

Libby, Scheidler blame UA problems on communication

By Thomas T. Huang

The inefficiency of undergraduate student government stems from lack of communication, not from structural problems, according to David M. Libby '85, president of the Undergraduate Association.

He said the newly-installed UA Council and the proposed Joint Committee should improve communication between student leaders.

The UA Council has less members than the defunct General Assembly; the Council has 53 members, compared to the Assembly's 110 representatives. Libby said members will "get to know each other more easily on a personal basis. It'll be easier to call and keep track of people."

Stephanie L. Scheidler '85, UA vice president, said sixteen class officers will be members of the UA Council. They were not given representative power on the General Assembly.

The General Assembly's problem was that it faced little continuity in discussion from meeting to meeting, because only 15 people attended the General Assembly meetings regularly, Libby said, with others attending infrequently.

"This will be less likely" with the UA Council, he said. "Hopefully, we won't have to rehash the issues every meeting."

Scheidler said approval of the UA Council did not change the status of the General Committees: the Finance Board, the Nominations Committee, the Student Committee on Education Policy, the Social Council, the Student Information Processing Board, and the Association of Student Activities.

It is not clear whether the Student Center Committee falls un-

der the Undergraduate Association's power, Scheidler said.

"There has been a historical disagreement of SCC's relation to the Undergraduate Association," Libby said. "Personally, I think they are under the UA. What the UA Council says should be given strong weight by SCC."

"It's better if we work together and cooperate," he said, rather than worry about the power structure relating the Undergraduate Association and the Student Center Committee.

Disagreements between groups were born from "an incredible lack of communication. In the past, many times, a [group's] proposal would be popped on the GA" during the meeting, he said, which gave members little time to study the proposal.

"We would try to avoid a conflict with any group. However, the UA Constitution is clear that the UA Council is the highest authority" in student government, he explained.

A specific structure for the Joint Committee between the UA Council and the Graduate Student Council has not yet been determined, Scheidler said.

The GSC has not yet endorsed the charter for the Joint Committee.

If the Joint Committee were to have the power to recognize activities and allocate space, the ASA would continue to represent student activities, Scheidler said. The UA Council would have space allocation power if the Joint Committee did not.

"Things could be done more efficiently," Scheidler said. "The Joint Committee would improve communication between the UA and the GSC." It would also coordinate the recognition of undergraduate and graduate activi-

ties.

Last year, ASA failed to re-evaluate space allocation in the Julius A. Stratton '23 Student Center because of participation and time commitment problems, Libby said.

"It's possible we're just making another bureaucratic body," Libby said. "I have problems with the representation of student activities on the Joint Committee: the Joint Committee might not have anyone from activities on it."

"The Joint Committee should definitely have student activity representatives on it," Scheidler said.

The ASA's lack of effectiveness was not due to structure problems, but rather lack of participation and time commitment, Libby said.

Funding of student activities would still fall under the Finance Board's domain according to the referendum, Libby said.

ADB examines purpose, role

By Kevin D. Hurst

The Student Activities Development Board (ADB) may redefine its function of allocating capital funds and shift to an advisory role, according to Stephen D. Immerman, assistant dean for student affairs and executive secretary of the committee.

The board is an Institute committee charged with dispersing capital funds to and promoting student activities.

ADB is "spending too much time doling out too few dollars," Immerman said.

His departure from the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs next month, however, may cause "the whole business to get dropped," said ADB Chairman Kenneth C. Russell.

A change would make the board "more of a help group than an allocating committee," said Professor Jeffrey A. Meldman '65, associate dean for student affairs, a member and former chairman of the committee.

Meldman emphasized that a subcommittee appointed at the last meeting has made no definite decisions yet.

"If we can't get a basic agreement, we'll have to go back to square one with the new dean," Russell said. "For now, I'm guardedly optimistic."

Win Treese '86, Undergraduate Association Finance Board vice chairman, said ADB has a bud-



Tech photo by Sidhu Banerjee

Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner, former Institute President, speaks at the dedication for the new art gallery in the Julius A. Stratton '23 Student Center last Saturday. The gallery was named in Wiesner's honor.

MFA plans open house for college students

By Ellen L. Spero

The Boston Museum of Fine Arts will hold an open house tomorrow night for MIT students and others in the University Membership Program.

Alison Schaefer, administrative assistant for the Council of the Arts at MIT, said the museum "obviously wants to keep the university museum memberships." The best way to do this, she said, is to convince the schools that the students are using the memberships.

For fiscal year 1982-83, Schaefer said, MIT students took advantage of the free admission the program offers 11,368 times, down from the 13,000 times the previous year.

The purpose of "The Event," as the open house is called, is to "remind students of the unique benefit offered by their universities — unlimited free admission to the Museum by simply pre-

senting their student [identification]," according to a museum news release.

"The Event" will be "an evening filled with music, dance performances, and host of other activities planned for college students at the Museum of Fine Arts," the news release states.

Keith W. Turner '85, a member of the committee helping to organize the open house said, "The whole evening is a performance oriented to attract new students to the museum. Each school [in the University Membership Program] will be providing its own brand of entertainment."

