

Congratulations graduates!

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Volume 104, Number 27

The Tech

MIT
Cambridge
Massachusetts

Monday, June 4, 1984

MIT to graduate 1672

By John J. Ying

MIT will hold its 118th commencement exercises today at 10 a.m. in Killian Court, presenting 1849 degrees to 1672 students.

Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress, will deliver the commencement address. She served seven terms as a congressman from the

Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. Chisholm is presently a Purrington Professor at Mount Holyoke College.

The academic procession, composed of dignitaries, faculty, and graduates in academic robes, will proceed along Massachusetts Avenue and Memorial Drive into Killian Court beginning at 9:45

a.m. The procession will be led by Robert W. Mann '50, president of the MIT Alumni Association and professor of biomedical engineering. Mann will carry a four-foot golden mace symbolizing the Institute's academic authority.

Chisholm is scheduled to begin her speech at 10:30 a.m., after the academic procession completes its march into Killian Court.

The Class of 1984 will present its class gift following Chisholm's address. MIT President Paul E. Gray '54, will then deliver the charge to the graduates.

The five academic deans — Abraham J. Siegel, dean of the Sloan School of Management, Harold J. Hanham, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Gerald L. Wilson '61, dean of the School of Engineering, John de Monchaux, dean of the School of Architecture and

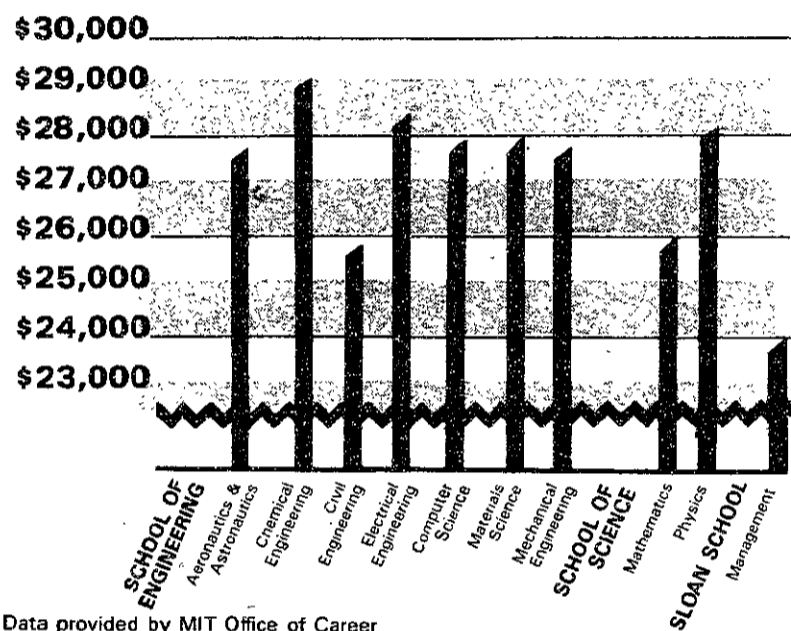
(Please turn to page 2)



Tech photo by Omar S. Valerio

Graduates smile through the rain during last year's commencement exercises. Sunny weather is expected for today's graduation ceremony.

Median annual salaries offered to S.B. graduates entering industry, 1983-84



Data provided by MIT Office of Career Services and Professional Advising

Tech Graphic by Simson L. Garfinkel

Placement offers to graduates up

By Diana ben-Aaron

MIT graduates received many more job offers than last year, but starting salaries have increased little since last year, according to Director of Career Planning and Placement Robert K. Weatherall. "The companies [seemed to think] they could take more students if they offered lower salaries," Weatherall said.

Over 385 companies and 20 government agencies recruited at MIT this year, with electronics firms showing the largest growth, Weatherall said. "The CIA also came back in a big way this year. They staged a presentation for a large audience of students, almost all friendly," he added.

"Last year was notoriously hard for the chemical engineers, but the bad days for are behind them now," Weatherall noted. MIT S.B. graduates in chemical engineering received 55 offers this year, up from eight last year, according to placement office reports. Weatherall attributed this trend to growth in chemical and semiconductor firms' needs for chemical engineers. "The oil companies still aren't hiring," he said.

Because of the oil companies, this was a "slow year for geologists," according to Weatherall. Civil engineering offers were also down, he said, noting that gov-

ernment no longer hires great numbers of environmental and hydrologic specialists. "Construction is slow too, although it doesn't seem that way if you look at the Boston skyline," Weatherall commented. Only 7 offers to bachelor's graduates in civil engineering were reported.

The largest growth was in electrical engineering, with 144 offers reported by S.B. candidates, up from 57 last year. Computer science bachelor's graduates received 67 offers compared to 27 last year, while senior mechanical engineers reported 100 job offers, compared to 42 last year.

In the School of Science, mathematics S.B. graduates received 17 offers, and physics graduates received 18 offers. "There were few offers, but few students were looking," Weatherall noted. "We wish students would realize that they can be science majors, especially in math and physics, and get the same jobs Course 6 is getting for them," Weatherall observed. "Of course, they can also go to graduate school and become the next Schrödingers and Heisenbergs," he added.

Consulting groups and financial firms showed more interest than ever in non-science majors, Weatherall said. "Students with self-confidence were doing very well looking for jobs on Wall Street. If they have the personal skills, it almost doesn't matter what major they come from," he noted.

Companies are still calling the placement office looking for students, Weatherall said. "It's been a very active year, and it's not over yet," he commented.

Dean Hanham resigns

By Amy Gorin

Dr. Harold J. Hanham has announced his resignation as dean of the School of Humanities and Social Science. After spending the next year finishing a research project on educational changes in Canada during the past two centuries, Hanham plans to return to teaching at MIT. His resignation will take effect at the end of August.

Hanham, who will be reading the names of Humanities and Social Science graduates at this morning's commencement exer-

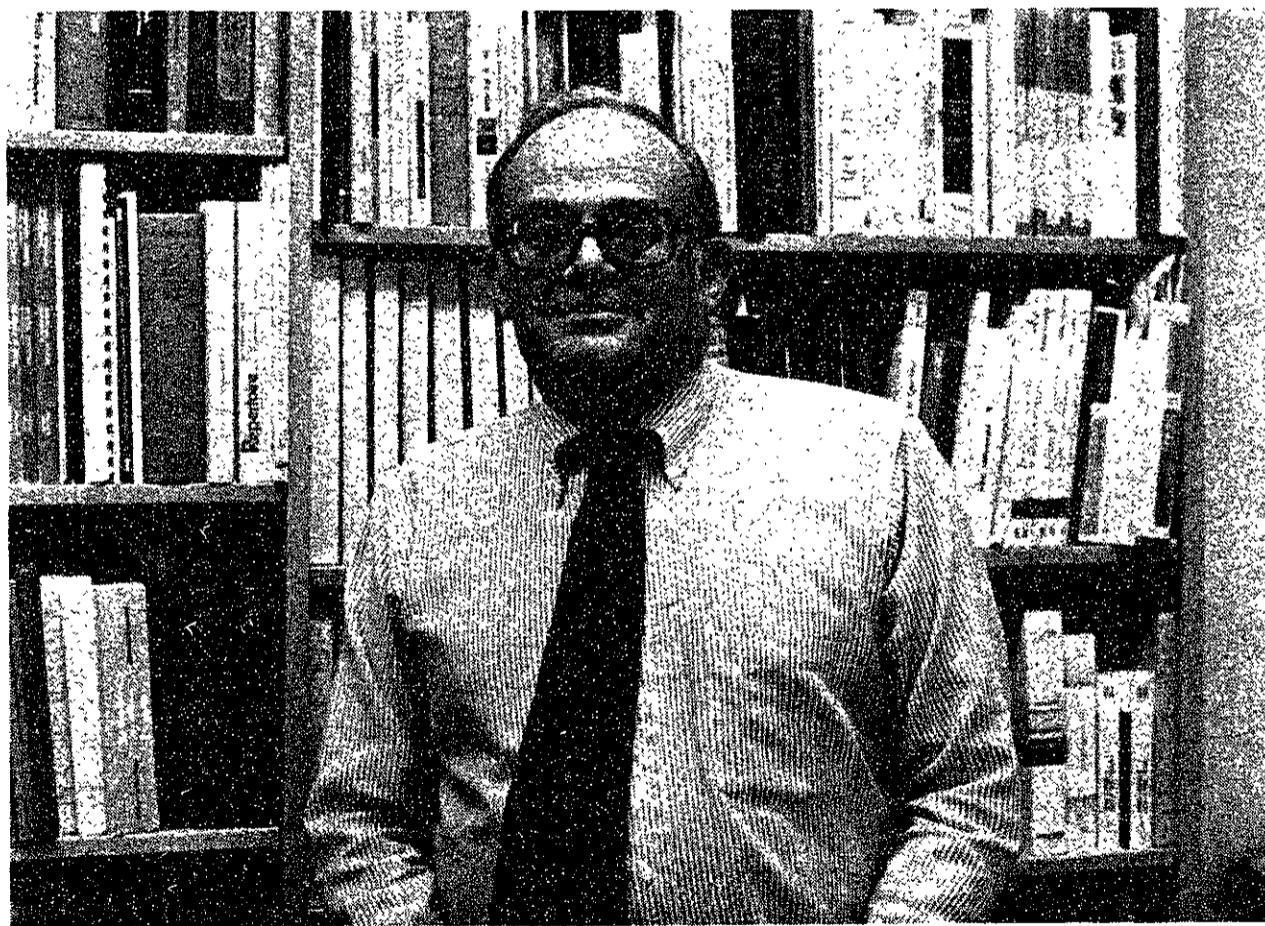
the late '60's, according to Hanham, student interest moved away from science and engineering. This change was reflected by an increase in the number of humanities majors. In the early '70's, the trend was reversed.

According to Hanham, the undergraduate humanities requirement was "on its last legs" when he took office. In 1974 he introduced the present Humanities, Arts and Social Science requirement. Provost Francis E. Low has described the requirement as introducing "a new flexibility

and social sciences has been neglected over the entire country."

"During Dean Hanham's period of office the graduate programs in economics, linguistics, philosophy, and political science have consolidated their position as among the best in the country," Provost Low said.

If they are to stay in the forefront the graduate programs must, according to Hanham, "pursue a moving target. What was good ten years ago is not good now." The departments must respond to rapid changes in



Tech photo by P. Paul Hsu

Dr. Harold J. Hanham will leave his present post as Dean of School of Humanities and Social Science in August.

cises, said he has enjoyed his tenure as dean, but added "there is such a thing as enough of a good thing."

