

## Group surveys labor issues

By Ronald W. Norman

A group calling itself the Employee's Morale Improvement Team is interested in forming an independent group to address support staff concerns to the MIT Administration, according to Joan Anderson Chisholm, a senior secretary in the Department of Chemical Engineering and spokesman for the group.

The Institute has not officially recognized the Employee's Morale Improvement Team, according to James J. Culliton, director of personnel, noting that the Working Group on Support Staff Issues, an organization of MIT employees and Administrators involved with studying job related issues, considers the same issues as Employee's Morale Improvement Team.

"They don't have as wide a participation as a group of the type I'm proposing has," said Chisholm. Her group's effort "is not an intent to organize a union drive," she said earlier.

"MIT's policy doesn't believe this group would be advantaged by a union," said Culliton.

The Employee's Morale Improvement Team distributed a questionnaire about labor concerns to over 1000 support staff workers at MIT and Lincoln Laboratories in November, and the results of the survey have now been compiled, said Chisholm. She has also submitted a report of the results to Mary Roe, special assistant to the president.

The report included some of the survey results with accompanying suggestions of possible solutions to those problems identified by the questionnaire. The report is now being reviewed by the Women's Advisory Group, an MIT organization which addresses women's concerns at the Institute, said Culliton.

Culliton expressed dissatisfaction with "the way the [survey] questions were asked . . . and the narrow focus the questions. 'A lot of it tends to bring out . . . people who are dissatisfied,' he added.

Chisholm, however, said, "if [the questionnaire were] terribly biased the results would have been skewed that way too. But I think they were pretty moderate across the board."

One of the issues addressed in the report issued to Roe was ad-

vancement opportunities and MIT. According to the survey, 48 percent of the workers plan to be working at MIT in three years and 53 percent do not expect a promotion or appropriate salary increase while 15 percent feel career opportunities at MIT are satisfactory.

Chisholm termed the five-tier structure for support staff employees "limited" for accurate classification or advancement opportunities. She suggested breaking down the employment levels to finer levels than the current structure to alleviate the frustration of seeking, but not receiving promotions.

The Working Group recently completed a two-year review of the promotion scale system and recommended the present four-group system be maintained, Culliton said. He said the group had found no way that the proposed system would differentiate between the jobs more accurately than with the present system.

"There is no way any other organization is going to change" the existing system, said Culliton, regarding the formation of an independent group to discuss labor issues and make recommendations to the Administration.

Culliton also explained the frustration of employees seeking promotions as a problem of not enough administrative jobs. There are about 1500 support

staff workers and only 600 to 700 administrative positions. Therefore there are few opportunities for support staff workers to advance.

The Institute-wide budget reduction plan has also stifled some advancement opportunities since it was installed, Culliton noted. However, many of the administrative jobs are filled by support staff workers, "especially women," he added.

The report also identified a "mismatch" between job descriptions and actual duties, with 45 percent of the survey respondents citing a problem. Seven percent had no opinion on the matter, while 48 percent of those responding did not find such a problem.

The Institute has outlined a semi-annual support staff review process which is responsible for reviewing and updating job descriptions, according to Culliton. "Whether it's done or not . . . I can't say if it's done totally," he added.

Chisholm further suggested that each support staff member keep a "log book" of all work done to accurately assess individual responsibilities.

Culliton, however, said there would be "no way to know how that would be evaluated. A log book . . . is not going to be helpful."

## Mondale prevails in Iowa caucuses

By Burt S. Kaliski

Local supporters of former Vice President Walter F. Mondale are claiming a "great victory" in Iowa, and those supporting Sen. John H. Glenn of Ohio are blaming "peer pressure" for his fifth-place finish.

Mondale finished well ahead of his opponents in the Iowa Democratic caucuses Monday, taking 45 percent of the vote. Colorado Sen. Gary W. Hart, former senator George S. McGovern of South Dakota, and California Sen. Alan M. Cranston followed Mondale in the count, ahead of Glenn.

Three other candidates — former Florida Governor Reubin O'D. Askew, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, and South Carolina Sen. Ernest F. Hollings — finished behind Glenn.

mented.

"As soon as [a country is] dependent on another nation for a commodity, you have a foreign policy problem," Schmitt asserted. He called attention to United States' dependence on imports for many metals crucial to industry and defense, among them: cobalt, chromium, aluminum and titanium. This "undeclared war of resources" began about ten years ago, Schmitt noted.

"Since World War II, the Soviet Union has taken steps toward mineral self-sufficiency, but [the United States has] developed a tax structure inimical to such initiatives," Schmitt commented. "We have only a four-day supply of defense electronics substrates stockpiled," he said.

The national bulk metal stockpiles are currently operating many thousands of tons below capacity, and their contents are "of uncertain quality. Basically,

(Please turn to page 2)

A spokesman for the Mondale campaign in Boston said Monday's result "was a great victory for our campaign," and said Mondale would win "convincingly" in the New Hampshire primaries next week.

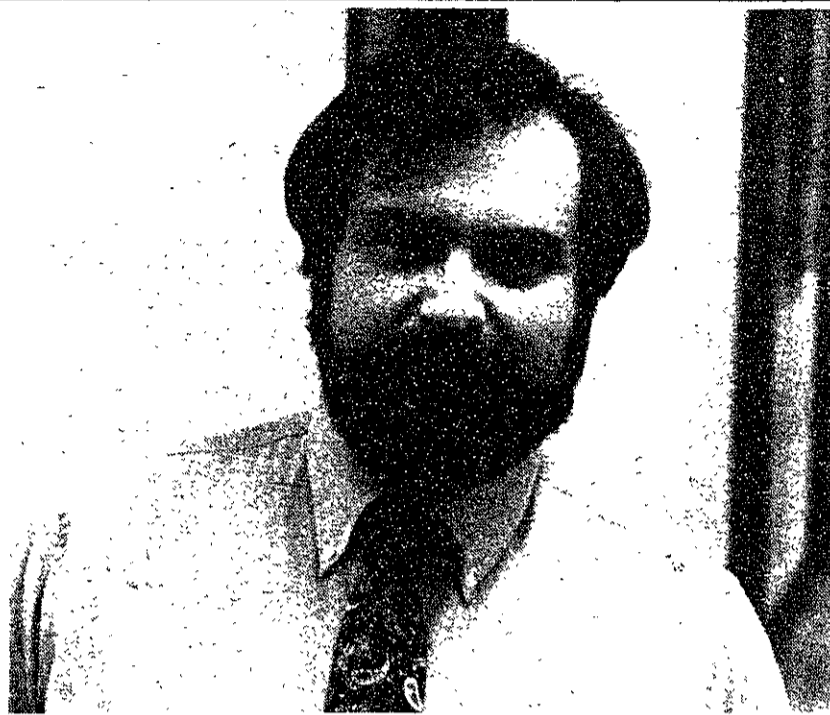
Dave Abel, Glenn's college coordinator in Boston, blamed the senator's poor showing on union "peer pressure" during open voting.

"All the people that show up are heavy activists," Abel said. Glenn supporters among union workers dare not openly oppose the unions, which have endorsed Mondale, he asserted.

New Hampshire polls which show support for Glenn "are very good and getting better," Abel said.

A spokesman for the Hart campaign in Boston said, "We were very pleased," by the senator's showing. "A lot of work in the last few weeks payed off."

"It is publicly recognized," the



Tech photo by Sidhu Benerjee

Armen Varteressian '68 lectured on technical writing last Wednesday.

## Feature

### Writers help firms

By Diana ben-Aaron

The technical writer is an equal partner with engineers, said Armen Varteressian '68, manager of Software Publications and Development Services at Tandem Computers, Inc., in a lecture last Wednesday.

Varteressian divided his lecture between personal experience and general remarks, describing the path that led him to the Depart-

ment of Humanities and the path he has since followed. He also presented his theory of the evolution of technical writing and outlined the qualifications necessary to break into the field.

He has a bachelor of science degree in humanities and science with concentrations in literature, psychology and biochemistry.

Varteressian originally intended to become a biochemist, but after several terms of biology and chemistry courses at MIT, he sought refuge in the Department of Humanities. "My thinking — and that of some of my classmates — was, 'I can already read and write; why don't I get a degree in it?'"

"MIT did not teach me how to write, but it did teach me how to think and organize," Varteressian emphasized. He credited his writing proficiency to "innate ability" and the fact that English was not his first language. Born in Egypt, he spoke only Arabic and Armenian until he was three and his parents emigrated to the US.

"People who learn English in school often learn it better than those who learn it in the streets," he observed.