"This event is being planned by the students, technically," Schaefer said. However, she added, "The Museum of Fine Arts is funding the event."

Schaefer said Solomon Manber '48 donates \$10,000 each year for MIT to be part of the University Membership Program.

Chorallaries of MIT, the Shakespeare Ensemble of MIT, and the Musical Sidewalk, sponsored by Tau Beta Pi, a National Engineering Honor Society, will be among the groups performing at the museum, Turner said.

"Different dances and performances will be held at different parts of the museum and at different times," Turner said. There will also be student artists at work from the participating schools throughout the museum.

inside

East Campus to be restyled. Page 2.

* * * * *

Modern English at the Paradise. Page 7.



Tech photo by Steven Wheatman

Tom Hoffman '87 of the baseball team successfully steals second base during MIT's 7-6 victory over Bowdoin College last Friday.

East Campus renovations planned

By Arvind Kumar

East Campus plans to renovate Talbot Lounge because it does "not [have] a very attractive atmosphere," according to Daniel B. Kilfoyle '86, house president.

He cited its white floor, walls, and ceiling as in attractive. Many residents recommended changing the color of the lounge.

The wall separating the lounge and the desk may be replaced by a glass partition, so that Talbot will be visible from the front lobby, and carpeting may be installed.

Norman H. Magnuson, house

manager, said the goal of the refurbishing is to make Talbot "more of a comfortable area in which to meet." The lounge should look "like a dance hall" upon completion.

East Campus residents pay rent comparable to that in the newer west campus dormitories and are entitled to the renovations, he explained.

The residents responded to a survey last year which asked "what they wanted done to the lounge," Kilfoyle said.

They also proposed a patio in front of the lounge, new furni-

ture, and kitchen renovations "to expand the atmosphere of Talbot." Two columns of bathrooms in the east parallel may also be renovated, he said.

Some proposals call for personal bathrooms in tutors' apartments, Kilfoyle said. It is sometimes difficult to attract tutors because the tutor's apartments do not have personal bathrooms, he explained.

The question of whether to allow cars in the courtyard still remains, but the landscaping plans are finished.

the more things change . . .

From *The Tech*, April 9, 1884: The work done at the Institute is too severe. For a student pursuing his studies faithfully, the mental strain approaches, perhaps exceeds the elastic limit. To reduce the standard of excellence is a remedy which will find no favor among the alumni. . .

It is an easy solution of the difficulty to say that the course should be extended; but we must consider that this step will necessarily increase, almost proportionately, the expense to be incurred by the student. Unfortunately, to a great number of patrons of the Institute, the annual budget is an element inspiring most rigid calculation, and an increase of twenty-five per cent in the outlay would cause the relinquishment of the scheme of education by the class of persons among whom will always be found the best students in the Institute. . .

Ten years ago — and the conditions have changed little since — a boy of fifteen who had faithfully pursued his studies in the public school and who had only partially completed his high school course was fitted — we will not say for the Institute, — but to pass its entrance examinations and could have studied for three years Latin or Greek.

How soon the same boy could have been fitted by the narrow and mistaken method of the narrow and mistaken method of pre-

paratory schools the writer does not venture to estimate; but he will assert — and in the opinion is sustained by every graduate with whom he ever conversed — that no boy at the age of fifteen or sixteen is fitted physically or intellectually for that philosophical, mathematical, and intellectual hothouse known as the Institute of Technology.

The studies at the Institute should begin where our free public schools stop. These schools, it is true, give as a rule only a superficial knowledge of the subjects they pretend to teach, but every student knows that the most elementary knowledge of a subject taken up at the Institute is the saving condition which oftentimes determines his success. For this reason the writer would advocate an examination on German, trigonometry, physics, astronomy, physiology, zoology, botany, geology, chemistry, and physical geography.

Proficiency in these seven might make up for ignorance in the remainder, as the extra knowledge possessed would allow some spare time on one subject which could be devoted to those in which a deficiency existed.

It is almost a safe assertion to make that of those graduating from the Institute with a creditable record, eighty percent come to the school possessing the knowledge embraced in the above specifications, and that this

knowledge was an important factor in their success. If this is true, the admittance examinations to the Institute may be styled to a system of false pretence, enticing to the school numbers of persons who cannot succeed unless by neglecting all rules of physical and mental hygiene.

In addition to these qualifications, a better knowledge of French might be required, and an acquaintance with Latin or Greek, while not perhaps to be insisted upon, might be placed to the credit of the applicant.

With these requirements, and the minimum age placed at seventeen, it is to be hoped that as high a grade would be reached and less fall by the wayside. Primary-school education at the Institute would cease and the "Kindergarten" would be no more.

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news roundup

World

Chernenko says United States not ready to improve relations — Soviet leader Konstantin U. Chernenko said Sunday that despite occasional "peace-loving rhetoric" from Washington he saw no US readiness to improve relations with Moscow. "Alas, the situation in the world is not improving. It remains very dangerous," Chernenko said in an interview with the Communist Party newspaper Pravda. The interview was Chernenko's first statement on Soviet-American relations since March 2, when he urged the United States to take "real action" on its wish for improved relations. State Department officials in Washington have made no comment on Chernenko's remarks.