A native of New Zealand, Hanham has taught and studied in England, and was head of the Politics Department at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland before coming to MIT. Hanham was appointed as dean in the fall of 1972 and took office April 1, 1973, at end of what he describes as "the time of troubles." During

into the undergraduate curriculum which proved to be popular to faculty and students alike."

Hanham said he believes the the School of Humanities and Social Science is "doing rather well" despite financial stringency. He considers this one of its major problems, noting that lack of funds "makes it difficult to do what you want to do." He added, however, that MIT has been luckier than most universities and that "funding for the humanities

their respective fields, he explained.

The undergraduate program faces a different problem, Hanham noted. The average undergraduate student does not find the time to really take advantage of the school's offerings, he observed.

A committee to assist in finding a replacement for Dean Hanham has been appointed, and will be chaired by Dr. Mary C. Potter of the Department of Psychology.

inside

You might think the
Cars are magic.

— Page 6

Chisholm will speak today

(Continued from page 1)

Planning, and John M. Deutch '61, dean of the School of Science — are scheduled to begin reading the names of degree recipients in their respective departments at 11:15 a.m. Gray will present the degrees to each graduate.

MIT is unusual in a school of its size to continue presenting all degrees — both undergraduate and graduate — individually in one large ceremony.

Receptions for each of the five different schools will be held in Lowell and duPont Courts adjoining Killian Court, following the presentation of degrees.

A brass ensemble conducted by Herbert L. Philpott '44 will provide the music for the academic procession along Massachusetts Avenue and Memorial Drive into Killian Court. The John Oliver Chorale and the Boston Brass Ensemble, conducted by John Corley, will perform the music in Killian Court.

David S. Saxon '41, chairman of the MIT Corporation, will be presiding at his first commencement ceremony since taking office last July.

Provost Francis E. Low will lead the academic officers during the academic procession.

The members of the corporation, following the academic officers during the procession, will be led by their marshal, Joseph F. Moore '52, former president of the Alumni Association and Corporation member since 1979.

Over 300 members of the faculty will be led in the academic procession by their marshal, Judith T. Kildow, associate professor of ocean engineering.

Shirley M. McBay, dean for student affairs, will lead the graduating students in the academic procession.

The student officers in the procession will be: Diane M. Peterson, permanent president of the Class of 1984, Richard A. Cowen, Class of 1984 president during senior year, Tsu-Man (Peter) Tu, Class of 1984 secretary, and David W. Jensen, president of the Graduate Student Council.

Shirley Chisholm

Chisholm will be the third commencement speaker since the Institute ended its 17-year practice of having the MIT president give the commencement address. Katharine Graham, chairman of the *Washington Post*, spoke in 1982, and Helmut Schmidt, former Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, gave the commencement address last year.

Chisholm was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1968. She served seven consecutive terms of office before declining to seek reelection in 1982. Chisholm was noted in Congress for her efforts in support of women, minorities, black col-

leges, and the poor.

In 1972, Chisholm became the first black woman to run for president. She ran in most of the primaries and remained in the race through the Democratic national convention. She failed to win 10 percent of the vote in any state, but attained widespread publicity through the television debates and the national convention podium.

Chisholm graduated from Brooklyn College in 1946 and received a master of arts degree from Columbia University in 1952. She was a nursery school teacher and day care center director for many years before entering politics. She served in the New York State Assembly for four years prior to her election to Congress.

Chisholm is currently a visiting professor at Mount Holyoke College, leading courses in women's and racial issues. She also lectures at universities around the country.

The more things change. . .

From *The Tech*, June 5, 1934:

Class day exercises were held yesterday afternoon commencing at 2:30 o'clock in Walker Memorial.

The Beaver oration was made by William Randolph Churchill ['34]. He reviewed the events of the past year — innovations, continuing old customs and dropping other old customs. Among these events he mentioned the coming into prominence of the 5:15 Club, the almost indecent Freshman Smoker, improvement in the Walker Memorial Dining Service, the Yale Cup won by the *Tech Engineering News*, and the trip around the world of Gene Nobel and Seth Parker. He offered congratulations to the co-

eds [five in a class of 480] for not trying to combine academic instruction with the seeking of husbands.

Next in program was the presentation of class gifts by Proctor Wetherill. "Buzzard" Humphreys, the best-like, Class Politician, received the "Bird," a toy rooster. Johnny Horne was awarded a set of soldier cut-outs so that he could play soldier, in spite of being away from his dear little freshmen.

Dr. Allan W. Rowe, '01, spoke on "The New Psychology of Unrepressed Desires." In a speech enlightened by many anecdotes, Dr. Rowe gave a sales talk for the Alumni Association.

classified advertising

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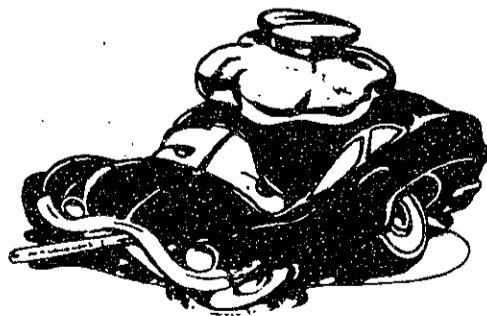
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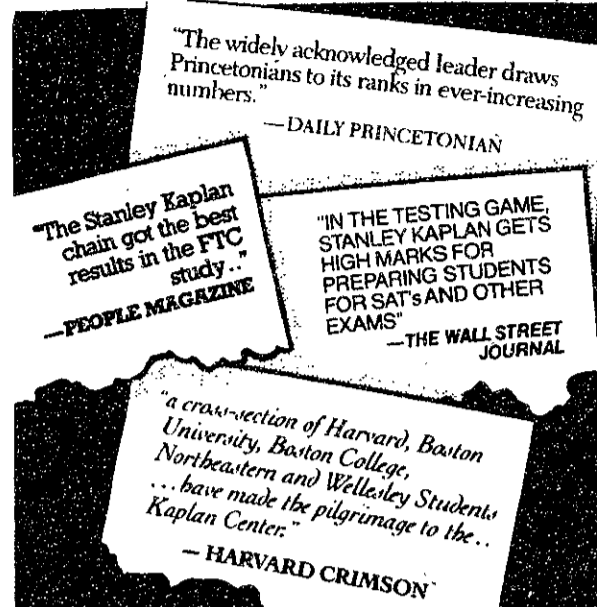
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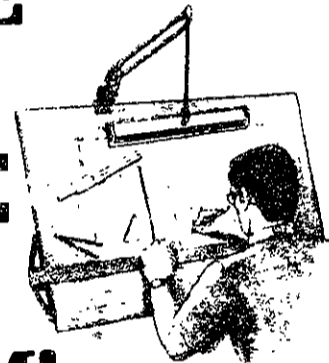


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news roundup

World

Iran rejects U.N. resolution — The Iranian Foreign Ministry claimed last week that the United Nations Security Council's condemnation of air attacks on Persian Gulf shipping guaranteed the total insecurity of the Gulf waterway and effectively condoned future Iraqi attacks on Iranian shipping. After reports that fresh attacks had commenced in the Persian Gulf, Lloyd's of London, which insures oil tankers against wartime damage, doubled the premiums for ships traveling to Iran's Kharg Island.

Indian army takes control of Punjab — Fighting between Sikh and Hindu factions has forced the central government of the riot-torn state of Punjab to declare the province a restricted area and commence deployment of military and paramilitary forces to control the violence. A nationwide radio and television address by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has done nothing to reduce the outbreaks of violence, in which dozens of people have already been killed.

North Korea commences boycott of Olympics — Claiming that "anticommunist, antisocialist maneuvers" were openly committed in the United States, North Korea became the 14th nation to boycott the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics.

Sale of pocket-size color TVs to commence — The world's smallest color TV will be available for only \$500 beginning this fall. Six inches long by 3 inches wide by 1 inch deep, it weighs only 6 ounces and contains 52,000 thin-film transistors, according to Seiko, its manufacturer. Also available soon will be a "smart box" that attaches to TVs, allowing viewers to choose commercials targeted at their age and sex as well as choosing among several camera angles. ACTV, INC. plans to charge less than \$10 per month for its "smart boxes" when it begins test-marketing them early next year.

Nation

Reagan criticizes Soviet Union — In an address Saturday in Galway, Ireland, where he received an honorary doctorate at University College Commencement, President Reagan called the Soviet Union a "strong and aggressive military machine that prohibits fundamental freedoms." Reagan also said his administration is doing its best to reduce the risks of war. His speech was cut short by the protests of about 1000 demonstrators opposed to his Central American policies and the U.S. nuclear arms buildup.

The search for stock — After rising to nearly 1300 recently, the Dow Jones industrial average has fallen to below 1100. While most analysts can still find the individual stocks and industry groups they want, most are cautious, partly because interest rates have been creeping up again. Even IBM, leader of the bull market, has fallen to its lowest price in 12 months.

Jobless rate lowest since 1981 — Unemployment has dropped to 7.5%, the lowest since President Reagan took office in 1981. Increased hiring in business and construction resulted in over 900,000 new jobs in May.

A new outbreak of Legionnaire's disease — Four patients in the University of Utah Medical Center have contracted the pneumonia-like Legionnaire's disease in the past two weeks, forcing doctors to postpone kidney transplants at the hospital indefinitely. All are in stable condition and are in no danger. There are now antibiotics to control the disease-causing bacteria, which thrive in closed water systems and are easily spread through air conditioner ducts.

Local

Cable porn debate commences in state legislature — After a private State House viewing of "Black Emmanuelle," House Speaker Thomas McGee said he came out of the showing feeling sick. Nicholas Pizzella, president of Massachusetts Morality in the Media, a group opposing pornography in cable programming, said that cable television regulation is well within the government's scope. Others believe that cable TV is simply responding to free market forces and this raises the quality of programming. Members of both factions expect the case to go to the Supreme Court.

Bell breakup hits Harvard — Under a new policy arising from the AT&T divestiture of regional operating companies commencing this fall, all Harvard students will have to pay a fee to New England Telephone for dial tone service and then make their own arrangements for leasing or purchasing a phone. As a result of the policy change, residents of Harvard dormitories were required to remove the telephones from their rooms and return them to the campus telecommunications office before leaving for the summer. In some of the older buildings, removal entailed clipping wires from hard-wired phones. MIT owns the equipment for Dormline service, which will not be affected by the Bell split.

Weather

Summer weather commences — Today will be partly cloudy with highs in the low sixties and temperatures dropping into the low fifties tonight. Tuesday will sunny and a pleasant 75-80 degrees.

