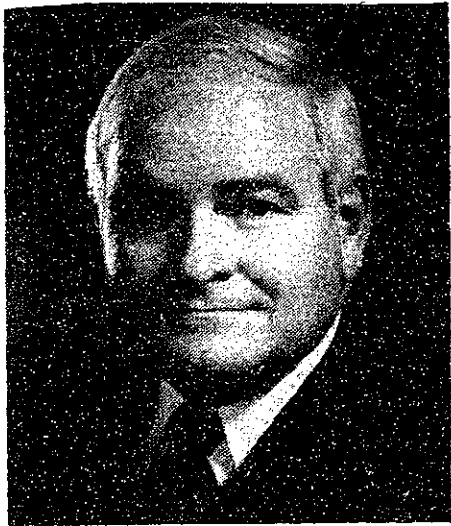


## Gray: MIT will abide by US draft-aid regulations

By Barry S. Surman

MIT will abide by a federal law linking financial aid to draft registration, President Paul E. Gray '54 said in a statement issued yesterday, despite deep concern



Tech file photo  
MIT President Paul E. Gray '54.

"that the federal government has involved us in its enforcement."

"It makes no sense to me," Gray said, "to couple educational opportunity with beliefs about the military draft and to apply that connection only to needy males in a particular age bracket. This is the law of the land, however, and MIT will enforce it."

The law — commonly referred to as the Solomon Amendment — requires statements certifying draft registration from students receiving federal educational assistance.

The requirement was originally to take effect July 1, but a US District Court in Minneapolis prevented its implementation on constitutional grounds. The US Supreme Court, however, overturned that court's decision in late June.

Leonard V. Gallagher '54, director of student financial aid at MIT, said the required statements will be sent to all students through the regular fall term billings. To retain their eligibility for federal funds, students must return the forms to Gallagher's office by Aug. 16.

Gray said the law and the US Department of Education regulation carrying it out are "unfortunate in that they require America's colleges and universities to aid in the enforcement of the federal law requiring registration for the draft and [are] discriminatory."

The Institute will help students find commercial loan sources to meet their financial need, Gray said, but he announced no plans for MIT to meet the "demonstrated need" of students losing federal aid.

"Because of the court delays in putting the law and the regulation into effect," Gallagher said, "it was not until the second week in July that we learned from the Department of Education specifically what will be expected of us."

"By then," he said, "all undergraduate aid packages for next year had been made up and some already mailed."

The Education Department, (Please turn to page 2)

## Hewlett-Packard to give computers

By Jack Link

Hewlett-Packard Company is donating 75 personal computers worth \$3 million to the Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, according to Department Head Joel Moses.

The computers will be used in two courses required for all students majoring in either electrical engineering or computer science: Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001) and a new computer class (6.004). 6.004 is expected to be introduced next spring, replacing Computation Structures (6.032).

Hewlett-Packard spokesman Mary Ann Easley explained the donation, "My understanding is that there will be close cooperation between MIT and HP Labs, and that advanced programs and languages will be studied."

Negotiations between MIT and Hewlett-Packard began last summer when Professors Harold Abelson '73 and Gerald J. Suss-

man '68 informed Moses that Hewlett-Packard might be interested in making a donation.

Sussman helped develop software to permit 6,001 students to run SCHEME on the new Hew- (Please turn to page 8)

## 100 frosh to crowd dorms

By John J. Ying

Approximately 100 freshman will be given crowded housing this fall, according to Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood.

The Dean's Office expects 1932 upperclassmen, approximately 700 freshmen, and 75 transfer and readmitted students to live in the dormitory system next year, Sherwood said. The dormitories house 2635 students if no one is crowded.

The fraternity rush target is roughly 365 pledges this year, according to Sherwood.

Sherwood cites the increased percentage of upperclassmen electing to stay on campus as contributing to the overcrowding problem. Between 600-700 upperclassmen will live in off-campus apartments this coming year.

The difficulty in finding good and reasonably priced apartments in the Boston vicinity is the main reason for the increasing number of upperclassmen who choose to remain in the dormitory system, Sherwood said.

The proximity to campus facilities, the social life, and the newer dormitory regulations have

## Sizes of Entering Classes

Total  
Women

1150  
1100  
1050  
250  
200  
150  
100  
50  
0

1983 1984 1985 1986 1987

Graphic by V. Michael Bove

## Fewer freshmen and fewer women

By John J. Ying

September's freshman class will be smaller than last year's entering class, according to Brenda L. Hambleton, assistant to the director of admissions.

As of July 7, the class num-

bered 1107 students, and approximately 1080 of the 1817 students admitted are expected to register in September.

The Class of 1987 will contain both a fewer number and a lower percentage of women than last year's freshman class. The Class of 1987 will have 249 women comprising 22.5 percent of the class, whereas 270 women enrolled in the Class of 1986 to form 23.7 percent of that group.

The number of minority students will about the same or slightly lower than last year's composition, according to Julia C. McLellan, senior associate director of the admissions office. The Institute admitted more minority students than last year, but it is "very difficult" to convince them to attend MIT, McLellan said. "The number [of minority students enrolling] doesn't make us happy — we wanted more."

Hambleton expects 91 transfer students to enter MIT this fall. This number is slightly more than the 85 who enrolled last fall.

The MIT admissions office expected a freshman class size of 1075.

The final freshman class size will drop by approximately 30-40 students, according to Hambleton. "Every year the number of students who actually show up may be 30-40 less than the number who said they're coming — but it is hard to predict."

Hambleton said the decrease in the number of students is due to a very wide variety of reasons. "We call it the summer melt."

## MDC bans windsurfing

By Jack Link

To the dismay of members of the MIT Nautical Association, windsurfing on the Charles River has been banned.

The ban includes both the upper and lower Charles River basins, which extends from Watertown to the new Charles River Dam.

Windsurfing, or boardsailing as it is also known, is a relatively new program within the MIT Nautical Association — the group now owns nine sailboards. As the latter name implies, a sail board consists of a sail atop a surfboard-like hull, which supports the sailor.

The ban, which went into effect two weeks ago Friday, was instituted by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) — the state agency which is responsible for most of the parks and waterways in the metropolitan Boston area.

Capt. Richard J. Feeny of the MDC's Marine Division said the ban was instituted because of public health concerns. "I've been diving in the Charles for 20

years, and I happen to know personally that there are at least three strains of viral hepatitis there."

The MDC public information office also listed concern over water quality as the sole reason for the ban. "The Charles River is rated below Class C [see box], which makes it unfit for swimming," according to spokesman Joanne Argenteo.

(Please turn to page 8)

## MDC classifies water quality

By Jack Link

Although it may not be the primary concern in the decision to ban windsurfing on the Charles, questions about the river's water quality have been raised.

The MDC groups fresh water into three classifications. To the user, these classes have the following meaning:

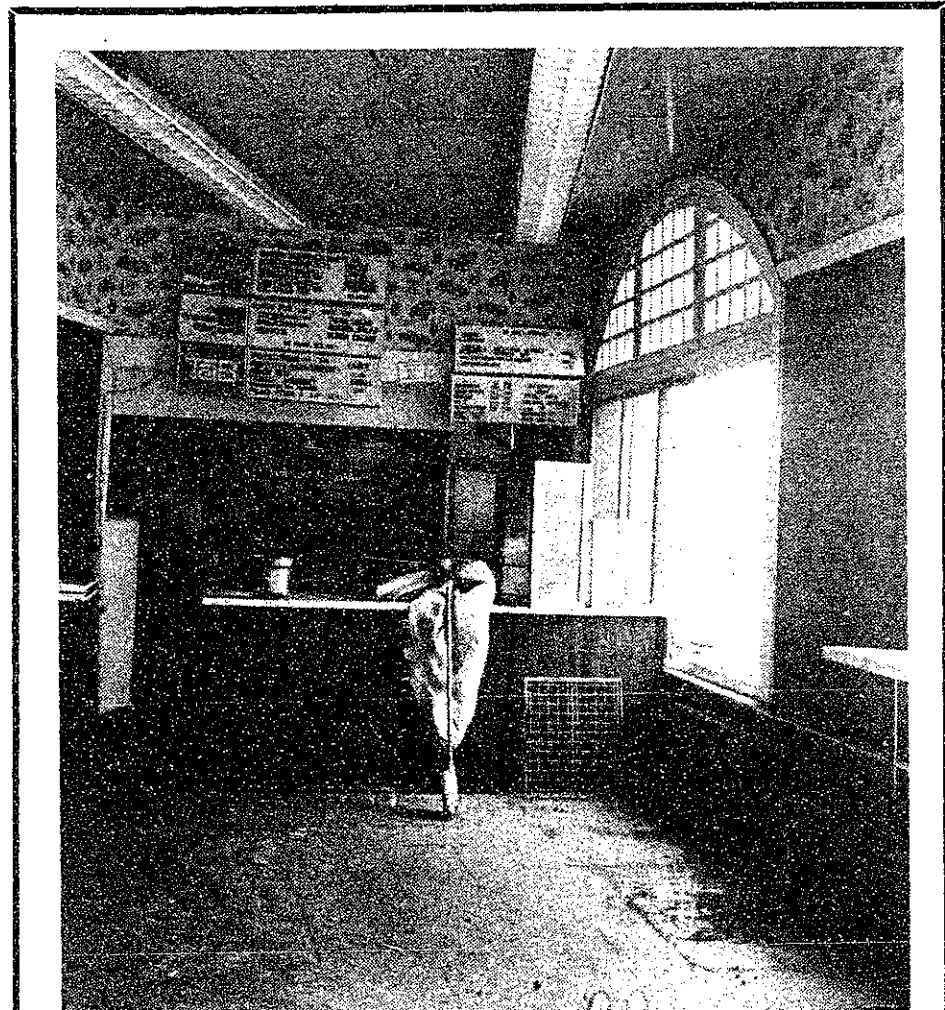
Class A is for drinking and swimming, and is suitable to be used as for public drinking water.

Class B is suitable for primary (swimming) and secondary (boat-

ing) contact.

Class C is suitable for secondary contact only.

The water classifications are based on the number of fecal coliform colonies found per 100 mls. of water. A rating below C would imply that the mean count is at times over 1000, or that there are locally high concentrations. According to Paul BiPietro of environmental quality, "The Charles River isn't that bad. I mean, something's not going to drop dead if you drop it in."



Tech photo by V. Michael Bove

The Boston Sandwich Shop stands empty after losing its lease in the MIT-owned building at Massachusetts Avenue and Vassar Street which it has occupied for the past 20 years.

## More finish meal plans

By Janice Eisen

Fewer students failed to finish their minimum meal plans this spring than last year, according to George Hartwell, associate director of housing and food service. No major changes to the present meal system is expected.

Only 13 percent of the undergraduates failed to complete their minimums during the spring, while 27 percent failed during the fall, Hartwell said. "Once [the freshmen] understand what the system is all about, they use their plan more efficiently."