Reagan refuses to obey World Court — The Reagan Administration announced yesterday it would refuse to accept World Court jurisdiction in disputes over US actions in Central America for the next two years. A State Department official said the move had been made because of information that Nicaragua was going to bring charges against the United States to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The United States has reportedly been funding activities and directing rebels in Nicaragua, including the mining of Nicaraguan harbors. Under current World Court rules, a nation can refuse to be judged by the court as long as a case has not yet been brought against it.

Nation

Astronauts fail to save satellite — The crewmen of the space shuttle Challenger failed Sunday to save the crippled Solar Max satellite. The astronauts will try again tonight to slow the tumbling of the spacecraft. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration estimates it would cost \$235 million to replace Solar Max, which was designed for long-term study of solar activity and was launched in 1980. Earlier on Sunday, the crewmen released into orbit the largest satellite it has ever released. The 30-foot-long, 21,400-pound satellite, called the Long Duration Exposure Facility, carries 57 experiments designed to test the effects of long-time spaceflight. Today is the fourth day in space for the 11th shuttle mission.

Local

Bennington outcharges MIT — Bennington College in Vermont, which will cost \$14,590 next year, continues its unbroken record as the most expensive institution in New England. This cost includes tuition, room and board. MIT placed second in a survey of major public and private institutions in New England with its cost for next year of \$14,400. MIT's increase of 6.8 percent in cost from last year is below the average increase for New England institutions. Most tuition, room and board increases are in the range of seven to eight percent. Harvard University placed third in the survey with a cost of \$14,100, a 7.2 percent increase from last year, followed by Yale University, whose 7.5 percent increase brings its tuition to \$13,950. Dartmouth College followed in the survey with a cost of \$13,647, an 8.5 percent increase from last year.

Weather

And you thought it was spring — Windy, chilly, and cloudy today and tomorrow with possibility of showers and snow flurries. High for both days will be 40-44 degrees.

Ellen L. Spero

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S/W ENGINEER \$25-30K
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 2 year old start-up company with 80+ employees involved in CPU's. R&D group is seeking an Engineer 'capable of doing the job', the 'best athlete for the money?' Will see anyone with UNIC, 'C' compiler experience.

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opinion

Column/Joseph J. Romm

The pen is as mighty as the computer terminal

Fourteenth in a Series

Contrary to popular opinion, good writing is not its own reward. Nevertheless, it can pay better than electrical engineering or computer science.

If you write well, however, you can pretty much say what you want and denounce powerful people because you are being literary or journalistic, the two being somewhat mutually exclusive. Of course, if you write poorly, you can pretty much say what you want and denounce powerful people because no one is going to read you anyway.

Writing does not exist in a vacuum (actually vacuums are empty by definition, but you will, I hope, begrudge me my poetic license to kill). A good writer must, if she wants to make a good living, keep up with the times, by being non-sexist, for instance, or even by being reverse sexist.

If you will allow me to wax eloquent, or, these days, if you will allow me to use new and improved eloquent with that lemon-fresh scent, writing at MIT, as I suggested in the previous column, is like calculus at other colleges; students do not do it particularly well, and they certainly do not realize the power it has. If you

do not believe me, just go over to the Writing Requirement Office and ask them about the freshman essays.

No doubt you are beginning to wonder, "Gee, how and why should I learn to write timeless prose?" Well, I will tell you, starting with "how." To write well, you must follow the following program:

- 10) Write a lot
- 20) Get writing edited by good writers
- 30) Rewrite
- 40) Goto 20
- 50) Your ad here

The key to good writing is re-writing. Put scientifically, to write timeless prose, you must first write time-dependent prose.

Why should you learn to write well? The definitive reason to write is, I believe, "because it isn't there."

On the one hand, writing will not answer life's perplexing problems, such as where all the baby pigeons are, and, more bewildering, why does the phone company advertise.

On the other hand, do you know who the highest-paid non-management personnel are at most major computer companies? Here is a clue: they are not the engineers and programmers.

They are the in-house writers who do things like write manuals for the low, low price of \$1000 a day.

What is more, you probably do not even have to be a good writer to do this; after all, a "good" writer would not be caught dead outside the pages of the *New Yorker*. You probably just have to be a better, or perhaps just a faster, writer than most engineers to get big bucks as an in-house writer at a major engineering firm. If, for instance, you took several engineering subjects while majoring in writing in Course XXI, you would be in great shape to become rich and famous in a technical writing career.

"DD" is an easy-going Los Angeles native who is interested in writing and drama. She is currently working on the screenplay for the pilot episode of a TV situation comedy about the humorous story of a life-insurance salesman after a nuclear war entitled "As the World Burns." She is also the victim of this column's Least Insignificant Bit of Education Learned (LIBEL). Here is the LIBEL of Ms. DD in Course XXI: She came back from Introduction to Drama (21.005) and said, "Did you know that melodrama is Californian theater?"