Scott I. Chase

JUNE '84 GRADUATES BOUND FOR CALIFORNIA

There is a large MIT alumni community which welcomes you to join them and participate in a wide range of social, technological, entrepreneurial and cultural programs. Membership for recent graduates is complimentary. Be sure to contact the nearest MIT Club for the club newsletter.

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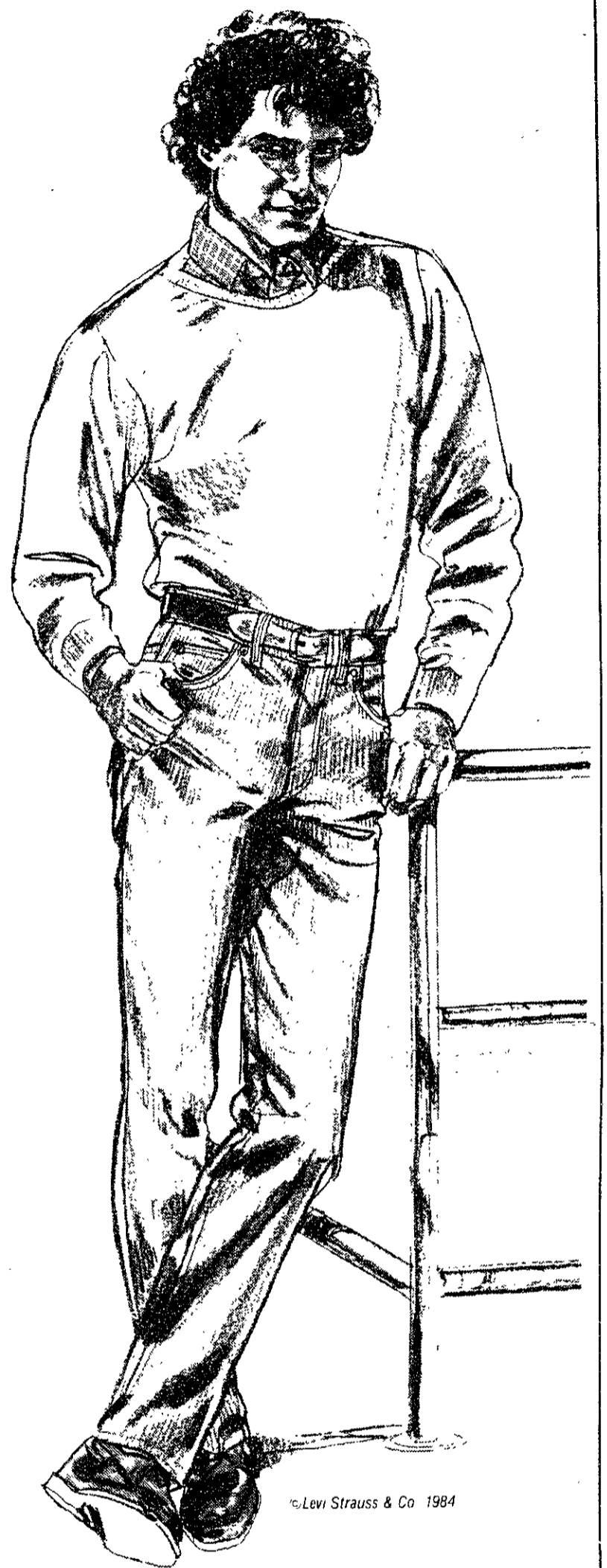
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opinion

Column/Charles P. Brown Letter from the Editor

Today is a special occasion, with 1672 students receiving degrees from the foremost scientific educational establishment in this country. Underneath the bright facade, however, a grim spectre is undermining the unique character of this school. Beware MIT, Big Brother is watching you.

George Orwell's 1984 portrayed a society where the government completely controlled the public and private lives of its members. It is a prophetic warning against the loss of individual rights.

The actions and attitudes of the MIT administration have constricted my freedom to explore myself and my environment. Whether restricting the food I eat or the movies I view, MIT has been imposing its own will, not the will of myself and my class.

The trend of the past four years has been toward the constriction of individual rights. Through my involvement with student activities and contact with recent graduates, I have discovered that this trend is new, and that it is accelerating in scope and magnitude.

The Ministry of Love

The Lecture Series Committee (LSC) has shown pornographic films on registration day for many years, but since February 1983, when it tried to show *Deep Throat*, it has been under strong pressure not to show pornographic films. The Undergraduate Association put a referendum on its spring ballot this year asking if pornographic films should be permitted to be shown on the MIT campus. The response was overwhelmingly positive; the referendum was approved by 83 percent of the vote.

Unfortunately, the situation wasn't settled. Several weeks ago when LSC showed a pornographic film as its last scheduled movie of the academic year, members of the MIT Administration castigated the committee for ignoring the concerns of the student body.

The Administration has demonstrated a total lack of concern in the opinions and desires of the student body by continuing to press this issue.

The Ministry of Truth

This past fall Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Mary O. Hope was fired, and the MIT Administration justly declined to comment on the matter. Many students protested the decision to dismiss Hope, and President Paul E. Gray '84 warned a group of these students that "coercive action" on the part of students supporting Hope "will set back the interest of minority students . . . at this institution."

Several months later, the MIT Today section of *Technology Review* contained a short article on the "resignation" of Hope. The double-speak and doublethink of 1984 is clearly evident.

The most important right that any person has is freedom of speech, in particular the freedom to voice criticism. By threatening students and rewriting history, MIT discourages students from publicly developing and stating their opinions.

The Ministry of Peace

The Undergraduate Association Finance Board currently receives \$65,000 a year from the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs to distribute to student activities. Last November Dean for Student Affairs Shirley M. McBay told the Committee on Student Affairs that (Please turn to page 5)



Column/Diana ben-Aaron

From Mass. Ave. to Madras

None of the names in this column have been changed. Anyone who cares enough to read the yearbook or commencement program to find out who these people are probably deserves to know.

I used to have a great lead for a column. It went like this: "When Roxanne E. Busse '84 walks out of Killian Court after commencement, she will be marching to a different drummer." Now I'll never be able to use it. Roxanne is marching to such a different drummer she's not even going to commencement. She went to India instead and tomorrow, dressed in a sari, she will be a guest at an Indian wedding.

Roxanne graduated a year early — she used to be '85 — to take a trip around the world. Thor Heyerdahl, Herman Melville, and *Fodor's South Seas* have been her leisure reading for two years as she planned every detail of her great escape. She did not enjoy her stay Cambridge and was unable to understand the perverse attachment to MIT that leads so many former students to hang around the campus in the belief they could not be happy anywhere else. "Taking a term off from MIT," she once said, "would be like pushing the snooze button on my alarm clock."

"I have it all worked out," Roxanne used to say, whipping out a pocket-sized atlas. "I want to go to this group of islands." She pointed to a dot in the middle of the South Pacific. "The boats only run once a month, and if the boat I want leaves during finals week, I'll petition to take my finals early." At the end of last term, she was phoning her travel agent between classes, bringing him up to date on the latest changes in her itinerary.

Roxanne's five-month, ten-country odyssey will cost less than a fourth year at MIT. When she comes back, she will work for an aerospace company, developing epoxy compounds for use in helicopter blades. But for now, she is doing exactly what she wants to do.

Mary Ann is graduating, but she's planning to go back to school soon. After four years of naval architecture she found that "the only people who are building ships any more are the Navy," and she doesn't want to work for the Navy.

More importantly, some part-

time counseling work she did while writing her thesis made her realize that she really wants to be a doctor. She's getting married in June; when she returns from her honeymoon she'll work half-time, take some post-graduate pre-med courses, and study for her MCATs. She doesn't consider the past four years wasted; in fact, she considers herself lucky that she discovered so soon what she really wanted to do.

Last year, when Larry was a junior, someone told me he was planning to get degrees in literature and chemical engineering and then go back to Hawaii to open an all-night donut bakery. I asked him about it. "That's right. I even tried to get a summer job in a bakery — you know, learn the business from the ground up — but no one would hire me," he said. "They thought I was over-qualified or something."

The next summer, Larry went into the silkscreening business. Now he's changed his direction yet again and he'll be working for a Fortune 500 company as an engineer. At the moment, anyway, he is happy in the certainty that he'll be using his degree to do what he really wants to do.

Jeannine is finally graduating. She has been in college thirteen years: four years for the first bachelor's, two years for the second bachelor's, two years for the master's, and five years for the Ph.D. Her first bachelor's is in mathematics and all the rest of her degrees are in electrical engineering.

"Let me see," Jeannine said to one of her annual IAP classes in paperfolding polyhedra. All but one of her techniques for faceting paper without using scissors, tape, or concealed pockets are original; every such paper solid you see hanging from an Institute ceiling can trace its origin back to Jeannine. "How did I become an engineer?"

"Well, I worked in a bike shop to put myself through school," said Jeannine. "After I got my bachelor's I couldn't find a job and I ended up still working in the bike shop. I looked around and here I was with a B.S. in math and I was a lousy salesgirl!" "Then I looked at Tom," Jeannine continued. "Tom had a master's in math and Tom was a repairman. That's not much, but it beats being a salesgirl; it's one step higher on the social scale."

"And then I looked at Harvey," Jeannine said. "Harvey had a (Please turn to page 5)

feedback

Movie committee set community standards

To the Editor:

I want to express my dismay at your Friday editorial [*The Tech*, May 18]. In particular you misrepresented the *ad hoc* Lecture Series Committee Community Committee work. The Committee worked hard and, I believe, was unanimous in its view of desirable standards for sexually explicit movies. Please note that although we know many members of the MIT community reject all sexually explicit movies, on principle, no member of the Repeta Committee felt this way.

The Repeta Committee was well-chaired, worked together happily, and it unanimously adopted standards. We felt unanimously that no movie we saw met those standards. We all felt it was possible to continue looking for acceptable movies and recommended that the search continue.

Was it good faith for LSC to decide before the Committee even met that a sexually explicit film would be shown as TBA? Was it good faith for LSC to declare the standards met when their own committee unanimously felt the standards were not met? If you had been on the Repeta Committee, how would you feel? Dear *Tech* editors, here is my question. I would feel better about your speaking out on this tough subject if your editorial board would serve, weekly, on the LSC-Community sexually-explicit movie committee next fall. Would you be willing to do this?

Mary P. Rowe

Special Assistant to the President

Editor's note: The purpose of a newspaper is to report events, not to participate in events. Thus, it would be a conflict of interest for a member of the editorial board of *The Tech* to serve on the committee.

