

Course VI drops frosh from 6.001

By Burt S. Kaliski

The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) randomly eliminated at least 141 freshmen from a required course, Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001) this week, according to Professor Gerald J. Sussman '68.

Although 6.001's enrollment is down to 300 students, several freshmen still remain in the course, Sussman said.

An estimated 600 students attended the first lecture Tuesday, according to Peter Elias '44, associate head of EECS. The department expected 450 students to enroll in the subject, based on estimates made by the Office of the Registrar last week, he said.

"It's totally unrealistic to try to support that number of students," said Associate Registrar Ronald P. Smith. The registrar's office does not set quotas on the number of students that may register for a class. Each student rejected by EECS must submit a drop card, he noted. The overcrowding problem, he added, "is in Course VI's hands now."

Typical spring enrollment for the subject is around 330, Sussman said; the number of students who registered for the class in the last two spring terms was 325 and 338. Even that number of students puts pressure on computer resources, he said.

The inability to predict the number of students who enroll in 6.001 is a problem for EECS, Sussman added. Three lecturers, five faculty members, and ten teaching assistants presently instruct the class. EECS has neither the teachers nor the facilities to support more than the present number of students in 6.001, he noted.

An increase in the number of EECS majors "horrifies us," Elias commented. There is no statis-

tical indication that the number is increasing, he added, despite the overenrollment in 6.001. For the last few years, the number of majors has been close to constant, with about 250 electrical engineering (VI-1) and 100 computer science (VI-3) undergraduates.

The actual number of students rejected from 6.001 is unknown, Sussman continued. Only 450 forms were distributed at the first lecture to determine the enrollment, and it is not known how many students attended but were unable to complete a form. EECS posted a list of 141 students eliminated so far.

EECS expected overenrollment before the term started, Elias said, and informed the Undergraduate Academic Support Office (UASO) at the end of the fall term. Unfortunately, he continued, the UASO was unable to discuss the problem before advisors met with freshmen. "I can't recall ever having to turn away freshmen," he said.

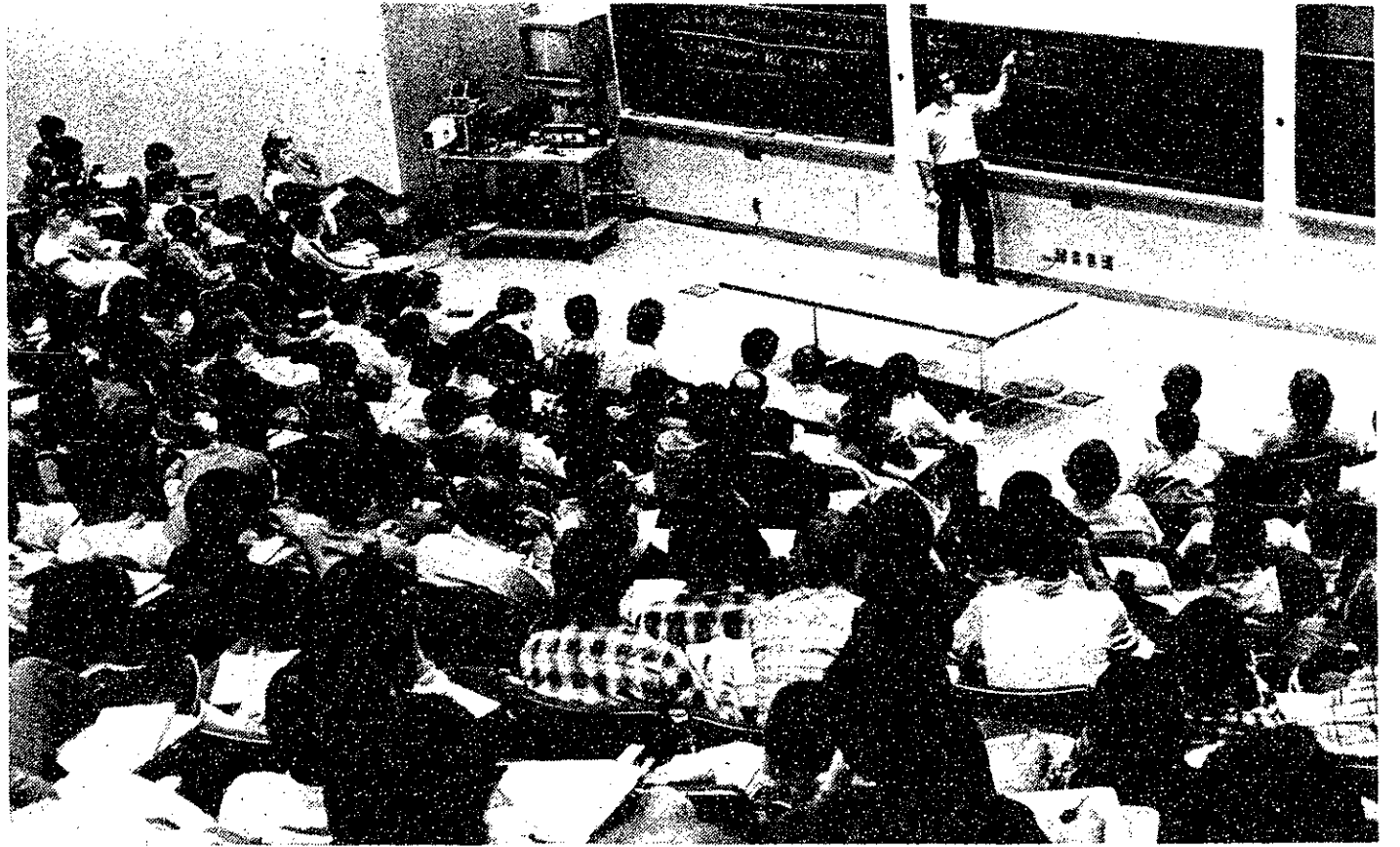
Freshmen will probably not be allowed to take 6.001 in the fall, Elias added. Usual fall enrollment is 220, including about 80 freshmen. By not permitting freshmen to take the class, he explained, a margin of 160 spaces would be created to accommodate those rejected this term.

All EECS majors should be able to take 6.001 in the first term of their sophomore years without schedule problems, Sussman claimed. He does not understand why so many freshmen take the class, he added.

The elimination of another introductory computer class, Introduction to Computation (6.030), may account for some of the overenrollment in 6.001, Elias noted.

"We're pushing very hard for

(Please turn to page 2)



Tech photo by Grant M. Johnson

A crowded course VI lecture earlier this week.

News Analysis

"Deep Throat" OK to show at MIT, despite confusing past

By Robert E. Malchman

The Middlesex County District Attorney's office does not believe showing the film "Deep Throat" at MIT to be illegal, according to First Assistant District Attorney Tom Reilly.

Had the MIT Lecture Series Committee (LSC) decided to show the film, the District Attorney's office "would not have taken any action," Reilly said. "We believe it's wholly an MIT matter."

The Institute would not move to stop the showing of the film, according to Dr. Louis Menand III, special assistant to the provost and chairman of the MIT Facilities Use Committee. "Our position is not to censor student activities," Menand said.

Any person offended by the showing of the movie could bring a complaint before the Commit-

tee on Discipline (COD), according to Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert L. Halfman. "I don't think the COD could too usefully handle such though," he said.

If, for example, someone filed a complaint against the members of the LSC Executive Board, the COD would attempt to reconcile the parties' differences, according

to Halfman. "I don't think there would be a real need for the disciplinary process after some discussion," Halfman said.

The question of legality arose from two conflicting court cases, one in Cambridge, the other in Worcester, Mass. A state law makes illegal the printing and distribution of obscene material.

(Please turn to page 3)

SIPB report: we need more money, facilities

By David W. Bower

The Student Information Processing Board (SIPB) has facilitated computer access and has done its job well, but not comprehensively enough, according to Chairman Wendy Rowe '83. SIPB would like to make its services available to more students, she said, but does not have enough money.

SIPB allocated \$94,796 to fund independent computer projects for nearly 1200 students on the Multics computer system last year, according to an annual report the group submitted to the Undergraduate Association (UA) General Assembly (GA).

Each student receives an average of \$50 in computer funding upon opening a SIPB account, but applicants generally request additional funding. "Something is wrong when the overhanging thought of money, in an account, takes away from learning on a computer," Rowe said.

SIPB members are trying to generate support for additional funding from the MIT administration. The group has thus far received an additional \$10,000 capital budget to purchase terminals for the 1982-83 academic year. The UA has not taken any action but discusses SIPB occasionally at meetings.