The majority of people failing to fulfill their requirements come within \$30-\$40 of doing so, Hartwell noted. "There are some who try to flout the system. . . . If they don't like it, they should move to a dorm without mandatory commons."

Although meal plan statistics are not broken down by sex, McCormick Hall, the all-female dormitory, had the highest percentage of failure in completing the minimum — 43 percent in the fall and 28 percent in the spring — while MacGregor House, the all-male dorm, had the lowest percentage — 13 percent in the fall and 15 percent in the spring.

Despite the large differential between the McCormick and MacGregor meal-plan comple-

tion rates, Hartwell dismisses any idea of assigning women lower minimums. "Wouldn't that be discriminatory? Is it fair to give the men an extra burden?" He explained that the loss due to lower female minimums would have to be made up by increased costs to men.

Since this will be the first year that members of all four classes will be on mandatory commons, it "will give us a good test of what the system's going to be like from now on," Hartwell said. No major changes will take place in the near future. "I don't think that until we have three or four or five years on full participation you can really tell [if the system is good]."

The total commons budget will decrease this year due to the removal of two dormitories, East Campus and Senior House, from the commons system because of the construction of their new kitchens. The drop in funds will eliminate hot breakfasts at Morss Hall and close dining service facilities on Institute holidays.

The dining hall at 500 Memorial Drive will serve à la carte meals this coming year, Hartwell said, as an experiment in response to student complaints that dinners cost too much on the

(Please turn to page 9)

## MIT to follow aid law

(Continued from page 1)

Gallagher said, has made only one concession to ease the administrative burden of implementing the law: It delayed a requirement that schools obtain from students a copy of their Selective Service registration forms.

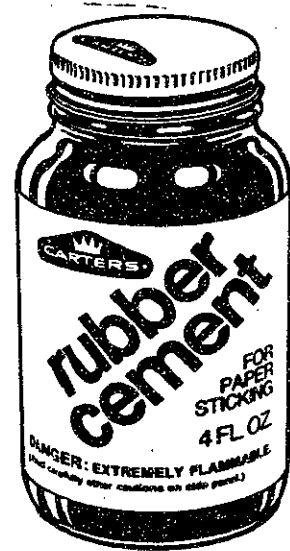
Current plans indicate that requirement will take effect in 1985, he added.

The Education Department requires statements from all students — women as well as men — receiving federal aid, Gallagher noted. The statement form includes space to note ineligibility for registration.

Students receiving Guaranteed Student Loans, Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students, National Direct Student Loans, Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants or College Work-Study funds are affected by the law.

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# news roundup

## World

**US troops to demonstrate in Honduras** — American GIs will participate in a series of air, sea, and ground exercises in the Honduras over the next six months. Defense Department officials said the exercises are being planned to demonstrate to the world that US troops can be moved quickly to the area should aggression occur, and emphasized that no more than 4000 American troops would be in Honduras at any time. Meanwhile, Henry A. Kissinger, appointed last week to head a presidential commission on Central America, said the panel's aim will be to find a bipartisan solution to the problems of Central America while avoiding the "bitter debate" characteristic of the Vietnam period.

**Three Lebanese leaders join to oppose president** — The heads of Lebanon's Druse, Maronite Christian, and Sunni Moslem minorities have formed a Syrian-backed National Salvation Front to fight the government of president Amin Gemayel, a Christian Phalangist. The front claimed responsibility for recent shellings in Beirut, calling them "a message" to Gemayel demanding separate rule.

**Israeli ministers to meet with Reagan** — Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir flew to Washington yesterday in place of Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who cited "personal reasons" when he canceled a planned visit. The leaders are expected to discuss ways to stem the recently renewed conflict in Lebanon and plans for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

**Reagan Administration to expand military, intelligence activity in Latin America** — The Pentagon has suggested that the number of US military advisers in El Salvador be increased to 125, and that they be permitted to accompany troops into the field. In another part of the plan to increase American military involvement in Central America, officials announced yesterday that the White House has approved for placement in Nicaragua the most extensive intelligence buildup since the Vietnam War.

## Nation

**Two Congressmen censured for seducing pages** — Reps. Gerry E. Studds (D-Mass.) and Daniel Crane (R-Ill.) were censured by the US House of Representatives Wednesday for having had sexual relations with teenage congressional pages. As a result of the censure, Studds lost his chairmanship of the Coast Guard and Navigation subcommittee.

**Congress confused by copyright law** — A congressional subcommittee held two days of hearings in an inconclusive effort to determine whether such innovations as home videotaping and computers that can copy each other's software violate the basis of copyright, which they defined as "the ability to exercise control" over the reproduction of a product or idea. Joseph S. Coates, a Washington communications consultant, told the panel that, in his view, current technologies undermine the idea of copyright. "Pull the stopper on the bottle, and have information flowing in every direction," he suggested.

Diana ben-Aaron

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**Apartment for rent.** Near MIT. \$900/month. Available June. Two floors of three floor building in Inman Square. Completely renovated. Large new bathroom has sculptured marble tub, tile floors and walls, and an onyx-topped vanity. Large modernized eat-in kitchen has new cabinet, newly tiled floor, and two pantries. Two huge upstairs bedrooms, large parlor, and one other room. I'll help finding roommates if requested. Call Fred weekdays 868-1374.

The MIT Equipment Exchange offers surplus equipment and used typewriters to students and staff at reasonable prices. Located in Building NW30, 224 Albany St. Open Mon., Wed., Fri. 10am-1pm.

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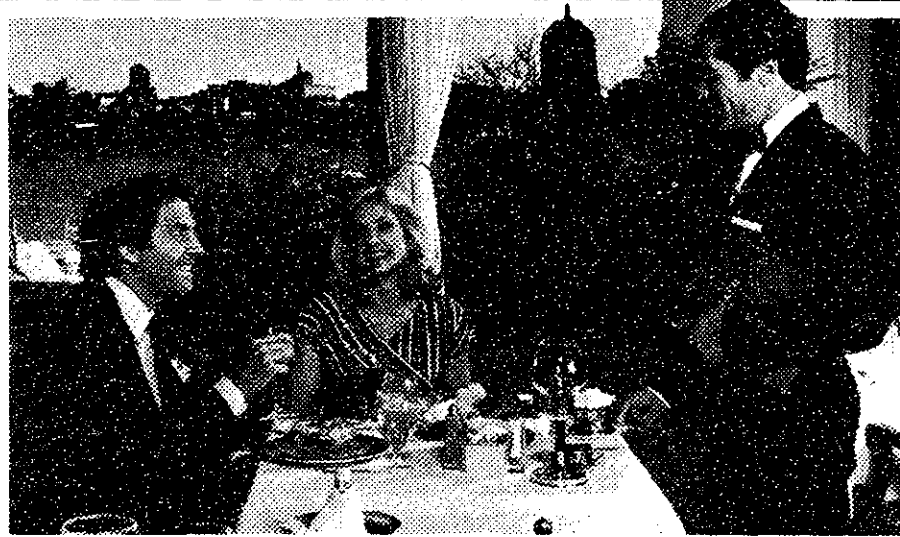
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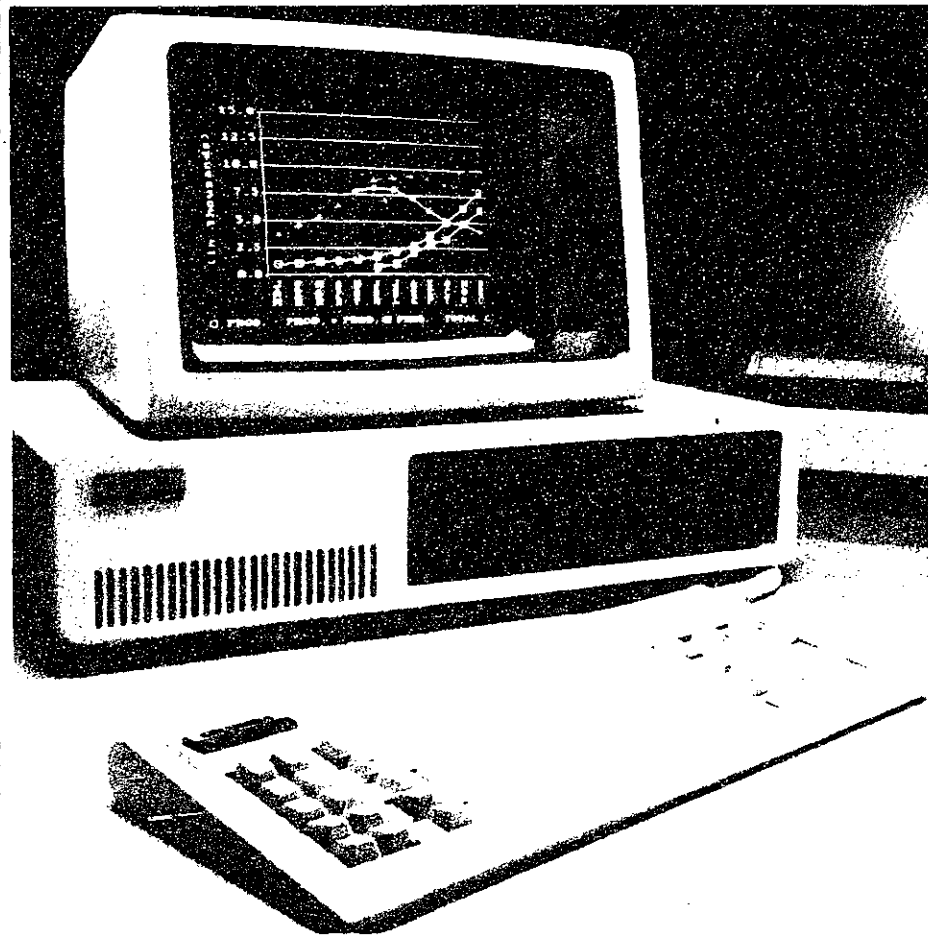
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# Opinion

Barry S. Surman

## At least it's not Cleveland

I saw an advertisement in the paper the other day imploring me to come up with the five-word slogan that will sell Boston to the world.

Based on creativity, originality, presentation and neatness, I could win both fame and fortune.

I don't remember the last time I entered a contest. I do remember the last time I won one. I was six or seven years old. It was at the annual auto show in Detroit, back when there were more American automakers there than Japanese ones.

The coveted prize was a toy pickup truck with an AM radio inside. One had to be present to win.

Much to my parents' chagrin, I insisted upon being sure I would be present to win. At least twenty minutes sure.

Not only did that guarantee front-row seats for the grand prize drawing, but it also got me chosen to draw the lucky winner's name from the hat or fish-bowl or whatever it was.

I drew a name. The man read it. No screams of joy from the fortunate's loved ones. See, Mom, you have to be there to win.

I drew another name. The man read it. Again silence. The crowd began to get a trifle edgy.

I drew a third name. The man read it. "That's me," I said.

