

## OME's future role discussed

By John B. Searles

Associate Provost Frank E. Perkins met Friday afternoon with a group of students, administrators, and faculty concerning the dismissal of Dr. William D. McLaurin.

McLaurin, who was dismissed by Perkins in August, had been the director of the Office of Minority Education (OME).

Members of the Black Student Union, the Black Graduate Students' Association, and La Union Chicana Por Aztlan were present at the meeting.

The focus of the meeting, Perkins said, was two-fold: to answer any questions concerning the present and future affairs of OME and to "elicit from the group information" in order to solve any problems involving OME and the minority community.

Perkins refused to give any specific reasons for the dismissal. It "was an accumulation of many things over a period of time," he said.

"We don't want to get into a personal evaluation," Perkins said when students asked him to state some good points about Dr. McLaurin. "The purpose of the meeting is not to give Dr. McLaurin positive or negative points."

Perkins said a search committee for a new director will be appointed by October, as he had announced last week. The selection process "is not a simple task," he noted. "It could take months" to find a replacement.

MIT has not yet advertised for the position of director of OME. "Some students will be involved in the selection process," Perkins said.

Perkins will choose faculty members who are concerned with OME to serve on the search committee, he said. The committee will be represent a "spectrum of ideas" about OME's purpose, he continued.

Some MIT administrators believe OME should not exist, Perkins commented, in response to student questions about whether there is a plan to abolish OME completely. Perkins strongly supports the office, he said.

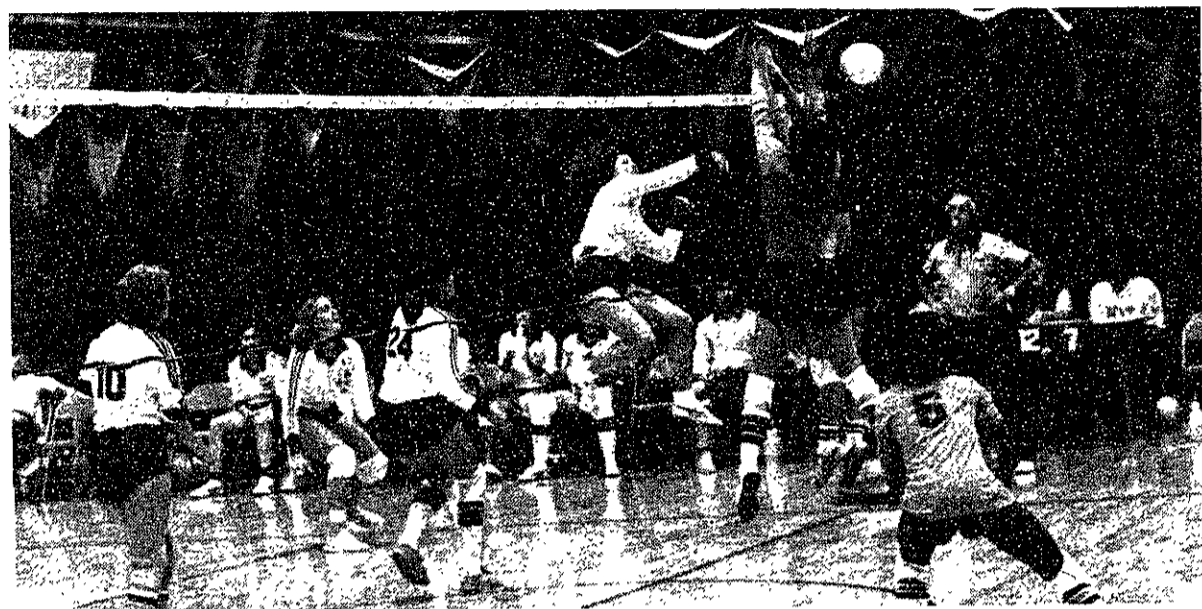
Perkins encouraged the continuation of all existing OME programs. He promised that the office's role in "planning and implementation will continue."

Perkins said he has two goals involving OME. He plans to strengthen the relationship between the Core Group, consisting of faculty members who teach core freshman courses, and the Freshman Watch Program, which monitors the progress of minority freshmen.

Perkins also wants to see the development of stronger relations between OME and the Admissions Office.

Most students at the meeting said they appreciated Perkins' efforts. Many were dissatisfied, however, because he did not discuss specific issues regarding McLaurin.

"This won't be the last meeting of this kind," Perkins said.



Tech photo by Jim Butler

Anella Munro '85 unleashes a spike against Salem State College during MIT's 3-0 victory last Wednesday. The women's volleyball team will play at Boston College tomorrow night at seven.

## Fresina: MIT's labs are safe

By David P. Hamilton

MIT's application for an exemption to the Massachusetts right-to-know law depends on the condition of Institute safety programs for success, said Safety Office Director John M. Fresina.

The right-to-know law requires employers to inform their employees about hazardous substances in the work area. Employers whose safety regulations are stringent enough can qualify for an exemption to the law.

MIT's safety policies have always met the requirements necessary for exemption, Fresina said.

Each department at the Institute maintains its own safety committee, said Professor Frederick D. Greene II, chairman of the

Committee on Toxic Chemicals. The safety committees are responsible for defining their own policies and providing the necessary safety education for those in the department, he said.

"These safety programs focus on the twin principles of working in good facilities and maintaining good work practices," Greene said. These goals are accomplished, in part, by requiring the principal investigators or supervisors to inform their co-workers of possible hazards in their research.

This approach is very flexible in dealing with unexpected problems and is therefore more useful than any set of rigid guidelines, Greene explained. Many of the departmental committees also distribute handouts on laboratory safety to their researchers and students to supplement this policy.

Students enrolled in undergraduate chemistry laboratory courses are informed about safety procedures through a one-hour lecture, said Dagmar Ringe, director of the Undergraduate Chemistry Laboratory. Professors advise students to read safety procedures from their texts and

distribute laboratory handouts which give specific safety reminders about particular experiments, she said.

Another basic of laboratory safety is a zero-contact policy which restricts, as much as possible, direct contact with toxic materials by the proper use of safety clothing and ventilating hoods, Greene said. Also, the general practice of conducting experiments on a small scale helps to minimize possible accidents.

The major hazards involved in laboratory work are fire and explosion, Greene said. These dangers, plus the additional problem of toxic exposure, can be reduced by careful work practices.

MIT's statistics on laboratory accidents reveal the effectiveness of these safety procedures, Fresina said. "In the twenty years that I've been here, there haven't been more than twelve serious accidents involving students, with only one fatality." Fresina defined a serious accident as one that requires hospitalization or medical treatment beyond first aid.

Fresina added that in the same twenty years only one fatality involving technicians has occurred. He was uncertain about the number of non-fatal accidents.

## Fourteen freshmen pick ISP

By Earl C. Yen

Only fourteen freshmen have joined the new Integrated Studies Program (ISP), although room exists for "up to 50" students, according to Professor Leon H. Trilling, director of ISP.

Anne E. Armitage, ISP administrator, said ISP lost about 10 potential members for two reasons: because of ISP requirements, some students would not have been able to take a foreign language the first term, and ISP is not the optimal program for students who have received advanced placement credit for freshman courses.

A freshman in the program takes a 42-unit block of courses in ISP which includes 8.01 or 8.012, 18.01 or 18.02, ISP's own Humanities Distribution course "Science and Technology From the Renaissance Through the Enlightenment," and one of four seminars on topics ranging from Newton to the Biology of Human Behavior.

Trilling said few freshmen joined ISP this year because it is a new program. "One drawback is we have no alumni," he added, explaining that upperclass students in Concourse and the Experimental Study Group (ESG) play a significant role in the recruitment process for those programs during Residence/Orientation week.

"Fifty is a very optimistic figure for a first-year program," Armitage said. "It's small this year, but any program in a start-up year is not going to be fully subscribed."

ESG had 36 students when it began in 1969, according to As-



Tech photo by P. Paul Hsu

Professor Leon H. Trilling, Director of ISP.

sociate Director Holly B. Sweet. Concourse had 14 students its first year, and enrollment increased to 46 the next year, according to Cheryl A. Butters, program administrator.

Information on ISP, Trilling said, will appear in the MIT Bulletin in future years, as well as in brochures sent to prospective freshman applicants. As a result, freshmen will be made aware of ISP at an earlier stage.

The program will continue to be offered "at least through this spring," Armitage said. ISP has a slot during the second term, the administrator explained, for an elective, which means a student can take a foreign language while participating in ISP.

Armitage expects the program

to attract some of those students in the spring who did not enroll during the first term because of their inability to take a language.

"We have a charter [with MIT] for a three-year experiment," Trilling said. "We are looking forward to doing this for a three-year period and then we'll see where we are."

According to the draft proposal originally approved by the Committee on Educational Policy last March, the program will try to "provide for a group of freshmen an educational experience [emphasizing] the connections of the scientific disciplines with their cultural contexts and their applications to meet human needs."

Trilling said the goals of ISP (Please turn to page 2)

## CPs lose two men

By Ellen L. Spero

Two Campus Police officers died last weekend in separate incidents unrelated to their official duties.

Officer Robert B. Winn, 53, was pronounced dead at 4:37 pm Sunday at Massachusetts General Hospital from a cardiac arrest, according to Campus Police Chief James Olivieri.

Officer Charles A. Gunn, 52, was pronounced dead in Atlanta, Ga., on Saturday afternoon from a massive heart attack, Olivieri said.