SIPB used its capital budget—the first such budget it has received in three years—to buy fourteen new video terminals for living groups.

The Office of the Provost provides the group's funding, most of which is used to purchase time

on the Information Processing Services (IPS) Honeywell Multics and IBM 370 system. SIPB also buys time on the Joint Computer Facility (JCF) VAX-11/782.

SIPB's \$110,000 budget supplied computer resources to students who "explored problems of personal interest, did homework assignment calculations, did text processing . . . and familiarized themselves with computer operation," according to SIPB's annual report to the GA.

The group also acts as a clearinghouse for computer information on campus, consulting on all types of computing, supplying terminals and modems to living groups, and maintaining a list of computer job opportunities.

SIPB wants to expand terminal service and update its equipment to include a 24-hour facility. It does not now have such capability.

Rutgers University has a 24-hour, on-campus computer facility with 100 terminals, Rowe noted. MIT has no such facility: Terminals are available on Sunday only at the Student Center Library, dormitories and certain fraternities.

SIPB's annual report claims the committee faces a shortage of space, as well as of money.

SIPB sent copies of its report to approximately thirty individuals and offices, including Professor Fernando J. Corbato '56, director of computing and telecommunications resources; IPS Director Weston J. Burner; President Paul E. Gray '54; and Dean for Student Affairs Shirley M. McBay.

Congress may cut funds for draft

By Will Doherty

At least 25 members of Congress recently introduced legislation to severely cut back the budget and influence of the Selective Service System.

These proposals follow the flurry of student financial aid office activity responding to the new Department of Education regulations that deny federal aid to those that do not register for the draft.

Senator David F. Durenberger (R-Minn.) introduced a resolution repealing Section 1113, known as the Solomon Amendment, of the Defense Authorization Act (DAA). The amendment,

H. Solomon (R-NY) last summer, requires students to prove they have registered for the draft before receiving federal student financial aid.

Representatives Martin O. Sabo (D-Minn.) and William Green (R-NY) co-authored a bill (HR 1050) which reduces the Selective Service budget by \$4 million dollars while leaving the Selective Service personnel and equipment budget of approximately \$23 million intact. At least 25 additional members of Congress have co-sponsored the bill.

Sabo and Green are co-chairmen of the Congressional sub-

committee which controls the Selective Service budget. They both favor a strategy known as post-mobilization registration, which requires a draft registration only subsequent to a decision to implement a draft.

A suit brought by the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG) against the Department of Education and Selective Service for their role in regulating federal aid to student non-registrants may be resolved on February 21 when the Minneapolis District Court will hear arguments in the case.

Laura Alperin, director of student financial aid at Swarthmore College, confirmed the Swarthmore College administration and other unnamed parties have filed *amicus curiae* briefs, or additional arguments, in the *MPIRG v. Department of Education* case.

Administrators at Yale University, Earlham College and Goshen College recently indicated they would replace any reduced federal financial aid to non-registrants attending their schools. MIT and Swarthmore have not yet formulated a policy in response to the government non-registrant aid regulations.

inside

OPEC, Andropov, truckers, and weekend weather in News Roundup. **Page 3.**

Want a chance to win \$5 worth of ice cream? Enter *The Tech's* new contest! Details on **Page 7.**

Performance art comes alive. Catch a glimpse on the Arts page. **Page 9.**

Hey, sports fans! Weekend opportunities abound for the serious spectator. See Sports Update. **Page 15.**

EECS drops 141 frosh from 6.001

(Continued from page 1)

additional computing facilities by the spring of 1984," Elias said. There is a significant chance that the facilities will be available by January 1984, he added. The School of Engineering is presently negotiating for additional computer facilities for EECS as well as other departments.

EECS wants microcomputers for use in Computation Structures (6.032), which will be replaced by a lab subject numbered 6.004 this fall, Elias explained. Students in 6.001 would also use microcomputers or else timeshare, on a new large computer. EECS's present computer will be used by other computer classes.

"We have done a reshuffling of terms for the VI-3 curriculum," Elias continued. Previously, computer science majors had a tight schedule, he said, but some problems were solved by offering Computability, Automata and

Formal Languages (6.045J) in the spring following its prerequisite, Introduction to Algebraic Systems (18.063).

Both 6.045J and 6.032 are also oversubscribed this term, Elias said. Offering 6.045J in the spring for the first time, "probably caught next year's crop of students." Approximately 100 enrolled in the subject.

A laboratory subject required of VI-3 majors, Laboratory in Software Engineering (6.170), is now being offered only in the fall so it will not compete with 6.001 for computer time, Elias said.

Students interested in solving physical problems with computers, rather than learning hardware and software sciences should enroll in either Principles of Computer-Based Engineering Problem Solving (1.00) or Elementary Programming and Machine Computation (2.10), Elias suggested.



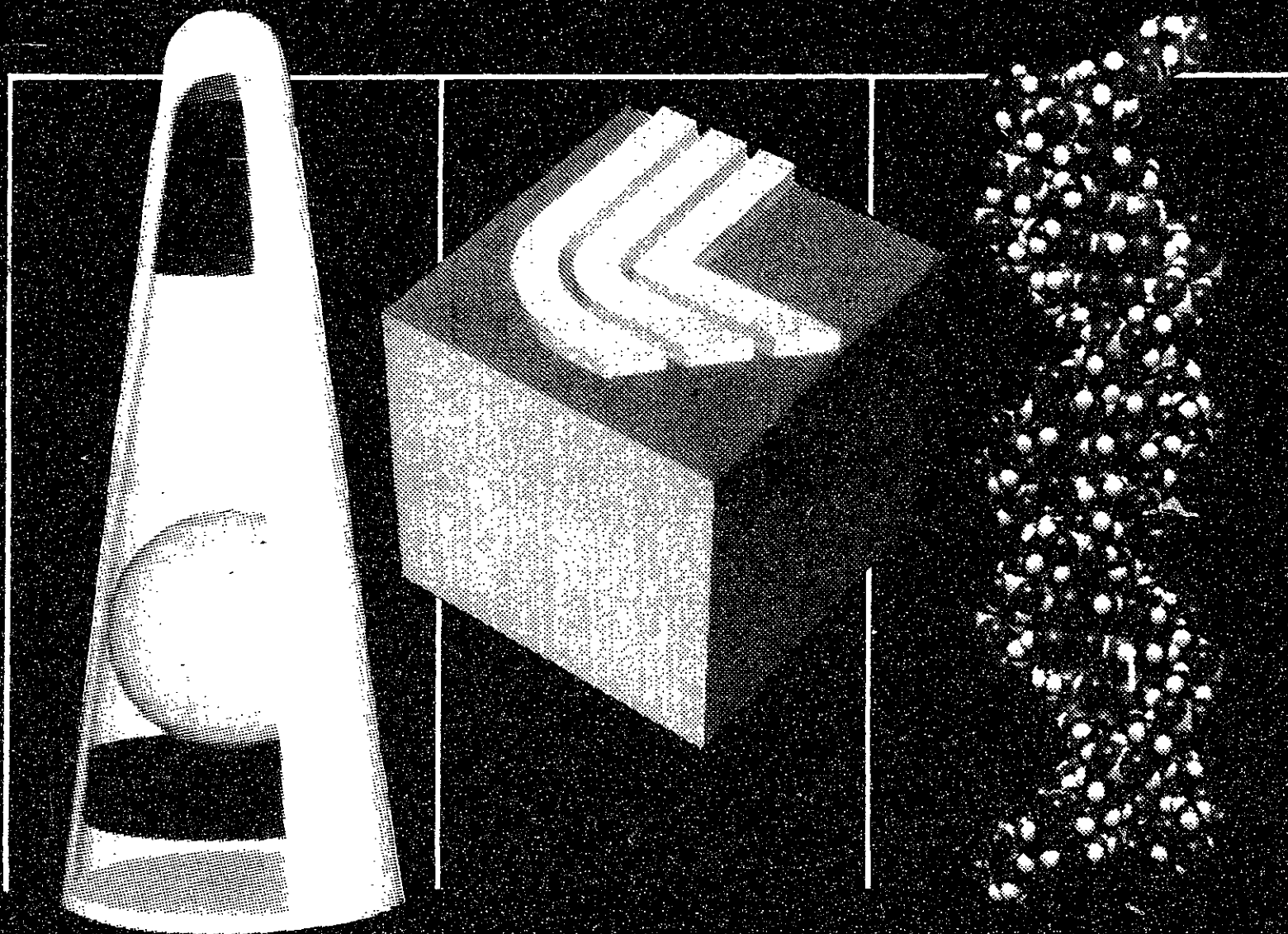
Two youngsters seem undaunted by the wet weather as they play in a sandbox.