The Tech

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Monday, June 4, 1984

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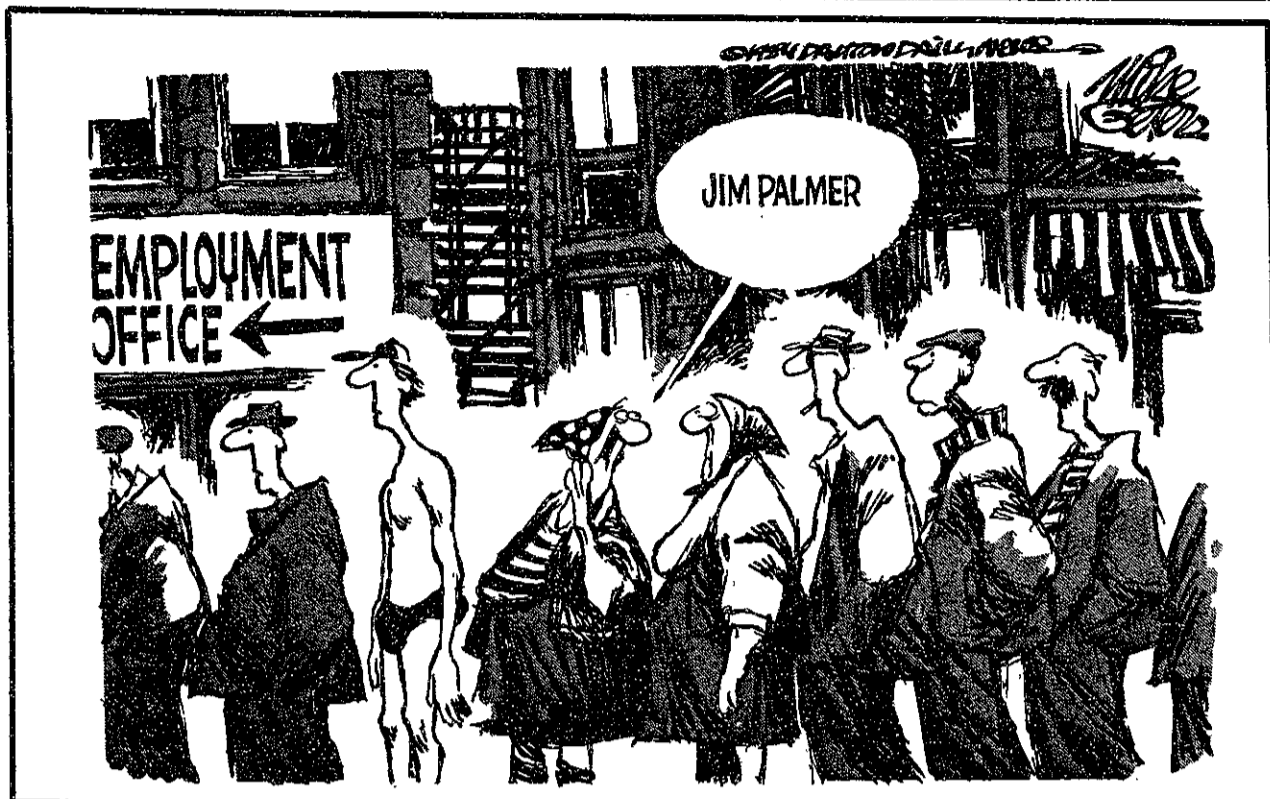
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opinion



MIT meets Orwell's 1984

(Continued from page 4)
 one of her goals is have the revenues from the Student Center pinball room, which amount to approximately \$100,000 a year, pay for the Finance Board budget. In other meetings she told student leaders she would never consider using the pinball revenues to pay for the Finance Board budget. Double-speak strikes again.

Student activities play an important role in the educational experience of an MIT undergraduate, and MIT should encourage the development and growth of these organizations. It should not try to manipulate them to reduce MIT's \$500 million annual budget by less than .004 percent.

The Ministry of Plenty
 The forced commons program was implemented in 1980 in an

attempt to improve the nutritional level of student diets and to encourage socializing during meals.

Dormitories have held boycotts to protest commons, and students have consistently criticized the program. The commons program budget has had an operating deficit of well over two million dollars in the first three years of mandatory participation.

MIT is subsidizing the inefficient commons program the way some countries subsidize their inefficient government-run industries. Commons has proven it can't run at a profit even with a captive clientele, and MIT should abolish the program and let students determine their own diets.

The attitude that MIT is here to administer over the students instead of working with the students is prevalent in these instances and others, including a tight restriction on what living groups can put in the Residence Handbook sent to freshman each year. MIT's actions suggest it is more concerned with the image presented to the outside world of what MIT is like than with MIT life itself.

I do not intend to sound totally negative. I have thoroughly enjoyed my four years at MIT, and, if given the chance, I would do it again.

Unfortunately, I do not know if it would be possible in the future. My satisfaction with my experiences here compels me to voice these concerns in the hope that others will be able to share the same experiences and freedoms in the future.

The prophecies of 1984 have not been entirely fulfilled. Not yet, that is.

Looking for happiness outside academia

(Continued from page 4)
 Ph.D. in math and he was a manager."

"Well," said Jeannine, "I looked at the bike shop and decided that wasn't where I wanted to be for the rest of my life."

Jeannine has applied to NASA as an astronaut and several companies want her to work for them. Yet she often says she doesn't want to leave academia; after twenty-five years as a student, she feels at home in schools. If she chooses to join a college faculty, she will be one of only a handful of electrical engineering Ph.D.s who do. Literally a handful — only 8 of 127 E.E. Ph.D.s in America chose to go into teaching last year. This is

why Course 6 can't keep up with the enrollment; professors left over from the years before a doctorate was a faculty prerequisite will retire faster than the department can hire replacements.

"What are you going to do?" I asked her.

"After I graduate," said Jeannine firmly, "I'm going to sit down at a computer and play Zork."

"For the rest of your life?" I said.

"No," said Jeannine. "Until I win. And then I'm going to decide what I want to do with the rest of my life."

If there is a theme behind this string of vignettes, let it be this: Don't settle for anything less than the future you really want. You may have to defer your dreams for a few years or until your vacations, depending on what you want, but keep your particular vision of paradise in the back of your head. And remember, it's never too late to change your mind.



Service group to collect donations

To the Editor:
 I am writing to clarify a point raised in *The Tech's* three-part series on the Solomon Amendment [*The Tech*, May 1, May 8, May 15].

A group of MIT students, alumni, and faculty have formed the Committee to Assist Non-registrants (CAN). The objective of the committee is to raise money from donations to replace students' financial aid lost due to the Solomon Amendment. In the series of articles you reported that MIT would not accept these donations. This is true. However, CAN has reached an agreement with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). This group, a charitable organization, has agreed to accept donations to the CAN fund, and distribute the funds to students who lost federal aid. CAN will be in charge of the administrative decisions and responsibilities.

Joseph R. Minato '84

Column/Amy S. Gorin

How to survive without the amazing hack

It has been said that God did not create the world in six days; rather he goofed off for five and then pulled an all nighter. When I look at the state of the world, I believe it. And I wonder if attached to the Earth somewhere is a note from His professor: "You show great promise, I'm sure You could have done much better on this."

There are those among us who are truly created in His image. *Homo Hackus Magnus*, the Amazing Hacker. Fleet of foot, blood-shot of eye, well endowed with *chutzpah* and *hubris*, HHM can be found frantically tracking down a professor who left for Peru three days ago, because an incomplete *has* to get finished; eating breakfast while racing down the Infinite Corridor (at four o'clock); calling the Boston Public Library to see how late they stay open that night.

My junior high was no place for an amazing hacker. My first hack was to leave it. A year before the rest of my class. My high school was far more mellow. If you didn't like a class, you didn't go. I didn't like my first year algebra class. I didn't go.

My teacher, a kind hearted soul like the rest of them, gave me a choice: "You will get a perfect score on the Algebra Regents [a New York statewide achievement test], or I will fail you." I learned the year's algebra curriculum the following weekend. When I got my 100 on the Regents, the teacher, an MIT alum, recognized an amazing hack when he saw one. He gave me a passing grade, and, eventually, a college recommendation that should have come with its own shovel.

I figured I could do the same trick with Geometry. I didn't bother signing up for the class. The following fall I started Pre-Calculus.

For a while I was like a kid in a candy store. I learned all typical moves of the HHM. High school sophomores do not take college-cross registration European history. Unless the professor is also faculty advisor of the paper the sophomore edits. Students never take two classes that meet at the same time. Unless they're French III and Non-Euclidean Geometry, and the French teacher happens to be a math fan. Nobody takes a year of English Literature on independent study. Except me.

Somewhere in there, I ran out of classes. The following fall I arrived at MIT, a sixteen year-old disciple of the amazing hack.

It might have worked. But I woke up one morning three years ago after my usual five hours of sleep, and, after my usual nothing for breakfast, took my usual shower. I woke up for the second time that morning on the shower floor, in the arms of a roommate I saw with somewhat less than my usual clarity.

It was the headache that followed that caught my attention. The one that made my skull feel like there were a couple of elephants in it. Doing a *pas de deux*. To the 1812 Overture.

"Migraines," my doctor said. "Low blood sugar. Get enough sleep, don't skip meals. Avoid things that can trigger an attack." Like Chinese food and alcohol and chocolate and flashing lights and caffeine and CRTs and stress. I should have *Dim Sumed* myself into a coma immediately.

I did away with hacking. I almost made it. But there are courses at the Institute where *nobody* sleeps the night before an assignment is due. The first lab write-up I did for such a course left me reeling. When it came time to do the second, I dropped the course. I have since dropped many. I have handed in papers late, handed in assignments badly done, received incompletes, and settled for Bs in classes where I should have rated As.

I stopped staying up all night to finish papers. I refused to let myself worry about it. I didn't finish many papers. I'm not graduating today.

This is where I'm supposed to tell you that I've finally learned to work without the amazing hack, accepted mediocrity, and will now do my best to keep up with the crowd.

I tried. I went looking for nice safe classes, nice safe relationships, a nice safe profession, and a nice safe lifestyle. I discovered that boredom causes as much stress as hacking.

I have written about *Homo Hackus Magnus*. There is another side to the story. The Jarvik seven was an amazing hack. Putting a man on the moon was an amazing hack. Every time this paper gets published, it's an amazing hack. HHMs will try the impossible and succeed. They may learn by testing the boundaries of the system, what they will learn is that nothing is impossible. I have lived with and without the amazing hack. MIT was the catalyst that produced the synthesis. I know my limitations, I know what (and what not) to do, and I have weighed the advantages. I want to be an amazing hacker.

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ARTS

The Cars: this year's model shifts into overdrive

Heartbeat City, the Cars on Elektra Records.