Winn was jogging on the outdoor track at Steinbrenner Stadium Sunday when he suffered a heart attack around 3:50 pm.

Martin Hunter '87 saw Gunn collapse and gave him cardio-pulmonary resuscitation until the Campus Police arrived and took over, Olivieri continued.

Winn's death came as a shock because he was in good physical condition, Olivieri said. Winn exercised for about an hour each day after work.

The officer was "very personable, very quiet, and effective in his performance," Olivieri said.

Winn joined the MIT Campus Police in January 1979, after working as a staff sergeant-station commander at Logan International Airport. He previously had worked 22 years for the Massachusetts State Police.

Winn is survived by his wife Judith, his son Scott, his mother Alice, his brother John and his sisters, Mary Claffey, Joan Newark, Paula Lloyd, and Elizabeth Kelley.

Gunn was ill

Gunn, who primarily worked the Campus Police night shift, died while he was on vacation at a family reunion in Atlanta. "He had been ill over the last couple of years," Olivieri said, so his death was "not so much a shock."

Gunn was "very dependable and always very visible on patrol," Olivieri said. He joined the Campus Police in October 1969, after working a year with Physical Plant.

Gunn is survived by his wife Effie and his son Charles.

Funeral arrangements for the officers have not yet been made.

## Right-to-know law exemption will depend on lab safety procedures

By Thomas T. Huang

The Student Center Committee elected William M. Hobbib '86 treasurer and Suzanne C. Dunbar '86 secretary at its meeting Sunday night. These were the first elections under the committee's new constitution, written last spring.

Two freshmen, Michelle Holguin '88 and Blair Cohen '88, were elected to the newly-created positions of purchasing director and publicity director, respectively.

All positions will last until the end of the term.

SCC wrote a constitution to replace its old by-laws last term, according to Chairman James S. Person III '86. "We did a major overhaul and created new divisions to provide a better delineation of work." A small group of people was being given too much to do, he said.

Hobbib said the comptroller's division, headed by the treasurer, plans the committee budget term-by-term. The administrative division, headed by the secretary,

keeps the committee records and files. The remaining divisions work on purchasing, publicity, programming, and building facilities.

"The first objective is to get the committee operating" under the constitution, Person said. "We also have to work with budgeting — SCC never did a good job of budgeting."

The committee's old by-laws did not require the committee to draw up a budget, he said. As a result, Person explained, SCC "spent money as it came in" last year, rather than "using more control and looking to the future."

The Office of the Dean for Stu-

dent Affairs alerted the Student Center Committee and the Undergraduate Association this term that "there is a need to make the [Julius Adams Stratton '23 Student Center] self-sufficient," Hobbib said. "The Dean's Office doesn't want the Student Center to lose money."

The Student Center bowling alley lost \$30,000 last year, Hobbib said, so SCC is trying to improve the bowling alley's programming.

This year, the committee will continue to develop programming such as band parties and comedy nights, according to Person. It will also make major renovations to the 24-hour coffee-house.

## ISP stresses impact of science on society

(Continued from page 1)

are to "stress the connections between science, technology, and the social matrix in which they have arisen" and to provide students with "a sense of working in a small group."

ISP was formed, Trilling said,

because the other two freshmen program were generally oversubscribed in the past two years.

For most courses, ISP offers its own lecture and recitation sections in addition to tutorials and small study groups.

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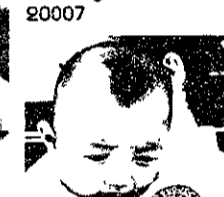
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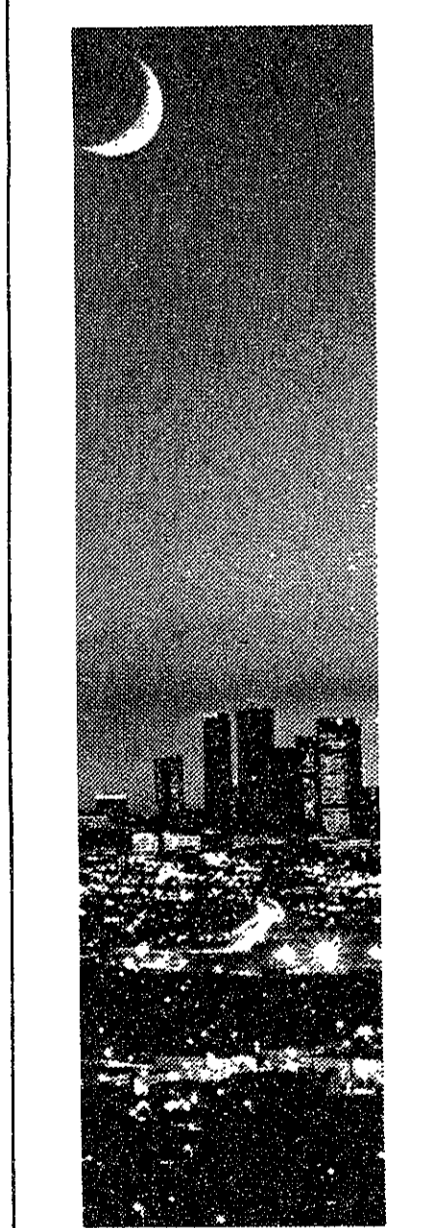
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# news roundup

## World

**US probes embassy explosion** — Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy is heading an investigation of Thursday's attack on the US embassy in Beirut. The attack killed at least 24 people and injured another 71. Three American warships are stationed just off the Lebanese coast.

**Marcos's troops break up rally** — Filipino soldiers attacked marchers Saturday, after a 14-hour stand-off near President Marcos's palace. The soldiers shot tear gas into the crowd, which retaliated by throwing rocks and sticks before dispersing. The demonstration marked the 12th anniversary of martial law.

## Nation

**Teachers, parents at odds over education** — The latest Gallup Poll shows that teachers overwhelmingly blame parents' lack of interest as the greatest block to a better school system. Recent polls have reported that parents' major concern is a perceived lack of discipline in the classroom.

**Reagan solidifies lead in polls** — Walter Mondale has fallen behind President Reagan in almost every state, according to the latest election polls. The polls show the Democrats winning only in Hawaii. Mondale aides, however, have expressed confidence that their campaign will start to pick up before the planned debates in October. The elections are 42 days away.

## Local

**Boston blacks still troubled** — Reports of racial incidents in the first half of the year have increased for the first time in six years. While improvements have been made in some areas, the Fair Housing Commission reports that blacks are still discriminated against four out of five times in some neighborhoods.

## Sports

**Navratilova sets record** — Martina Navratilova extended her winning streak to 60 matches, by crushing Michelle Torres, 6-1, 6-0, in a tournament at Fort Lauderdale, Fla. In winning the 60 matches, she broke Chris Evert Lloyd's 55-match record. Navratilova has won \$2,058,856 so far this year.

## Weather

**Typical weather service excellence** — Today should have either clouds or sunshine, or both, and showers are possible. The high should be from 76-80, and tonight's lows will be in the 64-68 range. Wednesday's forecast is for warm and humid weather, with a high of about 82. There is almost no chance of snow.

Michael J. Garrison

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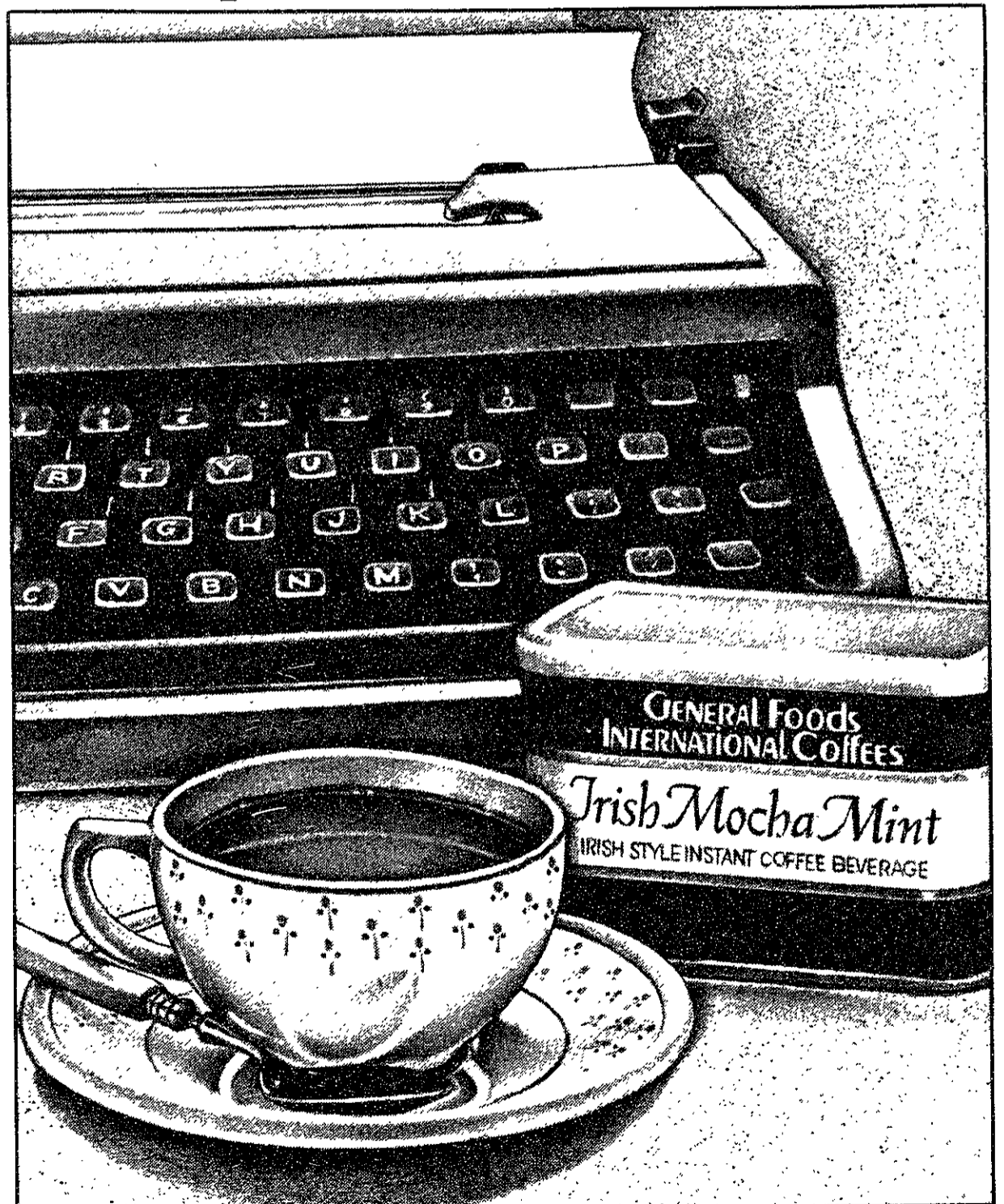
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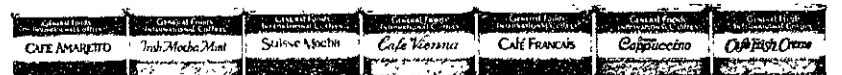
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# opinion