While finishing his thesis, Varteressian took a job as a secretary in a dental center. One day he saw a help-wanted advertisement for technical writers; the salary offered was twice what he was making at the time and he decided to apply for it. Although he

(Please turn to page 17)

## Schmitt speaks about US material resources

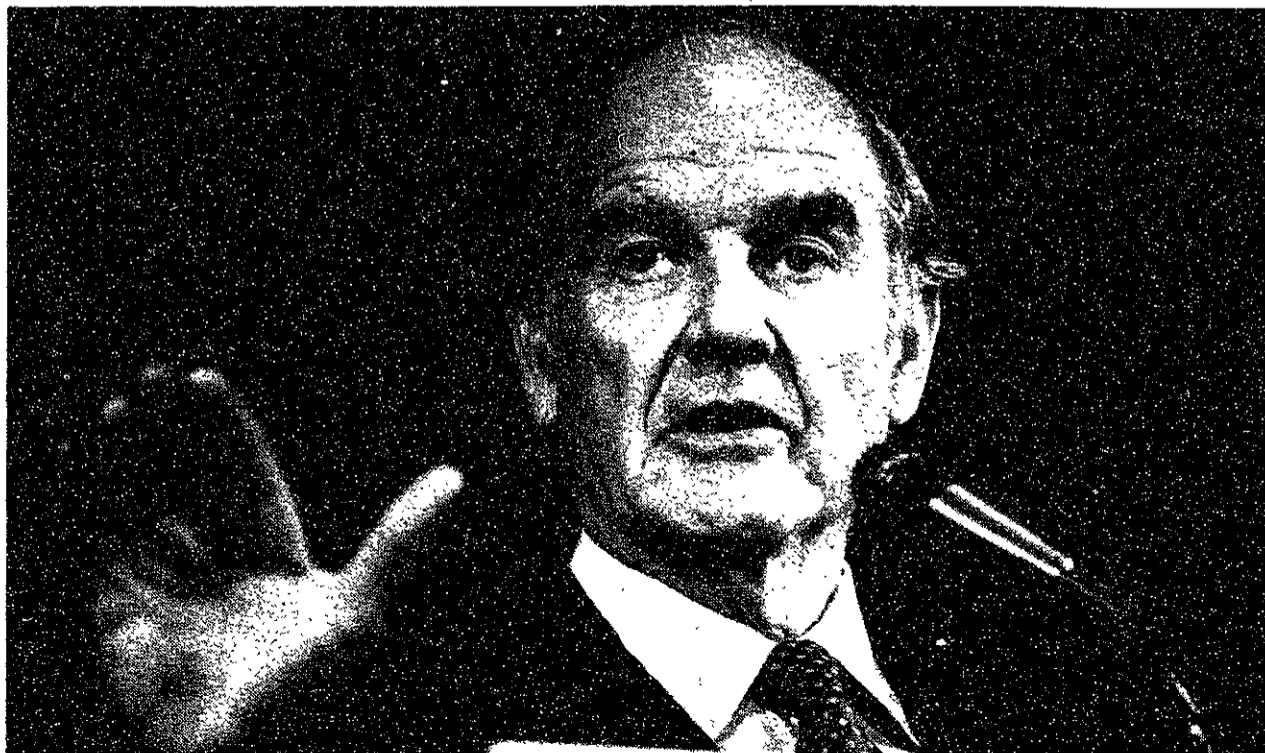
By Diana ben-Aaron

"We must have a commodity-by-commodity policy to minimize our vulnerability to outside threats," said Harrison H. Schmitt, former Republican senator from New Mexico and Apollo 17 astronaut.

Schmitt called in a lecture last Thursday for a national strategic materials policy, and explained that such a policy would take into account the economic and defense situation of the United States' principal allies, he com-

## inside

The Beatles didn't really break up, if the amount being written about them today is any indication. Page 13.



Tech photo by Henry Wu

Former Senator George S. McGovern, Democratic candidate for presidential nomination, hopes to finish in the top four candidates in the New Hampshire caucuses.

## Schmitt: Country must maintain its materials

(Continued from page 1)

we've done everything wrong as regards managing our stockpiles," Schmitt added.

Schmitt identified the Soviet Union as America's main threat in the materials arena. The USSR is richer in strategic minerals than the United States, adept at manipulating the resources of politically unstable countries, self-sufficient and able to export surplus metals in exchange for currency, Schmitt noted.

"We could never be totally independent," said Schmitt, but he maintained that the materials policy he proposed would make the United States more resistant to international pressures.

Schmitt recommended the establishment of a single independent stockpile commission under the authority of the President, which would have jurisdiction over materials stockpiling, buying and selling, mining on federal lands, recycling and research and development of alternative materials.

Schmitt also suggested work toward stabilizing developing countries and strengthening the US maritime forces in order to protect international shiplanes and trade agreements.

The executive response to the need for a materials policy is "insensitive," Schmitt observed, and Congressional acts relating to materials are rarely enforced.

"The National Materials Policy Act is just a piece of paper," he

said. The efforts of the Department of Defense would form an integral part of his proposed materials policy, and "in the absence of a White House-level articulated policy, there is no incentive for the Defense Department to take other than the cheapest path," he added.

Schmitt also blamed the government's commitment to "what is commonly called free trade," for the country's inability to build and maintain materials stockpiles. He defined free trade to be Congressmen's preoccupation with local political considerations and pressure from environmentalists against unrestricted mining and recycling. Most decisions on strategic minerals are made "at the [Congressional] staff level," he noted.

Schmitt endorsed academic and corporate research into policy and problems relating to scarcity of materials, in response to a question from Merton C. Flemings Jr. '51, head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. "If the private sector does not participate, the public sector will not recognize the crisis," Schmitt noted.

The lecture was the second in a series sponsored by the Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

## notices

### Listings

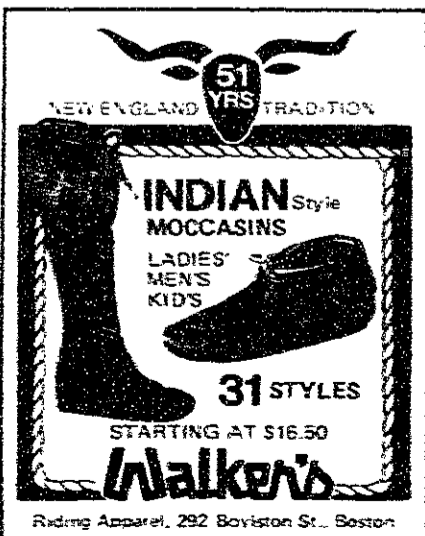
Student activities, administrative offices, academic departments, and other groups — both on and off the MIT campus — can list meetings, activities, and other announcements in *The Tech's* "Notes" section. Send items of interest (typed and double spaced) via Institute mail to "News Notes, *The Tech*,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

### Saturday, Feb. 25

Leipzig Gewandhaus Bach Orchestra at 8 pm at Jordan Hall. Tickets \$7.00 (reg. \$14) may be purchased in the MITAC Office.

\* \* \* \*

"A Personal Account of Women's Peace Camps: From Seneca to Greenham Common." A talk and slide presentation by Paula Schnitzer. To be held 3:00 pm at New Words Bookstore basement, 186 Hampshire St., Inman Sq., Cambridge. Free. Sponsored by Science for the People. For more info, call 547-0370.



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## news roundup

### World

**Troops leave Beirut** — US Marines stationed in Beirut are withdrawing onto ships in the Mediterranean Sea. The phased redeployment, which began Tuesday, is expected to be completed in about two weeks and was precipitated by fears the Lebanese army would yield its positions to the Druze militia. The Marines will remain on alert in the area. The Israeli army moved further into southern Lebanon, and launched air attacks on Beirut.

**Iran moves on Iraq** — Iran claimed Wednesday to have launched a major offensive into neighboring Iraq, and are close to cutting off the major north-south highway linking Iraqi capital Baghdad with Basra on the Persian Gulf. Iraq claimed to have repelled the invasion. The People's Republic of China has reportedly inked a \$1.45 billion arms deal with Iran, thus switching its allegiance in the 3-and-a-half-year war.

### Nation

**Manhunt in Tennessee** — Two heavily-armed inmates escaped from Fort Pillow State Prison in west Tennessee Saturday and killed a retired Sunday school teacher Tuesday. The two also abducted his wife, who was released unharmed Wednesday. Three other men who participated in the prison break have been recaptured. The fugitive pair has said they "will not be recaptured alive."

**"Bubble boy" dies** — David, the boy who lived virtually all his 12 years in a sterile isolation chamber because of a lack of natural immunological defenses, died Wednesday of heart failure. He was removed from his bubble for the first time Feb. 7 for treatment of fever, diarrhea and vomiting. Doctors had expected him to recover fully from his Severe Combined Immune Deficiency after receiving a bone marrow transplant from his sister in October.

**Nationwide drinking age proposed** — Rep. Michael Barnes, D-Md., introduced legislation in congress to establish a nationwide minimum drinking age of 21 to combat the high death rate of drunken teenaged drivers. The plan has support among members of the Reagan administration.

**Flu flies in** — Two different strains of influenza are virulent this winter season. The "Type A" virus showed up in the Southeast around Christmas and is moving north and west; the "Type B" virus was first reported in the Northwest and is moving south and east.

**Man buys new car for \$50** — A New Hampshire man bought a new Pontiac worth \$13,600 for \$50 and a handful of coupons. The car dealership claimed that only one coupon could be used per purchase, but that disclaimer was inadvertently omitted from coupons published in one newspaper. The dealer plans to go to court to get the car back.

### Sports

**Olympics conclude** — The XIV Winter Olympiad ended Sunday in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. American skiers Phil and Steve Mahre won gold and silver medals in the slalom on the last day of competition. Bill Johnson won the downhill ski race, upping the United States medal total to 4 gold and 4 silver.