I never won either the Reader's Digest Sweepstakes or the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes. I don't know anyone who ever won either the Reader's Digest Sweepstakes or the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes. I don't even know anyone who knows anyone who ever won either the Reader's Digest Sweepstakes or the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes.

The most I ever won in the lottery was a free ticket. A free losing ticket.

I got a parking ticket once. Actually, I didn't even get the parking ticket; the guy who drove a few of us to Chinatown late one night got the ticket.

Chinatown is in a part of Boston sometimes called South Cove. I never quite figured out why it's sometimes called South Cove, because it's not a cove, and it's not all that far south.

But that shouldn't surprise me. After all, one has to go north to get to East Boston and east to South Boston, which should not be confused with either the aforementioned South Cove or the South End, which is to the west.

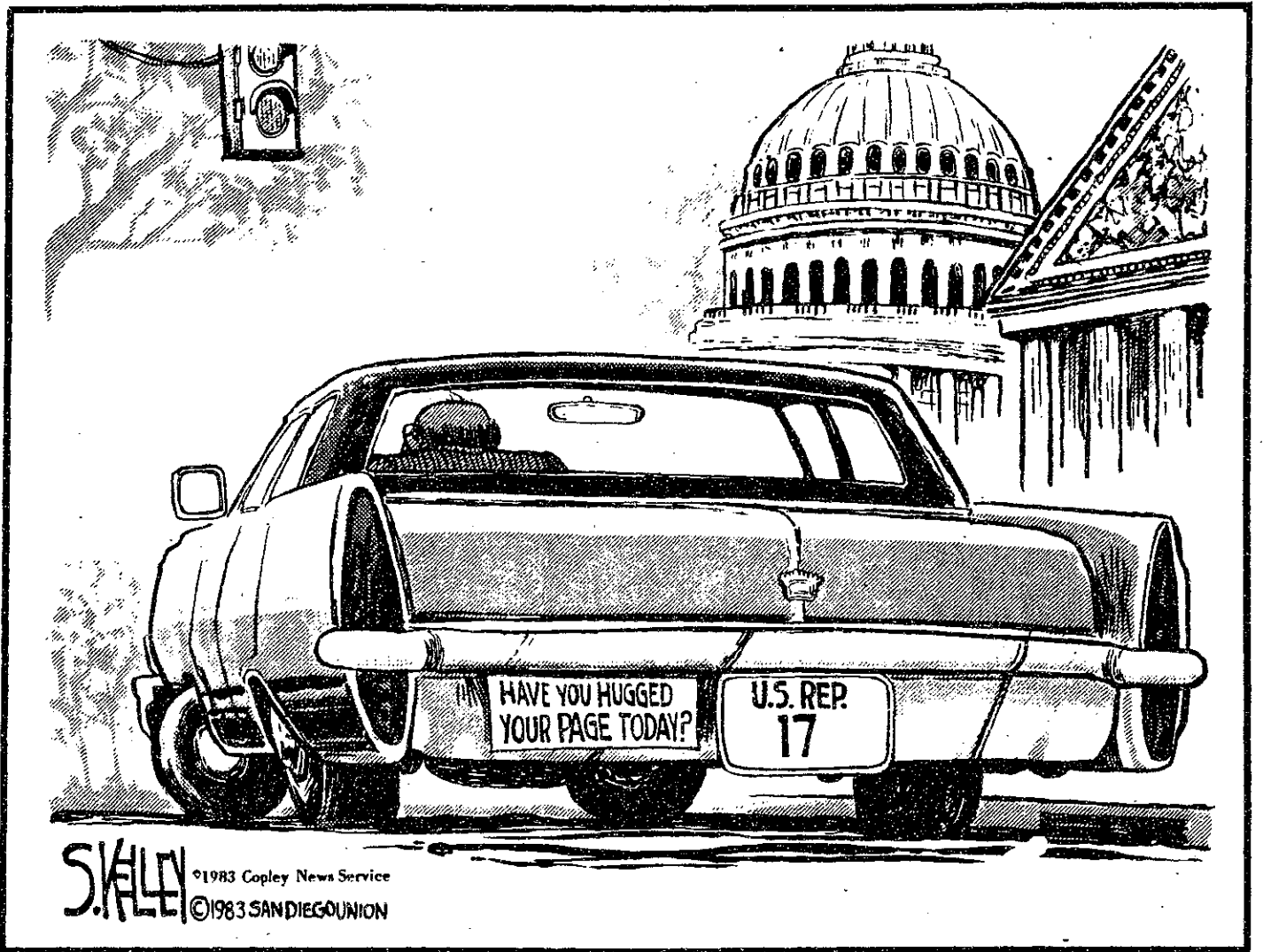
The South End is even west of the West End. Again, hardly surprising, since the West End is in the eastern part of the city.

As is the North End, which actually is north of almost everything, except, of course, East Boston.

Which may begin to explain why metropolitan Boston is the only place in the civilized world one can — legally and without artificial chemical stimulation — simultaneously travel north on one highway and south on another.

I kid you not. I was driving, perfectly innocently, south along Rte. 93, when I came upon a sign informing me I was traveling north on Rte. 128. Lest I be confused by this, the state Department of Public Works was kind enough to tell me — on the very same signpost — that I was still traveling south on Rte. 93.

I made a mental note to watch the signs on my return trip. Sure enough, I was then heading south on Rte. 128 and north on Rte. 93. It's a good thing I left my compass home.



Robert E. Malchman

## House censure too harsh

"None of us has a monopoly on virtue." — Rep. Nick Joe Rahall II (D-W. Va.)

The House of Representatives reacted excessively last week when it censured Gerry E. Studds (D-Mass.) and Daniel B. Crane (R-Ill.). It should have accepted the House ethics committee's recommendation to reprimand the two.

Each admitted having a sexual relationship with a congressional page: Studds with a 17-year-old boy, Crane with a 17-year-old girl. Each admitted giving the page alcohol before having sex with him or her. Their congressional peers charged Studds and Crane with violating some parental responsibilities, debauching minors and violating their public trust. The House voted, for these reasons, to change the reprimand to a censure — next to expulsion the most serious action the House can take — by a count of 289-136 in Crane's case and 338-87 in Studds'. The censures were then approved with only three votes against in each case.

It is interesting to note that people are more upset by Studds' homosexual relationship than by Cranes' heterosexual one. Some cite Studds' "lack of remorse," while Crane appeared before the House tearfully begging his fami-

ly's forgiveness for his transgression. A much more likely reason is prejudice against Studds's sexual preference.

If anything, Crane's action was the more reprehensible. He is married, with children, and regularly crusades against "moral decay" and such immoral activity as adultery. Crane is a hypocrite who misrepresents himself; Studds is not.

The question with which the House needed to deal is what punishments best fit the two members' "crime." Before Crane and Studds, the House had censured only two of its members since 1921. Both cases involved financial misdealings. The last censure in the US Senate was that of Joseph R. McCarthy, for his incredible abuses of power during his hunt for communists in the 1950's.

The picture of congressional pages painted by the House and the press is one of fresh-faced innocents lured to the apartments of dirty old men. That picture bears little resemblance to from reality. As *Boston Globe* columnist Ellen Goodman pointed out, these pages were no babes in the Capitol. Hanging around Washington politics turns them into hardened, cynical people and onto drugs, alcohol and sex. A former page tells of how some of

the male pages would flirt with Studds, then laugh with their peers behind his back.

The most important fact is that neither page involved in the great scandal would criticize the congressmen before the House ethics committee. Ultimately, no page was hurt by Crane's and Studds' action.

The humiliation of two congressmen is not the most significant result of the censure votes. That will pass. Under the rules of the Democratic caucus, however, a censured congressman must be stripped of any committee chairs he holds for the duration of that Congress. Studds will lose his chairmanship of the Coast Guard and Navigation Subcommittee of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

While this may not be the most important chair in the House, Studds has proven himself a good congressman, deserving of the chance to provide the leadership of which he is capable. From that chair, he could serve as an excellent example that sexual preference does not affect a person's abilities. One only hopes that Crane's and Studds' misjudgments — three and ten years ago, respectively — and the House's overreaction, will not plague the two, or impair their abilities or commitments.

# The Tech

Volume 103, Number 29

Tuesday, July 26, 1983

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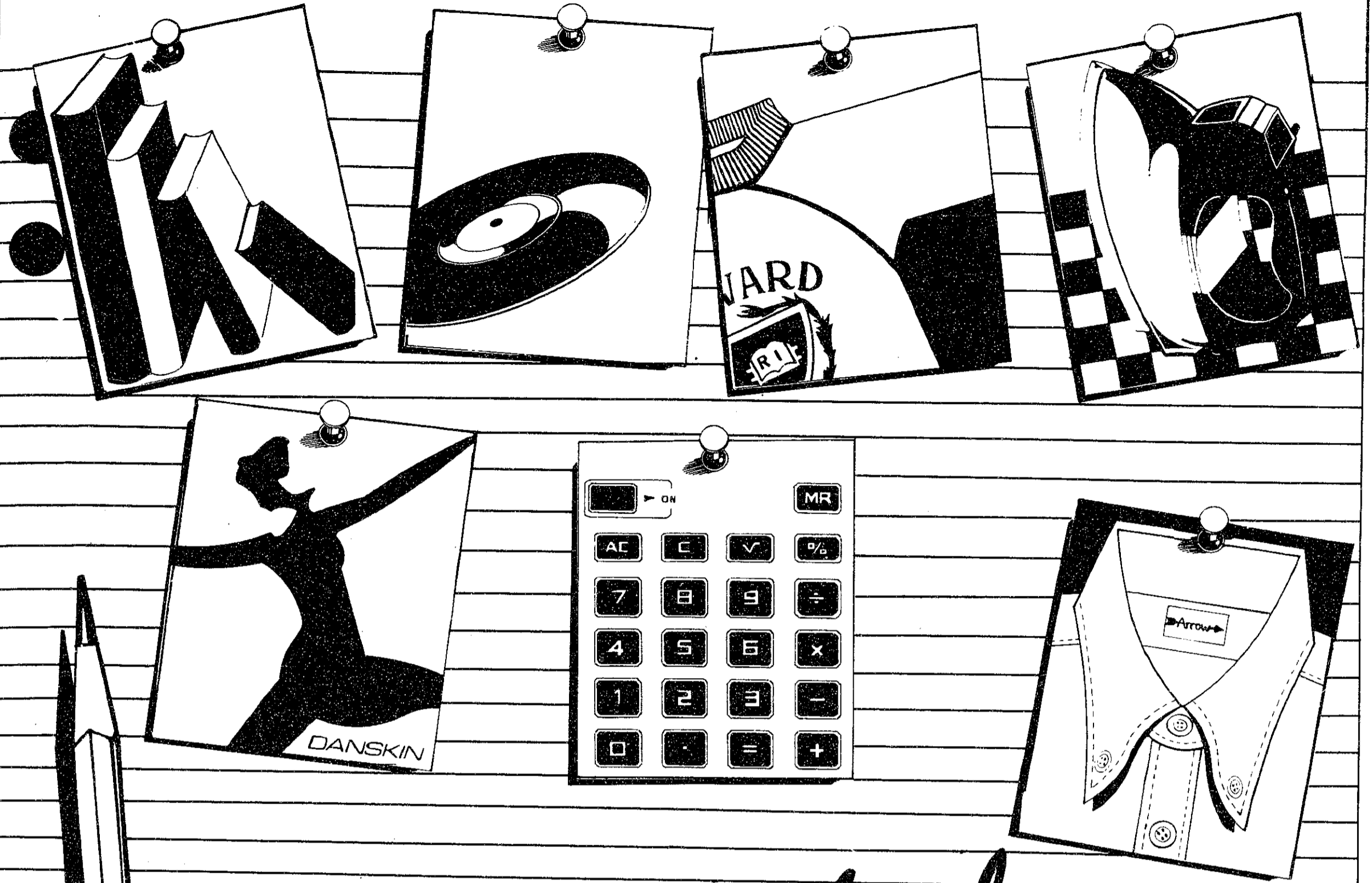
Geoff Baskir '78, V. Michael Bove '83, Bill Spitzak '83, Carol Yao '85, Joe Cerami '86.