Column/Kimberly B. Sklar

## Beautiful art does not exist at MIT

Late one Saturday night (okay, early Sunday morning), I spent about two hours with some of my neighbors whipping a football around in the Third East Lounge of Next House. Our ability to throw and catch proved to be inversely proportional to the amount of sleep we needed. So it was inevitable that one of my throws would sail over the head of the intended receiver. And when it did, it very nearly struck a painting hung on the wall.

I had never noticed the painting before. It had just been there. But at 5 am, as my throw nearly hit it, it was hard not to notice. "God! That is just beautiful! What is it?"

"MIT Beautiful Art," I was told.

I had no prior knowledge of beautiful art at MIT. I had thought I was going to have to exist for the next four years without beautiful art. Excited about this new discovery, I told some friends about it immediately.

"Did you know that MIT has beautiful art?" I asked.

The first few people I talked to were both shocked and delighted. But then I made the mistake of telling someone who had previous knowledge of MIT art.

"I'm sorry," he said. "You are mistaken."

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"MIT has no beautiful art. All MIT has is ugly art. It's all called MIT Ugly Art. There are no exceptions. I guarantee you that you did not see a piece of beautiful art. It doesn't exist here. You were either drunk, hallucinating, or very, very tired. What you saw was ugly art. I swear."

I found this news very disappointing. I started to protest. "But what about the book I heard about — *A Walking Tour of Art at MIT*? It's all about MIT Beautiful Art. My roommate and I have been combing the stores looking for it."

He laughed and corrected me again. "Don't you see? It's all very simple. You have to go to

Harvard for beautiful art. All MIT has is ugly art. In fact, if you want, you can get your very own piece of MIT Ugly Art. Every year they have a lottery and if your lucky number is chosen, you get to put a piece of MIT Ugly Art into your very own room for the entire year."

My roommate and I talked about entering the lottery, but decided instead to go to the Harvard Coop and buy the tackiest poster we could find. For some unexplainable reason, I had really been turned on to ugly art. We came home with "Wired For Sound" and it's pretty awful. But now we regret we didn't enter the lottery because our tacky poster will just never be able to equal MIT Ugly Art.

Perhaps you've never noticed it before. But that's highly unlikely. Cold black metallic sculptures — no, things — tower in several locations around the campus. Most of them are simply ugly. The few that are practical can be forgiven for their appearance. The Great Sail prevents revolving doors from constantly revolving and the ugly thing outside the alumni pool serves as a fairly comfortable seat.

I guess I'm just lacking that artistic eye that allows more cultured people to appreciate MIT Ugly Art. To me, it's good for climbing, throwing footballs at and writing about. I hope it means much more to some other people, or else MIT has burned thousands of dollars that could have been used to alleviate dorm crowding, provide more financial aid or improve the food service.

I walked by the lounge and saw the guy who had told me the painting was "MIT Beautiful Art."

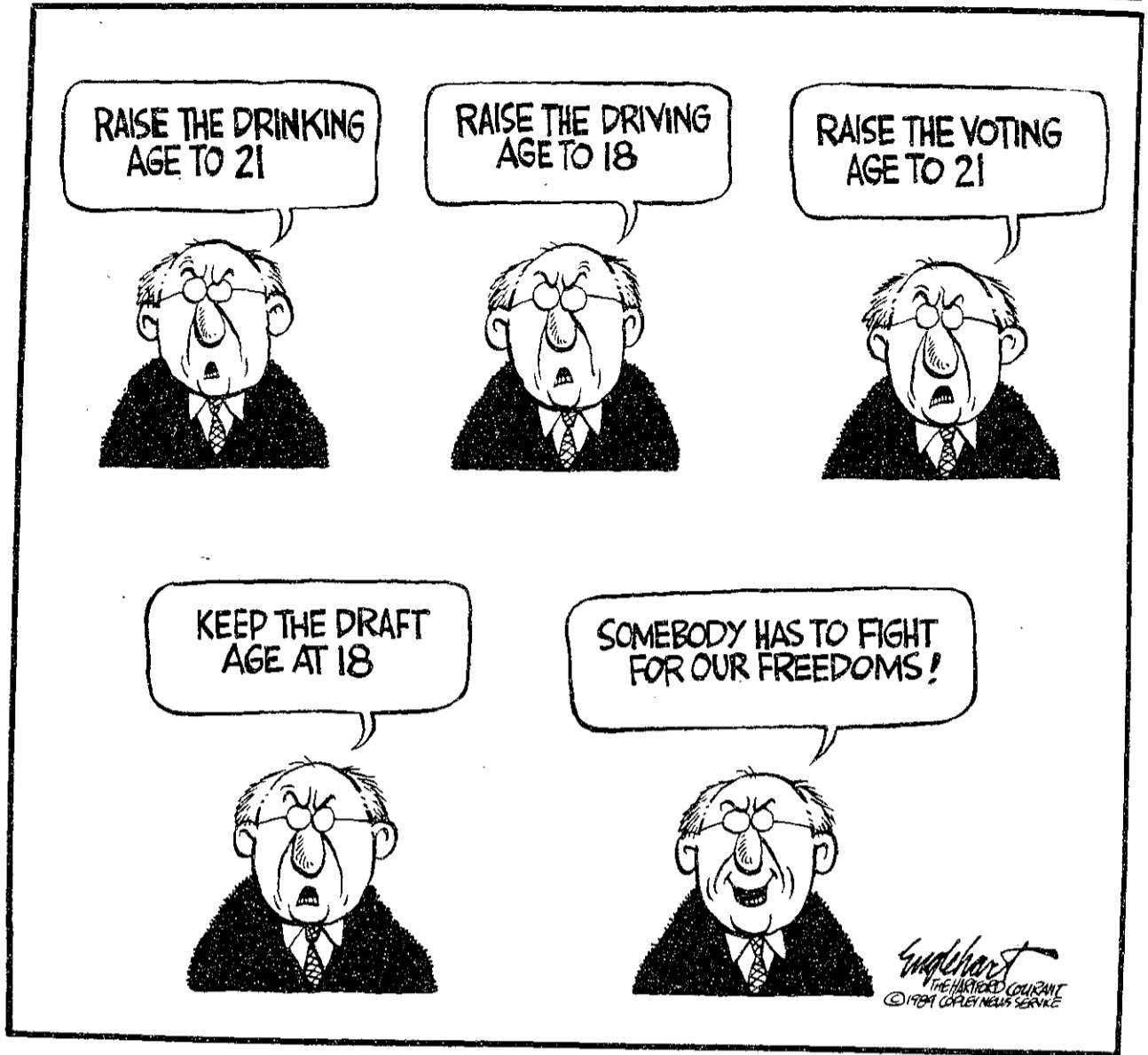
"You like that?" I asked him.

"Hell, no," he answered.

"But you..."

"I was kidding. Ha! You believed me?"

"Yeah, but I was very, very tired." I looked at the wall. Damn, that painting is ugly.



Column/Simson L. Garfinkel

## Programs which serve only minorities are discriminatory

The dismissal of Office of Minority Education Director William McLaurin paves the way for the eventual dissolution of that office. The office originated from an idea whose time has passed, if indeed it ever had a time.

Over 15 years ago, outcries that the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs was not sensitive enough to the "special needs" of minority students compelled the Institute to create the Office of Minority Education. Its ideological premise was that minority students have special problems by virtue of being minority students, and something must be done to help them.

One of the special problems allegedly associated with being a minority student is not being able to solve or even discuss "minority problems" through the traditional problem solving mechanisms; instead, special groups must form to cater to minority needs.

These problems may have existed in 1965, but they do not now. The minority education office has reinforced the idea that minorities require special treatment by providing special channels solely for minority students. Minority students are made different, both in their minds and in the minds of non-minority students, by the existence of an organization designed solely to help minorities.