Of course, Course XXI has a lot more to offer than writing. In fact, Course XXI covers many fields of interest such as history,

anthropology, archaeology, literature, and women's studies, and it is deservedly lauded for its outstanding professors and subjects in foreign languages and literatures. Course XXI is also for learning abstruse grammatical points such as why, contrary to popular belief, there is nothing wrong with splitting infinitives. It is also for learning less abstruse points, such as how to become a proficient technical writer, which is perhaps the most salient point for you would-be Course VI majors interested in getting bigger bucks and more fame doing fascinating work in an engineering-related field.

Stay tuned for Course XXII and nuclear meltdown.



feedback

ESG is an important educational program

To the Editor:

An MIT education seems to require balancing an explosive workload against the often neglected needs for sleeping and eating. However, unlike nearly any other similar schools, MIT encourages its students to step outside the normal bounds of college teaching, to become active participants in learning. While programs that do this require initiative from the student, their existence helps make the Institute more than just a factory for cramming text into student's heads. A well known example of such a program is the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, which stands firmly against the fear at most schools of letting undergraduates anywhere near real research.

The Experimental Study Group is another, less well known, example. Freshmen may still remember that part of the blizzard of paper they received last summer was a little pamphlet advertising an alternative to the nor-

mal large-lecture orientation of most freshman classes. ESG, now in its 15th year, focuses on individual and small group learning. A freshman at ESG finds himself an active member in study groups, one-to-one tutorials, or even working on an independent project under staff supervision. This allows the student to become more fully involved in learning, as well as giving him greater responsibility for his education. A freshman at ESG is able to study in this way the full range of freshman core courses. Many advanced topics are also offered, as well as a range of humanities subjects, which vary from semester to semester with demand and staff availability.

ESG is generally less structured than the regular curriculum, and, therefore, some people assume that ESG students accomplish less than they would in the regular curriculum. In reality, quite the opposite is true. Most students in ESG are eager to accept

(Please turn to page 9)

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Listings

Student activities, administrative offices, academic departments, and other groups — both on and off the MIT campus — can list meetings, activities, and other announcements in *The Tech's* "Notes" section. Send items of interest (typed and double spaced) via Institute mail to "News Notes, *The Tech*, room W20-483," or via US mail to "News Notes, *The Tech*, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139." Notes run on a space-available basis only; priority is given to official Institute announcements and MIT student activities. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit all listings, and makes no endorsement of groups or activities listed.

Tuesday, April 10

Hilary Rose, a leader in contemporary British social thought, will introduce Boston area scientists to feminist theory and practice. In a lecture scheduled for 4:30 p.m. at 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, on the MIT campus, Professor Rose will examine gender-related dimensions of scientific knowledge. For more information call Mary Wyr at 253-8844.

Wed., April 11

Beth Israel Hospital's **Mind-Body Group Program** can teach you to manage your stress by using the relaxation response, awareness training, and exercise. New group begins today. Morning and evening classes available. For more information call 735-4012.

Thursday, April 12

The Lowell Lecture Series features "**Songs of Whalemens and Sailormens**," a lecture performance by Stuart Frank, director of the Kendall Whaling Museum; and Mary Molloy, Peabody Museum of Salem. Will be held at 7 p.m. in the New England Aquarium. Free and open to the public. Interpreted for the hearing-impaired.

Dr. Ravi Chopra, a material scientist and environmentalist, co-editor of *The State of India's Environment: A Citizen's Report* will be speaking at MIT, room 400, the Student Center, at 7:00 p.m. Following the lecture and slide show will be a discussion of careers in the development field. For more information on the topic or speaker, or if you wish to help in the organization of the event, please contact Ranu Gupta at 225-8916 or Atul Salhotra at 225-9850.

Thursday, April 19

The Lowell Lecture Series features "**The Ama Divers of Japan: Tourist Symbol and Practical Craft**" by Dr. David Plath, Professor of Anthropology and Asian Studies, University of Illinois. Will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the New England Aquarium. Free and open to the public. Interpreted for the hearing impaired.

Saturday, April 21

A **Medieval University and Fair** will be re-created by the Society for Creative Anachronism from noon to 5 p.m., at Memorial Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge. Come eat, drink, dance, and play as folk did more than 400 years ago. Admission \$3. Please call 498-5924 for information.

Thursday, April 26

The Lowell Lecture Series features "**People of the Coral Reef: Ingenuity in Eden**" by Dr. Edward Hodgson, Professor of Biology, Tufts University. Will be held at 7 p.m. in the New England Aquarium. Free and open to the public. Interpreted for the hearing impaired.

Tuesday, May 1

The Boston Area Bicycle Coalition will sponsor a **bicycle commuter caravan** and rally in celebration of May as national Bicycle Month. For details call 491-RIDE. We invite everyone to participate!

Thursday, May 3

The Lowell Lecture Series features "**Lorenzo Dow Baker: From Cape Cod Fisherman to Boston and Caribbean Entrepreneurs**" by Dr. W. Randolph Bartlett, professor of history, Cape Cod Community College. Will be held at 7 p.m. in the New England Aquarium. Free and open to the public. Interpreted for the hearing impaired.