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**Coop**

## Record Roundup

**Zappa Volume I, the London Symphony Orchestra on Barking Pumpkin Records.**

"The present-day composer refuses to die!"  
— Edgard Varese

On his early albums Frank Zappa always acknowledged his debt to his hero and inspiration, the composer Varese. It was in those early works, particularly *Lumpy Gravy*, that Zappa experimented with the possibilities inherent in merging rock and modern classical music, often with worthwhile and surprising results. His interest in things classical soon waned, unfortunately, and once the soundtrack to *200 Motels* was recorded, Zappa would not utilize an orchestra again until 1977's *Orchestral Favorites*.

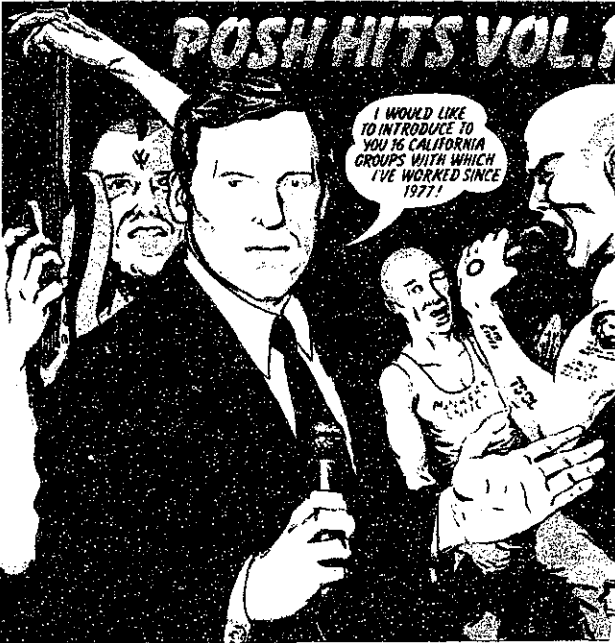
With *Zappa Volume I*, Frank sets out to combat the recent criticisms that paint him as opportunistic sleazemeister extraordinaire by releasing a digitally recorded (of course) album of "serious" contemporary music performed with that most serious of orchestras, the London Symphony. (This is the same bunch that recorded the *Star Wars* soundtrack, mind you.) The resulting work owes much to Varese's compositional techniques, especially his talent for creating unusual tonalities through odd instrumental combinations, and his heavy reliance on percussion.

Of the three pieces on side one, only "Sad Jane" is new; "Pedro's Dowry" is an expanded version of a tune from *Orchestral Favorites*, while "Envelopes" reworks an instrumental from *Ship Arriving Too Late*. Side two is devoted to "Mo 'n Herb's Vacation," a three movement symphonic sketch. The pieces may be pleasant-sounding and well-recorded, but Zappa substitutes finesse for inspiration, furthering *Lumpy Gravy's* inventiveness not one whit. Although Zappa has proven his ability to control a large orchestra, he has not yet learned to compose for one. If it's creativity you want, wait for the forthcoming volume of chamber works. If you just want to prove to your parents that rock musicians have a serious side, then this is the record for you.

**Posh Hits Volume I, various artists on Posh Boy Records.**

Robbie Fields and his Posh Boy record company are almost singlehandedly responsible for the nationwide spread of the

L.A. punk/hardcore movement. Bands like the Circle Jerks and T.S.O.L. found a home on this iconoclastic label, and this compilation presents a fairly representative cross-section of the stylistic variations within the genre — from the slow grind of Black Flag's "Louie, Louie" to Agent Orange's surf-tinged "Everything Turns Grey." A few of the tunes included are not hardcore at all: Los Microwaves utilizes out-of-kilter synths to carry "Time to Get



Up," Baby Buddha delivers an electronic rendition of the country classic "Your Cheatin' Heart," and the Nuns beat Blondie at its own game with "Suicide Child."

Despite the anomalies, and the fact that many of these bands no longer exist, this record remains an essential hardcore compilation, a document of a period of evolution for a new music scene.

**Fighter Pilot, Barry Diamond on I.R.S. Records.**

"People often ask me why I look like this, but talk the way I do. Well, I'll tell you, I was raised by black Hassidic Jews — from the Philippines." This shtick is the essence of Barry Diamond's humor; he's a Jewish kid from the South Bronx who comports himself with the swaggering street-smarts (and talk) of a denizen of Harlem. Throughout *Fighter Pilot*, Diamond switches among various persona — a San Francisco gay, a southern redneck,

and the aforementioned black — with chameleon-like ease. Problem is, the impressions are great, but they often serve to hide weak, clichéd, or just plain dirty material. The bits that work best are those Diamond delivers as himself — such as how he worked as a nuclear missile silo repairman while continually burned out on acid, or his tribute to Bruce Springsteen. Diamond has great potential — a terribly warped mind. All he has to do is stop telling faggot jokes.

**Fascination!, the Human League on A&M Records.**

The Human League has been slow to cash in on the tremendous success of its *Dare* LP (surely you remember "Don't You Want Me?"), chastened, perhaps, by the failure of the follow-up single, "Mirror Man." This new EP contains that single plus "Hard Times," the flipside to the British "Love Action" single. (If you listen carefully, you can hear when "Hard Times" segues directly into "Love Action.") The centerpiece of the record is the pair of versions of "(Keep Feeling) Fascination": the opening extended dance version presents the song in a straightforward fashion, but the closing "improvisation" takes a playful swipe at scratch D.J. mixes that



are so much in fashion, cutting and fading the original to virtual unrecognizability. What's more, "Fascination" is driven by real bass and drums instead of the Lea-

gue's favored sequencers and rhythm machines. This return to "human" instrumentation, plus the general party-time atmosphere of the disc make *Fascination!* one of the summer's overlooked pop gems.

**The Alarm, EP on I.R.S. Records.**

The Alarm has everything going for it right now: the youthful, angry energy of the "White Riot" era Clash and the exuberance of U2, for which the Alarm o-

## THE ALARM

pened on their recent US tour. This Welsh quartet's debut contains five songs that are a call to arms and a call to solidarity, reminiscent of Bob Dylan and Phil Ochs' best protest music; the group's reliance on acoustic guitars and wheezy harmonica reinforce the Dylan parallel. There is, however, a distinctly British punk feel to the songs, especially "The Stand," which recalls the Clash's "London Calling" with its combination of bounce and doom.

The band's music is not simply derivative. Rather, it is a synthesis of various disparate sources: Peter's folk strumming, Dave Sharp's twangy western guitar, Eddie Macdonald's speedy punk bass, and Twist's rolling, thundering, martial drumbeat. The live cut "For Freedom" barely give a glimpse of the power the Alarm generates, something we witnessed at the group's last Boston appearance. After watching the Alarm play its heart out, the audience soon joined in the anthem singing, believing what was sung as much as the band. If you'll grant that the power of rock 'n' roll is the power to convince and convert, then the Alarm is rock 'n' roll at its raw 'n' rowdy best.

David Shaw

## Bob Dobbs, SubGenius

**The Book of the SubGenius: Lunatic Prophecies for the Coming Weird Times, a McGraw-Hill book.**

The Church of the SubGenius, the ultimate in anti-cult cults, has finally made its bid for national attention and respectability, publishing a book containing all the answers, regardless of the questions. Are UFO's sleeping with your wife? Are alien space monsters bringing a startling new world? Are we controlled by secret forces? The Church of the SubGenius replies "Yes, of course, pink boy, but we can save your sanity!"

Is this making sense so far? No? Never fear, all will be explained, or explained away. The church was started in Dallas as an answer to those mail-order, make-yourself-a-minister-and-utilize-the-tax-dodge religions so prevalent in the late seventies. A real lunatic fringe attached itself to the church and its prophet J. R. "Bob" Dobbs, and soon Bob's smiling, pipe-smoking face was cropping up everywhere, even on the blue bricks of MIT's Karl Taylor Compton Building. ("So that's what it is!" you exclaim.) Devo is a product-offshoot of the church: its *New Traditionalists* album contains a poster of Bob preaching to the huddled masses.

The *Book of the SubGenius* purports to be a "self-help book for sinners, creeps, junkies, morphodites, and wise men and guys who know they wouldn't get help from any book even if they needed it in the first place." If this statement smacks of Twain, you've penetrated to the heart of all the Church's rigamarole: It is no more

than variant of the irreverent humor Samuel Langhorne Clemens made popular in works like *Letters from the Earth*. The SubGenii laugh at everything, especially themselves and those they manage to rope in. Reading *The Book* is not unlike leafing through the back pages of movie magazines with their strange offers, or the front pages of the *National Enquirer* — or the *Boston Herald*, for that matter — with their bizarre stories. (By the way, both the *Enquirer* and the Church claim Elvis is not dead.) If the Church and *The Book* were meant to serve any real function, it would have to be that of rekindling a healthy, irreverent disrespect for this country's great institutions.

The bottom line is, if you're really curious about the Church of the SubGenius, don't spend ten dollars on an impenetrably dense book. For a mere dollar you can get its classic introductory pamphlet *RE-PEM! Quit your job! SLACK OFF! The World Ends Tomorrow and YOU MAY DIE!* It will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about the great Bob, it makes great bathroom reading, and when you tire of it, it makes a great paper airplane. Can any mere book provide you with the same pleasure? No way, spazzoid **MEDIOCRETIN!!!**

To get in on the ground floor of a huge, lucrative cult and become eligible for all the \$\$\$, weird sex, drugs, and power over others that go with membership in the church, write to The SubGenius Foundation Inc., P.O. Box 140306, Dallas, Texas 75214.