The Institute should be "color blind." No need exists for a special office for minority education to deal with minority students' problems. No reason exists for the continuation of a racist organ designed for dealing with social and educational problems of minority students.

Giving minority students a special office represents and encourages segregationism. If minority students choose to solve their problems, be they race-related or not, through an official channel, they should use the same channel as non-minority students. Having a special office is like having specially defined areas on a bus for minorities only. Whether the area is in the back or the front of the bus does not matter; it is still segregationism.

The Office of Minority Education offered two programs this summer, as in previous summers: Interphase and MIT's Introduction To Engineering and Science (MITES).

Interphase is a program offered, by invitation only, to some members of the incoming freshman class. The program is intended to close gaps in the students' high-school educations — to bring them up to par in subjects like math and physics.

MITES is a similar program offered to high school students. Both programs admit only specially defined minority students. Interphase and MITES are good programs. Interphase would be a much better program if it were open to all students needing extra preparation, rather than just minority students. MITES would also benefit were it not a racist program.

McLaurin's dismissal gives MIT the chance to make massive changes in its programs for minority students. The Dean's Office can assume the counseling functions of the office — the Big Brother program, the Black Students' Union Tutorial Program, and others.

The provost, the Dean's Office or a new Office for Student Summer Programs could continue the summer programs. Interphase and MITES should then become non-discriminatory.

If, instead, Provost Francis E. Low or his successor merely appoints a new OME director, his action would evince no progress in minority education at MIT in the past decade. MIT will still support segregationism, with separate and unequal programs for minority students.

Wombats are great and don't get enough attention. Neither do ocelots. Neither does Nepal, for that matter. Life's a bitch, but someone has to do it. Adam B. Rosen discovered the ultimate purpose behind calculus books in this past Tuesday's *Tech*. Muzak must be a communist plot to turn the Americans' minds into celery stew. 18.02 is a drag. So is smoking. So is Frank N. Furter.

jects like math and physics. MITES is a similar program offered to high school students. Both programs admit only specially defined minority students.

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I hate people who make deplorable puns.

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# The Tech

Volume 104, Number 40 Tuesday, September 25, 1984

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# opinion

## feedback

### Outraged by Alley tree devastation

To the Editor:

I would like to express my outrage at the ecological devastation that has taken place on Amherst Alley. Under the guise of progress, the Institute has murdered scores of helpless bushes, cut down a pair of towering weeping willow trees in their prime, and rendered homeless countless families of innocent little birdies.

Before the reconstruction project on the Alley began, there was enough room between Baker House and the tennis courts to fit a two-way road, a row of trees, a sidewalk wide enough for a tank to pass, and a row of bushes. I cannot understand why it was necessary to uproot the row of bushes by the tennis courts. Since the new road will be one-way, it does not stand to reason that more space would be needed to accommodate it than the two-way road that came before.

While I am on the subject of the one-way road, I would like to ask one simple question: why is the road going to go westward? After all, the stretch of Memorial Drive accessible to the Alley also runs westward. An eastbound Alley would spare easterly traffic a long trip around Briggs Field to Vassar Street, while westerly traffic could simply make use of Memorial Drive. (Is it possible that the taxi lobby, seeing a chance for higher fares, convinced MIT to point the Alley west?)

And, lo, the tragedy of the weeping willows! Once upon a time, you may recall, there stood three beautiful *Salix babylonica* along the east end of the Alley. Now there stands only one, deprived of her sisters by the cold

blade of Technology. When the Institute was faced with the choice of laying the new road through the Julie Fassett Garden or through the *Salix* trio, it sacrificed the latter, presumably in honor of Ms. Fassett's memory and Dean Fassett's money. (Never mind that the garden, along with its little plants, could have been relocated. That matters not.)

My walk home along Amherst Alley today was not at all reminiscent of the same walk in Septembers past. There were no little birdies chirping, no leaves beginning to reflect the passage of time, and no golden beams of sunlight shimmering through the drooping habit of *Salix babylonica* branches. Instead, there were reminders of our everlasting war against Progress and its ally Concrete. After the Battle of Amherst has been lost, the birdies, prisoners-of-war, may return, but the willows will forever be mourned as missing-in-action.

So, we have lost. Our enemies sprang a surprise attack on us in the dead of summer and massacred our trees. Now we can only hope that they will do as all good victors do and try to make reparations for the havoc they have wreaked. Bushes can be replanted between the new road and the tennis courts. And although none of us will live to enjoy them, new weeping willows can be planted somewhere along the new Alley, so that our great-great-grandchildren can someday walk in the cool shade that once kissed us on our way home from the concrete jungle that is MIT.

Jon D. Morrow '85

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Graduate Student Council will conduct interviews for seats on Institute Committees on Tuesday, September 25 and Wednesday, September 26. All interested graduate students are invited to apply for seats on the following committees:

### STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE FACULTY:

Committee on Discipline (2 positions)\*  
Committee on Educational Policy (1)\*  
Committee on the Library System (1)\*  
Committee on Student Affairs (2)\*

### COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT:

Committee on Assessment of Biohazards (1)  
Athletic Board  
Commencement Committee (1)\*  
Community Service Fund Board (3)  
Dining Advisory Board (1)  
Equal Opportunity Committee (2)  
Committee on Foreign Scholarships (1)  
IAP Policy Committee (2)\*  
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Prelaw Advisory Council (1)  
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# opinion

Column/Thomas T. Huang

## The men and their elevators

ben-Aaron told me to get on the elevator-racing beat, so I followed my reporting instincts and checked out a guy named Paulo Legrec over in Central Square.

Cherry blossom petals lay strewn along the avenue as I walked to the square, lining the tar-black pavement like flowers from a wedding, the fragrance to my nostrils hypnotic. The bag ladies became maids-of-honor, the cop at the corner of the street a best man.

I soon came upon Legrec's apartment, which faced a small grocery store run by Johnny Rudner, who used to play guard for the Celtics in 1952. It was as if all the over-the-hill athletes had gathered in a ghetto like litter, to commiserate and hold on to lost dreams.

He used to be damn good in his day, Legrec. He had raced elevators in the 1960 Olympics in Rome and had won the silver, a symbol of America's hopes for future gold and official sponsors.

The medal was too much of a burden to him; the ribbon a noose. One year later he married a Swedish meatball vendor and moved to Cambridge, the City of Lights.

His room was in as bad shape as he was. Cockroaches skittered across the burnished wood floor as he opened the curtains to

**→ feed-back**

### Vamoose, porn films

To the Editor:

It's odd, but this year there are not as many editorials in *The Tech* on pornography: I yearn for the days when there were at least three vehement vituperations against either pornography, or the MIT Lecture Series Committee and its policies on the screening of pornography. I miss the extended debates of yore, and I hope that this submission to *The Tech* will rekindle interest.

Last year, I wrote a letter condemning LSC's showing of *Bambi* being pornographic in nature, as the film shocked me. But having since seen some of the viler movies at MIT, and in the vicinity of Boston, it is time to say that this student has become vexed upon viewing films featuring voluptuaries shedding velvet vestments, leaving only their vanadium necklaces to vibrate around their necks whilst practicing *verboten* activities.

Thankfully, the LSC, which attempts to be the vanguard of the *vox populi*, is shielding students from greater victimizations. For example, I am glad LSC has not shown scenes of Vanessa Williams in a verdant vale. Thank Vishnu for that, but I think that showing pornography of any variety turns students into rapid vegetables. Viewing these sex scenes vicariously may put students on the verge of overindulgence in drugs and alcohol: one day, virtually every student may be violating his or her body by vauntingly downing valiums and vermouth. Veritably, LSC views the world through a violet view-graph.

Eric Scheidker G

squint at me, a would-be intruder to his past; wallpaper peeled like onion skin. I could smell the acrid whiskey which laced his breath, figured he must have been hiding bottles in his closet, and was appalled, disillusioned, having admired him when I was a skinny child growing up in the backwoods of Alabama.

So this was the elevator-racer. "One can smell the intensity in the air as the racer waits for his elevator," he told me. I could smell it; he hadn't washed for

days. I scribbled into my notebook, hoping to somehow recapture in his jumble of words a man who had shone so brilliantly 25 years ago.

But they were only words, and the reporter, in his naive attempt to re-create people on fragile paper, stumbles.

I strove, in putting my pen to paper, to physically connect the man to my image of him.

The only reason Legrec won the silver in Rome was that the Soviet men were disqualified. They had illegally taken female hormones to improve their reaction time in pressing the elevator buttons.

The Olympic Committee made the discovery when it found three tampons in the Russians' dormitory rooms. One Soviet protested that he had wanted to bring them home to his sister — his family was so poor that the girl had to use the daily *Pravda* for her pur-

(Please turn to page 7)

### Erratum

The by-line was inadvertently omitted for the column, "A lesson in White House reporting," appearing in the last issue of *The Tech*. The column was written by Diana ben-Aaron.

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What's Better  
**The Tech**

# opinion

## Elevator racers of yesterday

(Continued from page 6)  
poses.

"The newspaper is just too big," the Soviet had said.

Legrec continued, afloat in his dreams, reminiscing of the elevator racers of his youth. "His legs bend in a crouch, his breathing slows, blending rhythmically with the hum of the elevator," he said, recalling emotions of a man who becomes one with the elevator, a sexual act. "He flexes his forefinger as he anticipates the lunge, pressing the seventh floor button."