**USFL season kicks off** — The United States Football League begins its second season this weekend with a full slate of games. The league added 6 new franchises, expanding to 18 teams and realigning into 4 divisions.

### Weather

**Nice, oh baby, yeah** — Springlike weather continues today, warm and breezy with highs 51 to 55 and some sunshine. Tonight will be clear to partly cloudy, lows 38 to 42. Tomorrow's highs will be 44 to 48, with a storm system traveling up the coast bringing occasional showers into the area for the weekend.

Drew Blakeman

#### WEST LINN HIGH SCHOOL

A progressive 9-12 suburban high school near Portland, Oregon is anticipating openings for outstanding **MATH** and **SCIENCE** teachers for the 1984-85 school year.

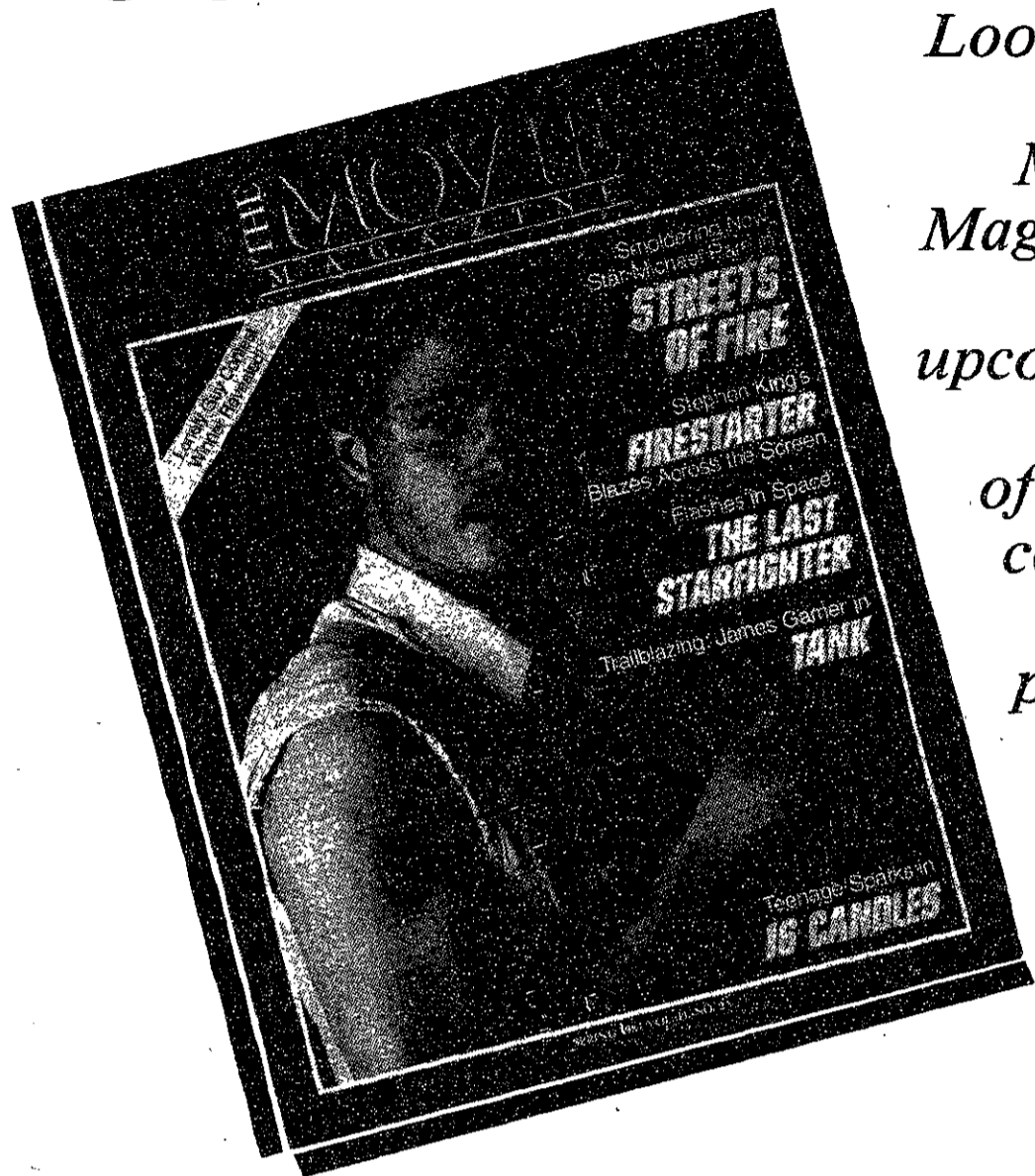
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# opinion



## Column/Joseph J. Romm Built form in IV

Fourth in a Series

"Concentrated cloistered universities, with closed admission policies... kill opportunities for learning."

A Pattern Language  
Bible of Course IV

If you favor restricted admissions to Course VI, I say unto you that the Course IV Bible also teaches us that it is probably too late to save you because "if children don't play enough with other children during the first five years of life, there is a great chance that they will have some kind of mental illness later in their lives."

An arrogant tone is especially appropriate for a column on Courses IV and XI. Architects have traditionally scorned engineers, and the Urban Studies and Planning Department boasts of the "hardest problem sets at MIT."

Let me begin with Course IV.

To some extent, trying to convince eager freshmen to major in Architecture is like trying to convince people to have AB blood type; it's a darn good thing, but basically you have to be born that way.

While it is true that most architecture majors come here knowing they want Course IV, there is a test to see if you have architectural blood in you, as it were. You are a potential Course IV major if you do not like the Hancock Building, the tall Boston building best viewed wearing glass repellent, and Building 66, the MIT building best appreciated by triangular life-forms that have long since become extinct on this planet. If you like both of these buildings a lot, then you are entitled to your opinion, and Course IV majors are probably entitled to scorn you.

Course IV does not just teach architecture, however, it also teaches the visual arts — photography, cinematography, and drawing. More significantly, if you are a potential Course VI major even vaguely interested in computer graphics, you really must visit the Architecture Machine Group. The ArcMac, as it is called, does computer graphics so impressive that recreational pharmacologists at MIT say that it is the best place to trip.

My old Course IV friend "J" says that would-be MIT architects should read *A Pattern Language*, used in *Theory of City Form* (4.747J/11.330J). According to Mr. J, this is the Bible of the MIT architecture department.

*A Pattern Language* presents its commandments not in stone but rather in bold-face. The two

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## The Tech

Volume 104, Number 5 Friday, February 24, 1984

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## Simson L. Garfinkel Gun mentality bad

Next time you forget to tip a cabby in Boston, be careful. He might shoot you.

A recent decision by Boston Police Commissioner Joseph M. Jordan allows Boston taxi drivers with firearm licenses to carry weapons to protect themselves.

The decision comes in the wake of two cab driver murders. It is believed that both murders stemmed from robberies of the drivers. It is further believed that if you allow taxi drivers to carry guns, and if you tell everybody that they are carrying guns, they probably will not be robbed as much.

If you got into a taxi where the driver packed a .357 Magnum, how would you feel? I do not know about you, but I would not feel very happy — or very safe.

Just picture your younger sister coming to visit for the weekend. It is late — she missed the early flight — so you are not able to meet her at the airport. When she finally flags down a cab, there in the driver's seat she finds a smelly, slimy, cigar-smoking, gun-slugging cabby. How do you think that she is going to feel?

Jordan's decision is intended to protect cab drivers, but it will probably result in an arms escalation in the streets of Boston. Instead of being put off by the would-be deterrent, muggers are likely to retaliate with "first-strikes" — shooting the cabbies first, then taking their money.

I guess this is one of the results of Reagan's campaign promise to "rearm America." Reagan's obsession with arms and enemies has finally hit home. The prob-

lem is it has armed citizen against citizen instead of uniting us against Reagan's hypothetical adversaries.

Before Reagan was president, there was not much fear of crime in Philadelphia — fear of police, yes; fear of crime, no. Perhaps this was because Frank L. Rizzo was mayor, but I doubt it. People just were not stabbed, raped, and murdered in the streets — at least, not by criminals.

After Reagan came to power, things just grew worse and worse. Increasingly my friends became

(Please turn to page 15)

## feedback

### Controversies abound

To the Editor:

Controversy comes and goes, but there seems to be enough around right now that I can write a general flame letter with some character assassination thrown in for good measure and get everybody mad at me.

Let me start from the end — nuclear war. My friend Bernard Biales '66 has come up with a solution to the nuclear arms race based on Carl Sagan's "Nuclear Winter". Simply retarget all of our missiles at US cities. In case of Soviet attack, we blow ourselves up, and no Americans have to suffer, but the Soviets all slowly starve to death. It is Mutually Assured Destruction and thus a fine deterrent. Better still, forget the missiles, we can just plant a

big warhead in each of our cities, and we will not have to worry about first-strike. (This may sound silly, but I have not heard any advantages of our current system.)