David Shaw



# Thurow calls for major education reform

By Diana ben-Aaron

Lester C. Thurow is a professor in MIT's Sloan School of Management and Department of Economics. Author of *The Zero-Sum Society*, he is a regular columnist for *Newsweek* magazine. This interview was conducted in the presence of Professor Thurow's ten-year-old son, who had just attended his father's morning lecture and pronounced it "easier than the fourth grade."

**Q:** Professor Thurow, do you have any general comments about the quality of American education and the economic factors behind it?

**A:** The United States is joining a competitive world economy. The rest of the world has caught up in terms of economics and technology and for the first time since World War II, we're behind. . . . It's clear that you can't build a high-quality product with low-quality components and you can't build a high-quality economy with low-quality components. One of the components going into the American economy is the quality of the education of the American work force.

If you look at test scores comparing American high school and college graduates with their foreign equivalents, we do very badly. Recently, a series of 17 tests was given to kids in all of the industrial countries and some underdeveloped countries. American children never finished first, never finished second, and finished last seven out of 17 times among industrial countries. On the math exam, we scored less well than the students from Thailand, an underdeveloped country. If you think of the 1980s and the 1990s being decades of high science and high technology — and that's where the competitive part of the world is going to be — how does the United States expect to compete when its students don't know any math?

At the university level, we simply graduate many fewer engineers as a proportion of the total than our competitors do. If you compare our number of university graduates who go into engineering and science with Germany or France or Japan, you'll find we're below in that pecking order too. Which of course means that the average [American] company is going to have fewer engineers on its payroll than the average Japanese company, so it shouldn't be a great surprise that the Japanese products are a little better engineered. . . . You may want more engineers on your payroll, but you can't get them in the United States.

One easy answer is that the whole world goes to school longer than we do. We go 180 days, the Japanese go 240, the Germans go 220. Even if our schools were as good as the Japanese schools, we would only learn two-thirds as much because we only go two-thirds as much. The 180-day school year came from agriculture. Back in the 19th century, when we set up the school system, we needed the kids on the farm the rest of the year. That isn't true any more and we're going to have to lengthen the school day and year to compete with the rest of the world.

The second thing that everybody else in the world does but that we're very reluctant to do is to have a national exam to graduate from high school. There are A and O levels in Britain, the baccalaureate in France, and the Japanese have a very competitive exam. The idea is that you can't run a school system without quality control — just like you can't run a factory without quality control. It doesn't work any other way either place and we shouldn't be surprised that we have a lousy quality product coming out if we make no attempt to impose quality controls and have some minimum standards for graduating from high school or university.

One of the two key things you have to think about is the pay system. I think that if you look at the achievement scores of people who go to schools of education, they're dismal. It's clear that we need a better quality person and we're going to have to pay more money to get a better quality person. That's very different from the de-

school system that turns out a well-adjusted kid. The kid who is super good in math or history or English may not be a well-adjusted kid.

In the last decade, the emphasis on academic achievement has been rather small. There wasn't any large outstanding group of people. Take the Scholastic Aptitude Test scores that fell for 18 years, leveled off in the 19th year, and then went up one point last year, the 20th year. Why didn't we worry about that? If Americans were terribly concerned about the quality of education, presumably they wouldn't have let those test scores go down for 18 years. The fuss only began when the Japanese started clobbering us economically.

**Q:** If the test scores went down for 18 years, weren't the original higher scores also achieved with a 180-day school year? Do you really think the longer school year is so crucial?

**A:** I think there are plenty of things you could do in 240 days that you can't do in 180. And of course, if you went back 18 years to the test scores then, they still wouldn't match up to international comparisons. We did a better job in 1964 that we did in 1983. But the 1964 scores were

"No industrial society can travel based on an elite. We need a well-educated mass population . . ."

nothing to write home about. Now, one of the interesting things about these test scores is that the proportional declines among people getting 650 and above is much bigger than the average. The top has fallen more than the average has, and the bottom has actually come up a little bit in the American distribution.

The other peculiar thing about those test score declines for which nobody has an answer is that female test scores have fallen much faster than male test scores. And you tell me why today's 18-year-old girl is much worse relative to the 18-year-old boy than 20 years ago. I don't know, but it's a real mystery. You would think in this era of women's liberation, women working, that, if anything, the female test scores would have risen relative to the male, but in fact they've fallen. And so a big part of the decline has to do with what's going on among teenage girls. I haven't seen any convincing explanation for it. All we know is that the test scores have fallen among that part of the population.

**Q:** What do you think is the place of technical education in the high school? You seem to think we should turn out engineers. Now, parents are getting terribly concerned because their children are not "computer-literate," believing this is what will keep them employed. Do you think computer literacy will keep them employed, and do you think it has a place in the high school?

**A:** I have nothing against using computers in school but I don't think that's the heart of the problem. . . . It really is the three R's. Computer literacy may be a nice way to teach math, reading, writing in a nice incentive system — to keep people working. But it's not the heart of the problem because if you know math well and some basic scientific principles and can read and write, computer stuff you can catch up with; it's not fundamental. On the other hand, if you don't know how to read and write and the basic math, there really isn't any catching up on that dimension.

If you look at a good trade or vocational-technical high school, it is really a set of techniques of motivation. There is a set of kids you make work hard by saying "If you don't work hard, you won't get into MIT," and there is another set of kids where that wouldn't make them work one instant. But to them you can say, "Hey, if you learn how to do mathematics, you can actually run the lathe, and I think that's the sense in which computers ought to be used. It may be a tool that helps you teach mathematics, but it also may be a reward for people who

of them went to an American high school. We got a tremendous gift in the 1930's when the Europeans kicked out some of their very best brains. That's part of our situation — the destruction in the war, the taking out of their very best brains — so it's pretty hard to say that the American school system generated our superiority.

**Q:** What do you think of companies getting involved in programs in schools, of private money being spent for public education?

**A:** Oh, I think that's all positive, but I don't think that's the answer to the question. The total answer to the question is, given that the average schoolteacher's salary is \$13,000, how many of your classmates at MIT are going to go out and become schoolteachers? Any?

Some people at MIT, if you had a good school system, ought to be schoolteachers. Some of the brain power at MIT ought to be going back into the school system. But none of you will, with those kinds of salaries.

And so there are two problems you can argue about when you get to the pay issue. One is paying a competitive wage. But you can't pay a competitive wage because you can't pay people full-time pay for half-time work or

two-thirds-time work. If it went up to 240 days a year — another reason for doing so — then you could justify paying a competitive wage.

The other question is, given that you have a competitive wage in the beginning, what kind of a salary scale should you have after that to reward people for good performance? . . . All of the psychological evidence is that you don't get super performance in industry or university or anywhere else with this merit pay thing.

Under the merit pay plan, you come in and say, "Look, here are 100 workers doing exactly the same thing. I'm going to classify 15 percent of them 'master workers' and give them \$3,000 a year more. They are going to do the same work but they are going to make more than all of the people around them." There isn't an industry in the world that would think that was the way to increase productivity. That would create so much dissension and so much unhappiness that even if the 15 percent works harder, the 85 percent is going to work less hard and the average quality is going to be less than it was. And so there is an issue of how you get high quality teaching, but I don't think merit pay is the solution to it.

**Q:** What would you consider a competitive wage and where would all the money come from?

**A:** Well, it would come from taxes. The competitive wage depends upon what you are talking about. Competitive wage for a mathematician is clearly at least \$25,000 for a B.A. at the beginning. Competitive wage for an English teacher may be substantially less than that. And of course that gets to another issue. Traditionally in our school system, we have not paid people differently based on [their fields]. But we probably will have to do that because we have certain occupations like English teachers which are in tremendous excess supply and other occupations like mathematicians that are in tremendous shortage, and we can't pay the two the same.

**Q:** How much more do you estimate this would cost and what effect would it have on the rest of the American economy? It sounds like a very large program would be required to bring the wages up to where you could hire good people nationwide.

**A:** That certainly would cost a lot, no question of that. You don't get anything for nothing. Actually, we have to think very seriously about one of the issues that goes on here. It used to be the case that you got a lot of super good women teaching for very low wages because they had no choice. But that day is over. That kind of super good teacher is now working for IBM. So, in the good old days, teachers got paid less but you could get by better with that because you had this captive source of supply. You were forcing women to become teachers because they had no options. Now, we're no longer doing that and that's another reason why the salary levels are going to have to go up and be more competitive than they used to be.

**Q:** What about tuition tax credits?

**A:** It seems like the wrong idea. One argument has to be, "Hey, we know private schools are intrinsically better than public schools and therefore we want to subsidize private schools through tuition tax credits to get more people to move out of the public schools and into the private schools" — and I don't know any evidence that that's true. Now, the other question is the equity argument: if you provide a public service and people don't want to use that public service called the public schools, should you subsidize the private service? There isn't any economic answer to that: That's a judgmental/social question as to whether you want to do it or not?

**Q:** In America, it has never seemed fair that some people are better at some things than others are.

**A:** No, I don't think that; I don't think we are leveling down to equality. You can think about how we can raise everybody's test scores from the bottom to the top. That's the name of the game.

No industrial society can travel based on an elite. We need a well-educated mass population. So the idea, "we can be like the British and educate the top 10% of the population and forget everybody else" doesn't work. You can't afford to have 8 percent of the 17-year-olds functionally illiterate. In that sense, it isn't elitism at all.

" . . . the last thing in the world many parents want is quality education . . ."

bate over merit pay, which is an argument over whether we should pay 15 percent of the teachers a little more than everybody else and call them "master teachers."

And I think the other important thing to say is that although the teachers may be contributing to the problem, a lot of the problem has nothing to do with teachers. I've received lots of letters from teachers saying, "I've got a problem; I assign homework and nobody does it." Your parents have to make you do homework. The teacher can't make you do homework. The teacher can flunk you if you don't do it, but that doesn't do us any good. Schools don't like to do that, and a community gets the amount of homework that it wants, depending on whether the parents are going to force the kids to do it. Look at the number of hours per day the TV set is on in America. I think it's a much more general phenomenon than saying "Hey, the teachers have somehow screwed up the system." The first thing you have to remember is that the system has never been super good.

**Q:** You're saying the parents want quality education but they're not prepared to do their part to make it come true.  
**A:** Well, I think that most parents don't want that; they may be changing their minds at the moment, but my perception in this area is that the last thing in the world many parents want is quality education. They want babysitting; education is a pain in the neck. Forcing your kids to do homework is a lot more work than letting them watch TV, so a lot of parents want babysitting. A fair proportion of parents want social adjustment; they want a

do well in other subjects. "If you can read and write and do mathematics, then you'll get to use the computer to do x," and it becomes part of the reward-and-punishment system. But computer literacy by itself, I think, is not a passport to employment and is not the problem on the secondary school level.

**Q:** Do you think we've already experienced that long-term effect on the economy, given the 18-year decline in test scores?

**A:** I think to some extent we have. If you look at the Japanese onslaught, it is partly due to the fact that they have a higher quality labor force, more engineers, fewer illiterates, better scientists, a better mathematical and scientific base among the average citizens.