Ranging in style from the gritty guitar chording of "Magic" to the synthesized ambience of "Drive," the Cars' latest album is a consistently interesting synthesis of the experimental thrust of the albums *Panorama* and *Beatitude* (singer/rhythm guitarist Ric Ocasek's solo LP), and the polished, hook-laden pop of *Shake It Up*.

On 1983's *Beatitude*, Ocasek — the Cars' principal songwriter — made his most extensive use of synthesizers to that date, in both his new-waveish pop and his more experimental, amelodic pieces. A number of songs on this album are similarly synth-dominated, although more conventionally structured. "Looking For Love" sustains interest by alternating wistful yet sensuous passages *a la* Roxy Music with snappy pop passages in the chorus.

"Drive" is a slow, moody song filigreed with precise, delicate keyboard lines and complemented nicely by bassist Ben Orr's breathy crooning. "Why Can't I Have You?" is another slow-paced, evocative song, with a synthesized string section before the fade and Ocasek's most sensual lyrics:

*Dreamy lips set in motion flashing
Breathless hush pounding soft lasting.*

On the other hand, "It's Not the Night," a collaboration between Ocasek and keyboardist Greg Hawkes, seems an attempt to avoid *Beatitude's* excesses; growling guitars propel the song and keep it miles away from the uninspired knob-twiddling of *Beatitude's* Ocasek/Hawkes effort, "Out of Control." A brief synth solo of obnoxious sound effects, prefaced by a chorus of Chipmunks-like electronically altered voices (in "Hello Again"), is the only visible symptom of technological infatuation.

Ocasek doesn't neglect the energetic gui-



tar-driven pop that launched the Cars with "Just What I Needed" and kept them cruising smoothly with the *Shake It Up*

LP. (In fact, the presence of AC/DC producer Robert John "Mutt" Lange as co-producer can only be explained by a desire

for a harder guitar sound.) The first single release, "You Might Think," is a catchy, upbeat song with tightly-knit interplay between the guitars and keyboard, which trade the lead hook a number of times. This song rouses Ocasek to his finest five seconds of singing — a soulful solo delivery of the lines

*But you kept it going
Till the sun fell down.
You kept it
Going.*

Highlighted throughout by a synthesized recorder, "Stranger Eyes" is a straight-ahead rocker with vocals belted out by Ben Orr, like *Shake It Up's* "Cruiser." "Magic" is built around a gritty, elemental three-chord hook which perfectly complements the simple, Sixties-style lyrics:

*Summer
Turns me upside down.*

*Summer.
It's like a merry-go-round.*

The song is fleshed out with a big, resonant bass line that enters after eight bars, and inventive synthesizer fills that occasionally overlay the stanzas.

A few of the songs on *Heartbeat City* have an even balance of synthesizer and guitar. In "I Refuse," the synthesizer takes the lead, while the guitars keep a steady, mid-tempo beat. "Jacki/Heartbeat City" opens with an unaccompanied and very mechanical sounding synthesizer; then the other instruments kick in, and the synthesizer meshes with the heartbeat-steady rhythm section.

With its successful cross-breeding of divergent styles, *Heartbeat City* offers something for every pop music fan. Avoiding both mechanical synth-pop remoteness and slick, unenthusiastic guitar-grinding, the Cars' latest album delivers a beat with heart.

Mark Pundurs

Presidential politics was never this easy

Everybody for President: the do-it-yourself presidential campaign kit, by Gil Campbell and Martha Gorman; Workman Publishing, \$4.95.

Graduating seniors and everybody else: ever dreamed of being president of the United States? This new publication gives you everything you'll need to run for the job.

Inside the front cover of the book is a clear plastic envelope, containing a White House Executive Parking Lot decal, a Certificate of Candidacy for the Office of President of the United States, a Statement of Candidacy and a Statement of Organization (both official forms to be filed with the Federal Election Commission), and a presidential bumper sticker: "I'm running! Why don't you?"

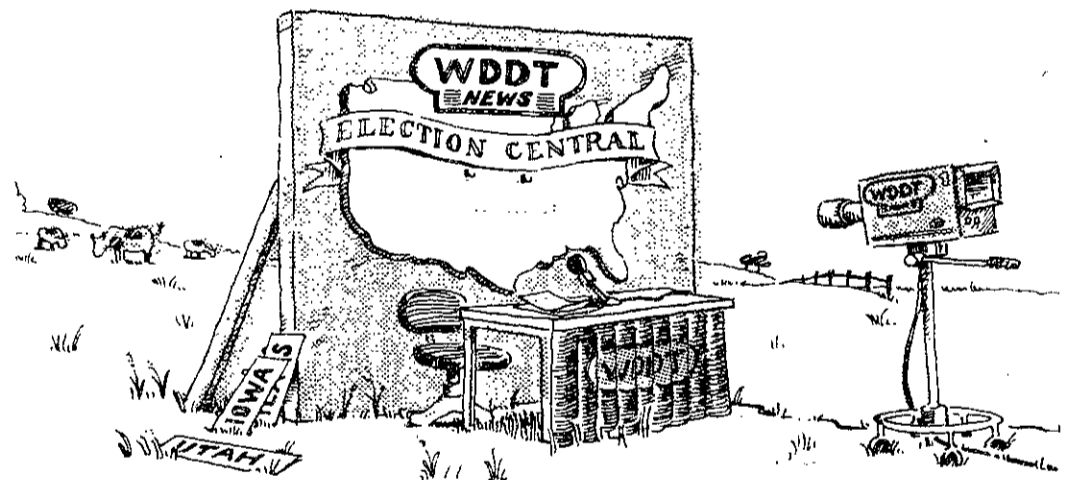
The text of the book is divided into three sections: how to start, how to raise money, and how to handle the last few weeks before and after the election. Among the topics covered are the media, Watergate and "Dutch" Reagan.

There's a lot of hard-core information here for the would-be candidate, including

how to organize the campaign committee, when to file the necessary forms, and how to deal with voters. The narrative is interspersed with jokes about the 1984 Democratic race and Reagan's presidency. The authors try to treat everyone fairly, equally cutting down Jackson, Mondale, Reagan — everyone, in fact, except Hart. Perhaps this is a sign of the times.

Dress is important, according to Campbell and Gorman. A presidential candidate should dress to look "something like Kennedy — any Kennedy, but a Kennedy." Actions, mannerisms, appearance are all more important than experience. Presidents who run on their ignorance traditionally enjoy greater popularity among the voters, according to Campbell and Gorman. Running as a college professor is inadvisable because erudition intimidates the populace.

The book takes a humorous look at the media coverage of the presidential campaign, saying that the media, not the candidates, decide who the next president will be. Hand in hand with the critique of the media is a running feminist message to the



effect that a woman has never been elected president, and probably won't be for quite a while, but that's no reason not to run.

The book does present a few historical facts about the highest office in the United States. Some of them are quite interesting; for instance, Eugene V. Debs ran for president in 1920 from his prison cell and got a million votes.

The only problem is that the book is awfully expensive for what it is: 64 pages of text and cartoons. The text is marginally funny but the cartoons aren't very funny at all. The 64 pages can be easily read in one sitting or in a bookstore. And, as with so many recent humor books, there's no reason to reread it.

Simson L. Garfinkel

A different kind of Shakespeare

King Lear, by William Shakespeare, illustrated by Ian Pollock, Workman Publishing, \$8.95.

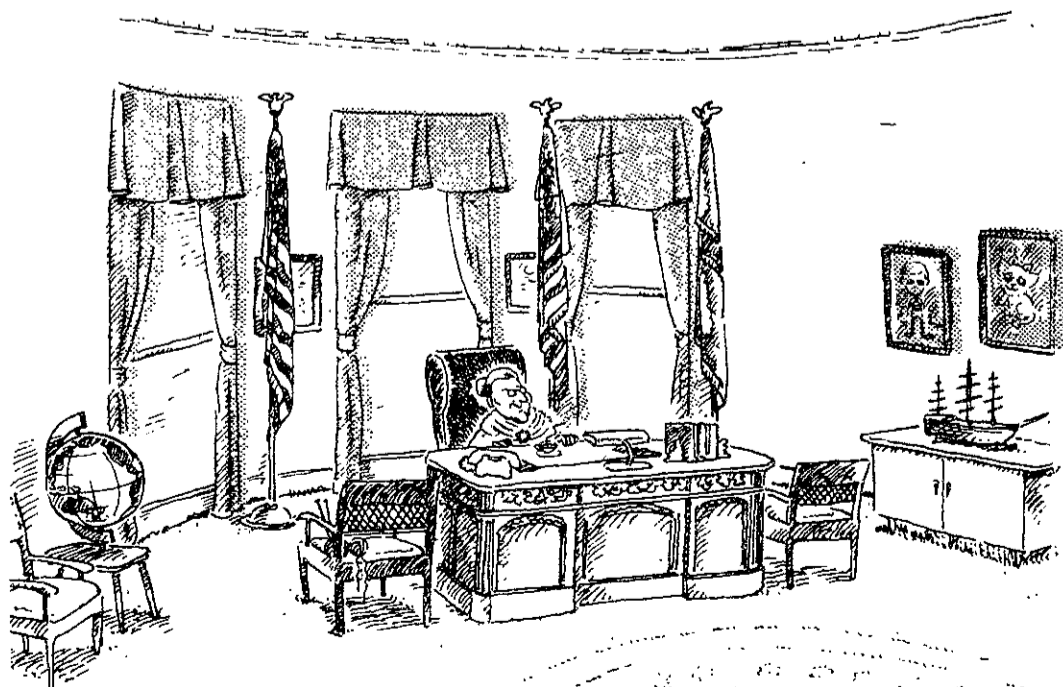
Perhaps the most grandiose of Shakespeare's tragedies, *King Lear* has recently attracted multi-media attention. Sir Laurence Olivier starred in a television version, Albert Finney portrayed a very aged Shakespearean actor who plays King Lear on stage during World War II in the film *The Dresser*, and "Noted Neo-primitive Artist" Ian Pollock has provided truly surrealistic illustrations for a new paperback edition of the play.

Every few lines of dialogue are accompanied by caricatures of the speakers: Lear is mainly a clump of hair, Cordelia is a Barbie-doll, Kent's head is bizarrely sausage-shaped, Gloucester has no neck or shoulders, and the Fool is a grotesque clown with a huge fake nose.

Yet, for all that, it is far from clear that Shakespeare would have disapproved. The play is his most surrealistic — it borders on theater of the absurd. In this sense, the illustrations of this edition certainly capture the spirit of the play. In this edition, the play has not been modernized; none of the dialogue has been edited or changed. Anyone who likes faithful but novel renditions of the Bard's works will be delighted with this edition (or as delighted as one can be with a play as depressing as *King Lear*). Purists will no doubt be offended, but then that is what they are there for.