Tragedy has scarred his eyes. His career was cut short by a nervous breakdown brought on by watching too many reruns of "Leave it to Beaver" and "Speed Racer" when his Swedish lover left him to do the weather on the local news.

"Slowly, as if in a calm pool of water, he turns to watch his opponent, who waits for the second elevator," Legrec said. "Hunger masks his face. Whose elevator door will open first?"

The rules for elevator-racing, an indoor sport, are as follows: The racers push the elevator button, and, side-by-side, they wait

for the pair of elevators. The racers must then reach the top floor of the building to receive torches. They must return, by elevator, the torches to the referee.

"We were the golden boys racing in their elevators," Legrec said. "Some of us were Jewish boys from the Bronx who practiced with elevators in high school. Others were strictly playground players, working for that right move, the jazz."

"Elevator-racing was an Olympic event from 1936, when Marconi invented the elevator, to 1972," he continued. "There was, of course, the time in Grenoble when they didn't have any buildings tall enough for elevators. We had to settle for escalators."

"But after Rome, things went wrong. The new athletes were racing just for the money, not for the joy of it; some used their money to buy coke, dissatisfied with the high of elevator-racing."

"We were no longer boys. We were men," he said.

In 1972, elevator-racing was dropped as an Olympic sport when terrorists, disguised as elevator operators, murdered several Israeli athletes in Munich.

"It's times like these when I just don't give a damn about Kristy McNichol's chemical imbalance," was the last thing he told me. I left him quietly, out of respect for the whispering applause of crowds which must have been echoing through his memories.

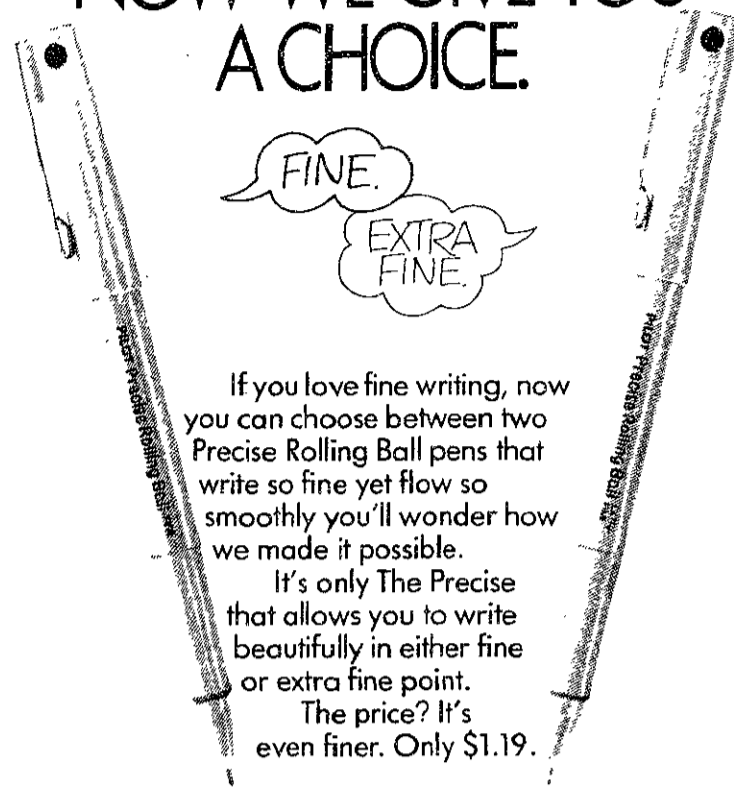
A week later, I met him again in the Green Building. He had a group of racers with him, all old men and women — all of them were there, Bartholomew Ives, Giorgio Wallace, and "Little Ethel" Samuels.

Legrec took me aside and asked, "Remember in that Willy Wonka movie, when at the end, they ride away in a flying glass elevator?" I nodded. I had seen the advertisements: "You will believe an elevator can fly."

"Sometimes, after everything goes bad and sour, you have to believe there's still a little good left, a little magic, even in elevator-racing," he said.

And as they raced their elevators for one last time, I could not help but smile. I watched the boys and girls in their delight come close to reaching their flightful dreams.

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## Dormitory has rooms

To the Editor:

The chaos of Rush week and Reg. Day has subsided. Over 1000 freshmen have moved in, met their roommates, and attended their first few classes. The routine has been established.

However, there are still a few unsettled people out there. These people are uncomfortable in their new environment. They have trouble relating to other students who seem concerned only with textbooks and problem sets. The drone of pop music, the stark white walls and the narrow perspective of a typical MIT student seems suffocating.

If you are one of these people, Senior House wants you! At Senior House you will have the freedom to express yourself to be creative. You will be left alone to do what you want, when you want. You can paint your walls, build lofts, and hang up posters. You will hear all kinds of music: punk, folk, classical, pop, jazz and anything else we can get our hands on. You will meet vegetarians, ROTC's, hippies, tools, gays, preppies, communists, and jocks.

What you won't find at Senior House is harassment, social, political or sexual. People at Senior House are open to the new and different, and they are tolerant of all behavior that does not restrict other's freedom. If you are tolerant, you will be a welcome member of the Senior House community, no matter how conventional or how exotic your lifestyle.

Senior House currently has 10 open rooms. The residents (not to mention the Dean's Office) would like to see these rooms filled with people who would appreciate the unique environment. There must be at least 10 people out there who value freedom and tolerance or who are at least tired of living in crowded rooms. If you are one of these people, visit Senior House today, talk to people, look at the open rooms. If you like what you see, call the Dean's Office. They will be very happy to arrange your transfer.

Caroline R. Richardson '86

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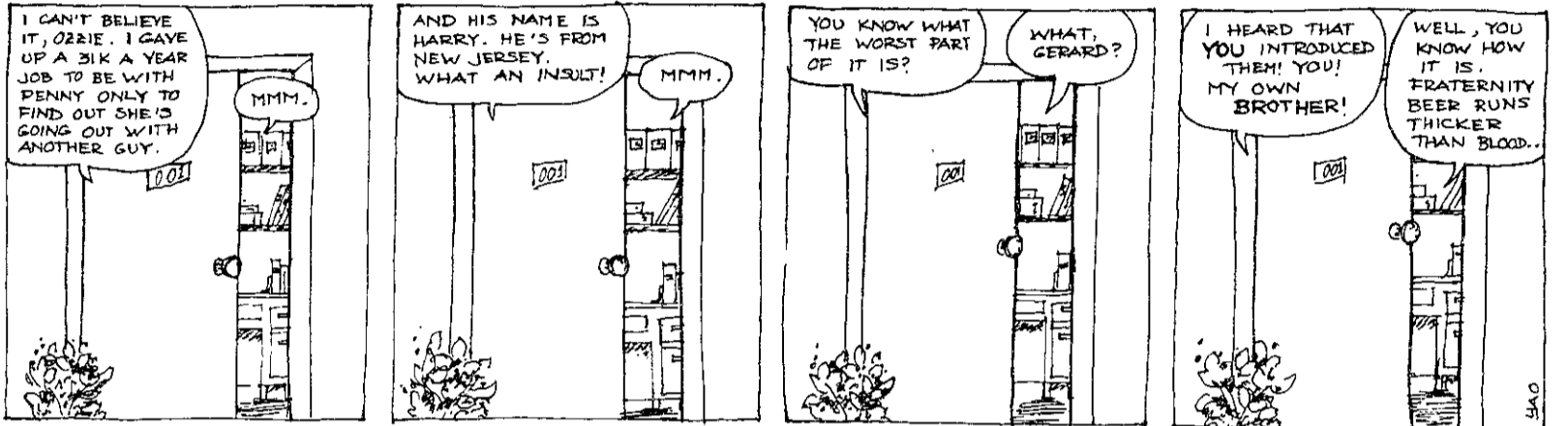
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# comics

Stickles  
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By Carol Yao



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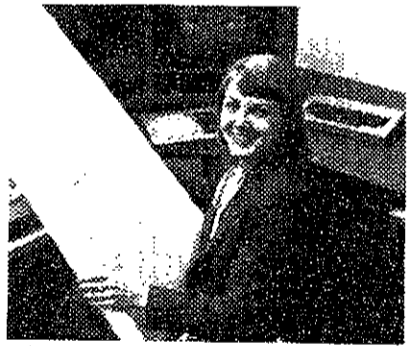
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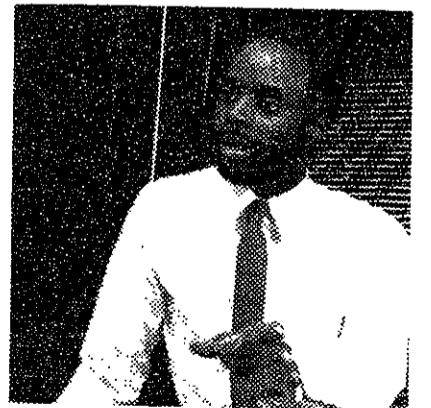
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## Mission successful

An Adventure in Chinese Songs and Dances, Taiwanese Youth Goodwill Mission, Kresge Auditorium, September 22.

While I cannot claim to be well-versed in the finer points of Chinese culture, with its images fresh in my memory, I can say that the Taiwanese Youth Goodwill Mission's presentation of *An Adventure in Chinese Songs and Dances* was one of the most enjoyable artistic events I've ever experienced.