Tech photo by Laurie S. Goldman

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news roundup

World

Four OPEC states threaten to cut their oil prices — Four members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries threatened last Tuesday to reduce their crude oil prices by \$4 a barrel unless other OPEC members agree to adhere to production ceilings. Joining Kuwait in the price cuts would be Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The threat was the first public indication that some of OPEC's Arab members plan to abandon the group's official prices.

Andropov rejects summit — Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov Tuesday night rejected President Ronald Reagan's call for a summit meeting. Responding to Reagan's letter to the people of Europe, Andropov said Reagan's offer to sign an accord banning all US and Soviet land-based medium range missiles was merely a restatement of his "zero option" proposal at the Geneva arms talks. Andropov, in an interview with the Communist Party newspaper *Pravda*, suggested Reagan's proposal was part of a "propaganda game" to influence public opinion in Western Europe.

Nation

The nationwide truckers' strike begins to affect food supplies — Amid sporadic violence locally and across the country, some eastern cities, including those in Massachusetts, began experiencing curtailed deliveries of meat and produce because many of the truckers who are not strike would drive only during daylight hours. The Independent Truckers Association is striking to protest the increase in the gasoline tax from 4 to 9 cents, effective April 1, and the increase in the annual highway-user tax from \$250 to \$1600 in 1984 and to \$1900 in 1985.

Weather

Spring weather ends — The prematurely mild weather leaves today as winter returns with variable cloudiness and a possibility of flurries. Afternoon temperatures will be in the 30's, and tonight will be cold with lows between 20 and 24. Saturday will be brisk and cold with highs in the 30's.

John J. Ying

"Deep Throat:" confusing legal past

(Continued from page 1)

The definition of "obscene material" comes from the 1973 US Supreme Court decision in *Miller v. California*. The Court declared: "The basic guidelines for the trier of fact must be: whether 'the average person, applying contemporary community standards' would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; . . . whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law; and whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value."

This so-called "SLAPS test" was applied by Judge Charles R.

Alberti of the Middlesex County District Court in 1980, when he found "Deep Throat" not obscene. The ruling denied a motion by then-District Attorney John Droney to prevent the Quincy House Film Society at Harvard University from showing "Deep Throat."

Droney ordered the arrest of Film Society chairmen Carl Stork and Nathan J. Hagen, after the first of four planned showings, despite Alberti's finding, according to Harvard Law School Professor Alan M. Dershowitz, in his book, *The Best Defense*. Dershowitz succeeded in having the charges against the pair dropped, but not before he had

to file a suit charging Droney with civil rights violations.

Droney agreed to drop the charges when the defendants agreed to give him the name of the film distributor — which was on the film box all the time, according to Dershowitz.

A jury in Worcester subsequently found "Deep Throat" obscene. The finding was upheld by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

The statement from the District Attorney's office puts to rest the legal confusion, at least as far as MIT is concerned. Within the Institute, however, the questions regarding the place of pornography remain open.

A message to M.I.T. Students regarding nominations for Coop Board of Directors

If you, as a Coop member and a degree candidate at MIT, are interested in serving as a student director of the Harvard Cooperative Society for the next academic year and you are an undergraduate student, contact Kenneth Segel, Chairperson of the MIT UA Nominations Committee in room W20-401; if you are a graduate student, contact Lu Nguyen, President of the MIT Graduate Student Council, in room 50-222. These contacts should be made prior to February 14, 1983.

The Coop's Board of Directors has a total of 23 members, 11 of which are students from MIT and Harvard, 11 are members of the faculty and staff or alumni of MIT and Harvard, plus the General Manager of the Society. The Board oversees the operation of the Coop and sets policy for the Coop's operation. The Board meets monthly during the academic year.

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Opinion

Column/Will Doherty

Lesbians, gays face problems

I would like to state for the record that I agree with Robert L. Satcher's assessment [Feedback, Jan. 12] that the harassment of lesbians and gay men is in some ways quite different from the maltreatment of women, blacks and other groups. I am glad to read that Satcher understands that "discrimination against gays is unfair."

Clearly, the issue of visibility is vital in characterizing the unique oppression of lesbians and gay men. This does not, however, reduce the scope of our oppression. In fact, the choice to remain invisible often results in continuing oppression.

Women and blacks who become successful must, as a result of their physical attributes, be visible in their success. (Black women who are successful are even more noted for breaking discriminatory social and economic taboos.)

But lesbians and gay men may become extremely successful and remain "in the closet." This anonymity, as with the anonymity of many persecuted Jews, conscientious war resisters and blacks who appear to be white, can be dangerous and painful. Lesbians and gay men have few role models on which to base their hopes for future advancement and achievement, aside from the stereotyped hairdresser and florist occupations. We do not have families who embrace our "shortcomings" as easily, because heterosexual or "closeted" parents do not understand and cannot easily express sympathy with our situation.

The more lesbians or gay men remain "closeted," the more we face continuous fear of discovery, of developing open relationships, and of the maltreatment our lesbian sisters and gay brothers often receive.

When we do "come out," we face archaic anti-sodomy statutes and discrimination in housing and employment. Gay students

and teachers are driven out from their schools, churches and homes.

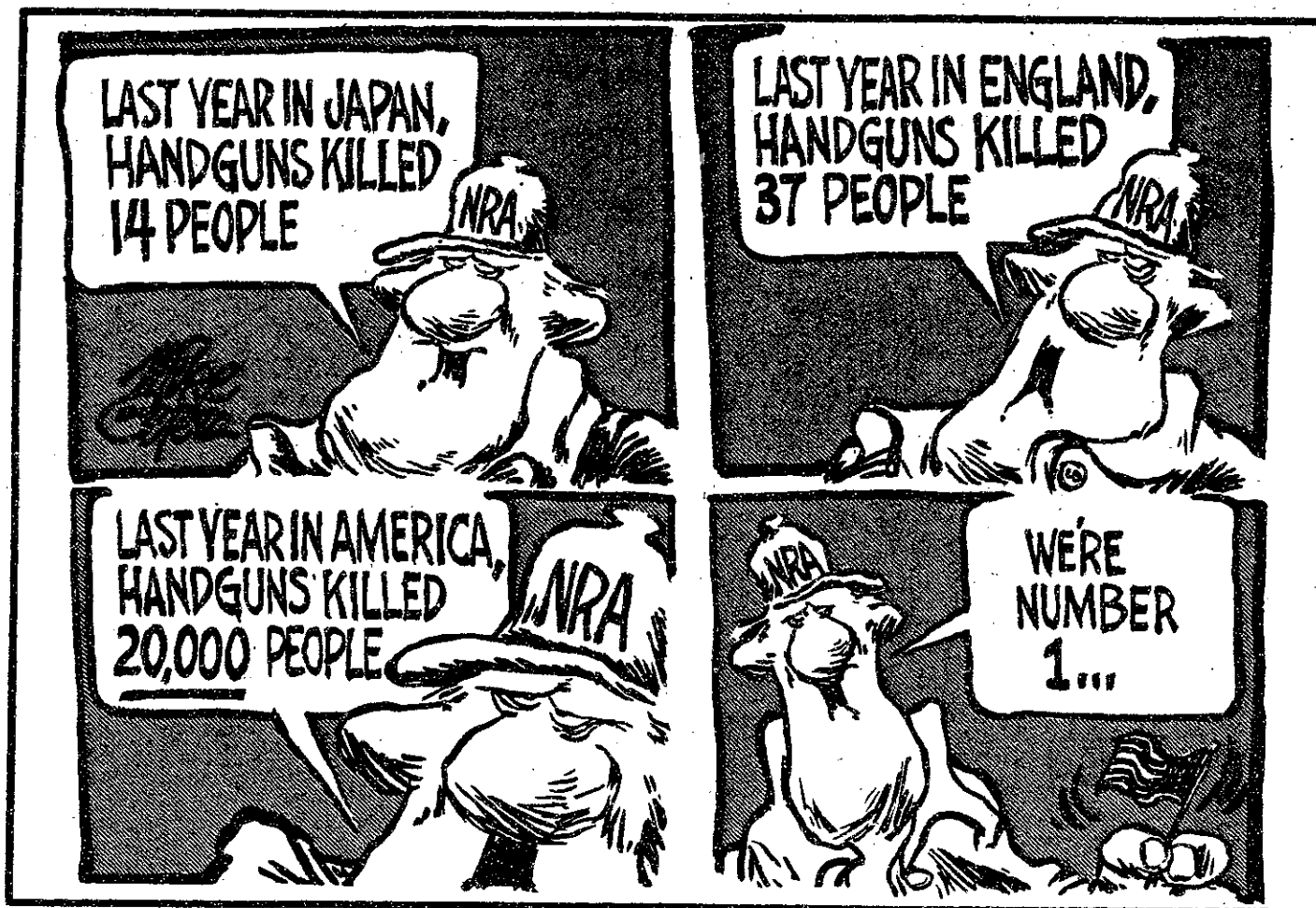
Satcher realizes that "women and other minorities have had long histories of oppression." When we tabulate this wrongdoing, let us not forget: the extermination of tens of thousands of gays in the camps of Nazi Germany; the gays who stayed in prison when Jews, gypsies and criminals were released during the Allied victory; the assassination of San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk; the Twinkie defense that let former Supervisor Dan White off easy from two counts of murder; and the current ridicule, imprisonment and legal action against gays who are beaten or arrested each week here in Boston. This list is miniscule compared to the actual volume of history of gay oppression.