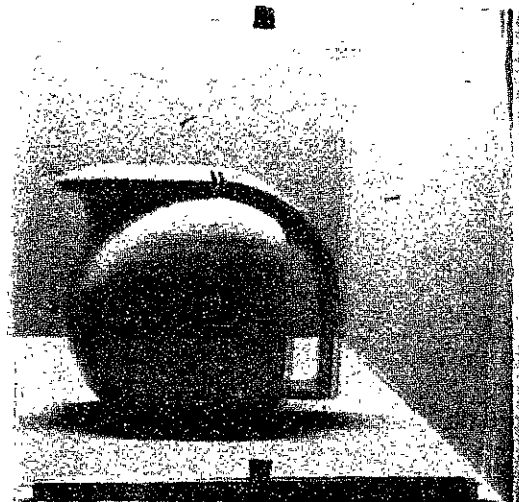
While this text is certainly designed to bring new readers, especially young ones, to the play, anyone who likes Shakespeare should take a look at the illustrations. You will certainly be surprised, and you might just be delighted.

Joseph J. Romm



The future is now

Aesthetics of Progress: Forms of the Future in American Design 1930s/1980s; exhibition presented by the MIT Committee on the Visual Arts, in the Hayden Gallery through June 24.

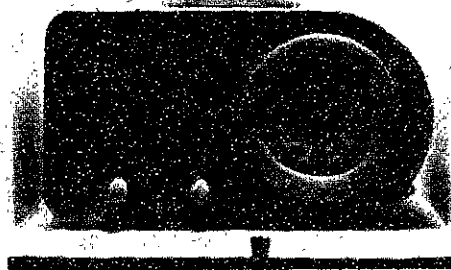
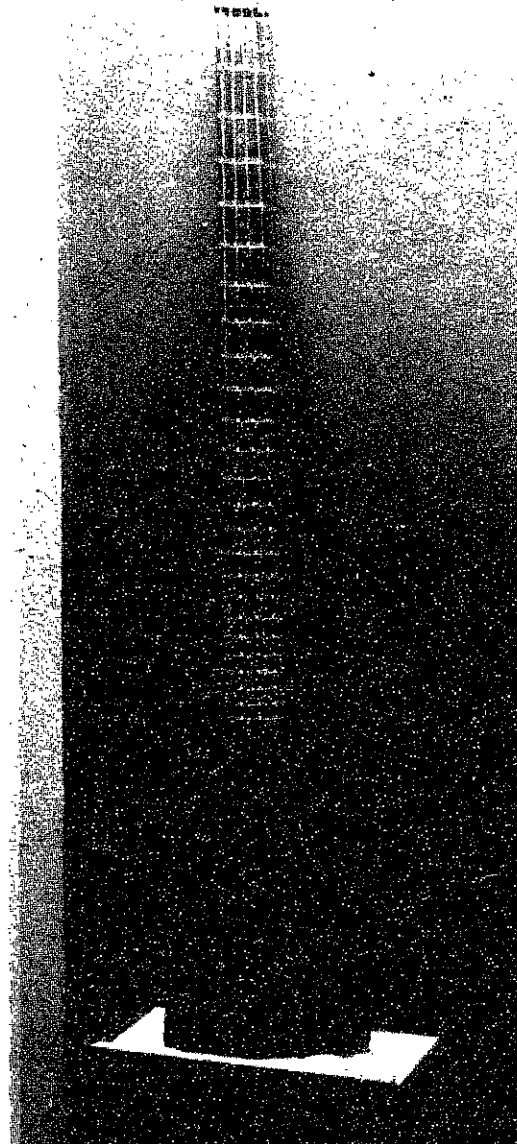


Irons, desk lamps, and hair dryers are so familiar that most people don't associate their design with technology's impact on society. But an examination of mundane objects can serve very well to illustrate how technologies affect form and function. The current Hayden Gallery exhibition takes two decades — the 1930s and the 1980s — and through consumer items attempts to demonstrate each period's attitudes toward progress.

In the 1930s, explains curator Katy Kline, engineering was concerned with speed and motion. Reverence for the machine and movement was reflected in the smooth, dynamic curves of objects as diverse as Raymond Loewy's projectile-like pencil sharpener and the Chrysler Airflow automobile. Many of the 20th century's most famous designers, including Russel Wright, Kim Weber, and Henry Dreyfuss, were active during this period. Their work is represented here, along with Lester Wheeler and William Grep's sleekly sculpted phenolic "Hotchkiss Aristocratic Stapler" and other shiny, streamlined objects.

Five decades later, "ecological finitude and possible nuclear obliteration have sabotaged an optimistic faith in the existence

of future," and, so the story goes, design has turned inward, reflecting the inscrutability of these small black boxes in equally unexpressive larger black boxes. A plethora of contemporary unexpressive black boxes is presented here in an attempt to prove the existence of this pessimistic notion of progress — a Qwip facsimile machine, a J. C. Penney linear-tracking turn-



table, Grid Systems' "Compass" computer, and the Privecode "telephone access controller" are all packaged in large, flat, almost indistinguishable matte black boxes. Of these products the latter (a device for screening incoming telephone calls) is the most expressive, its thin rectangular surface interrupted by a vertical wall suggesting an upraised hand or other barrier.

On the other hand, while looking for more of these taciturn dusky slabs, Kline uncovered many colorful, friendly objects whose form clearly says something about their workings and purpose. Another trend in contemporary design, she thought — deliberate reaction against black-box-ness! Many of us, however, realize that similar brightly-colored plastic products have been around at least since the late 1960s, long before there were any black boxes against which to react.

Some of the examples chosen to represent this category of contemporary design are neither especially attractive nor functional; an afternoon upstairs at Jordan Marsh could have turned up items both better-designed and more representative of current trends than the Eureka Mighty-Mite vacuum cleaner, which is essentially an old Electrolux recast in yellow plastic, or the heavy-handed anthropomorphic joke of Morison S. Cousins and Associates' unbelievable Maxima 4 convection oven. A happy exception to this mediocrity is US Tron's Proline telephone, a smooth red wedge which pays homage to Western Electric's classic 500 desk phone but at the same time manages to be original and assertive. An excellent piece of de-

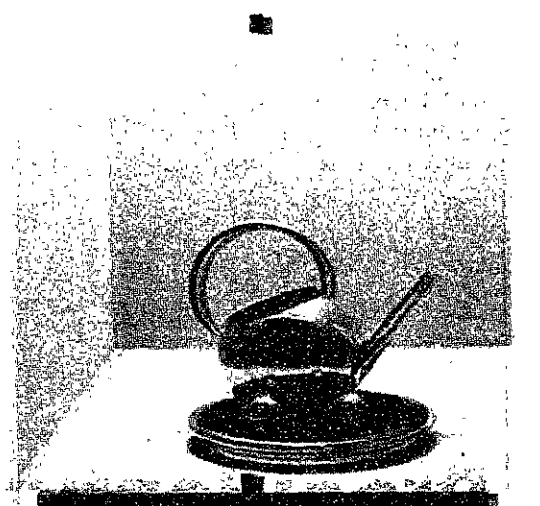
sign closer to the black-box category is Ned Steinberger's electric bass guitar, which frankly acknowledges its technological difference from its acoustic counterpart and proceeds along functional lines.

As a matter of fact, the same "ecological finitude" that breeds these nasty ebony monoliths is also bringing about a return to streamlining. The new Mercury Cougar automobile is more than just reminiscent of the '30s — it seems a natural outgrowth of an infatuation with speed, even if its design ostensibly springs out of a desire for fuel efficiency. The impact that the rebirth of automotive streamlining will have on the form of more static objects remains to be seen, but rectilinear form is certainly not inevitable.

New York architects Tod Williams and Associates have designed a cruciform partition for the gallery which both enhances the objects placed within its framework and makes the gallery space appear larger. The walls are pierced with narrow, glowing rectangular slits which afford a tantalizing, elusive view of objects displayed in other parts of the exhibit (does anyone hear echoes of "Visions of Paradise," the Hayden's previous installation?).

Whether or not you agree with the basic premise of the exhibition, go and see the good architectural installation and the beautiful 1930s objects. If the show's message about 1980s design depresses you, take a look at the real world — it's only a short walk to Lechmere Sales or Crate & Barrel, where the black monoliths are grossly outnumbered by attractive, expressive products.