Closer to home, pornography is still an issue in *The Tech* a full year after the cancellation of "Deep Throat." This year the preferred alternative was "The NY Erotic Film Festival" at the Harvard Square Theatre on registration day. A brief comment on public opinion: My father once encouraged me to write a letter to a radio station that I liked, because otherwise the only feedback that they might get could be from angry people who wanted to hear "The Slime Mountain" (Please turn to page 5)



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## feedback

# Review of MIT controversies

(Continued from page 4)

Drivel Boys" 24 hours a day, or something equally ludicrous. The Lecture Series Committee is in this position now. The happy majority who go to see porn flicks on registration day have been smiling silently, but the enraged minority has made a lot of noises. As others have said, if somebody does not want to see the porn films, they can stay home. There are lots of other films for them to watch on other nights. As far as films that are degrading to people, I could say something about war movies, too, but I will not, because if somebody else wants to see them, then it is none of my business.

The Undergraduate Association General Assembly tried to jump on the pornography bandwagon a while ago. They were going to do a survey, the results of which were not going to be used for anything. This would have been fine, since an explicitly useless project would keep them out of everybody's hair. It would also keep them occupied so that they would not try to do anything real and screw it up (if it ever got past the sub-sub-committees). Now the editorial board of *The Tech* is criticizing Undergraduate Association President Michael P. Witt '84, and Mike is enraged at Editor in Chief Robert E. Malchman '85 for it. To be perfectly honest, guys, nobody cares. If you just let the Undergraduate Association die, nobody would notice.

The Student Center Committee seems to do a lot of the stuff that you might hope the General Assembly would be in charge of. They bring me pinball, food at 4 a.m., and parties. They also seem to do a pretty effective job of it. Lately, though, they have been criticized for overstepping their authority. The problem seems to be that they are not responsible to the people they are helping, unlike the General Assembly.

Well, here is how I perceive things; somebody correct me if I am wrong:

The Student Center Committee spends money that it earns through the pinball room and the 24-hour Coffeehouse. It also has been given control over certain aspects of the Student Center by the 'Tute. To become a member of SCC, you go to three consecutive meetings, tell why you want to be a member, and they vote you in.

The General Assembly spends money that comes from the 'Tute. The Finance Board must be where the real power is, since they control the money. Finance Board members get chosen by the Nominations Committee. And the students elect the Nominations Committee? No, the Nominations Committee seems to elect the Nominations Committee. Where does anybody answer to their constituents here? Or if I am wrong, why do I not ever remember voting for any of these people?

You never know what people will complain about and what they will not notice. Has anyone seen the new Arts and Media Technology building on Ames Street? It is the center of art at MIT, right? To be perfectly honest, it bears a striking resemblance to the inside of a men's room (or, I imagine, a women's room). Square tiles, not much in the way of windows. I have seen a three-year-old child do better with Legos.

The real big name in controversy around here, though, is Simson L. Garfinkel '85. I was going to rip him apart in this letter, but I decided to meet him and find out about all of his faults firsthand. He is not nearly as bad as I had expected. Simson's biggest problem is one that a lot of people have when they first show up here: enthusiasm. He happens to be from an unusual background that makes him a

bit more enthusiastic than most folks. He also sometimes displays what might be considered flawed judgment. Face it, we all get nutty ideas; I do, he does, and every one of you do. The difference is that Simson decides to publish his. He means no harm, and he expects dissenting views. You must admit, he is effective. I know nobody else who has a chance of having a character in Bloom County named after him.

Finally, it seems that *The Tech* is running a 21-part series on why every department in the Institute is subject to bad puns. If there are any freshmen out there who want to know how to choose a major, I can save you a lot of reading. I picked my major (VI-3) because I figured they would not make me do much symbolic integration, which I steadfastly refuse to believe in.

This is not the right way to choose a major.

The right way to choose a major — I am completely serious about this — is to walk all around the Institute and read all of the clippings and cartoons and stuff on the office doors. Wherever you find the best stuff, find out what those people are doing. They think like you, you will get along with them, and they are having a good time.

Jean-Joseph Coté '83

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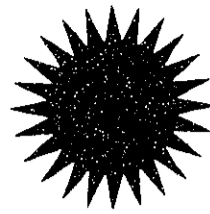
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10:45a	3:15p	11:45a	11:45a	3:15p	10:45a	3:15p	3:15p	11:45a
11:00a	3:30p	noon	noon	3:30p	11:00a	3:30p	3:30p	noon
11:15a	3:45p	12:15p	12:15p	3:45p	11:15a	3:45p	3:45p	12:15p
11:30a	4:00p	12:30p	12:30p	4:00p	11:30a	4:00p	4:00p	12:30p
11:45a	4:15p	12:45p	12:45p	4:15p	11:45a	4:15p	4:15p	12:45p
noon	4:30p	1:00p	1:00p	4:30p	noon	4:30p	4:30p	1:00p
12:15p	4:45p	1:15p	1:15p	4:45p	12:15p	4:45p	4:45p	1:15p
12:30p	5:00p	1:30p	1:30p	5:00p	12:30p	5:00p	5:00p	1:30p
12:45p	5:15p	1:45p	1:45p	5:15p	12:45p	5:15p	5:15p	1:45p
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# Opinion

Guest Column/Stuart C. Atlow

## The book of thy student Job

While excavating under what is now the medical department, our crack archaeologists uncovered a washing machine. Within this machine was a treasure trove of unpaired socks, and several scrolls written in Ugaritic. We have here reproduced, in translation, the text of one of them.

I

In the fourth year of the exile, being the third year of the reign of King Paul, after the blizzard, I was sitting by the banks of the river Charles, ministering to the exiles there. And I lifted up my eyes and saw before me a vision of the Gray One '54. And lo, all of the vice presidents and Institute professors were going to and fro singing his praises. Then entered the Constantinoplgus. And verily did the Gray One '54 say unto the Constantinoplgus, "Where, oh Constantinoplgus, comest thou from?"

To which the Constantinoplgus responded, "Walking out and about the length and the breadth of the Institute."

"Ah, and have thou considered my faithful student Job?", asked the Gray One '54.

"In sooth, and five shall get thee ten, oh mighty Gray One '54, that he is not so faithful," responded the Constantinoplgus.

"Verily then," saith the Gray

One '54, "thou mayest smitest my student Job with whatever thou wilt, but harm not his GPA."

II

Now Job, being a righteous nerd, did dwell in a West Campus dormitory. And he had an Apple II with two disks drives, a color monitor, and a printer. Also, Job had an HP-41CV upon which he ran many programs. Job also had a loft, and a refrigerator, and an account on Multics.

And behold, the Constantinoplgus came down and smote Job, and Job got a D in 6.002, for it was decreed in those days that he who got a D in 6.002 could not be initiated into the mysteries of flowing electrons. However, Constantinoplgus gave Job two A's and a B lest he effect Job's GPA. This vexed Job greatly because of the decree that was in the land at that time. None the less, Job would not curse the Institute and transfer.

So the Constantinoplgus went before the Academic Council and hardened their hearts so they would cause tuition to increase many times greater than the cost of living. Yea, even though Job had to sell all of his possessions, and scrape his bank account with a pot shard, he would not curse the Institute and transfer.

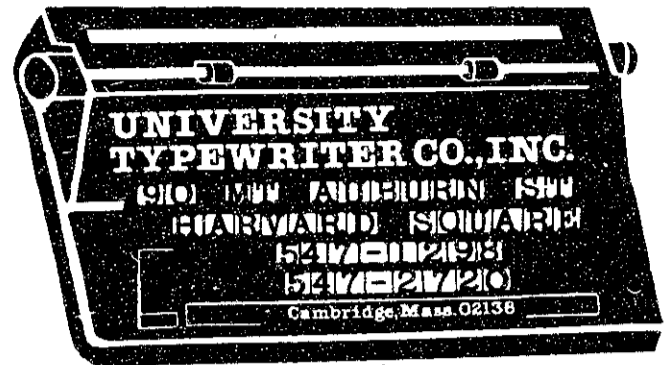
Verily, the Constantinoplgus had a fit of cleverness. Lo, one day Job recieved a call from his friend from high school. Fifi was her name, and seduction was her game, and she went to RPI. And Fifi came to visit Job and seduce him.

Now Job yielded to his lust and came forth unto the temptress and she held him in her arms and begged him to transfer to RPI. Job cursed the day of his matriculation yet still he would not forsake the Institute.

(Please turn to page 11)

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# opinion

## Go IV for graphics

(Continued from page 4)

quotes at the start of this article are typical. Perhaps the most interesting architectural commandment occurs in a chapter entitled "Four-Story Limit": "There is abundant evidence to show that high buildings make people crazy."

The Course IV Bible contains many other commandments that have a bearing on MIT: "... long, sterile corridors set the scene for everything bad about modern architecture," and "A complex of buildings with no center is like a man without a head." Frighteningly pertinent is the commandment, "More than 90 per cent of the people walking about in an ordinary neighborhood are unhealthy, judged by simple biological criteria. This ill health cannot be cured by hospitals or medicine."

I realize this series of columns has not enhanced my credibility, but I can assure you that all of these commandments are taken verbatim from *A Pattern Language*. If you do not believe me, go to Rotch Library and read the book, or better yet, major in Course IV.

And speaking of credibility, it is once again time for this column's LIBEL (Least Insignificant Bit of Educaiton Learned). Here is the LIBEL of Mr. J in Course VI: Mr. J once said to me, "Did you know that if you took all the buildings at MIT and stacked them one on top of the other, they would look just about as ugly as they do now."