Last month, the Dean's Office informed me of repeated "queer-bashings" which occurred in front of the Paradise, a gay bar only 2½ blocks from Lobby 7. Then, please remember the fire-bombing of Gay Community News, Fag Rag, and the Glad Day Bookstore in Boston.

Within this framework, is it all that hard to understand why we are angry about the homophobic vandalism of our office and lounge here at MIT? These indicators urge all lesbians and gay men to be wary of a renewed wave of oppression — if it happens, we may not survive.

Thank you, Robert Satcher, for recognizing some of the varied guises under which discrimination and maltreatment still appear here in the MIT community. I hope we all are just as aware of the similarities as of the differences inherent in these oppressive attitudes and actions.

If this discrimination and maltreatment is ever to end, we must confront these attitudes and actions each and every time we encounter them.



Column/Bob Lubarsky

Cambodian news distorted

Mark Templer's column on Cambodia [Jan. 26] reveals more about the US government and press than about its topic.

Templer describes the horrors of Communist rule. The Khmer Rouge (Pol Pot's Communists) evacuated the cities, he says, and sent the people to work camps. Their possessions were removed, he claims, and they were given little food, shelter, and medicine. Executions were common, and disease, insanity, and malnutrition took the lives of many others. According to Templer, two or three million people died out of a population of seven million. A refugee friend sums up the moral: all Communism is bad. Furthermore, he finds that the American media said almost nothing the whole time.

The picture above is the standard fare of the mass media. However, it is a distortion even of its own selective evidence, and is taken out of context.

Much of the support of the news reports was the testimony of refugees from camps in Thailand, which was anti-Cambodian, chosen by and interviewed in the presence of Thai government officials. Much of the evidence was outright fabrication. The American press ignored other sources, including Western reporters, official Western delegations, and certain refugees, whose statements contradicted the horror stories and were sometimes favorable to the Khmer Rouge.

As for the number who died, some demographers are estimating tens or hundreds of thousands, orders of magnitude lower than the numbers the press usually cites. The importance of numbers is not only in understanding what actually happened, but in evaluating the reliability of reporters.

Sense can be made of the contradictory evidence by noting that the worst stories come from northwest Cambodia. The northwest experienced the greatest repression by the previous government and the least control by the Khmers after their revolution. Most likely, the violence was not a centralized plan by Communists, but was local, and a result of undisciplined troops and peasant revenge.

The Cambodian civil war explains the treatment of city-dwellers better than it explains Communist ideology. The revolution was carried out by Khmer peasants against the urban elite. Also, the peasants probably did not

consider their making whole families farm for 9 to 10 hours a day, their normal lifestyle, as brutal.

Posing the obvious, if unasked, questions can further clarify the true story. Why did the Khmer Rouge evacuate the cities? They had to get people working the land to prevent famine. As it was, the residents of Phnom Penh, the capital, had been undernourished for years.

How did the country get in that state? Heavy US bombardment had destroyed the agricultural system and sent the peasants to the cities as refugees. The economy was partially supported by US aid, but when the Khmer Rouge took over, the aid stopped.

The bombing also radicalized and brutalized the Khmers. That may have been an intended result, to prevent a successful post-revolutionary Cambodia from being an attractive alternative to Western domination.

So the death toll is not because of Communist fanaticism, nor completely the result of the violence of a civil war, but to a large degree the outcome of US intervention. Disease, malnutrition, and unexploded ordnance are American legacies. The hardship stories, when not falsifications, are partly impositions of the re-

ality created by the US government.

Charges of American media silence on Khmer atrocities are untenable. Cambodia rated front-page coverage in major papers, including *The New York Times*, articles in magazines such as *TV Guide* and *Readers' Digest*, columns by people like Jack Anderson, and television news reports. The media is quite vulnerable to accusations of distortion, by omitting any reference to possible US responsibility.

In contrast, an example of real media silence is East Timor. In December 1975, Indonesia invaded East Timor. The destruction was comparable to that of Cambodia. Nonetheless, reporting plummeted so much that in 1977 and 1978 *The New York Times* did not carry a single story about East Timor. Why the difference? The Indonesian invasion had the military and diplomatic support of the United States. In Cambodia, the destruction could be attributed (albeit incorrectly) to an official enemy.

The roles of the US in Cambodia and East Timor, and the distortions of the media, show that our government is more destructive and our press less free than the propagandists would have us believe.

feedback

Sr. House residents decry rent shift plan

Editor's note: The Tech received a copy of the following letter to Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood.

Dear Mr. Sherwood:

As residents of one of the dorms accused of an "anti-rush," we object strongly to both the proposed redistribution of rents and its implications. The reputed anti-rush is as mythical as the rumors of the ODSA's being "out to get" the Senior House. We accept and welcome even those people who listed the Senior House as their last choice, but can anyone possible be so naive as to imagine that we would breed them rather than attempt to convince others that they want to live here? While our rush this year may not have been our best ever, many people worked damn hard to give freshmen a good impression of this place, and deserve more credit than an accusa-

tion of deliberate incompetence.

Furthermore, there is no such thing as "ghosting" in the Senior House. The rooms that are vacant are legitimately vacant, and can be occupied by anyone the Dean's Office chooses to send over.

The "incident" referred to in the article, by the way, took place after rush week, contained no drugs, and was condemned by the entire house. The only person to leave as a result was the person who organized the "bizarre party." As usual, though, your remarks contained little substantive that we can confront, only the vague innuendos that will feed the rumors of next rush week, thereby continuing an unfortunate tradition of an under-subscribed Senior House.

Randolph Gerard Koloch '83
and 50 other residents
of Senior House

The Tech

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Opinion

feedback

"Star Wars" worse than "Deep Throat"

To the Editor:
We were amazed to learn that the scheduled Registration Day movie had been withdrawn, and somewhat bemused by what took its place. Apparently, some members of the MIT community objected to "Deep Throat" on some moral ground. There are, however, moral grounds upon which one can object to "Star Wars."

"Star Wars" is an extremely violent movie. The hero, who is — in theory — an innocent farm boy, becomes a remorseless killing machine when the occasion presents itself. Everyone else in the movie is violent also — consistently violent.

It is the remorseless nature of which makes the film so distasteful. Deaths are bloodless, impersonal, and sanitized (not to mention frequent). Rather than causing the viewer to empathize with the horrors of warfare, "Star Wars" anesthetizes the viewer to the horrors he or she has seen.

"Deep Throat" is not a clean, All-American film. It is a graphic (and crude) movie dealing with sexual acts. We have heard many arguments that it is degrading to females. (One of us feels the film is more degrading to males.) We feel that the argument is, however, irrelevant.

It is our experience that those opposed to such films worry about what people will think after seeing one. We are concerned about what people will think after being numbed by "Star Wars." Remorseless violence is probably more insidious than sexuality carried to absurd extremes. Society trains us all too well for "Deep Throat" to be a danger; we are not sure about "Star Wars."