V. Michael Bove



The Tech

SUMMER 1984

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Tuesday, June 19

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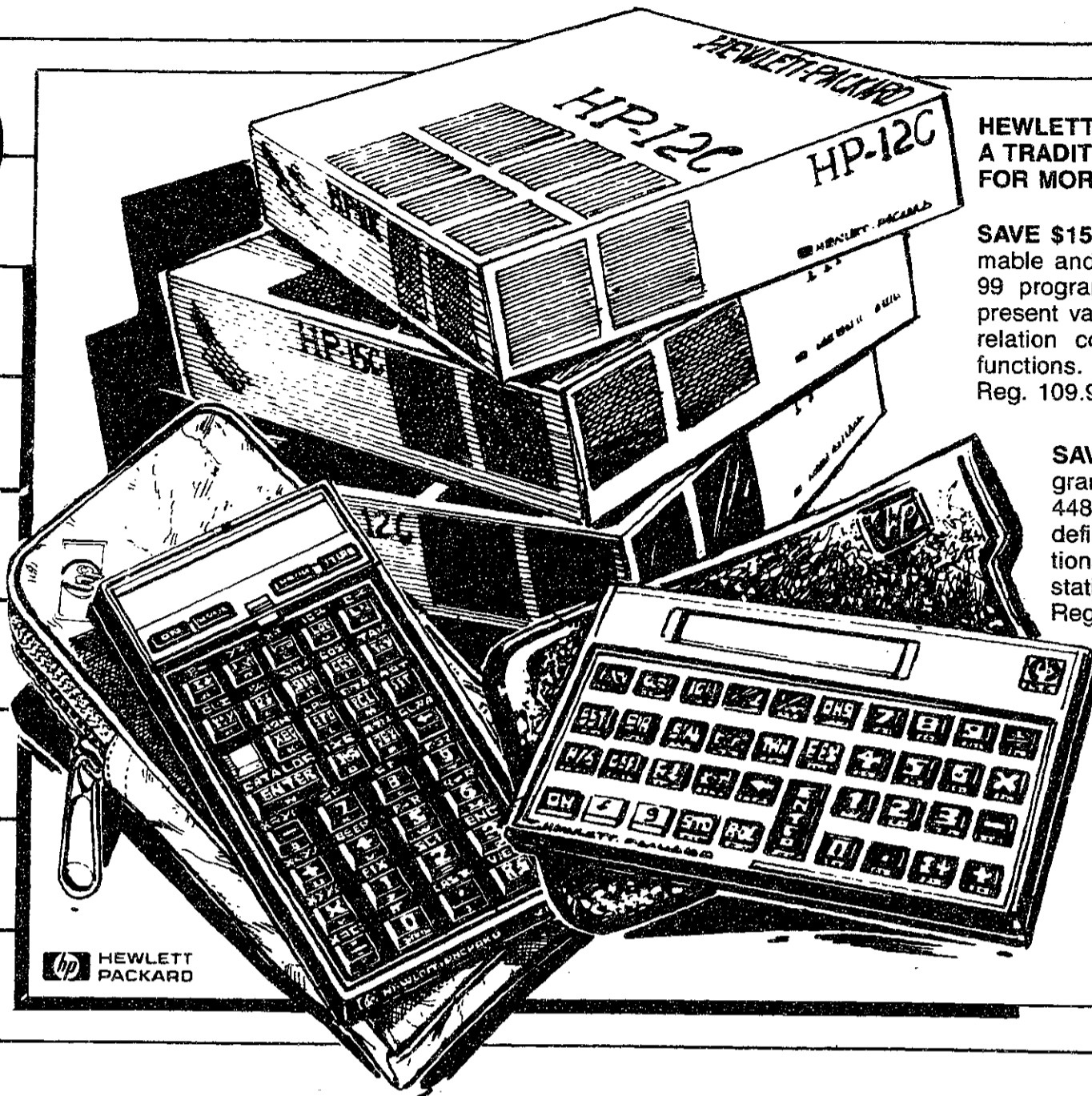
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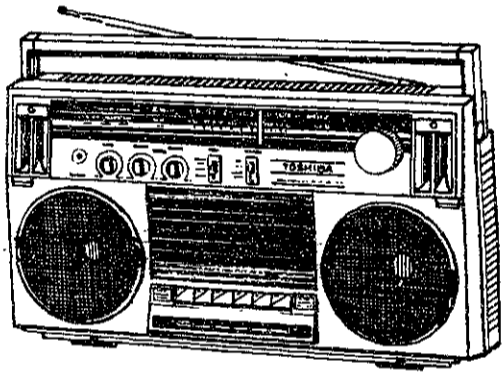


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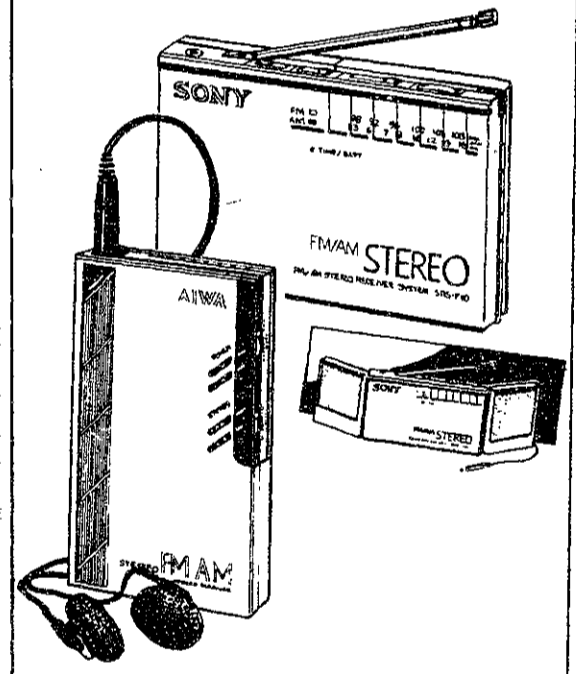


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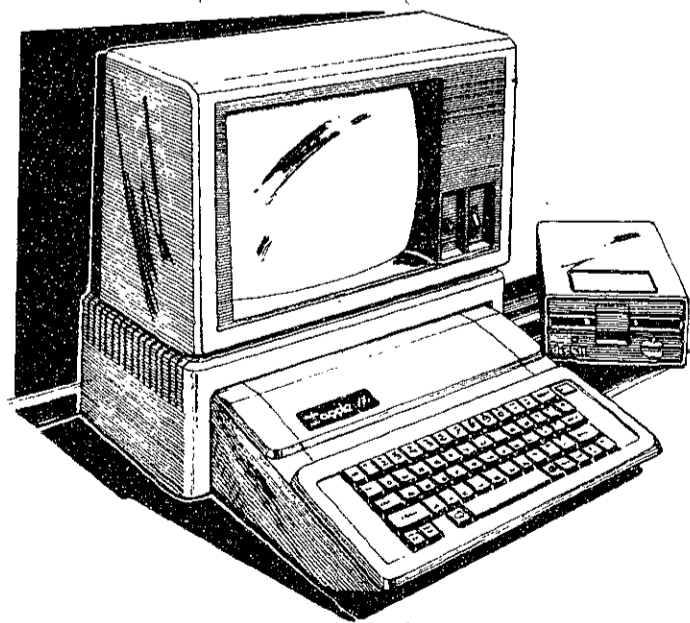


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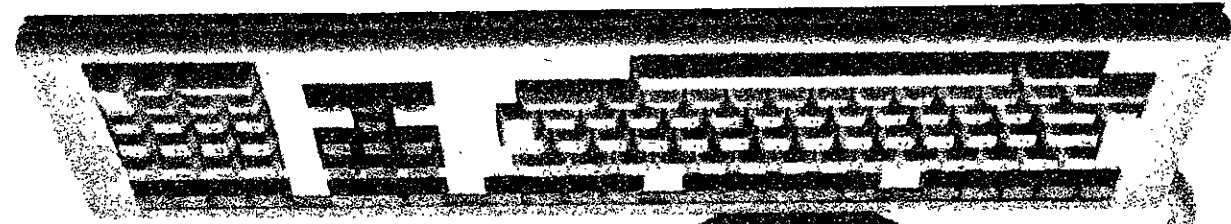
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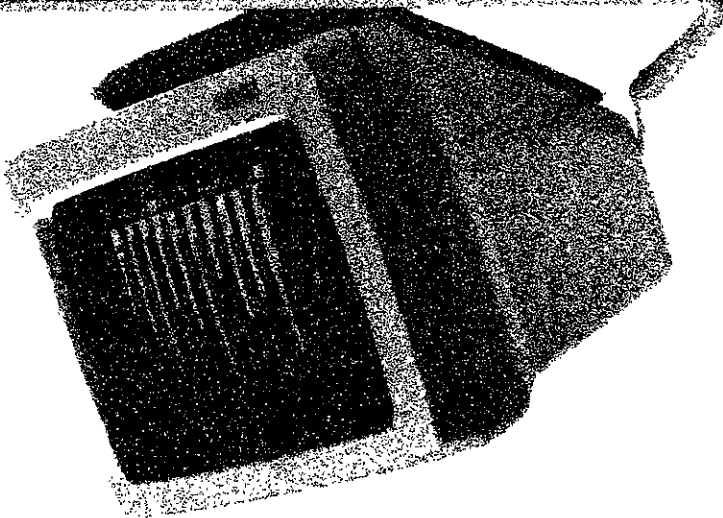
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opinion

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Registration not unfair

To the Editor:

I have read several letters and articles in *The Tech* in the past few weeks against the Solomon Amendment. I would like to express an alternate viewpoint, one I have not seen much of in print. I am disappointed to see people trying to replace financial aid lost by non-registrants with aid from other MIT sources, or the latest idea, starting up a collection/scholarship fund for them as if their action required some sort of reward.

First of all I do not see registration for the draft as an infringement on individual liberties nor as a particularly bellicose policy. Should the need arise to mobilize large numbers of men, prior registration will only expedite the whole affair. I do not believe this added efficiency will encourage the US to expand its military adventures in the world; we already have a standing army capable of that. Should escalation of a small-scale offensive war become necessary, there will still be enough time for Congress, especially with the War Powers Act on its side, to decide if it is worth fighting and only then to invoke the draft.

Having registration in place does not mean a person is only a phone call away from serving. In the event of a defensive war in which, perish the thought, our standing military might be overwhelmed, it is in our best interests to mobilize as quickly as possible; prior registration could very well aid this effort. At any rate registration is the law now. I see nothing wrong with trying to enforce it by constitutional means.

It has been stated that enforcement based on withholding financial aid is unfair because not all young men need to go to college or need financial aid even if they do; my response is to use more than one method: the Solomon Amendment will work fine for the majority of college students. Other methods are needed to find non-registrants not in college or not on financial aid. Just because the law won't apply to all cases doesn't make it any less valid; better to catch some or most non-registrants than none at all.

We all have a responsibility to defend our liberties; should a draft be invoked one still retains the option of declaring oneself a conscientious objector; for such people who believe military service is against their morals, an al

Registrants morally bankrupt

To the editor:

In the lead article ["Gray: MIT will not replace federal aid to non-registrants,"] of *The Tech's* May 8 issue, President Paul E. Gray '54 suggests that "there may be the perception that other students who complied with the [registration] regulation might be short-changed."

I would like to suggest that this perception is more than balanced by the perception of others, perhaps less cowed by governmental threats than President Gray, that such students have in effect already made a substantial declaration of moral bankruptcy.