As for Course XI, I do not know any undergraduates in Urban Studies and Planning, which is not surprising because you can count the number of Course XI undergrads on the fingers of both hands, with one hand tied behind you back. I do know a Course XI graduate student, but she hardly merits an entire letter of the alphabet in a column directed solely toward undergraduates.

In any event, Course IV people take Course XI courses and vice versa. You should major in one of these two departments if you are interested in learning computer graphics, the Visual Arts, why Venice is "a sewer system in search of a city," or if you just want to scorn engineers.

Stay tuned for Courses V and X, and why they should not be lumped together into one column under any circumstances.

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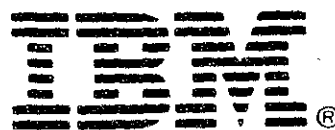
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**Thursday &  
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# opinion

## Read ye the Book

(Continued from page 7)

### III

It came to pass that Job did grow older, despite his many afflictions, and he did graduate for he cursed not the Institute nor did he transfer, but rather he discovered a new method for microwave encryption. Thus did Job ascend from graduate school to post-doc, and even unto professor.

And it came to pass, that the Gray One '54 waxed old and waned on as president. So the Corporation and the faculty voted to appoint for the Gray One '54 a chancellor. For even when the Wheezner was enthroned supreme in Technology was the Gray One '54 chancellor. And lo, the chancellor, named second only to the Gray One '54, was

called Job, yea even our hero. Thus did Job ascend to the ranks of the great ones, as his reward for not cursing the Institute and transferring.

Then as the Grey One '54 passed on into the state of being as an Institute professor emeritus, the Corporation and the faculty did make his chancellor, even Job, to be enthroned in all of the Grey One's '54 former glory.

### IV

Then did I, Saturnius, lift up my eyes again, and I saw before me all of the vice presidents and Institute professors going to and fro singing the praises unto the Constantinoplus saying, "Have thou considered my faithful student Jonah? . . ."

*Editor's note: Stuart C. Atlow '83 is a graduate student at Brandeis University.*



## notices

### Ongoing

The following exhibits are being held at the MIT Museum: **A Bunch of Electricals: An MIT Electrical Engineering Retrospective.** A celebration of the centenary of the Electrical Engineering Dept. Included are the Bush Differential Analyzer and the Edison Dynamo given to the Institute by Thomas A. Edison in 1887. **Math in 3D: Geometric Sculptures by Morton C. Bradley, Jr.** Sixteen sculptures based on mathematical formulae. Form and color relation give these works a unique visual appeal. 265 Massachusetts Ave. Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. Free.

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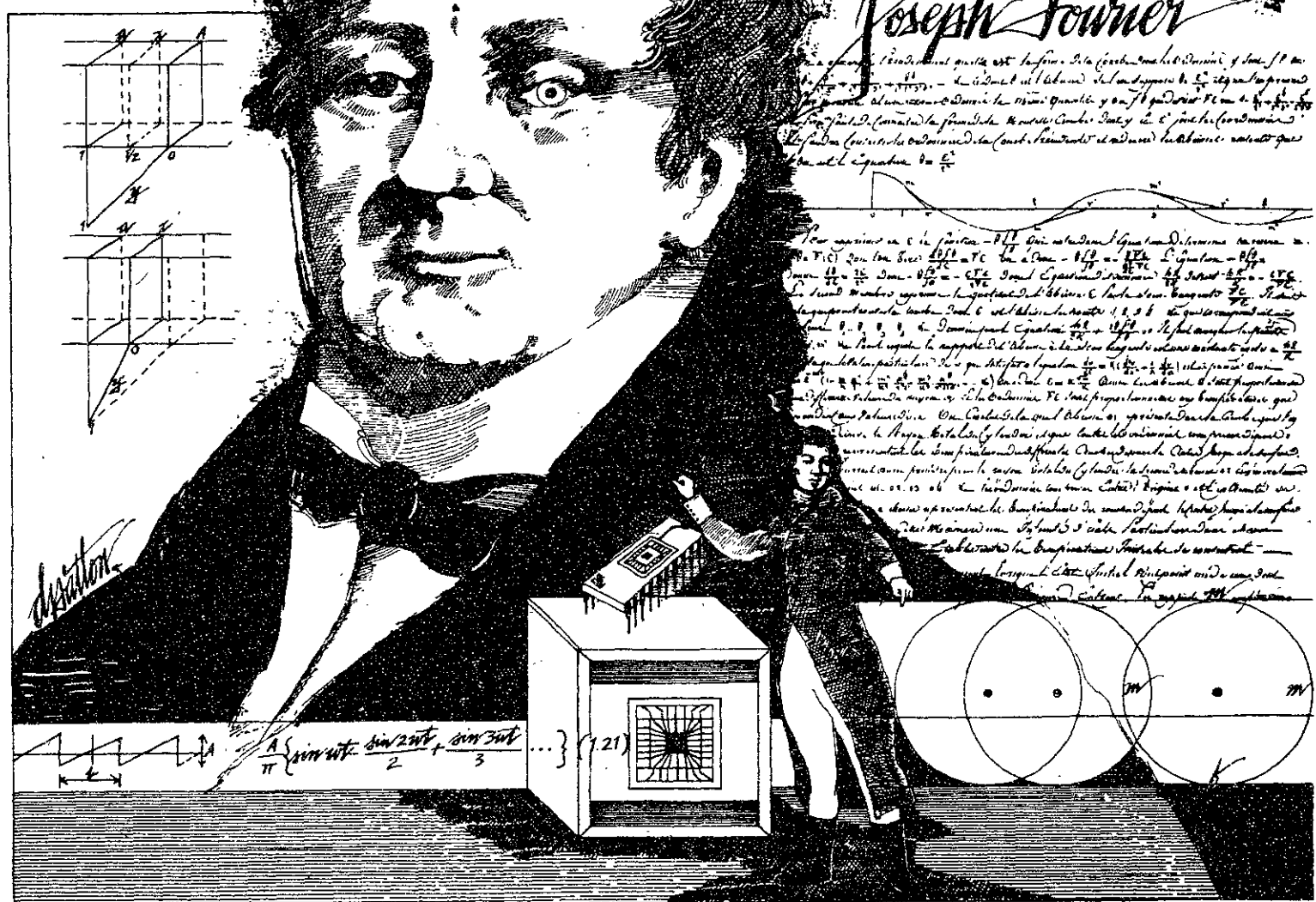
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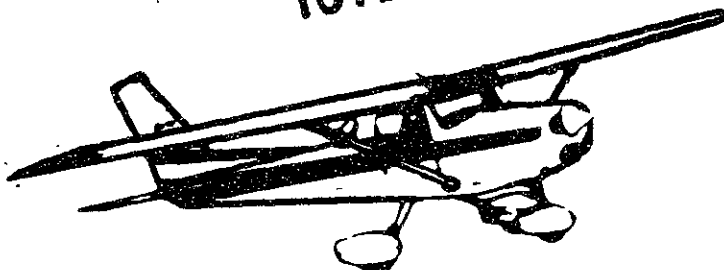
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# The Beatles by the book

**The Long & Winding Road: A History of the Beatles on Record**, by Neville Stannard, Avon Books, 240 pp., \$7.95.

In the 20-odd years since the Beatles left Liverpool to find pop stardom, they have emerged as true icons of the baby-boom era. They influenced not only music, where their mark is indelibly stamped on the writing and playing styles of legions of past and present rock 'n' rollers, but fashion, political thought, and morality as well.

No single volume can relate the entire Beatles story; there is simply too much to tell. *The Long & Winding Road* concentrates on but one aspect of the band, ostensibly the most important one — their music. This book claims right on the cover to be "the most complete Beatles discography ever compiled." If it is not, I would like to see what is.

Before they finally hit big in America, the Beatles recorded and released a plethora of songs on several different record labels — five different labels alone before

signing with Capitol in 1964. To compound the matter, marketing policies of the labels often dictated that records released in Britain often bore no resemblance to those released in the United States.

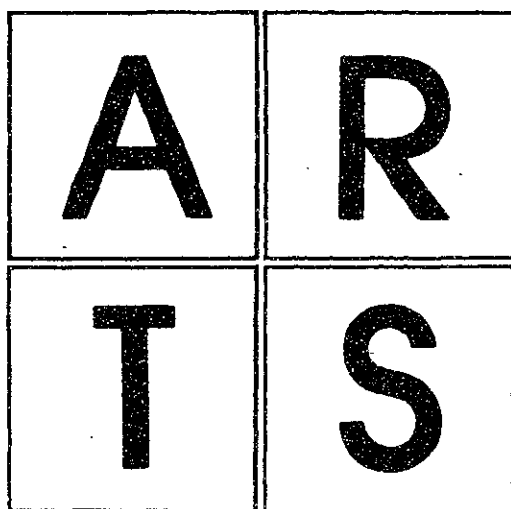
For example, tracks from British albums were frequently left off of the comparable American release, so that songs would be ready to go onto an American album when Capitol determined that it was time to release new product. *Yesterday and Today* is such an album, released in the United States but not in England.

*The Long & Winding Road* contains detailed recording information about each individual song recorded by the Beatles, including such tidbits as who wrote what parts of what songs, who played what, running times, chart placing, and assorted

random trivia. Also included are several appendices covering such subjects as the "Paul is dead" rumor, unreleased recordings, bootlegs, and songs written by the band but recorded by other musicians.