The performance Saturday night marked the Youth Goodwill Mission's tenth visit to the Boston area. In the course of two and one quarter hours, fourteen college students from Taiwan offered dances with song under themes of *Courtesy and Unselfishness, The Bravery of Soldiers, The Voice of China, In Praise of Youth and Songs of Friendship*. The five minute segments were presented in rich costumes, ranging from traditional white dresses, black gold-braided vests and ornamented headaddresses to bright coats in silky greens, pinks and yellows and even warm-up pants and red, white and blue tops for a tribute to America. Displays of streamers, fans, flags, tambourine-like rings, metal rods, swords and shields added color to the fine traditional style of the first three themes.

Native instruments and voice accompanied much of the act, reinforced by taped music. The brevity of each display, along with the contrast in costume and use of objects (the fans were opened with a rhythmic percussive snap while the rods were rapidly spun for a shimmering propeller effect) maintained excitement the evening through.

The main purpose of the Mission seemed not to be so much to perform as to communicate. The display of our active, open-minded, peace-loving Chinese youth and [expression of] our good will toward and [friendship for you [the American people]] were the most conspicuous and affecting facets of the multi-media display. Compared to last year's program, which had as themes the beginnings of Chinese culture, the principles and mores of the

people, and the determination to improve on the culture of today's China this year's show seemed to have less to explain and prove to the audience and more to rejoice in and hope for.

The constant smiles of the dancers and individual thanks of each performer near the end of the night clearly indicated a sincerity which made the transmission of good will to the American audience all the more vivid.

The performers, chosen from one hundred and six Taiwanese universities, included medical students and future secretaries and diplomats as well as several dancers and operatic singers. They united in a common love of artistic expression.

Director Kuo-kung Shih forewarned that the synchronized precision of a professional group could not be expected of the student ensemble, but they were very close. Any faults of precision were overshadowed by a sense of grace, from the coordinated undulation of feathered fans and movement across stage to the bounce of the contemporary numbers. More conspicuous faults could be attributed to the breakdown of equipment. Feathers and cloth fell of their wooden frames and the tape machine temporarily broke down, much to the good-humor of the spirited audience in a near-packed Kresge Auditorium.

The concluding theme, *Songs of Friendship*, included several Chinese folk songs, *Camptown Races, Swanee River*, and Neil Diamond's *America*. Perhaps the high-pitched "ya-hoos" of *Camptown Races*, and child-like skipping during *America* indicated too simplistic a view of American cultural heritage. But earlier portrayals of shy men courting flirtatious coeds had a universal nature about them. In the hand-clapping finale, *An Adventure in Chinese Songs and Dances* was not only a delight but a successful communication of goodwill and optimism. The Youth Goodwill Mission deserves best wishes for the rest of its tour; we want to see them back in Boston soon.

Scott Lichtman

## Sister Mary tells all

Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You and The Actor's Nightmare by Christopher Durang; at the Charles Playhouse through 28 October; \$15.50 - \$22.50.

The religious leafleteer outside the Charles Playhouse should have been a tip-off as to what to expect from Sister Mary Ignatius. They seldom leaflet plays which discuss abortion, murder and homosexuality; they leaflet when plays ridicule religion. Durang takes pot shots at religion in both plays. His aim is far better in *The Actor's Nightmare*. However, I will save the best for last.

The title character, Sister Mary, is the nun all your friends who attended parochial told you about. She has ways been sixty-five and about a quart low in the brain pan forever; and for any who have had absolutely no exposure to the Catholic Church, she does explain it all for you.

While this reviewer cannot boast a Catholic upbringing, he can boast a catholic upbringing. For that reason, Sister Mary fails to amuse.

Durang attempts a stinging indictment of Catholicism by having Sister Mary recite much of the dogma practicing Catholics are asked to accept on faith. What Durang achieves is more of a running inside joke. The faults that Durang chooses to expose are not much more illogical than those of any of the world's major religions. Where the play might have made a strong statement against any religion's call for "belief by rote" or blind faith, it lacks sufficient depth for a non-Catholic to see the parallels.

Sister Mary Ignatius is long on acting and short on import. Elizabeth Franz gives a wonderful performance as Sister Mary. She is warm and real one moment and terrifyingly unhinged the next.

*The Actor's Nightmare* is by far the more enjoyable play. Poor George Spelvin

(Jeff Brooks) is an understudy who finds out five minutes before showtime that the lead actor has had an accident. The only problem is that George doesn't remember anyone in the cast nor which play they intend to perform. As a matter of fact, the only things that George remembers are that his name is not George and that he might be an accountant.

If you have ever had a nightmare about showing up in vaguely familiar surroundings totally unprepared for what is demanded of you, you will enjoy this play. George's pitiable attempts to ad lib his way to wakefulness are high comedy indeed.

James F. Kirk



Elizabeth Franz as Sister Mary Ignatius with Richard LeBranti as her pupil.

## Crazy, but good

*The Gods Must Be Crazy* directed by Jamie Uys; now at the Sack Copley.

In spite of its length (109 minutes), *The Gods Must Be Crazy* is able to maintain a perfect mix of comedy and documentary. Jamie Uys who wrote, produced, and directed the movie, is once again able to use the camera both with the innocence of an innocuous bystander and the assertiveness of an adventurous anthropologist. Although Uys claims to be "merely an entertainer" seeking to make clear and simple films free of humanistic messages, *The Gods* is both aesthetically and intellectually enriching. Other internationally acclaimed films by Uys include *Beautiful People* (1973) and *Funny People* (1976).

Both Uys and his cast are native South Africans, and all of the shooting for *The Gods* took place in the Kalahari Desert, home of the South African Bushmen.

Uys portrays the life of a South African bushman tribe very intimately. The story revolves around N!xau (pronounced N!XAU), one of the Bushmen leaders. His mission is to take a Coke bottle he has found to "the end of the world." The bottle, thrown by a careless pilot while flying over the Kalahari, is believed by the tribe to have been sent by the Gods since it had fallen from the sky. The bottle proves to be more trouble than it is worth. The tribe was very tranquil and peaceful with no concept of property or ownership until the appearance of this unknown object. Thus N!xau is dispatched to dispose of the trouble-maker.

On his journey, N!xau encounters a number of characters from Western "civilization." They include a scatter-brained scientist doing his doctoral thesis on pachyderm manure, a secretary tired of humdrum 9-to-5 work, and a joke of a terrorist group trying to overthrow the government of Botswana.

The scientist's (Marius Weyers) attempts to win the heart of the burned-out secretary (Sandra Prinsloo) are the main source of entertainment along with his constant struggle to deal with the African wilderness. The gags may seem repetitious at times, but Weyers has a knack for making his relentless clumsiness convincingly realistic.

The South African cast is relatively unknown to American audiences and provides a refreshing change from the well known faces of Hollywood slapstick.

With *The Gods Must Be Crazy*, Jamie Uys provides a view of the Bushman tribe which may otherwise have only been found in an issue of National Geographic. The shots of the Kalahari desert and all its impenetrability are remarkable. Especially impressive is the way Uys was able to direct the Bushman N!xau who, up until the time he was cast, had never seen a white man or "large animals with round legs" (cars). One gets the feeling that the film crew was invisible. The Dark Continent is filmed as a refreshing feast of colors and amicable people (excluding the guerrillas, of course), providing a perfect setting for the unavoidable ending.

Corrado Giambalvo

## Off the Beaten Groove

Excuse me, have you bought a record? If so, then the chances are good that you have been "ripped off" at least once on an album that didn't deserve its \$7 price tag. This new section, "Off the Beaten Groove," is designed as a consumer's guide for the tech/audiophile. The encapsulated descriptions will pan from the best to the worst and will give an introduction to any vein of music we can collate and review. Send your comments on the music we review to The Tech.

This issue's topic is "commercial jazz/fusion." This is not to be confused with big bands, acoustic quartets or Ella Fitzgerald's second cousin. It does include synthesizers, Pat Metheny, an infusion of rock, saxophones, Spyro Gyra, improvisation and a lot of whistleable melodies. The following can provide a good jazz transition for those not into jazz. They also happen to all be "10's"; records with ne'er a bad song and well worth the money.

\* \* \* \*

Bill Evans, *Living in the Crest of a Wave*, Elektra/Musician.

Bill Evans can be found in the featured jazz albums section at the Tech Coop and on the cover of Downbeat Magazine this month. Many cuts like "Living in the Crest of a Wave" and "The Young and the Old" are textural compositions with a rich blend of synthesizers, tenor and alto saxophones and slurred bass (the bassist is Mark Egan, formerly of the Pat Metheny Group). Every musician has top-notch credentials and plays his rear-end off on a collection of ballads, "organic" samba-feel and fusionistic tunes. The pace is well varied and every song is enjoyable in its own right.

\* \* \* \*

Lee Ritenour, *On the Line*, Elektra.

Lee Ritenour has progressed from soloing over a variety of funk riffs and calling them songs to writing high-caliber compositions. They have direction, emotion and tone. This particular album was recorded

live in the studio (no overdubs) by Lee and a host of his studio musician friends, and comes out crisp and vital on your turntable. "Heavenly Bodies" features digitally echoed drums and a distorted guitar solo while "The Rit Variations" contains extremely fast passages on guitar synthesizer and keyboards. *On the Line* throws no curves; all the tunes have a predictable pop tendency and ornamentation which may offend mainstream jazz or hard-rock listeners. But what feeling human being can not relate to Ernie Watt's beautiful passage in "Heavenly Bodies" or bop along to Ritenour's "stroll on a picture-perfect Saturday morning" solo in "California Roll?" The album is not to be confused with his new one, *Banded Together*, which is dance/vocally oriented. *On the Line* is for the light and melodic at heart.