Ongoing

"**An Eminent Horticulturist**," an exhibition at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, is on display through May 20. It focuses on Mrs. Gardner's lifelong interest in gardening and her love of flowers. The exhibition includes photographs, rare books on horticulture, Gardner's personal sketchbook, selected letters, and newspaper clippings. Contact Hope Coolidge, 566-1401.

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The following exhibits are being held at the MIT Museum: **A Bunch of Electricals: An MIT Electrical Engineering Retrospective.** A celebration of the centenary of the Electrical Engineering Dept. Included are the Bush Differential Analyzer and the Edison Dynamo given to the Institute by Thomas A. Edison in 1887. **Math in 3D: Geometric Sculptures by Morton C. Bradley, Jr.** Sixteen sculptures based on mathematical formulae. Form and color relation give these works a unique visual appeal. **Images of Change.** Fifty color photographs by Clinton Andrews. A subjective view of the issues and technologies bringing changing to northern areas of Pakistan and India. 265 Massachusetts Ave. Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.

The following exhibits are held ongoing at the Hart Nautical Galleries: **MIT Seagrant**, a review of MIT Ocean research; **Ship Models**, a historical view of the design and construction of ships; and **The Engineering Wizard of Bristol: Nathanael G. Herreshoff**, plans, half-models, equipment, and photographs documenting the renowned yacht designer's application of engineering skills to ship design. 77 Massachusetts Ave. Building 5, 1st floor. Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free.

The **Harvard Summer Dance Center** is accepting applications from beginning, intermediate, and advanced dancers to its program from June 25 to Aug. 3. Scholarships are also available for promising young dancers. For more information, contact Iris M. Fanger, director, Harvard Summer Dance Center, 20 Garden St., Cambridge, 495-5535.

Volunteers are needed for a new **activities stimulation program** at Cambridge Hospital. Training and supervision will be provided by a clinical social worker. The minimum time commitment is two hours per week. For more information, please contact Linda Borodkin, LICSW, at 498-1270.

Sunday, April 29, has been set for this year's **WalkAmerica** in the Mass Bay Chapter. Funds raised will be used for birth defects research and prevention programs in eastern Massachusetts. Individuals or organizations interested in supporting WalkAmerica '84 should call the March of Dimes at 329-1360 or write the March of Dimes 865 Providence Highway, Dedham, 02026.

The **J.V.S. Summer Internship program** is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who want career-related experience, to develop professional contacts in their field of interest, or to evaluate and make decisions about future careers. Deadline for applying is May 15th. For more information and an application, contact Jewish Vocational Service, 31 New Chardon St., Boston, or call 732-2846.

Announcements

President Gray will hold **open hours** Tuesday, May 1, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Members of the MIT community may schedule a fifteen-minute appointment on a first-come, first-served basis by calling 3-4665 or stopping by the reception area in Room 3-208 on May 1.

All students should obtain **examination schedule** at Information Center, 7-121. Examinations not listed or a conflict in examinations (two examinations in the same period) must be reported to the Schedules Office, E19-338 by Friday, April 20, 1984.

The UASO is now recruiting student who would like to be **associate advisors** to next year's freshmen. Interested? Check with your own advisor to see if (s)he needs a new associate, or offer your services to a faculty member whom you've gotten to know. You can also apply to be assigned to an advisor. Stop by the UASO, room 7-104, to find out more and to fill out an application form.

The Committee on the Writing Requirement reminds all **freshmen and transfer students** who have not yet satisfied **Phase One of the Writing Requirement** that there are two remaining options: receiving a Pass in any one of the expository writing subjects described in the Writing Requirement brochure, or submitting a five-page paper written for any MIT subject and judged satisfactory by the professor of that subject and faculty evaluators for the Requirement. Due to limited enrollment in writing subjects, students are urged to consider the paper option. For details, contact the Committee on the Writing Requirement, x3-3039.

Nominations are being accepted for the **John Asinari Award** for Undergraduate Research in the Life Sciences. All undergraduates in Course VII, VII-A, and VII-B are eligible. Deadline for submissions is April 20, 1984. See Tom Lynch in Room 56-524, x3-4711 for more details.

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Synth-pop stylings not so modern

Modern English, with Vinny at the Paradise, Wednesday, April 4. Ricochet Days, Modern English on Sire Records.

The once-expressive quintet Modern English has apparently opted to become just another slick '80s British Invasion band. Its latest album, *Ricochet Days*, features a number of songs that must have

been written specifically for the top-40 singles market, perhaps the worst offender being the pure synthesizer-fueled pop of "Spinning Me Round."

This situation is unfortunate, since in its better moments singer Robbie Grey's band can be awfully good. The album's title cut features an oboe whose textures play off well against Michael Conroy's bass. The

lyrics here are thoughtfully and intelligently written, whereas on much of the rest of this record Grey's voice seems like just another instrument.

