setting—the late 1960's—enough to set off a comparison with American Graffiti. But Diner is special. It deals thoughtfully with its subject, but not too seriously, so that it can still be classified as a "comedy-drama." The background of Diner gives a flavor for what the film is about. Writer-director Barry Levinson, who makes his directing debut with this film, wrote the script at the suggestion of comedian Mel Brooks after Levinson had been chatting to Brooks about stories dealing with the people he had grown up with in Baltimore. Five relatively unknown actors were chosen for the leading roles. The film deals with this gang of closely-knit friends and the sometimes humorous, sometimes trying times they face.

It seems at the beginning that Diner might be another of those generic '50's films about cruising and tying together policeman's shoeless feet for kicks. For example, one of the five close friends, Boogie (Mickey Rourke), takes bets that he can make it with a girl on a first date, while his friends watch to be sure they're not cheated—not promising material. But Diner isn't merely about the cliché antics of "Happy Days" life; it is about the change into adulthood. Later in the movie, when Boogie makes a similar bet, we expect the same tired humor to be attempted, but Levinson throws us a twist—and we no longer see Boogie as a mindless comic figure, but as a human being who is confronted with new decisions which he is now able to cope with. Mickey Rourke's gift style at the film's beginning makes his transition into adulthood all the more beautiful.

It is this unique blend of humor and seriousness which makes Diner worth seeing. Eddie (Steve Guttenberg), another of the central five, presents this formula in dealing with another of the film's issues—marriage. Eddie has a fiancée he's not sure he wants to marry. He asks his married friend Shrevie (Daniel Stern) what it's like. Shrevie gives a speech extolling how single life is better, yet adds "but marriage is nice." And that is enough to reassure Eddie. Eddie's adolescent-level maturity is further characterized by his fanatic love of the Baltimore Colts. Before he agrees to marry, his wife must pass a quiz on football. It's funny stuff! Eddie later goes through changes, but the humor of the earlier scenes still remains as a wonderful balance to the film's serious moments.

Perhaps the one fault of Diner is that it tries to deal with too much. The film, which lacks a central plot, sometimes seems morsels of subplots, and it is easy to get confused with all the interrelationships on the film. Besides the major characters, there are other roles of importance, and each film tries to deal with them all, at the expense of any in-depth character development.

But there are so many positive things in the film to keep the audience entertained that this is not a major drawback. The main plus—the film blend of comedy with serious subjects—is due to Levinson's able writing. The script is almost always good, brilliant at times. Levinson has experience, winning three Emmy awards for his writing for the Carol Burnett show. For those who dare to delve into the film's depths, there is symbolism also. The controlling symbol is the diner—the link between the characters' past and future. At one point a character remarks, "We came here (the diner) before to be cool. Now we're older, yet we still come here." The very year the film takes place, 1969, is significant, marking the end of one decade the beginning of a new one. For the more casual viewer, the film is worthwhile as well. Perhaps that is the best feature of Diner, and typical of the new trend in film—the themes are ones which people can easily identify with.

Technically there can be no complaints. Levinson's debut as a director comes off well. The background details in the settings add to the understanding of the film, and often to the humor. And there is the benefit of a great soundtrack with hits by such artists as Chuck Berry, Carl Perkins, and Frank Sinatra.

Diner is a fine addition to the new trend in film. It brings up the real problems of growing up. The film questions the responsibilities one faces in adulthood. But with all of the troubles and tensions the characters face, there is always the relief of each other company. There is comfort in the realization that "there is always the diner."
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Announcements

The MIT Activities Development Board is presently receiving applications for Capital Equipment Funding for student and community activities. Applications are available in Dean Holden's Office, W20-345.

* * *

If you had books for sale at the APO Book Exchange, you should have picked up your checks and unsold books by now. If you haven't picked them up yet, they're still waiting for you at the Alpha Phi Omega office on the fourth floor of the Student Center in room W20-415. Questions? Call 329-7380.

Lectures

Issues in Arab Higher Education: Arabization. Ararization is the Institute of Arab Studies lecture for May 3. The free lecture begins at 7:30 pm at 556 Trapelo Rd., Belmont.

Off Campus

On Sunday, April 25, the March of Dimes will conduct Walk-Amerika to help raise funds for the fight against birth defects. Seven local 30-kilometer routes are scheduled. Call 329-1360.

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When a good friend borrows your car, the tank may not come back full. But the trunk does.
Softball in tourney despite loss

By Eric R. Fleming

MIT’s softball team (3-2) took it on the chin Tuesday, suffering a 3-0 loss to WPI on Briggs Field. Despite the loss, the Engineers earned a berth in the Massachusetts AIAW tournament, which takes place next weekend.

The story of this game was pitching, particularly for MIT. Cindy Robinson, who has sparked on the mound all season, breezed through the first four innings, giving up just one walk. Robinson was helped by a flawless Tech defense, with third baseman Lauren Carney ’83 and shortstop Lou Jandura ’84 mak- ing a pair of good plays to keep the door closed.

Meanwhile, WPI’s pitcher held MIT scoreless, inducing many Tech hitters to pop up into a stiff breeze blowing in from right field. MIT’s best chance to score came in the fourth inning. Catcher Teri Felts put a bunt down for a single, but Felts stole second as a fake bat from Carney left no one to cover the bag. Carney, subse- quently bunted Felts over to third. At this point, however, the threat ended as Jandura and Robinson fielded out to end the inning.

WPI broke the deadlock with two runs in the fifth. The leadoff hitter hit a soft fly to center, which Liz Anderson ’84 almost missed after making a long run. Following a sacrifice bunt, the third hitter in the inning doubled down the right field line, scoring one. The next bunter popped to short.

Heavies edge CGA

By John DeRubeis

Although MIT’s varsity heavy weight crew team lost its opener at Columbia and Temple University, Tech came back to the Charles River late Sunday to end a 14-race losing streak in a very spectacular fashion, beating the United States Coast Guard Academy by a narrow margin of two-tenths of a second. Due to high winds and white caps on the river, the race was moved upstream near the Coca-Cola Bridge, the “power stretch” part of the Charles, where the race was shortened to 1,400 meters from the normal 2,000-meter race. MIT made its move on Coast Guard at the 800-meter mark, al- lowing Tech to finish the course in four minutes, 50.7 seconds, fol- lowed closely by Coast Guard at 4:50.9.

MIT’s most valuable player for the victory were (bow) Tony Jones ’83, (2) Bill Nunn ’82, (3) Tom Stephenson ’83, (4) Bob Kukura ’83, (5) John Musgrave ’84, (6) Ted Jenson ’82, (7) Mark Schaefer ’83, (stroke) Mike Sisco ’83, and (cox) George Grotz- macher ’82.

MIT’s record now stands at 1-1. Tech’s next race will be at home this Sunday, when the Engineers will compete against Harvard and Princeton for the 44- year-old Compton Cup. MIT will be looking to break Harvard’s nine-year winning streak. The varsity race will begin at 9:30am.

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