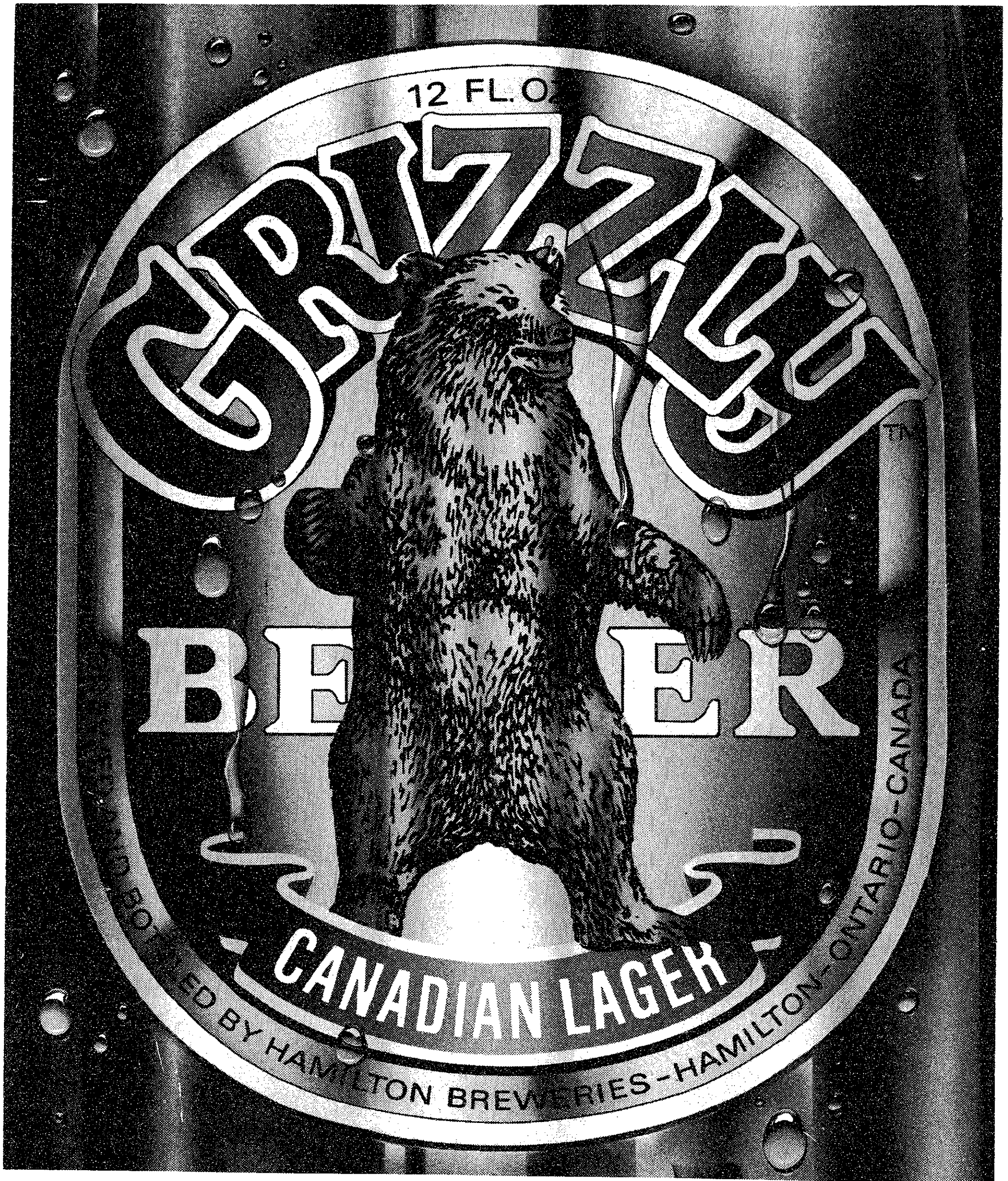
\* \* \* \*

Steps Ahead, *Modern Times*, Elektra/Musician.

This new Steps Ahead album bears little resemblance to their first major American release, *Steps Ahead*. *Modern Times*, like *Living in the Crest of a Wave*, has a generous helping of synthesizers (introduced by new keyboardist Warren Bernhardt), although in a much more laid-back format. They function to keep time and reinforce some bass lines. With Michael Brecker on tenor sax, Mike Mainieri on vibes, and Eddie Gomez and Peter Erskine completing the lineup on upright bass and drumset, you know there are going to be a lot of creative improvisation. The hook is that the solos are over-commercially viable, melodic tunes: great for practicing your own soloing with as well as an excellent introduction to this type of music. As with the other two albums, *Modern Times* has few if any clinkers. The beat keeps you groovin' along.

Not to worry, next column will feature "some kind of rock."

Scott Lichtman



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# Kirkpatrick, Bergen speak on foreign affairs, defense

By Diana ben-Aaron

"We do not desire hegemony over the countries of Central America or the Caribbean," Jeane Kirkpatrick, US Ambassador to the United Nations, said at a briefing last week for college newspaper editors.

"We're not that kind of super-power," Kirkpatrick added.

"We don't have 10,000 troops in any Central American country. But there are today, and we anticipated this, some 10,000 Cubans in Nicaragua," she said.

Kirkpatrick described Central America as a "unique challenge... for this administration... because of the irreducible, existential, fact of the location of Central America in Caribbean and our borders."

"I would like to emphasize that in that in this administration there is not the slightest desire to underestimate the importance of indigenous factors in the conflict in Central America," Kirkpatrick said.

Nonetheless, the Soviet Union has made a special effort to integrate small groups along the United States's southern border into its bloc, Kirkpatrick continued. "There is overwhelming evidence that the guerrilla war in El Salvador based on armed direction in Nicaragua. The stakes for the United States are very high," she commented.

"Our administration has committed itself to maximum support for peaceful nations short of war," Kirkpatrick said. She emphasized the importance of self-government for countries in Central America. "The whole essence of our policy is to... help them protect their own independence and do so by means which are moral and legal," she explained.

"We will continue in support of democracy in Central America in ways that will not risk US involvement and conflict but will promise the future to Central America that they have longed for for a very long time," she reiterated.

## Bergen fears nuclear proliferation, testing

The United States has rejected a moratorium on nuclear testing because "there is concern that the Soviets will use some of their tests to back out of treaties, John D. Bergen, President Reagan's director of speechwriting, said at the briefing. Bergen holds a joint appointment at the Department of Defense.

"Also, we want to be able to move from experiments to protection very fast," he added.

"We've got an advantage [in our precautions for nuclear weapons] over the other areas of our society, because we've been handling nuclear weapons for a longer period of time," Bergen said. Nuclear proliferation throughout the world, particularly to countries with no experience with nuclear weapons, is a constant worry, he added.

"We're working very, very hard with the Senators and with our other allies... to hold down the proliferation," Bergen continued. "The foundation of our strategy is to work with the Soviets to bring down the levels of nuclear weapons in our arsenals, in the arsenals of the two superpowers, and [safety from accidents] is one of the great reasons why we want to do it."

One of the United States's goals is "a leakproof defense," Bergen said. "Even if we had a defense that allows, say, 90% of Soviet ballistic missiles to enter, we believe that that will make the uncertainty of their success of an attack that great that they will not hazard an attack," he explained.

Even a defense that "leaks," Bergen observed, "is still effective

to strength and deterrence because the Soviets will not be able to calculate which missiles will get through, which targets won't get hit and therefore which missiles at large we can still retaliate with."

A large part of defense is

"forces readiness," Bergen noted. "We emphasize people and keep discipline up. The youth of the United States is coming to the military," he said. Over 70 percent of enlisted men are high school graduates, up from a low of 55 percent, he said.

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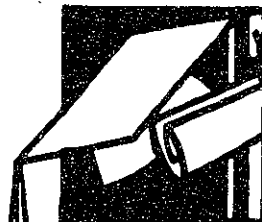
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# ROLM

# sports

## Last-minute field goal lifts football

By Janice Marchiava

The football squad won its home opener Saturday, 24-23, edging out the Providence Friars with a field goal in the final minute of the game.

Kicker Peter Gasparini '88, who earlier in the second half had been tackled in the end zone for a safety, made up for the two points Providence gained by putting a timely 25-yard field goal through the uprights with 48 seconds left in the game, giving the Engineers their second win of the season.

MIT's offense was forced to rely on the pass throughout the contest, as the rushing game was still faltering, yielding only 129 yards.

The passing game seemed to thrive under the pressure, however. Facing fourth down and 10 yards to go in the second quarter, quarterback Dave Broecker G completed a 35-yard pass to Jason Jonas '88 for a first down.

Broecker finished the day with 20 completions in 42 attempts and three interceptions for 261 yards. Jonas, a split end, led all receivers with seven catches for a total of 105 yards.

MIT opened the scoring on a bit of good fortune. Fullback Dan Curran '85 had brought the ten yards to the Providence goal line, where he fumbled. The ball rolled into the end zone, and offensive guard Tom Spaight fell on it for the touchdown.

Providence came back 14 seconds into the second quarter to take the lead 7-6, but MIT responded with a drive of its own, fueled by the 35-yard pass on fourth down and capped by Curran's one-yard scoring run. Broecker hit Kerry Hooks in the end zone for the two-point conversion, and the Engineers led, 14-7.