All of this information is crucial to the serious record collector who seeks to acquire and differentiate among several different versions of a given song, often encompassing only minor variations. Some of the earlier Beatles records command prices of several hundred dollars, as does the famous "butcher block" cover of *Yesterday and Today* — the most infamous of all banned album covers.

This book is not a price guide or an evaluation of any sort, however; it merely provides information for the reader to make his own judgements. Its only fault is that no recordings made by the solo Bea-

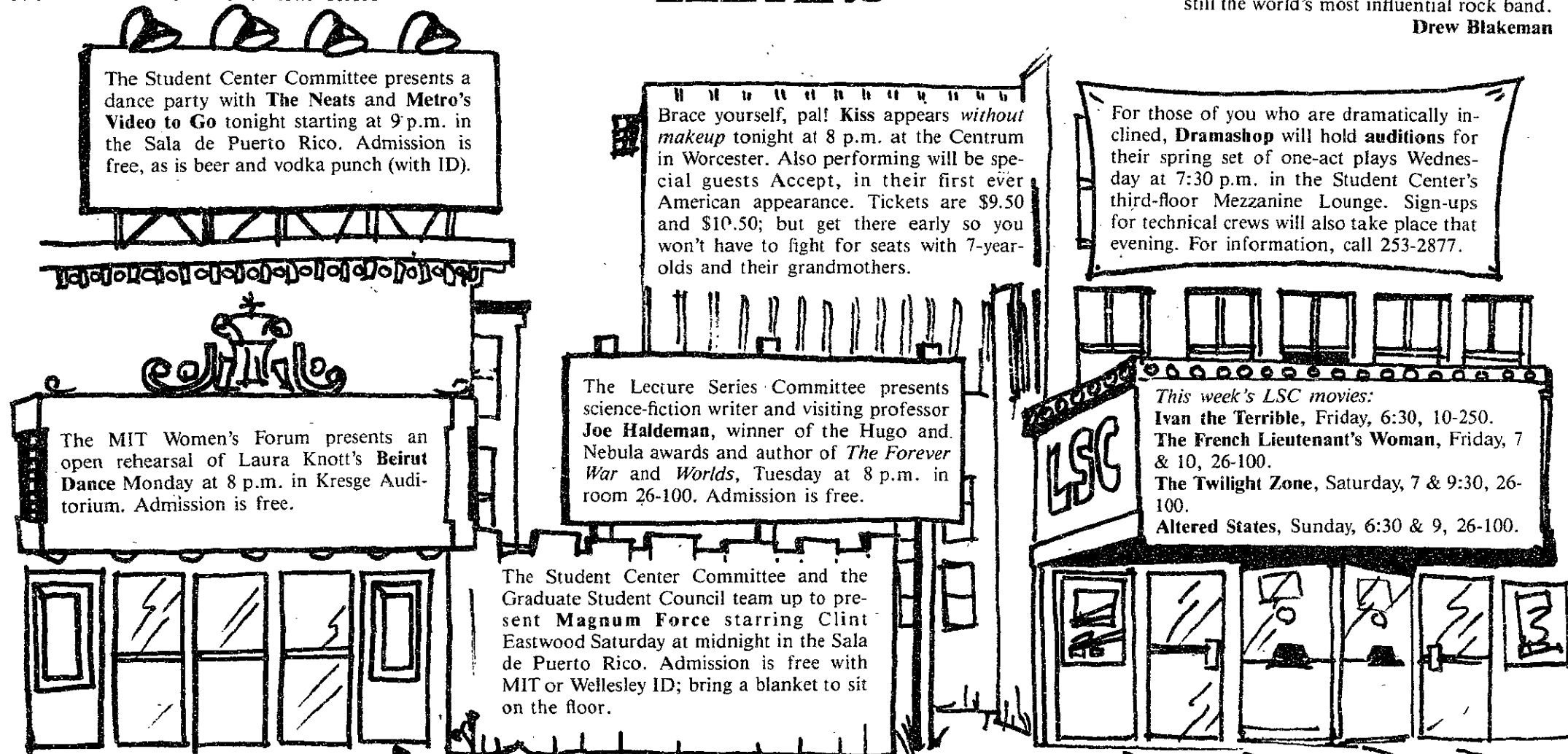


ties after the band's breakup are included in the exhaustive listings, information which has been published in similar books.




*The Long & Winding Road* is not just for the serious collector — there is a wealth of information that can keep anyone interested for hours on end — but the casual fan might find it all a bit too much to digest. For those who have more than a passing interest, this book could easily become an oft-perused reference on what is still the world's most influential rock band.

Drew Blakeman

## ARTS



\*\*\*\*\*

I must  interests  to the  pander


### one more time

Don't forget to send us your picks of the best records of 1983. Even if only one record caught your ear last year, let us know about it. The deadline to submit your lists has been extended to Tuesday, Feb. 28. Send them via Institute mail to:

The Tech  
Record Survey  
W20-483

or bring them by our offices on the fourth floor of the Student Center. Please hurry, though, or terminally cute Duran Duran will win it in a walk. Thank you.

ATTENTION



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# Opinion

## Hailing down fear

(Continued from page 4)  
afraid, not just of little things like muggers lurking in the alleys, but of big things like nuclear war and not living past the age of 20. Some of my friends actually got mugged, although none of them died in a nuclear holocaust. More and more movies began appearing which dealt with the subject of nuclear war. It seems that we are now racing toward some type of nuclear confrontation.

It is Reagan's continual emphasis on the "Communist Threat" and the need to defend ourselves which has led to this state of affairs. His low regard for human life has somehow trickled down to us, lowering our opinions of ourselves and our fellow man.

Reagan is not solely responsible for cheapening the value of life, but there is a definite connection which cannot be ignored. Likewise, recent fear of nuclear war has been sparked by increased media interest. The media have been fascinated by the idea of nuclear war ever since a war-monger was elected to office,

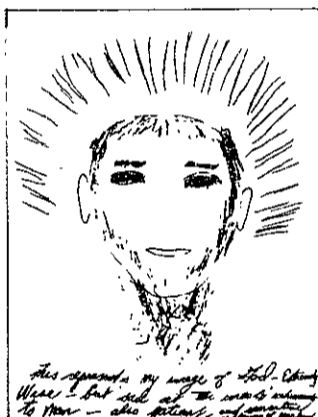
making nuclear war far more probable.

It seems egotistical for we Americans to think it, but we must elect the next president on the basis of not only of how good he will be for the United States, but also of how good he will be for the rest of the world. With this in mind, it is important to examine the facts about each candidate, rather than listen to campaign rhetoric. A candidate's policies once in office depends not only on the kind of person he or she is, but also on the sort of deals he or she had to cut to get elected. Any president's true colors will eventually come out, but the chains in which he or she binds himself — the campaign deals — will unquestionably affect his or her performance as president.

Unfortunately, it is not at all clear how to evaluate a candidate, and virtually impossible to find out what kind of deals he or she has made. The only thing we can do is hope — and arm ourselves against the taxi drivers.