A lot of verbiage has been written relating to Modern English's use of classical instruments on *Ricochet Days*. However, they are used to significant effect on only two other cuts: "Heart" and "Chapter 12." The former, nearly seven minutes in length, opens with a beautifully-arranged string quartet and oboe lead-in whose theme is later picked up by Stephen Walker's synthesizer. This moody piece shows signs of having been influenced by late-'60s psychedelia.

Still, Modern English maintains a distance from its guest string and woodwind players; the whole number is quirkily mixed so that either the strings and oboe or the rest of the band are in the foreground, but never both at the same time. This separation is even more blatant in "Chapter 12", where the strings play a brief intro followed by three seconds of silence (so that the AM DJs can cue it up past that part?); for the next three-and-a-half minutes the vocals, guitar and synthesizer all whine along, punctuated by synth riffs not-too-freely adapted from old Cars tunes.

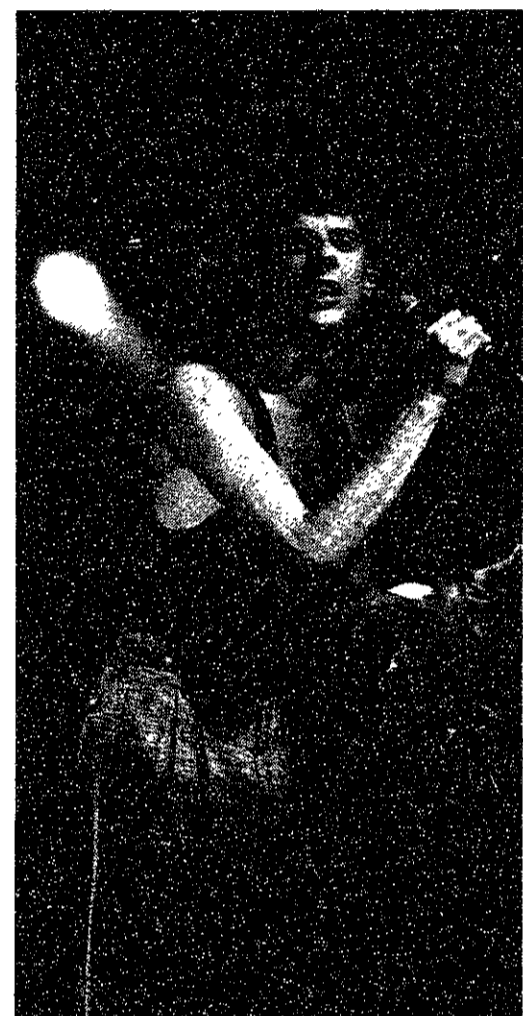
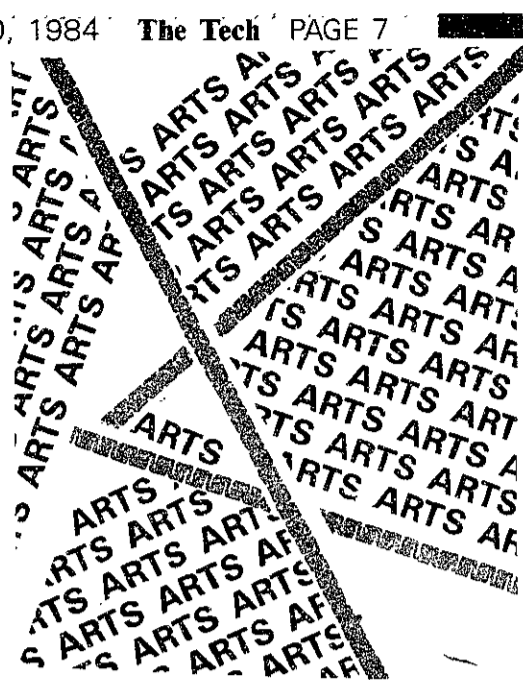
Modern English maintains a strong following in the Boston area, as evidenced by the sellout crowd at the Paradise last Wednesday night. The band's older material, drawn primarily from their album *After the Snow*, was the most successful in terms of audience reaction. The energy of "Life in the Gladhouse" stood out in sharp contrast to the numbers from *Ricochet Days* (here sans guest instruments) which all too often involved Walker and guitarist Gary McDowell seeing who could out-smooth the other. Also, Grey's idea of stage presence consists of little more than yelling "Boston!" from time to time and complaining between songs that the crowd isn't dancing enough.

Boston's Vinny opened with fun but uninspired new wave and white-boy funk, then settled comfortably into what sounded like overamplified Van Halen outtakes.