Peter Smoot '85
John Dumas

Q. How are Teamster officers chosen?



A. process of elimination

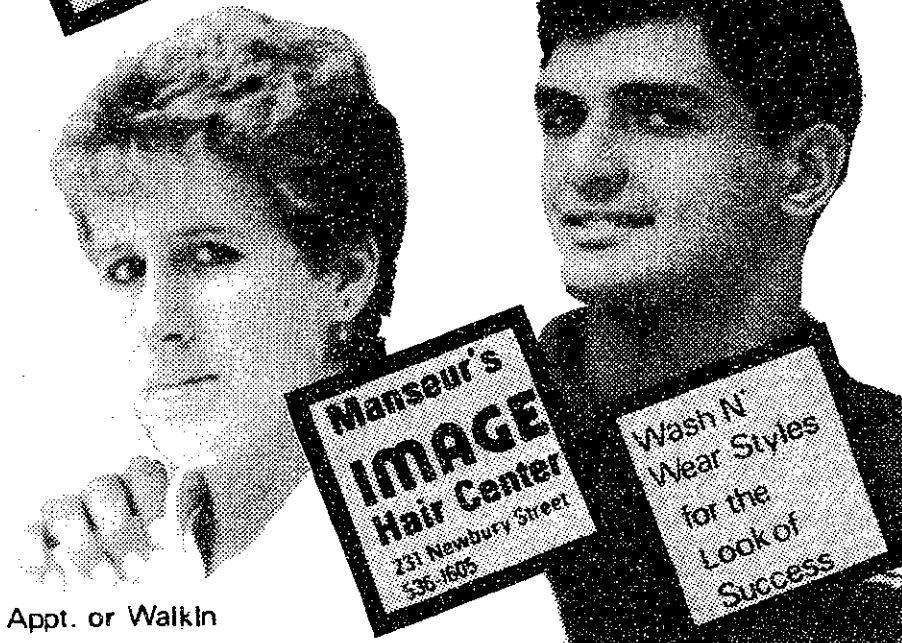
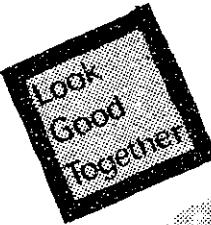
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feedback

EECS must expand computer facilities

To the Editor:

Freshmen, just when you thought you could take 6.001 on pass/fail, beware! Course VI has struck again. This term over 400 students preregistered for 6.001 and Professor Sussman has said that some students must get the axe. Freshmen will be forced out first. (After all, you're only freshmen.) Close to 100 freshmen are going to be forced to drop the course, possibly signalling the end of 6.001 as a course freshmen can take. Naturally, this will only alleviate the problem for the short term.

The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science was forced to limit the number of students in the class because of a lack of facilities to handle such a large number of students. They exacerbated the problems in 6.001 by not offering 6.030 this year. However, what they fail to realize is that many students enrolled in 6.001 take it not because they intend to major in Course VI but to get a general introduction to computer programming.

In an age of ever increasing dependence on computers in almost every field of work, MIT students are now faced with the choice of taking 2.10, a course in FORTRAN (offered by the Department of Mechanical Engineering) for people who would like to learn a first computer language, and 6.001. The enrollment in 2.10 this term is approximately 250 and is expected to reach about 300 before the class size stabilizes next week.

The opening of the new EG&G Building later this year will help alleviate some of the problems, but as more students demand a well-rounded education including computer literacy, EECS must increase their facilities to meet those needs. If MIT cannot supply its students with the necessary computer education, a basic need in today's fast-paced technological world, how then, can we call ourselves the most technologically advanced university in the world?

Michael Candan '85

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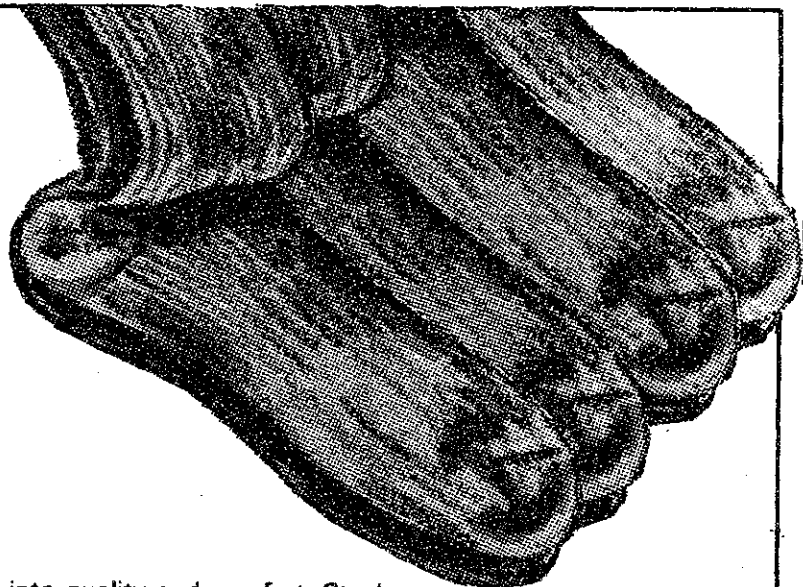
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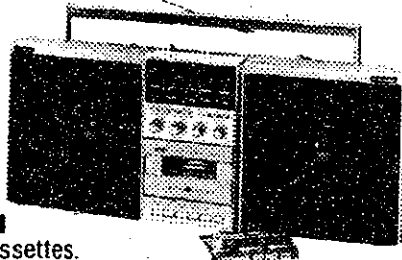
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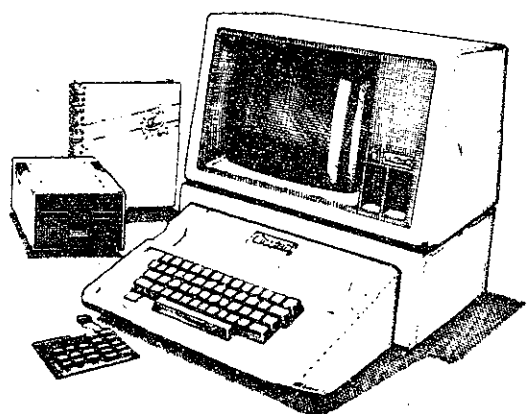
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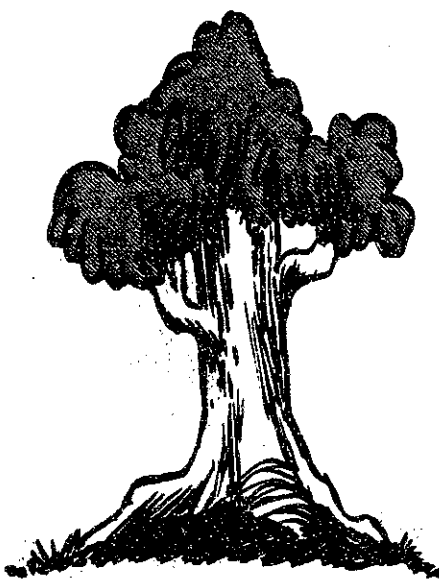
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Opinion

feedback

Devo defended: Album is fun

To the Editor:

We are disgusted and disappointed with Mr. Pundurs' recent review of Devo's new album, *Oh No, It's Devo!* [Dec. 10]. We thought Mr. Gitlow's reviews were reptilian, but this one takes the proverbial cake. Mr. Pundurs is entitled to his own opinion, as is every mongoloid, but his choice of lyrics to describe the album was worse than poor; it was inexcusable. Admittedly, "Speed Racer" is one of the lighter songs on the album, but even "Peek-a-Boo," which has a minimal amount of lyrics, manages to push a sorely-needed point across: "If you cannot see it, you think it's not there; it doesn't work that way."

"Time Out for Fun," one of

the songs that doesn't quite "achieve mediocracy" sums up the entire album and Devo as a whole.

It was interesting to see the crowd at the recent Devo concert. Most of the mutants were in the 20- to 25-year-old age group. This is unlike (we've been told) recent concerts of groups that have attracted the average 16-year-old girl clad in mini-skirt and elf boots. The fact that Devo attracts a more sophisticated following is beside the point. (But we mentioned it anyway.)

Devo's lyrics are often weird, satirical, and ridiculous, but they're meant to be that way. This is very much unlike other contemporary groups which have ridiculous lyrics written, unfortu-

nately, to be taken seriously. Who can forget beauties like "We come from the land down under, where women glow and men plunder," or the classic, "vacation, all I ever wanted"? These lyrics, we're afraid, are jokes, but not funny. Some might even go as far as to say that they're "worthless." (We will, for example.)

As for marketing \$97.20 worth of paraphernalia, isn't it better to produce your own items instead of allowing the leeches and parasites of the world to jump on the bandwagon, as many other groups have allowed?

We can only suggest that, in the future, Mr. Pundurs relax and take a less critical view of albums that are pure fun, and were meant to be that way. As Devo says in explosions: "We do like music, when it does what it should do."