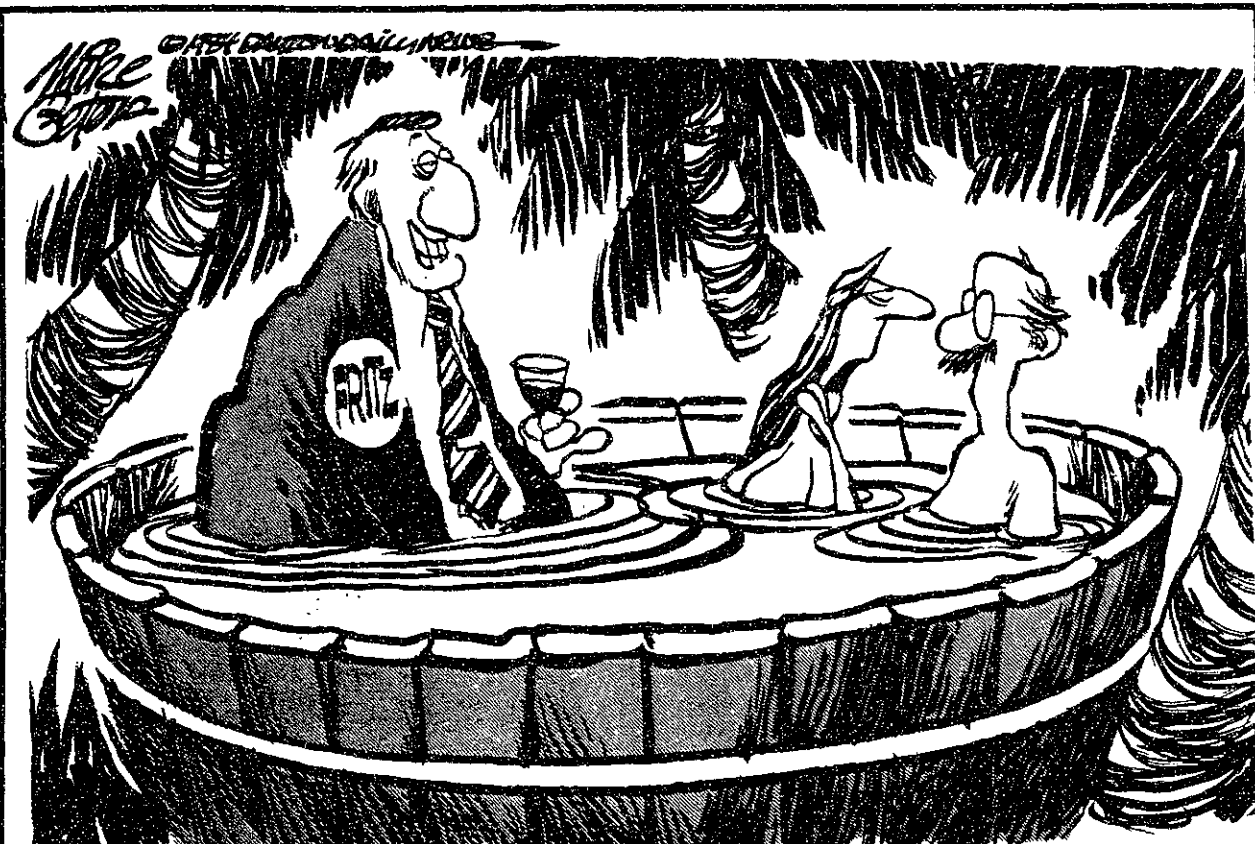
Richard Mlynarik '85

ternate duty in the private sector should be assigned, such as hospitals, etc. I can understand why the MIT administration would chafe when it considers itself the enforcer of what it considers a bad policy, but the schools are in the best position to forward registration status to the government. The extra paperwork can't be too much of a burden, considering how much I already fill out.

A point has been raised claiming it is discriminatory not to register women as well as men. To that I say fine, register them if it would make them feel better, but when it comes down to actually drafting people, let the military decide how many of each sex it needs. The decision regarding the male/female composition of the army is best left to those who will command it.

I see nothing wrong with the government requiring compliance with the law before it grants money to individuals. I also don't think students should be encouraged not to register. I don't want my money going to people who break the law; if they don't register, let them take responsibility for their actions and borrow from a bank.

Edward S. Podszus '85



I'LL BE GLAD WHEN THIS CALIFORNIA PRIMARY IS OVER.


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Letters to the Editor are written by members of the MIT community and represent the opinion of the writer.

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A great way of life

sports

Rowers seek US team spots

By Diana ben-Aaron

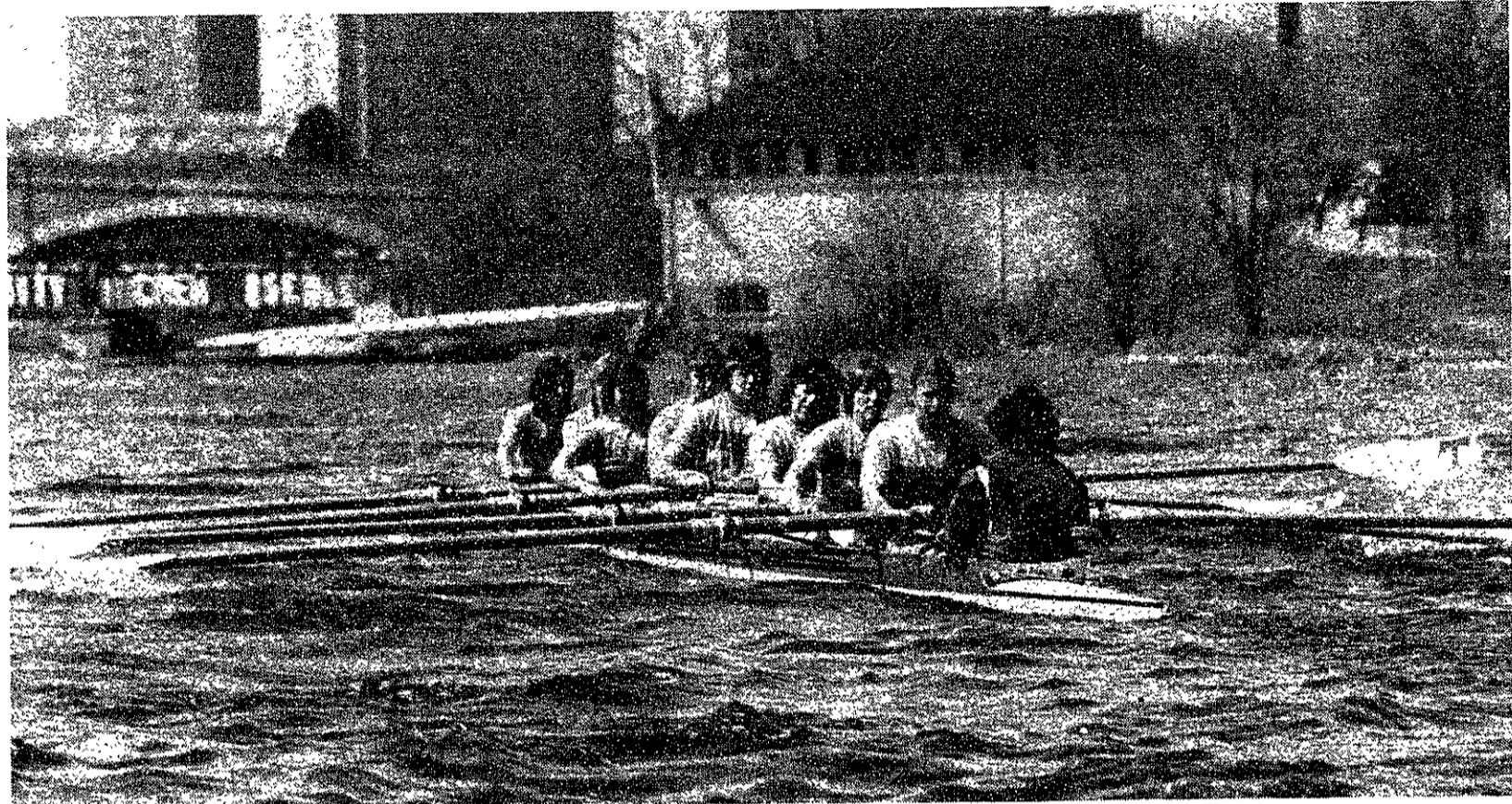
Three MIT oarswomen have been invited to try out for the US National Lightweight Team, and one may be an alternate for the US Olympic team.

Laura MacGinitie G, Linda Muri '85, Jeanne Simon '86, and Linda Mar '85 (coxswain) will be competing for national team places at US lightweight camp in New Hampshire this summer. The national team will compete in the world championships at Montreal in August.

Elizabeth Bradley G was invited to the Olympic tryouts after an MIT crew she stroked won the Smith Cup from defending champion Boston University. Bradley has been in Olympic training camp at Princeton since May 14, and "she hasn't been cut yet," according to MIT women's varsity crew coach Mayrene Earle.

An eight, a four, and a pair have already been chosen from the thirty hopefuls, most of whom have been training together for four years, Earle said. Bradley is one of four remaining rowers from whom a pair of spares will be chosen, she said.

"Two of the others have chosen to row together, and the third has decided to row with someone outside the group. Now Liz has to find a rowing partner in order to stay in the running for the backup pair," Earle noted. The Olympic rowing trials will be held in Princeton in August.



MIT women's crew skims up the Charles on a daily practice.

Tech photo by P. Paul Hsu

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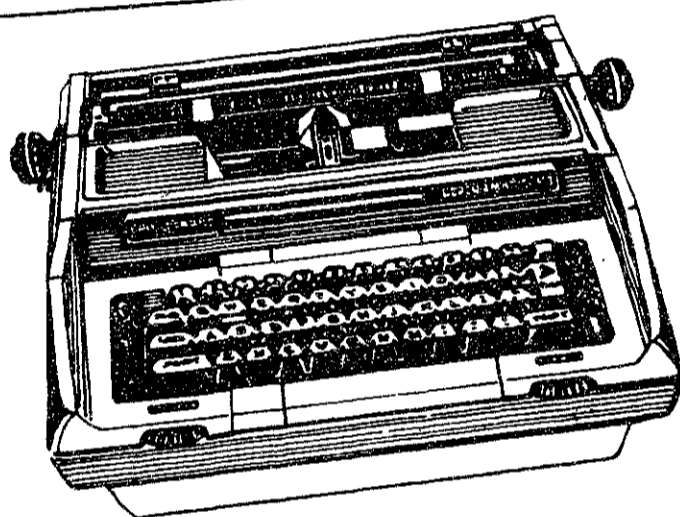
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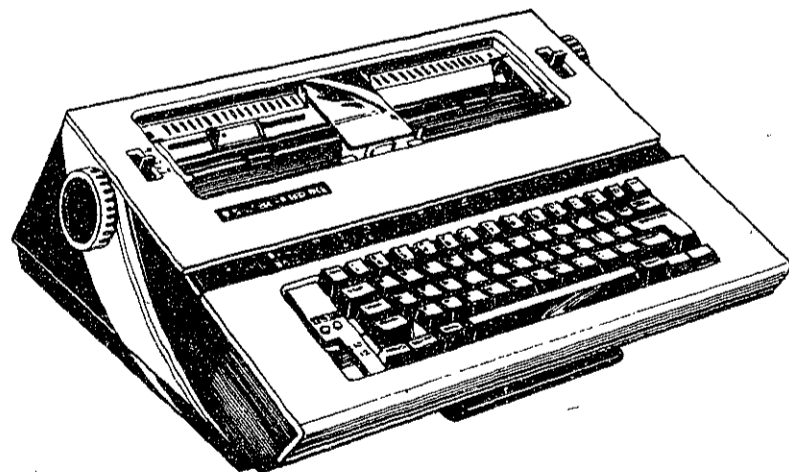
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