V. Michael Bove



Tech photo by V. Michael Bove



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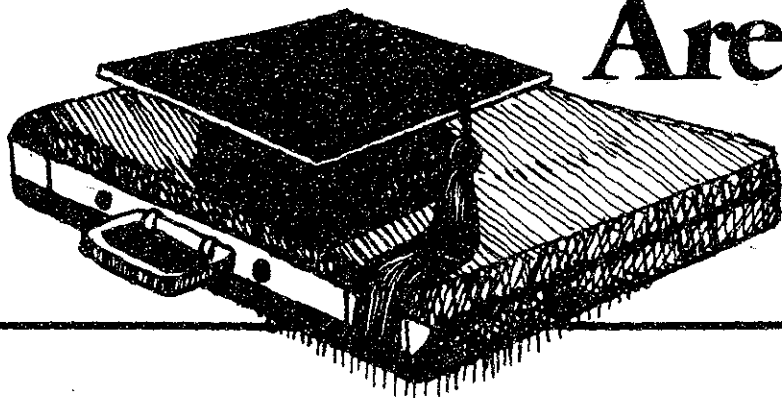
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Refreshments, 3:30, Room 8-314

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opinion

All nations face destruction

(Continued from page 4)

events. To realize the enormity of the problems we have to look at them at the global scale. "Patriotic" or "nationalistic" views are obsolete, short-sighted, and plainly dangerous. It is now impossible to indefinitely isolate any country from the rest of the world.

Even if a country could isolate itself economically and politically, it would still be totally vulnerable to the world ecological situation. The wind, water, and living organisms would still bring deadly diseases across its borders; contaminated rivers, acid rain, toxic wastes, and polluted air originating in other countries might produce ecological disorders. Scarcity or total lack of minerals or other natural resources could hinder or completely stop economic growth, or a neighboring country might decide to invade in order to increase its power and territory or just to intimidate enemies or overthrow an unfriendly government.

Isolation or indifference to the world situation is not the solution. In fact, the opposite is true. Instead of closing our minds and our hearts we should open them to the terrible global problems we face. If mankind is to survive as a "civilized society" we must have world cooperation. But this cooperation should also extend to individual cooperation. Many of today's international problems are external expressions of national and individual problems.

The words of Nobel Peace Prize winner Willy Brandt, who led West Germany during the aftermath of World War II, sum

up our challenge for humanity's future: "We must lift our sights to the far horizons. We need courage and imagination; we must cooperate and overcome narrow-mindedness; and we must take bold actions now. Today, responsible women and men, and the younger generation above all, realize in their daily lives that their own condition is no longer isolated: their jobs, their food, their energy . . . depend upon and influence the development of people, communities, and countries at the other end of the

world. . . . Together with my colleagues I hold the hope that the thoughts we have set forth may light a pathway to a more just and prosperous world for generations to come — free from dependence and oppression, from hunger and distress. A new century nears, and with it the prospects of a new civilization. Could we not begin to lay the basis for that new community with reasonable relations among all people and nations, and to build a world in which sharing, justice, freedom and peace might prevail?"

feedback

ESG valuable to MIT

(Continued from page 5)

the added responsibility required by the flexibility of individual study. They generally use ESG to move faster, farther, and in different directions than in the regular curriculum. Completing the core courses is usually not the goal, but simply a starting point.

I was in ESG my freshman year. This year, I returned to ESG as a tutor. The other side of ESG is that most of the teaching is done by undergraduates under the supervision of a staff of graduated students and faculty. Over the years ESG has proven that not only can students be trusted with the responsibility of individual study, but that they also can make excellent tutors for freshman courses and even some more advanced subjects. As a tutor I have found that as my students learn the material, I gain a much deeper understanding for the subject than I could have in almost any other way.

Recently, ESG has begun to be a little more visible in the MIT community. As reported in *The Tech* and *Tech Talk*, Dean Robert L. Halfman, director of ESG for the past ten years, is retiring this year. A search is presently underway to find a new director. We were quite disappointed that the position could not be filled by the first candidate found, Professor Steve L. Chorover. However, the search continues and additional candidates should be proposed soon.

Because of the change in directorship, the ESG community has been focusing its attention on the past history and future direction of the program. Under its new director, we feel ESG should be able to make an increasing contribution, not just to the students in the program, but to the Institute as a whole.