Carl Bauer '85

John Stein '85

Bob Zuffante '84

Reconsider writing req't

To the Editor:

It appears that another course has been added to the long list of those already required for a bachelor's degree at MIT. I am referring to the freshman writing examination ["One in four frosh fails writing exam," Dec. 7]. What the requirement amounts to is another course forced on next year's freshman class. To be exempted from the required course, one must demonstrate a minimum level of writing proficiency by taking an exam during R/O week. This markedly resembles a requirement for 8.01 (which can also be waived via examination), except that passing the writing exam yields no credit toward the humanities distribution requirement or otherwise.

The Committee on the Writing Requirement believes that only one-third of the Class of 1986 can demonstrate a reasonable level of writing proficiency. My apologies to the committee for smashing its dreams, but not every MIT undergraduate will become a novelist later in his/her life. I ask: How did the 25 percent who failed get accepted to the Institute? Obviously if these people cannot satisfactorily express themselves in writing, then all of their application essays were phony. This is an insult to the admissions office. Clearly it is unreasonable to recommend or require that two-thirds of the class take courses to improve their writing. As for myself, I "marginally passed" the exam four months after scoring a "5" on the Advanced Placement English Examination.

I understand that this course will not be mandatory for the Class of 1986, but it would be unfair to place this burden on the shoulders of the Class of 1987. A prompt review of this requirement by the committee is necessary to ensure that future MIT

undergraduates are not arbitrarily labelled "illiterate."

Ralph J. Spicer '86

Harassment of any kind is unacceptable at MIT and is in conflict with the policies and interests of the Institute. Harassment is defined as verbal or physical conduct which has the intent or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's or group's educational and/or work performance at MIT, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational and work environment on or off campus.

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Performance art is a fairly vague term. It encompasses all types of performing arts, from Eric Bogosian's comedy to Pooh Kaye's dance events to Glenn Branca's wall-of-guitar sound. While mostly a New York phenomenon, it's coming to your town (witness the recent Kitchen tour). There's simply too much that fits under the perf-art umbrella to fit into one article; however, a few small glimpses should be sufficient to whet one's appetite.

Alive is a magazine devoted to chronicling all aspects of perf-art. The premiere issue features interviews with Jim Fouratt (ex-head honcho of NYC's Danceteria) and Steve Mass (Mudd Club). In addition, there're articles grouped by speciality. *Alive* includes pieces on Nam June Paik (video god), the Judson Dance Theatre and the Noisefest hardcore festival. The writing is professional and relatively unbiased, which is highly unusual in arts periodicals. The only real drag is the price (\$3), but if you want to keep on top of the latest, accept no substitutes.

One of the artists showcased in *Alive* is Laurie Anderson, whose album, *Big Science*, is a little gem. Anderson's music is pretty minimalist, relying on keyboards and random novelties (e.g. bagpipes on "Sweaters") to give her lyric poetry pleasant surroundings. What makes this release such a pleasure is a combination of the

ARTS



Performance Art

simplicity of the arrangements and Anderson's knack at phrasing.

Lyrics are everything on this disc, music being merely a vehicle for expressing Anderson's ideas. For example, "Let X=X/It Tango" is an essay on taking things at face value instead of trying to interpret and derive hidden meaning from everything. Perhaps the first line says it best:

I met this guy

And he looked like he might have been a hat-check clerk at an ice rink

Which, in fact, he turned out to be

And I said "Oh boy, right again"

Here, as in "O Superman (for Massenet)," Anderson uses a vocoder to mechanize her voice. It would appear that this prop is used to point out the automating of our lives, both physically and socially-induced. It is used sparingly, and to good effect.

There are some thorns among the roses, unfortunately. Some effects take a good deal of patience; for example, the aforementioned bagpipes. I still can't get used to the screeching vocals on "Example #22." This tune's interspersing of German phrases within the song is distracting, at best. Still, on balance, this album is superb, although quite out of the ordinary.

Anderson will be in town at a special performance for Center Screen's 10th anniversary on Saturday, March 12.

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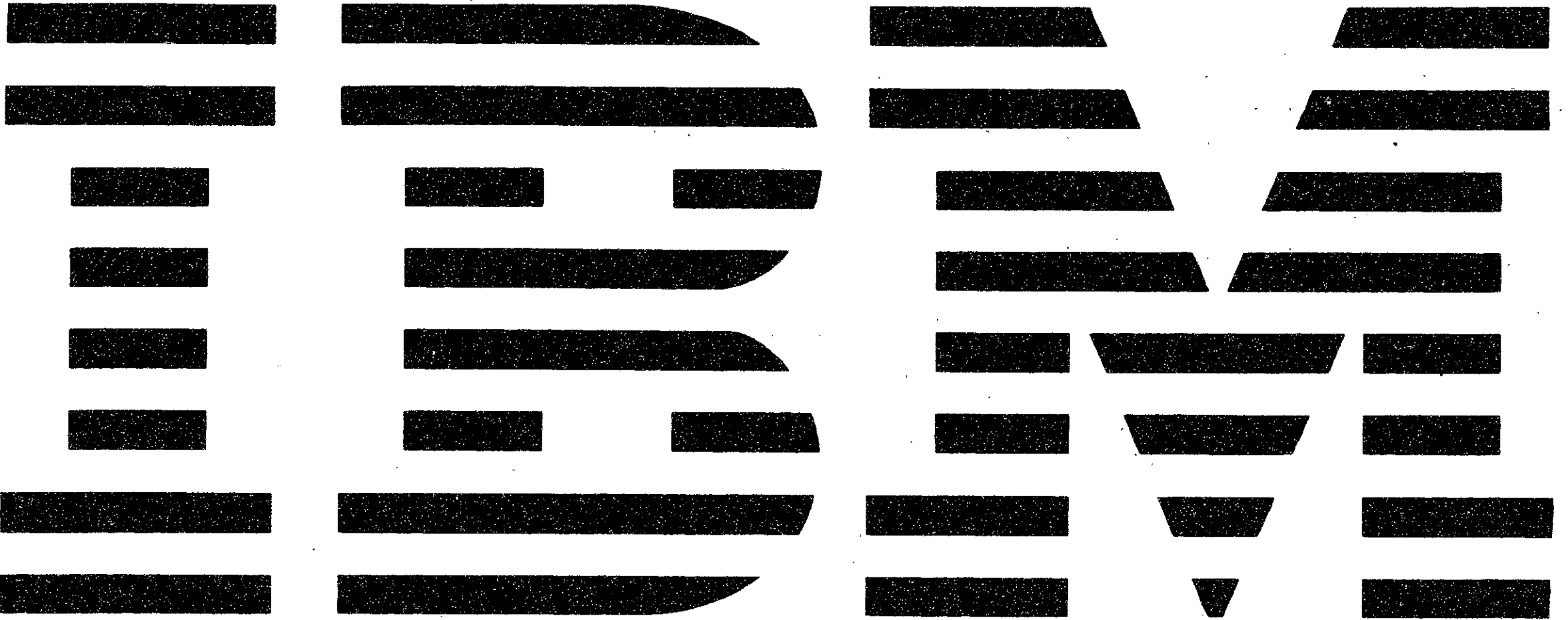
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on campus

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sports

sports update

Men's Basketball — The men's basketball team dropped a close 63-62 decision to host University of New England Monday night. Co-captain Mark Branch '83 paced MIT with 19 points. Other Engineers in double figures were Mark Johnson '84 with 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Craig Poole '86 with 15. The team, now 5-9, travelled to Hartford last night for a game against Trinity, and will return home tomorrow for a 2pm meeting with Amherst.

Squash — The squash team suffered a 9-0 blanking at the hands of perennial power Yale Friday afternoon in duPont. The squad's record falls to 3-10 on the year. Standouts for MIT thus far have been David Pope '84, captain Ron Bujarski '83 and Ian Hueton '84. Tomorrow Columbia will be in town for a 2pm match.

Men's Swimming — The men's swimming team romped over Southeastern Massachusetts 63-32 Tuesday evening, taking nine of the thirteen events. The men's record now stands at 3-3.

The women were in action in the Greater Boston Champion-

ships at Northeastern Wednesday evening. Although the team finished sixth with 89 points, Lori Blackwelder '86 and Maria Issa '86 each turned in fine performances. Blackwelder was sixth of eleven in both the one- and three-meter diving, while Issa was sixth in the 50-yard butterfly and seventh in the 100-yard version.