The visitors responded by generating two long touchdown passes to go ahead 21-14. The Engineers, however, knotted the score on an 11-yard run by Broecker with 28 seconds left in the first half.

The key element in the win, ac-

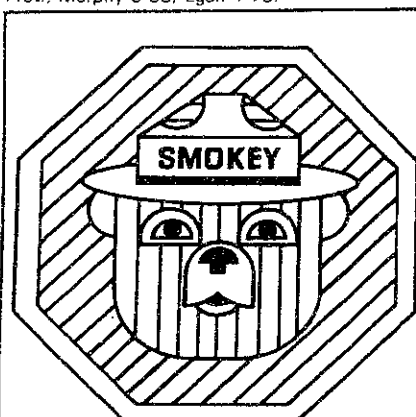
### MIT 24, Friars 23

|            |   |    |   |   |   |    |
|------------|---|----|---|---|---|----|
| MIT        | 6 | 15 | 0 | 3 | - | 24 |
| Providence | 0 | 21 | 0 | 2 | - | 23 |

MIT—Spaight, recovered fumble in end zone (kick failed)  
 Prov—McNamara, 9 pass from Delane (Giblin kick)  
 MIT—Curran, 1 run (Hooks pass from Broecker)  
 Prov—Egan, 73 pass from Delane (Giblin kick)  
 Prov—Thorne, 32 pass from Delane (Giblin kick)  
 MIT—Broecker, 11 run (Gasparini kick)  
 Prov—Safety, Gasparini tackled by Patchell in end zone  
 MIT—FG, Gasparini, 25 yards.  
 Attendance—250

|                 | Prov.   | MIT     |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| First downs     | 11      | 19      |
| Rushes-yards    | 35-12   | 43-129  |
| Passing yards   | 252     | 261     |
| Return yards    | 104     | 59      |
| Passes          | 22-13-0 | 42-20-3 |
| Fumbles         | 6-2-1   | 6-1-0   |
| Fumbles-lost    | 3-1     | 2-0     |
| Penalties-yards | 4-47    | 10-116  |

Individual Leaders  
 Rushing—MIT, Broecker 18-67, Curran 11-37, Ekberg 12-32, Prov., Egan 18-47, Gortin, 5-16.  
 Passing—MIT, Broecker 42-20-3-261, Providence, Delane 22-13-0-252.  
 Receiving—MIT, Jonas 7-105, Corless 4-70, Prov., Murphy 5-88, Egan 1-73.



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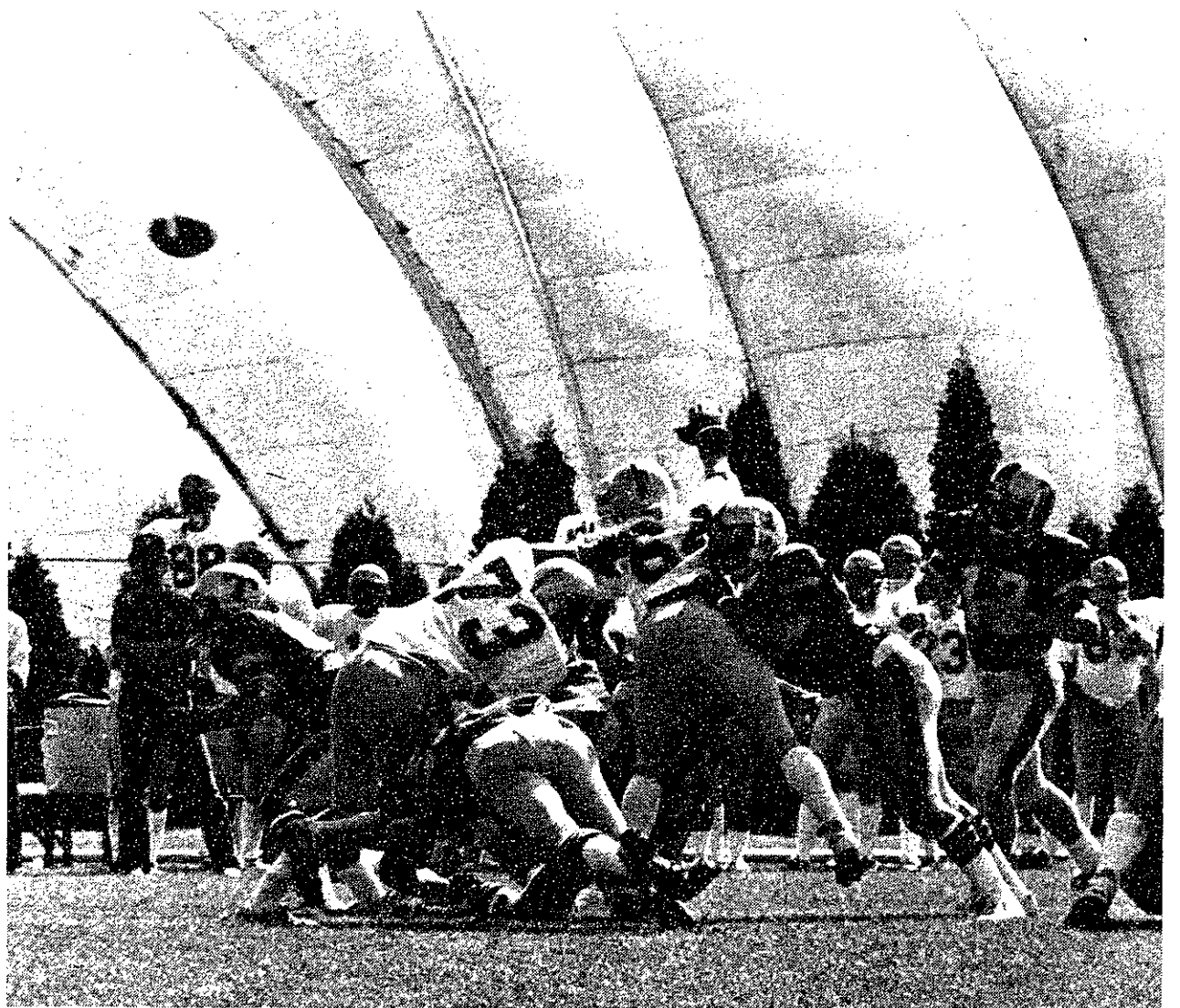
ording to MIT coach Dwight Smith, was "a great second-half effort by the defense." Strong play by Mark Hanson and Larry Monroe G, who each had 2 tackles and 6 assists, were at the center of the effort.

The rest of the defense made its share of clutch plays, too. Co-captain Mike Ambrogio '85 made a crushing first-quarter tackle which knocked the ball out of the hands of the intended receiver. Chris Moreno deflected two passes, in addition to making a tackle and seven assists. Rich Rice made two exciting plays, first tipping a pass, then sacking the quarterback.

Penalties continued to plague MIT, which had 10 for a total loss of 116 yards. The team was able to overcome the lost yardage, thanks largely to very strong pass protection by the offensive line, but penalties could prove to be a problem in the future.

This win, as did last week's against Stonehill, broke a three-year jinx. The Engineers had lost to the Friars in all three of the teams' previous meetings.

MIT's next game is at home against Manhattan on October 6.



Tech photo by Steven H. Wheatman  
 Quarterback David Broecker G passed for 26 yards during Saturday's 24-23 victory over Providence College.

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 Thursday, September 27, 8:30 am & 6:15 pm  
 Friday, September 28, 8:30 am & 5:30 pm \*\*

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 Thursday, September 27, 8:30 am & 6:15 pm  
 Friday, September 28, 8:30 am & 6:00 pm

Tickets will be required for all Wednesday services. Students can pick up free tickets in Lobby 10 on Sept. 24 & 25 or in Hillel before Sept. 25. Non-students should contact Hillel.

Holiday meals will be served in the Kasher Kitchen, Walker Hall Room 50-007: Wednesday at 6:00 pm & 7:30 pm, and on Thursday and Friday for lunch at 1:30 pm and dinner at 7:30 pm. Reservations are suggested.

\*\* The 5:30 pm service will be led by the Hillel Conservative/Reform Minyan.

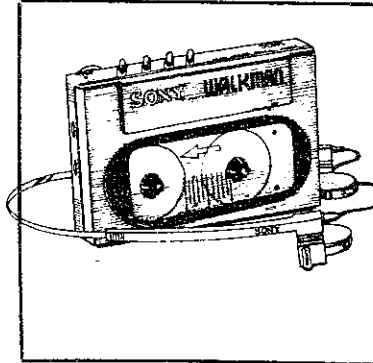
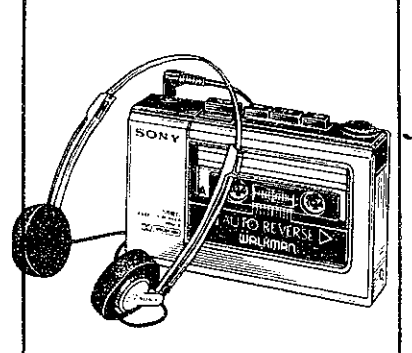
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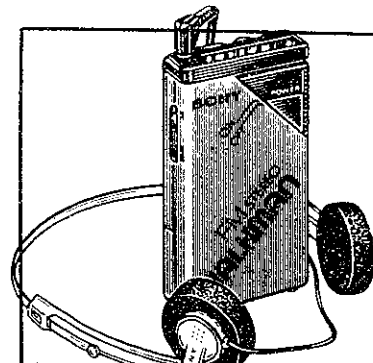
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