I really want to emphasize the fact that education is just one small component. Every component in the product — investment, research and development — has to be world class if you're going to compete in there. But education and the quality of the labor force are certainly vital.

**Q:** Do you think it's been a disadvantage for the United States to be a leader for a while? For example, these haphazard systems have grown up because for a while, they were better than anything anyone else had.

**A:** No, they weren't; we were lucky. The rest of the world blew itself up in World War II and we looked good because the rest of the world was destroyed. . . .

Who were the two greatest scientists in the last 50 years in the United States? Einstein and Fermi. And neither one

# Sailors react to MDC windsurfer ban

(Continued from page 1)

Director of Environmental Quality, Alfred Ferullo, said he "can't recall anyone asking me any questions" at the commission meeting held to determine the extent of the ban. Ferullo did explain the water classifications there, but says "I was just there as an observer."

Representatives of the Marine Division were also at the meeting, but the vote was limited to the commissioner and the four associate commissioners. "The overwhelming consideration seemed to be one of legal liability in case someone drowned, since there are no lifeguards there," Ferullo said.

Women's sailing coach Stu Nelson said he did not know of any illnesses caused by contact with the Charles "although we all fall in." Nelson, a boardsailer himself, added, "That's one of those myths they tell freshmen,

like saying 'The Charles is so polluted you can walk on it.' We feel we have a model program here and don't want to lose it."

Those hoping or just starting to learn boardsailing are among the most frustrated by the ban. One such beginner is Lina Janavicius G, a three year veteran of the women's sailing team. "It's a lot of fun, and there are plenty of rescue facilities available here. The river is far safer than the bay. Where else can we go?"

She noted, "On a windy day,

there's going to be a lot of water contact no matter what kind of boat you're in. I've fallen in many times over many years, and I've never gotten sick or known anyone who has."

Janavicius feels that the ban was due to "motorboat pressure," a view prevalent at the sailing pavilion. "I don't think the motorboats should be any more inconvenienced by the sailboards than by the regular [sail]-boats, especially smaller ones like Lasers."

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## HP gives MIT \$3M equipment

(Continued from page 1)

lett-Packard 9836 personal workstations. SCHEME is a dialect of LISP, a symbolic artificial intelligence computer language. Fifty of the computers will have four megabytes main memories.

In 6.004, the machines will be used to give students an introduction to programming in micro-code — the lowest level computer language. In the past, students in 6.032 have been given no actual computer time.

All of the machines will be available for student use in the newly constructed EG&G Education Building (34).

## REAL PAPER AWARDS

Best Auto Mechanic

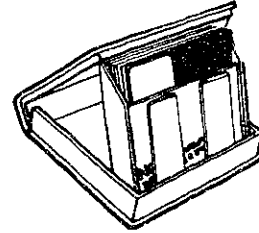
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It looks like a big commercial garage, but there are all these weird little things about it. Reggae music is blasting away, signs for political and union meetings are taped up, the mechanic might be a woman, and sometimes it's hard to find anyone in charge. J & S has been Boston's hippest garage for years and years, and

for the last few years, it's also been the best. Even when they didn't know how to fix everything, they never cheated anybody or covered up. So over the years, they kept learning new makes and new techniques, and now can repair about anything. Their specialty is still the pre-pollution equipment on Dodge Darts and Plymouth Valiants, those classics of reliability. But they're ready for anything and did most of the work on the antique vehicles for the movie "The Brinks Job."

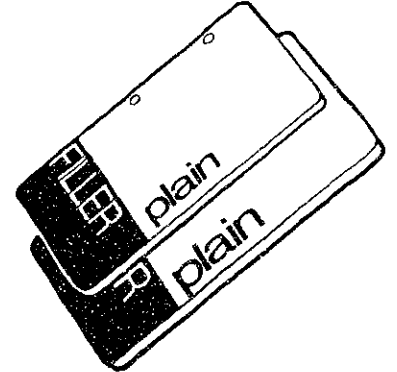
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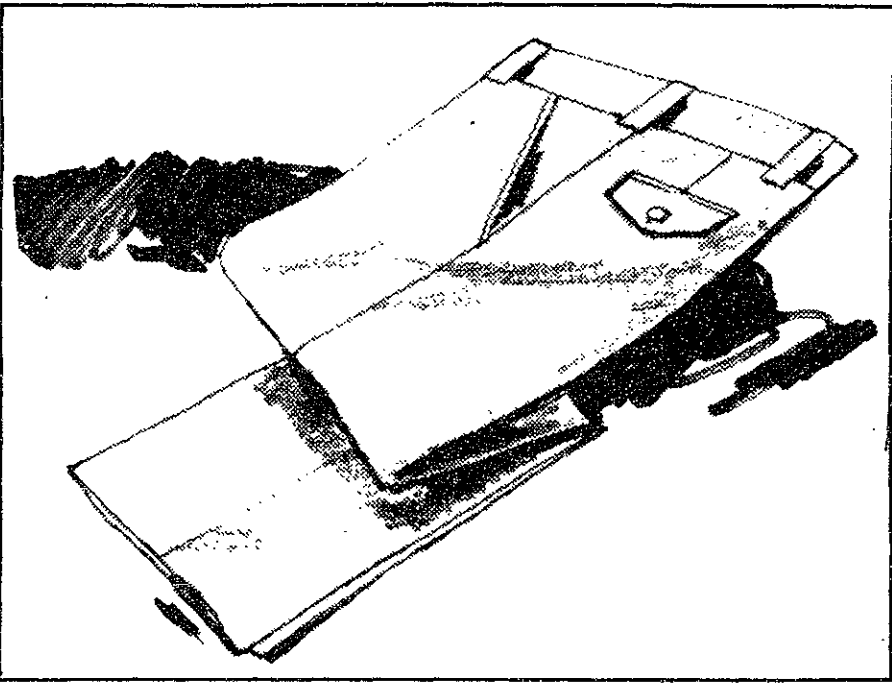


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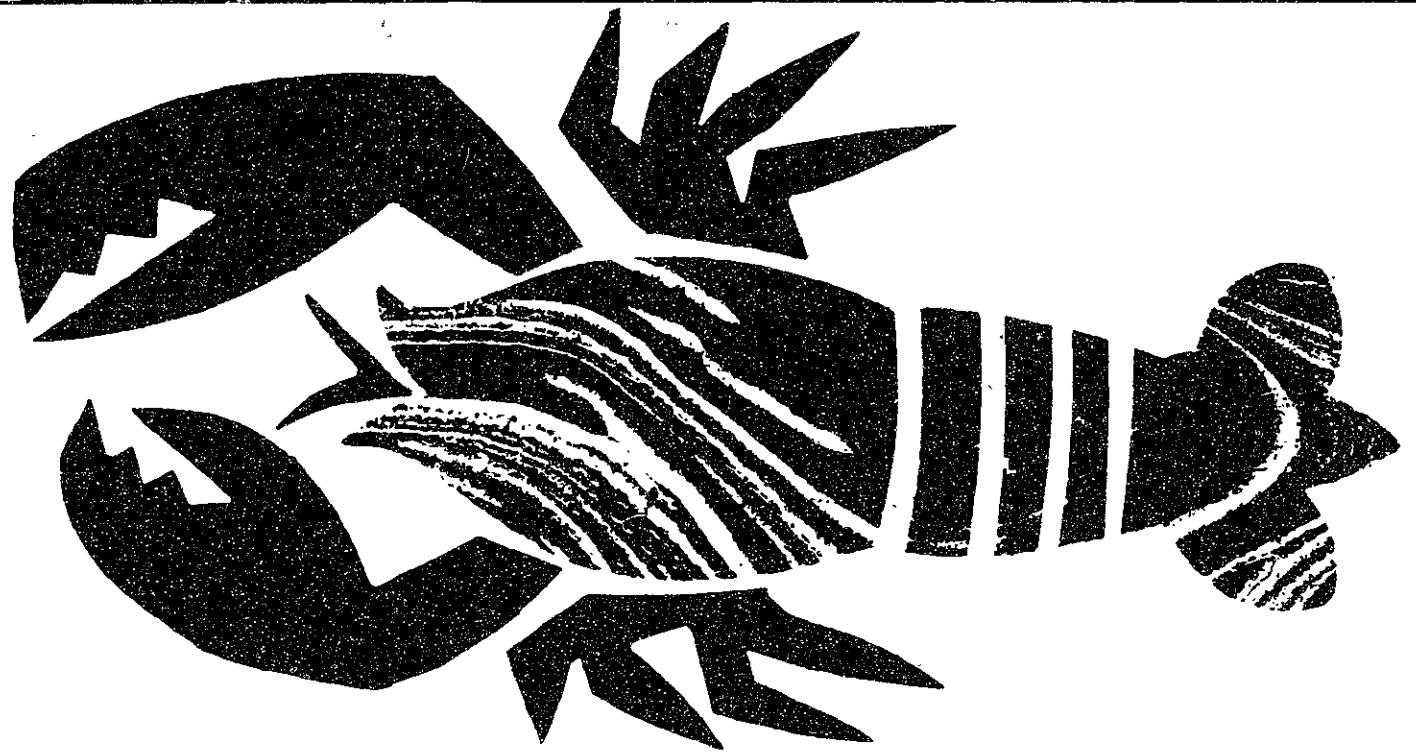
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# Frosh crowd dorms

(Continued from page 1)  
dence and Orientation (R/O) week, Sherwood said. He does not, however, expect to crowd freshman during R/O week.

"When we first saw the numbers for summer residents and the list of R/O workers, we panicked," Sherwood said. He said the Dean's Office gave strict quotas to student organizations for upperclassmen returning during R/O week. About 600 students will return early for sport teams, ROTC, and R/O work.

Returning upperclassmen without permission to arrive early will not be allowed to live in the dormitories, Sherwood said.

Transfer and readmitted students will be guaranteed some housing in the dormitories this year — a situation that was not true until the construction of 500 Memorial Drive two years ago. Sherwood said the new dormitory was built to alleviate undergraduate crowding and to provide some housing for transfer and readmitted students. "For years, transfer and readmitted students were treated like second-

class citizens at the Institute. We felt it would be beneficial for their educational experience to be given some housing."

Fifth year students — who were also given dormitory housing the past two years — will not be able to stay in the dormitories next year, Sherwood noted.