In other news, Issa has already qualified for the NCAA Division III championships in three events — the 50- and the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard individual medley. Andy Renshaw '85 also qualified for the nationals in the 200-yard butterfly.

Wrestling — The wrestlers lost 37-9 Wednesday afternoon to a tough team from WPI. Ken Shull '84 took the 142-lb weight class, and Dave "Bongo" Cinquegrana '85 in his first start ever as an Engineer was first in the 134-lb. The squad's record goes to 9-7.

Shull will represent MIT at the Division II,III vs. Division I all-star meet at Springfield college Sunday. Shull, the defending New England Division III champion at 134 pounds, has posted a 14-1 record with seven pins this season in the 142-lb class. Sunday's start will be his first at 134 pounds this season.

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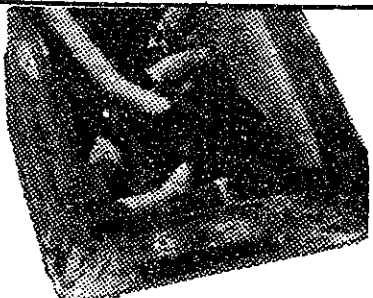
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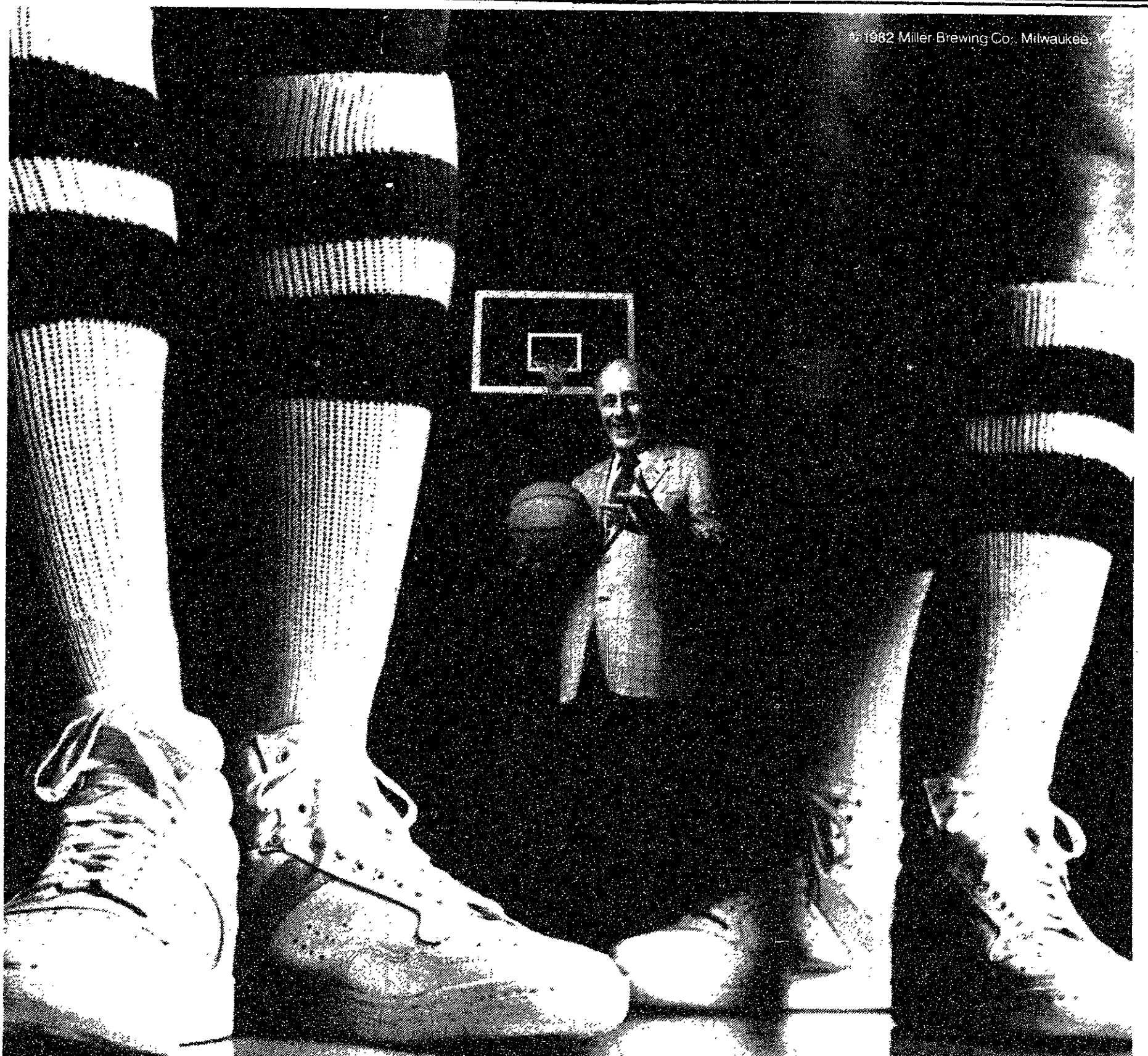
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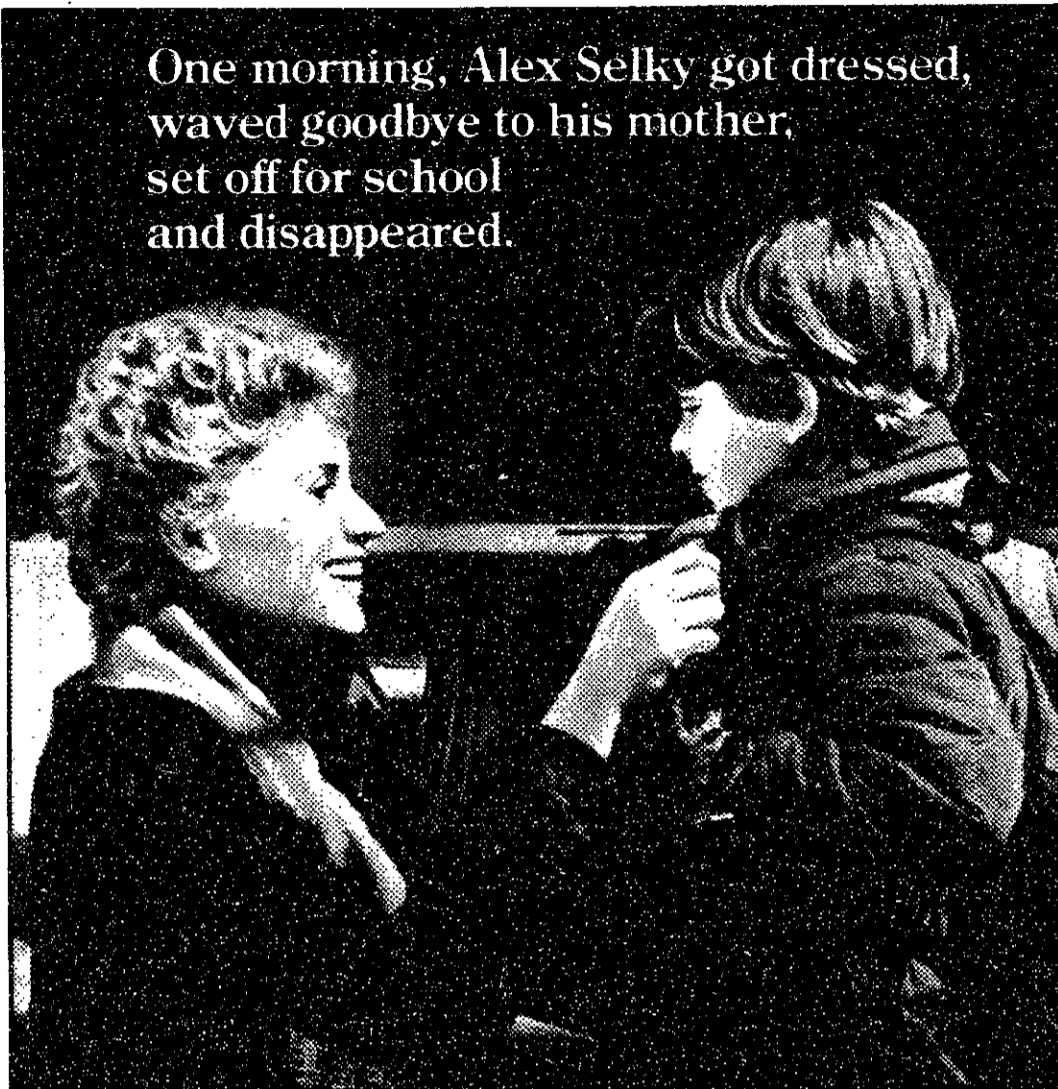


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See page 7 for details.