Edwin Seidewitz '84
Chairman, ESG Projects Group

Travel Trivia

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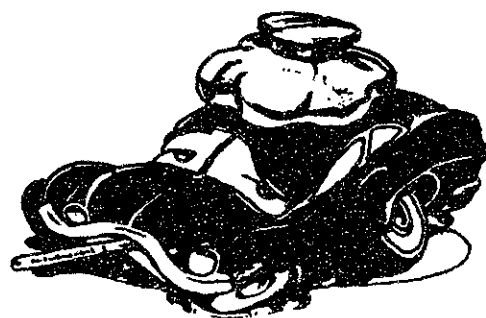
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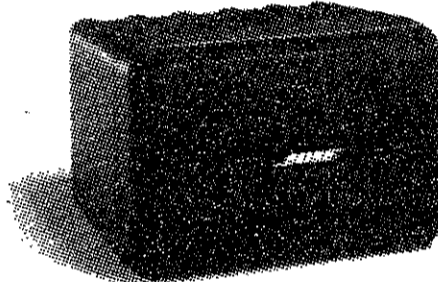
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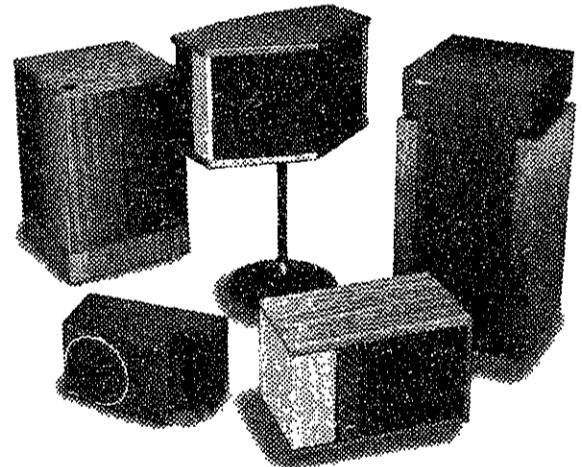
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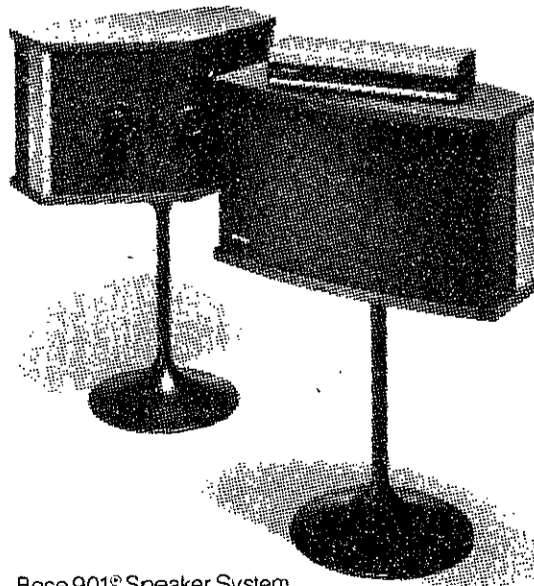
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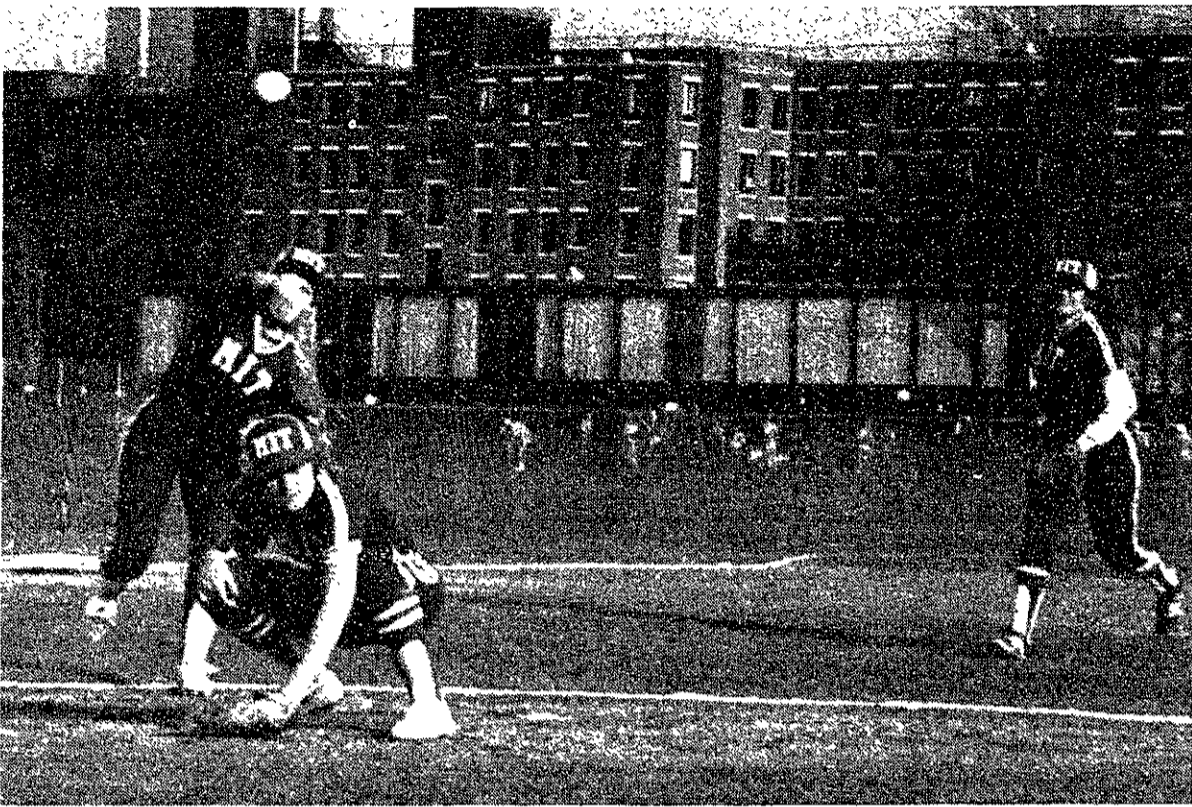
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sports



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Pitcher Cynthia Robinson '84 ducks as Stacy Thompson '86 of the softball team hurls the ball toward first base during their game against Harvard last Friday. Final score: MIT 5, Harvard 0.

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