## No changes in Commons meal plans

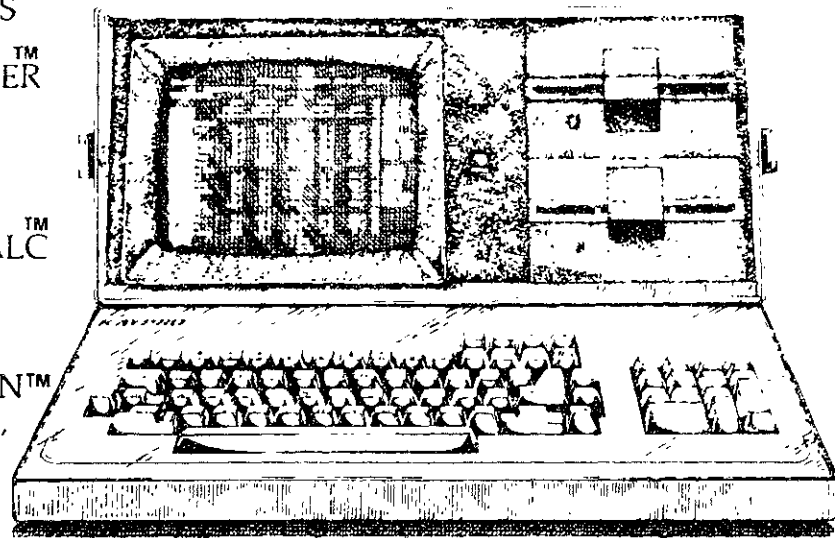
(Continued from page 2)

present point system. Any future changes from commons to à la carte will depend on the results of the experiment.

The East Campus/Senior House kitchen construction is on schedule, with Senior House's kitchens scheduled for completion by August 1 and those at East Campus by August 15. Hartwell is "very optimistic" that the kitchens will be ready by the start of R/O Week.

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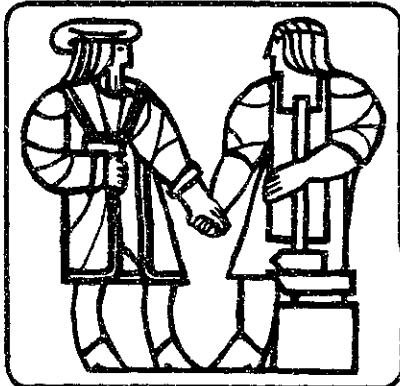
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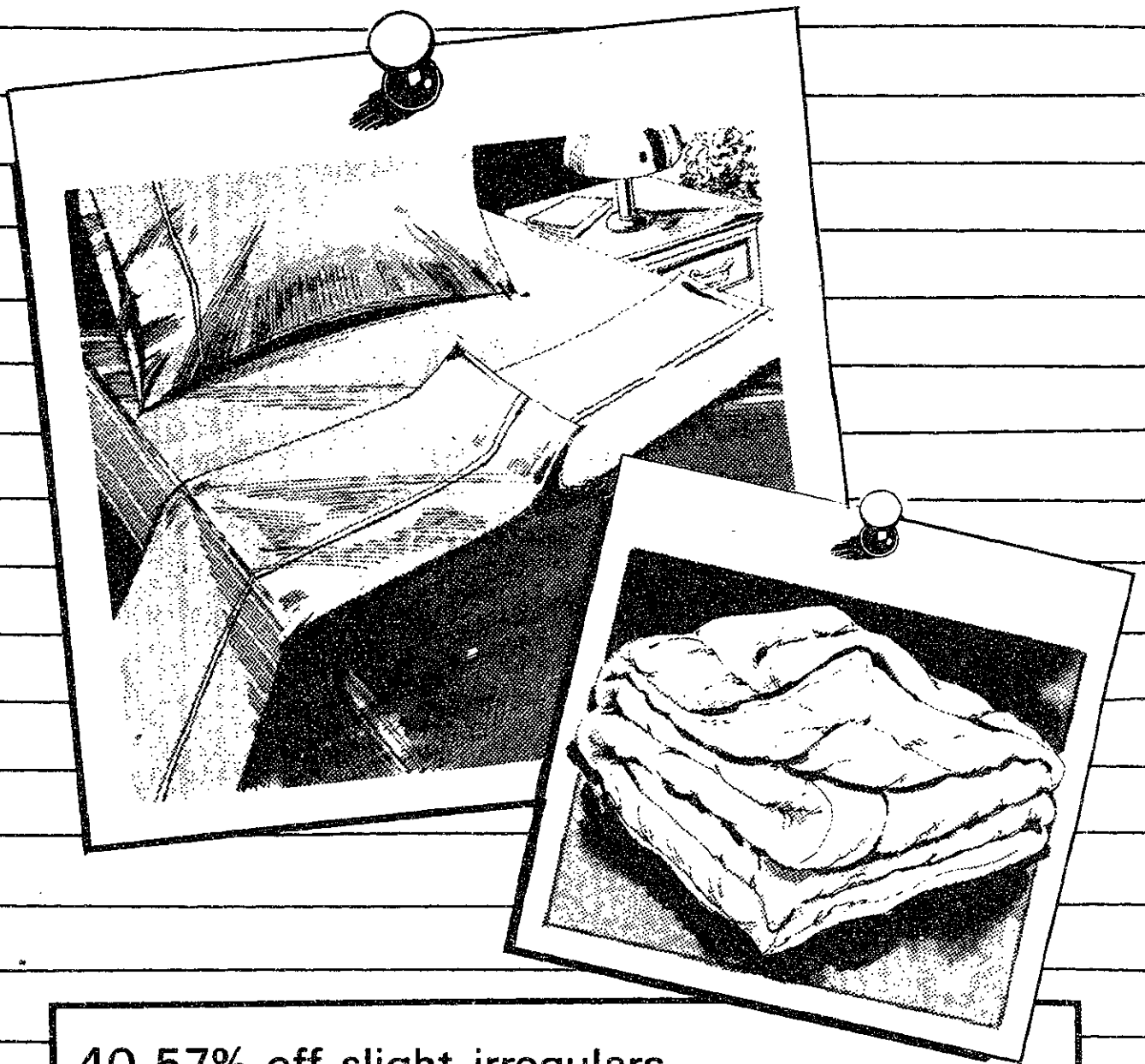
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GAMIT is an organization for lesbian, gay and bisexual members of the MIT community. We keep our lounge open from 12 noon to 2pm weekdays for lunch, have weekly discussions groups on Sundays, and run activities like dances, gay/straight raps, and bake sales. In fact, we'll be having a dance on October 14th. You'll be getting more information about GAMIT in the Freshman packet later in the summer including a list of out R/O activities. Hope to see you in September.

By the way, if you'd like to speak with any of us, try calling our contact line (253-5440) or stop by the lounge sometime.

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# Ashford addresses reproductive hazard

By David Rho

Nicholas A. Ashford, associate professor of technology and policy, has proposed that people who face reproductive hazards in the workplace should be prepared to take action on their own if government agencies fail to act.

"Clearly, the human risks posed by reproductive hazards in the workplace are both serious and far-reaching," said Ashford. "Reproductive hazards may well be the issue of the eighties. . . . It is a concern that includes labor, environmental protection agencies, and women's groups."

The reproductive hazards Ashford cites include sterility in males caused by the pesticide dichlorobromopropane, various anaesthetic gases which cause malformed children in both males and females, and deleterious effects of the chemical treatment of drinking water.

"Hopefully, employers will recognize the need for voluntary abatement of reproductive ha-

zards," Ashford said. "It must be recognized, though, that employees may need to avail themselves of legal mechanisms to encourage preventive actions."

"In many cases, the most readily available mechanisms for preventive relief will be those created by federal statute; in other instances, private actions may be required."

Two comprehensive federal statutes presently regulate hazards in the workplace, the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). "Thus far," Ashford said, "reproductive hazards have been given little attention under OSHA."

Although TSCA provides a viable mechanism for the control of many serious reproductive hazards, Ashford continued, responsibility for enforcement rests with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Donald Fenneday, former

head of the EPA warns the public that reproductive hazards are "the issue of the eighties."

Workers may use either the "common law injunction" or "the collective bargaining agreement" to fight the hazards, Ashland said. An injunction relief is a court order enabling a worker to prohibit an employer from taking or continuing a particular action.

In the collective bargaining process, workers may include re-

duction of reproductive hazards as a condition of employment under the collective bargaining contract. "These available self-help mechanisms—both for preventive and compensatory relief—can provide an important complement to agency regulation," Ashford said.

"Although workers may take risks themselves," Ashford noted, "they are much less willing to take risks with their offspring and children."