One morning, Alex Selky got dressed, waved goodbye to his mother, set off for school and disappeared.

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DAVID DUKES and STOCKARD CHANNING

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 Production Designer PAUL SYLBERT Associate Producer ALICE SHURE Music by JACK NITZSCHE
 Screenplay by BETH GUTCHEON Based on her novel "Still Missing"
 Produced and Directed by STANLEY R. JAFFE

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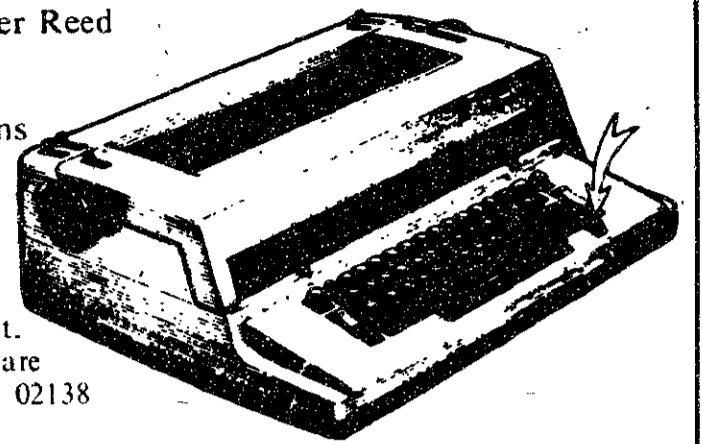
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Elections for New Finance Board Members

Undergraduate Association Finance Board will be holding a hearing for two open seats on *Wednesday, February 9*. These positions will extend through March, 1984. If you feel qualified for a challenging position dealing with people, ideas, and finances, stop by the *Finance Board Office, W20-405 (x3-3680)*, and pick up an application. Applications will be accepted through *Tuesday, February 8*, and applicants will be notified of hearing times that night.

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sports

Finishing the race

(Continued from page 16)

petitor stayed abreast of him. As he started down the stretch, he quickened his stride into a sprint. To him, that last fifty-five meters seemed more like fifty-five miles as the finish line vanished into infinity.

As he approached the end of the Race, his Competitor overtook the lead and beat him to the finish. In his mind's eye, he watched himself pick up the starting pistol lying on the

ground near the finish line, shoot, and kill his Competitor. The lifeless form collapsed onto the ground like a deflated doll, and the crowd cheered excitedly. But the silence was deafening as the cheering suddenly stopped. He saw to his horror that the Competitor was slowly rising to its feet, still wearing that impossibly wide grin. In his last fading thoughts, he imagined that he had cheated and won, but, as in countless races before this, Death had triumphed again.

weekend preview

Once again the weekend is full of opportunities for you to go out and support your favorite (or least detested) team. Here are the highlights:

Today there is absolutely nothing scheduled here at MIT. The track team, however, will be represented at the Greater Bostons at Harvard. Why not pay a visit to the home of the Crimson?

Tomorrow, on the other hand, will be rather busy. *Pistol* starts the day at 9am taking aim at one of the best teams in the nation — Air Force. At noon, both *fencing* teams will be out to skewer opponents from Holy Cross and Hunter.

At 2pm you will have to make a choice. You racquet buffs may want to watch *squash* take a swat at Columbia. Those of you who

are stuck on hoop can see the improved (5-3 last month after an 0-6 start) *men's basketball* team try to dunk Amherst. The rest of you can catch the *hockey* team checking in against WPI — the "other" Engineers.

Finally, in the evening, the powers that be have graciously scheduled nothing in order to give everyone time to go out and celebrate the day's victories.

Sunday is given as a day of rest from Saturday's activities. Any diehard sports fans or anyone who didn't go out celebrating the night before can witness the *women's fencing* squad as they carve up Brandeis and Farleigh-Dickinson at 11am.

Monday you can see more exciting action as *squash* returns to the courts against Harvard at 4pm. At 7pm, *men's basketball* returns to a different kind of court to take on Gordon.

So, get out there. Some of these teams would appreciate having more home fans show up than visiting fans.

Martin Dickau

Service of Holy Communion

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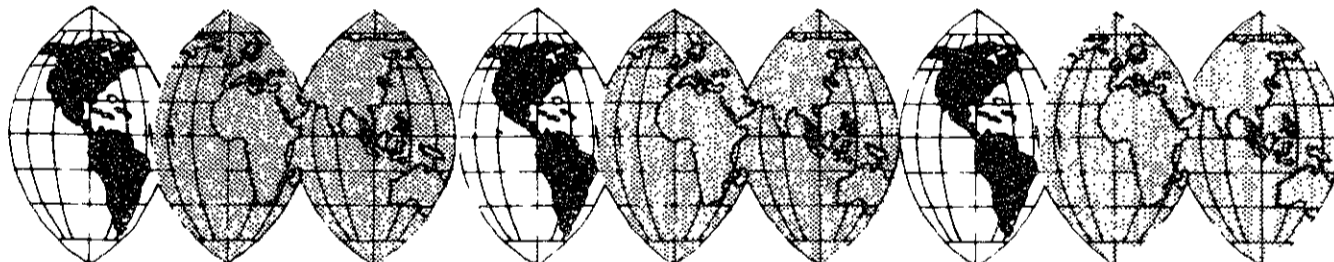
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sports

Column/Arthur Lee

The ultimate Competitor

He stood on the starting strip, waiting with an outward calm, but with his eyes intent on his teammate who was rounding the track at the moment. He saw the runner through a smoky, gray-tinted haze, and he realized that the mist existed only in his mind, perhaps a product of his overly intense concentration. He shook his head, and the mist was gone. But it was hard to relax as his teammate sprinted down the stretch, rapidly approaching him.

Immediately behind that constantly expanding form, he saw another, an infinitely more ominous shape. That, he realized, was a Competitor, running right on the heels of his teammate. To his annoyance, the existence of another Competitor on the starting strip next to him intruded upon his already oppressed senses by jumping up and down, rattling those somewhat noisy running shoes on the aromatic polyurethane surface of the track, and by forever wearing a wide, taunting grin on a mouth that seemed to have been stretched and fixed in place by safety pins. He shud-

dered at the sight and turned his concentration back to the running form of his teammate, and most of all, to the yellow baton that was so significant to the Race, with the color constantly weaving wonderful patterns in his eyes and mind.

He began to move down the strip slowly, letting his teammate catch up with him. He took the baton and ran, starting moderately fast and with the usual long stride as the air whistled past his ears. His Competitor had also started, running to the right and immediately behind him with an inhumanly steady stride. He

looked over his shoulder, intending to assess the amount of his very slim lead. Once again, he saw that sickly smirk projecting its power into his psyche, attempting to dominate it. He ignored it and kept on running.

For three laps now, he had led the Race, and the Competitor did not make a single move to overtake the lead, simply staying back within easy striking distance. But now the situation was changing. The Competitor effortlessly moved up next to him and taunted him with that same smile. He strove to retake the lead, but the

(Please turn to page 15)



Tech photo by Omar Valerio

Beverly Yates '83 puts up a shot against Anna Maria.

Women's basketball defeats Anna Maria

By Jean Fitzmaurice

The women's basketball team scored an impressive 54-29 victory over Anna Maria Tuesday night in Rockwell Cage. Their record now moves to 7-6, with four victories in the last six games.

Both teams started the game slowly. MIT broke out ahead 11-2, taking advantage of numerous turnovers by Anna Maria. Three straight baskets closed the gap to 13-10, but great shooting from captain Terry Felts '84 and Cindy Robinson '84 ended off the half with MIT leading 22-12.

In the second half, MIT kept up its good shooting and rebounding to move ahead by 20, 34-14. Their largest margin was 27. Julie Koster '85, leading the team with 9.9 rebounds per game, also led the team in that department for the contest.

Anna Maria never settled down into its game plan, as it had problems with turnovers and poor shooting throughout the night.

High scorers for MIT were captain Terry Felts '84 with 15 points and Cindy Robinson '84 with 12. In addition, every MIT player who went into the game scored.

With six games remaining (the Engineers played Mount Holyoke last night), Coach Jean Heiney commented, "Tough opponents are coming up this month but we're coming together well."

Tomorrow the team will be away to take on Nichols. The next home game is scheduled for Thursday against Wheaton at 7pm.

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(Reprinted from Real Paper, "Best of Boston," Fall 1980)

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