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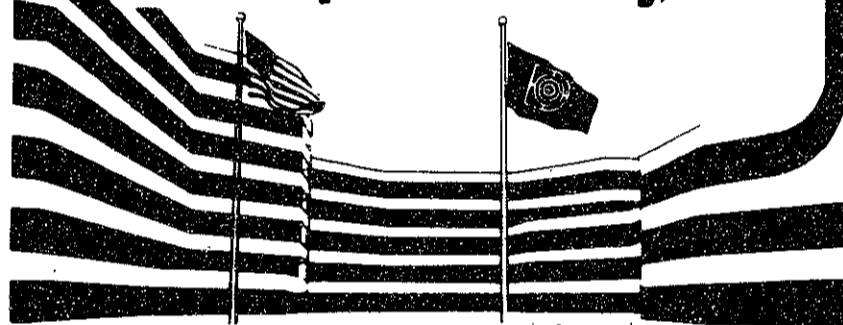
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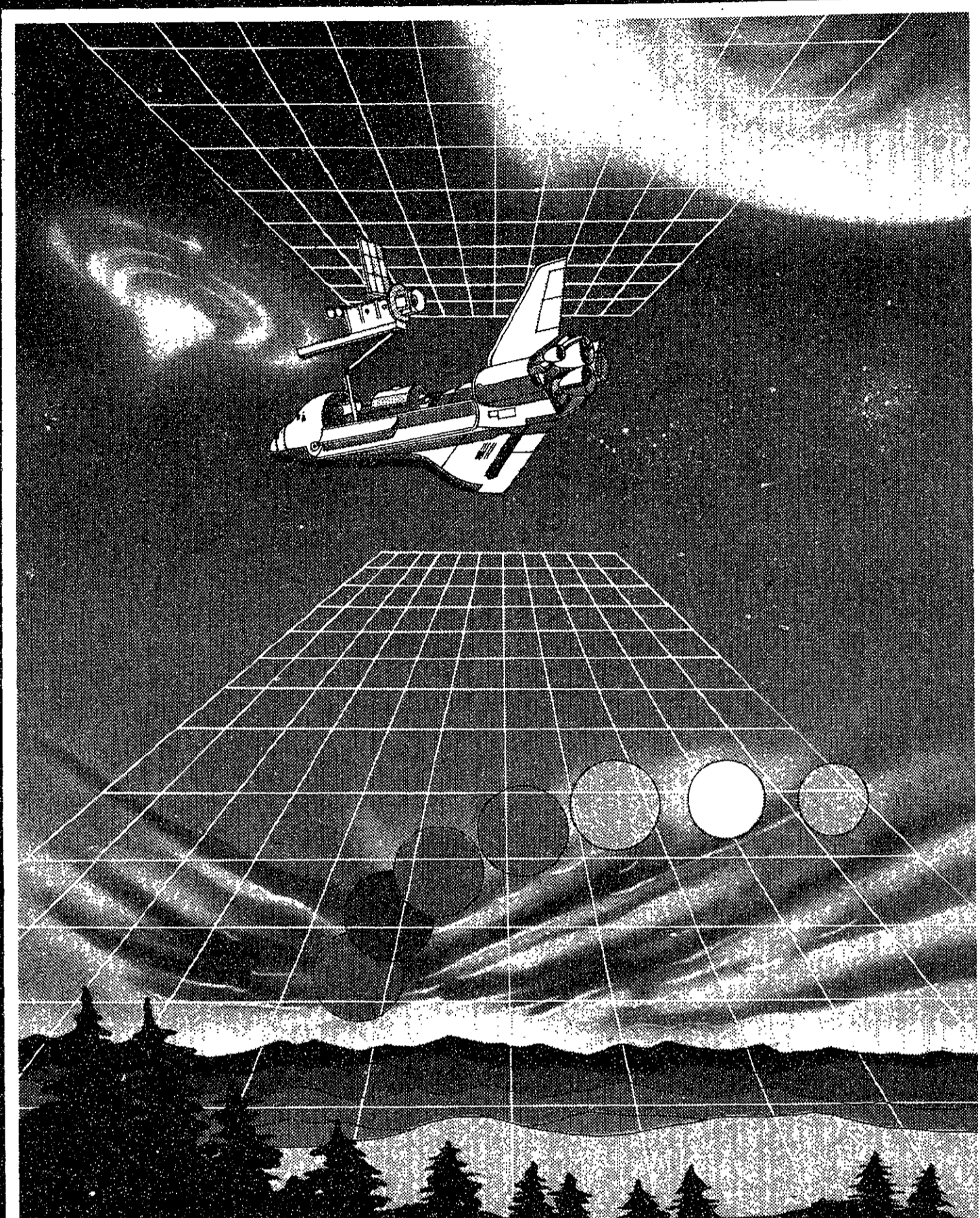
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# Writers benefit companies

(Continued from page 1)

had no clear idea of what a technical writer did, Varteressian landed the job, and has since held two management-level positions in technical writing.

"Whenever I'd gone as far as I could go, and I couldn't replace my boss, I left, and somehow I fell into the right company at the right time," he said.

"You know that book, *How To Get There From MIT?*" Varteressian asked his audience. "I'll tell you how I got there from MIT. In each case, I just fell into it."

In defining the evolution of the technical writing, Varteressian identified and described five historical periods:

- The Nihilistic, when "no writers were needed because only computer programmers worked with computers and the attitude toward writers was, 'Anybody can write; I've been doing it since third grade.'"

- The Cretaceous, when "computer-naive people first began getting into software." Writing the documentation was a job often given to failed programmers during this time, Varteressian said.

- The Secretareous, "during the age of manuals, when writers were treated as secretaries."

- The Emancipation, when writers finally achieved equal but separate status. "The approach was to find writers and teach them technology. This was easier than teaching programmers to write — much to the programmers' chagrin," said Varteressian. "But still, in those days what you

shipped to the customer was code, and everything else was peripheral."

- "We are now in what I hope is the Modern, or Post-Copernican age," said Varteressian. "The writer is seen as an engineer and given a hand in developing new personal computers, like Apple's Macintosh. Once upon a time, error messages were codes. Now they are in English and often include the recovery procedure — an innovation due largely to the writers," he noted.

One consequence of the explosion of "naive users" is that the writer of computer documentation must often write two different books aimed at different audiences Varteressian noted. "One tells you everything you could possibly want to know about a system, and is aimed at programmers," Varteressian said. "The second covers the twenty percent of the people who will use. Some people write these by telling themselves they're going to write for their grandmothers."

Varteressian urged his audience not to undersell the role of technical writers in product development. "Once, a severe mistake in a system we were selling was

traced in the field to a single confusing use of the passive voice in the documentation. It took five people six weeks — or was it six people five weeks? — to find the problem."

"Companies don't want to spend support money on misunderstandings if they can avoid it," Varteressian noted. "For this reason, I can delay the shipping of a product if the book to go with it isn't ready or isn't good enough." In addition to such management decisions, his job includes supervision of a staff of 67 people as well as training and library programs.

Small computer companies seek people with deeper-than-superficial backgrounds in both computer science and writing, Varteressian said, but such people are in short supply. "We milk the college market [of people with degrees in both] dry very fast," he commented. Because of this drain, larger companies with more time and money to spend are often willing to take "entry-level" technical writers — people with proficiency and experience in only one of the two disciplines, and train them in the remaining field until they can confidently function as interpreters.

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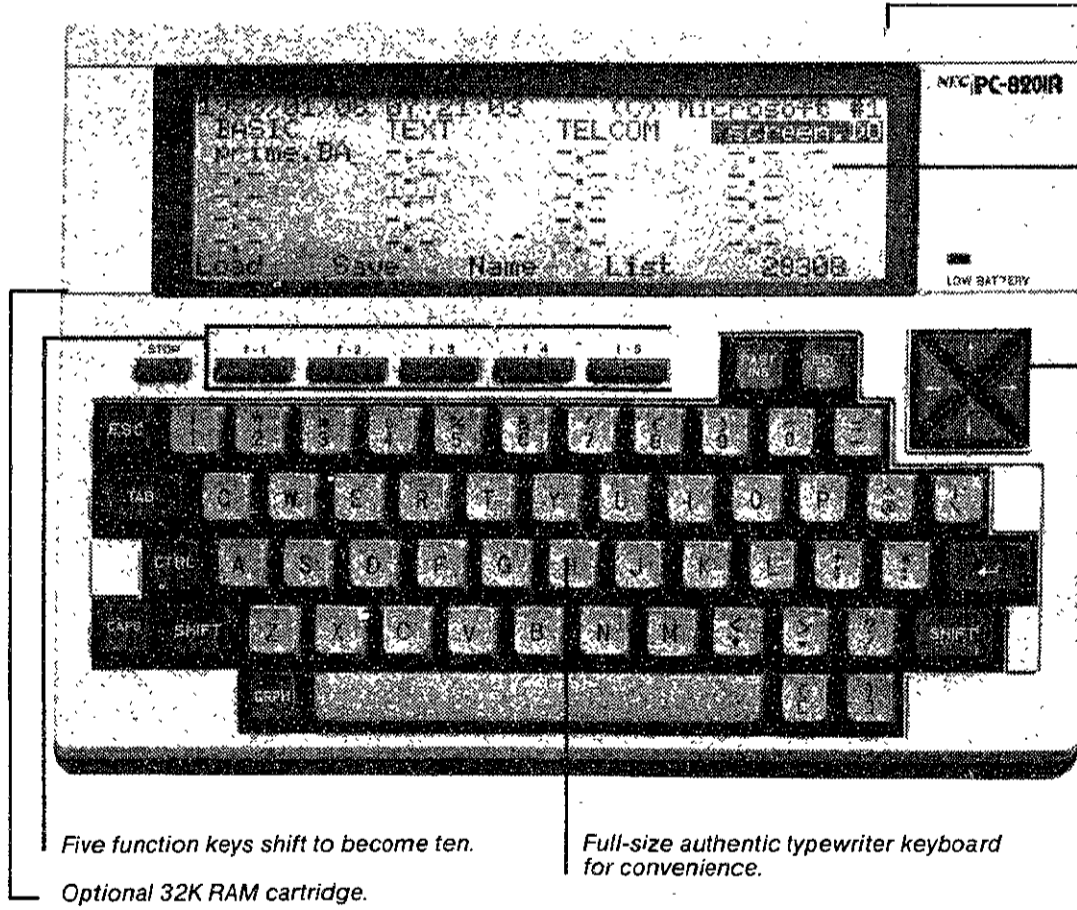
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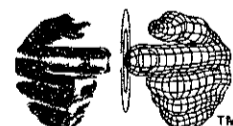
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131 State St.  
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617/720-1004

## notices

### Tuesday, March 10

Britten's War Requiem, 8 pm, Symphony Hall. Britten's powerful anti-war mass, conducted by John Oliver. Tickets \$13 (reg \$20), may be purchased in the MITAC Office. No refunds.

The Cambridge Center for Adult Education will celebrate the joy of Mardi Gras with a costume festival (or black tie). Prize for the best costume and group costume. Proceeds go to the Cambridge Center Scholarship Fund. Will be held at the Blacksmith House, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge. For details, call 547-6789.