**Reminder**  
The deadline for placing advertisements in the August 16 issue of *The Tech* is Sunday, August 14.

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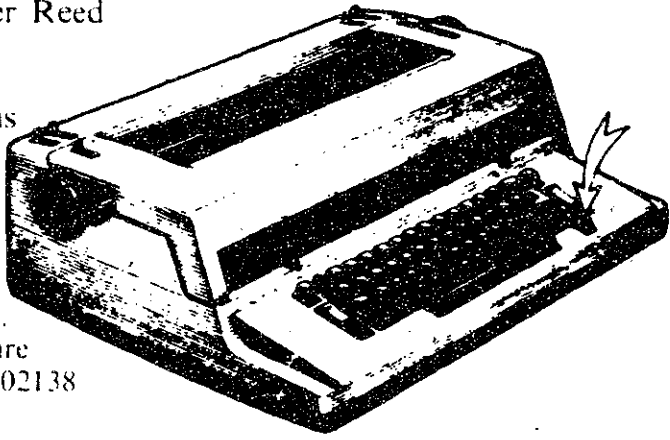
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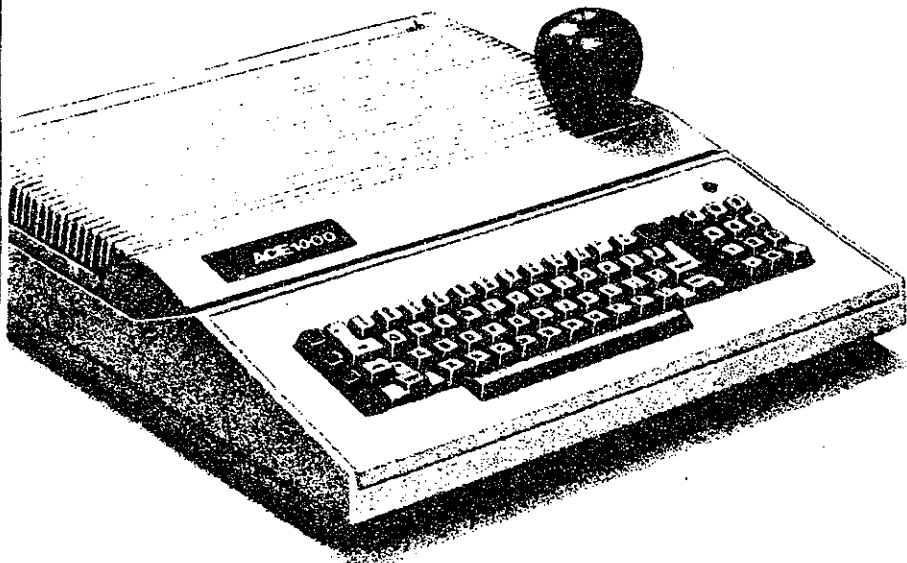
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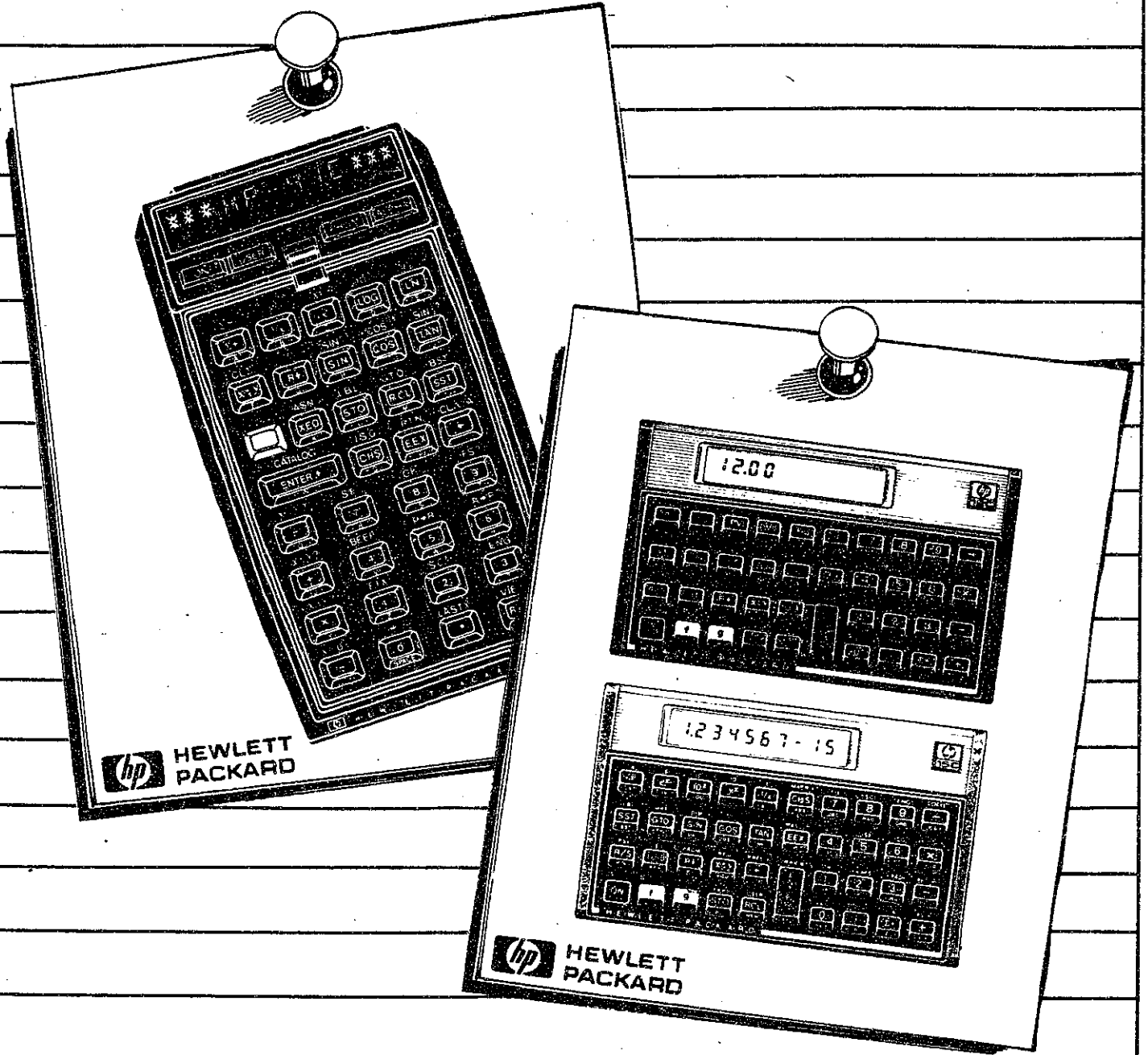
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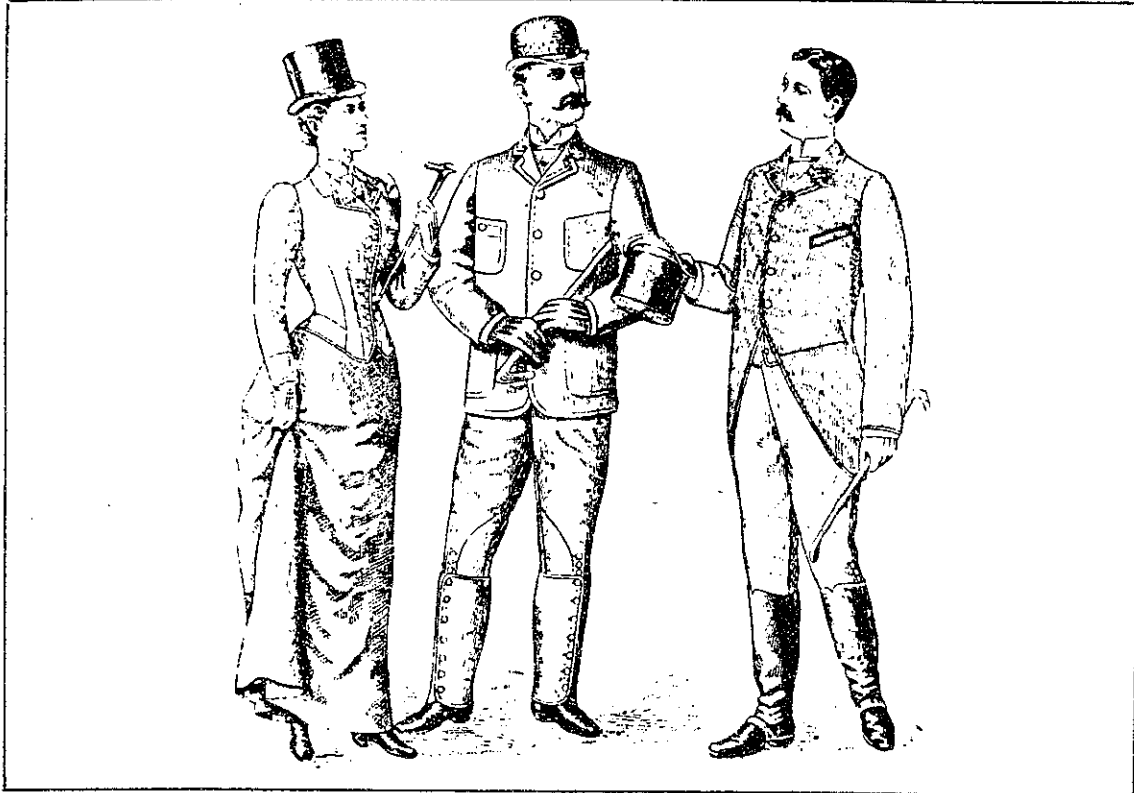
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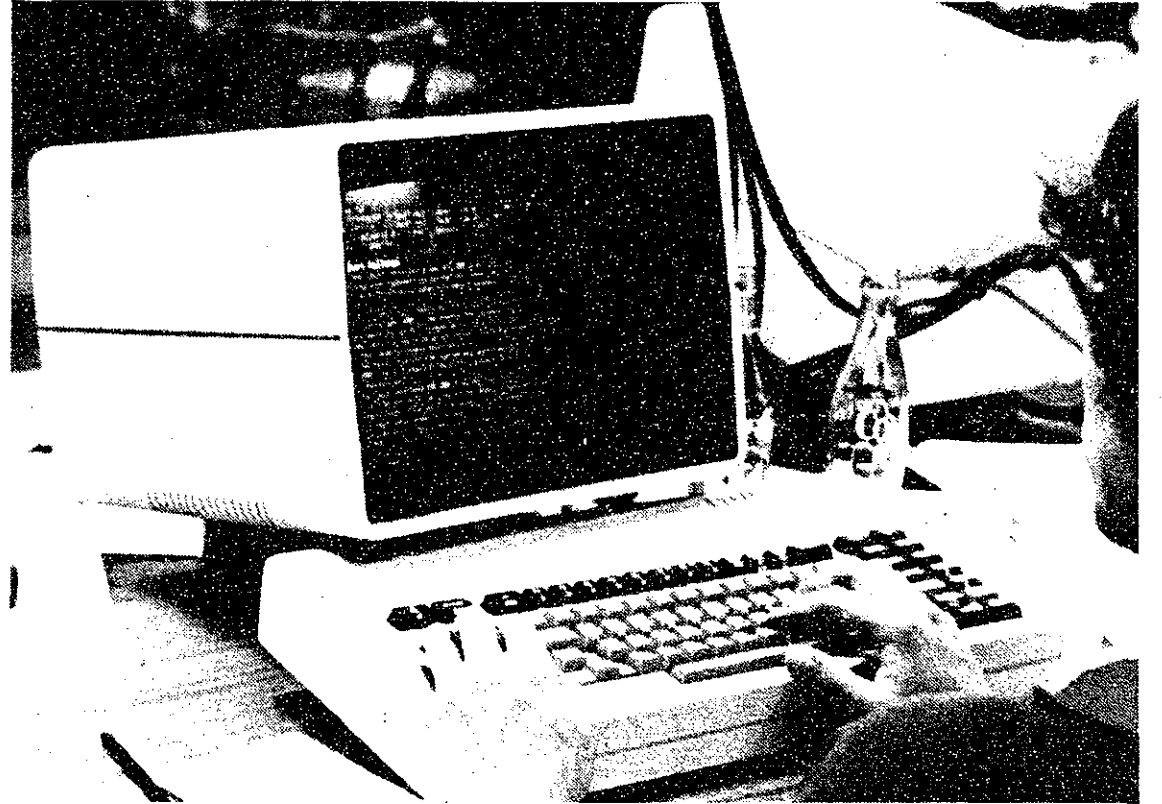


WE CANNOT look far into the future. We cannot tell what buds of genius may be unfolded in these columns. But even if genius does not bloom; even if the beauties of rhetoric and poetry are not developed here; even if this paper becomes, like the school it represents, only a field for plain honest work — we shall nevertheless be sure that the efforts we make are stepping stones to further attainments, helping us all to the higher and nobler uses of our lives.

*The Tech*  
Volume 1, Number 1  
November 16, 1881

# TheTech

Experience  
the future.



Since 1881, *The Tech's* news, sports, arts, and editorial departments have been known and respected not just at MIT, but across the country. But the fact that we have all that tradition behind us doesn't mean we're content to live in the past.

Our recently-installed electronic newsroom, with text-editing terminals which connect to the phototypesetting equipment in our state-of-the-art production shop, is the most advanced editing and production system in use by any college paper today.

Reporters type in and revise their stories on computer video terminals. When they're finished, the stories are instantly sent to the departmental editors, who do further editing. Finally, the text goes to our production shop, where it's phototypeset and pasted up into the issue.

Whether your experience is in news, sports, arts, photography, or graphic design -- or even if you have no prior newspaper experience -- we invite you to experience it all. Stop by our booth at the Activities Midway, or visit our offices (4th floor of the Student Center) anytime during R/D Week. Enjoy the rest of the summer!