### Saturday, March 14

A lecture by Allan Temko, Environmental Architectural Design Editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, will be held at Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

Mark O. Hatfield, United States Senator from the State of Oregon will deliver the William Belden Noble Lectures in the Memorial Church, Harvard University on March 14 and 15 at 8:00 pm. The titles of his lectures will be *The Responsible Christian Citizen: The Moral Implications of Public Policy*. For more info call David Fountain at 495-5508 or 495-5510.

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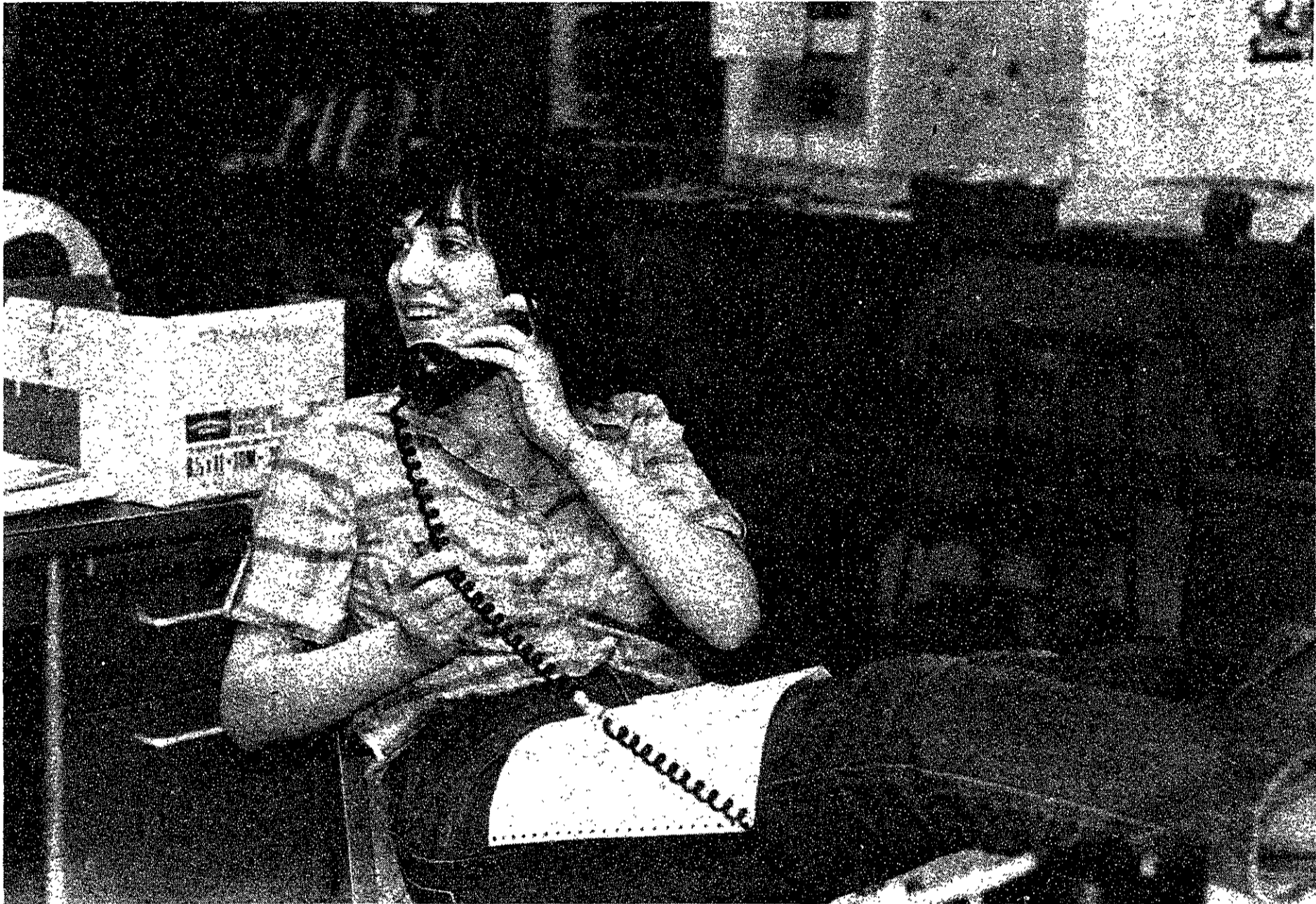
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## Who is *The Tech*?



Tech photo by Simson L. Garfinkel

*Janice M. Eisen '85*  
*Associate News Editor Volume 103.*  
*News Editor Volume 104*

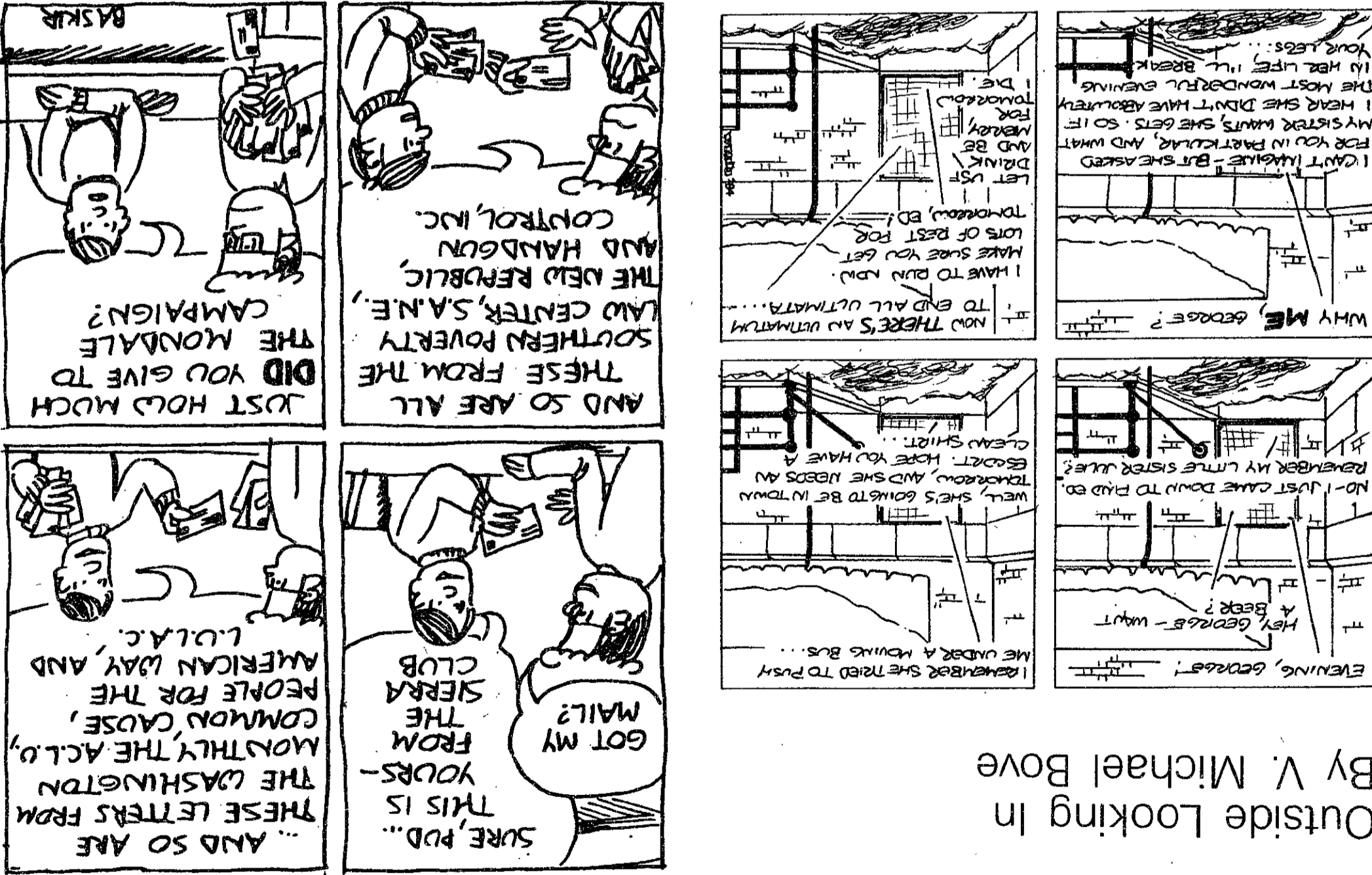
“I’d been interested in writing and journalism for some time, but for some reason, probably inertia, I didn’t get around to joining *The Tech* as a news writer until last summer. Promotions come fast here — before I knew it, the Board elected me a news editor.

“As one of four news editors, I’m responsible for assigning, editing and frequently writing news stories. I also write headlines, which is harder than it sounds, since they have to fit column lengths exactly. I try to keep in touch with what’s going on around the Institute and in the outside world so I can make sure interesting stories get covered. I’m usually here two to four nights a week, making sure an issue is filled and the copy gets submitted in time to be typeset.

**“Stop by anytime and I’ll be happy to show you how we write a newspaper.”**

# comics

Stickles  
By Geoff Baskir



## classified advertising

Small, varied consultancy seeking freelance associates (economists; statisticians; systems/financial analysts; engineers; others). Flexible hours: household professionals welcome. Write to P.G. Head, 52 Bay State Rd., Boston, MA 02215 describing background, profession- at aspirations. All replies acknow- ledged.

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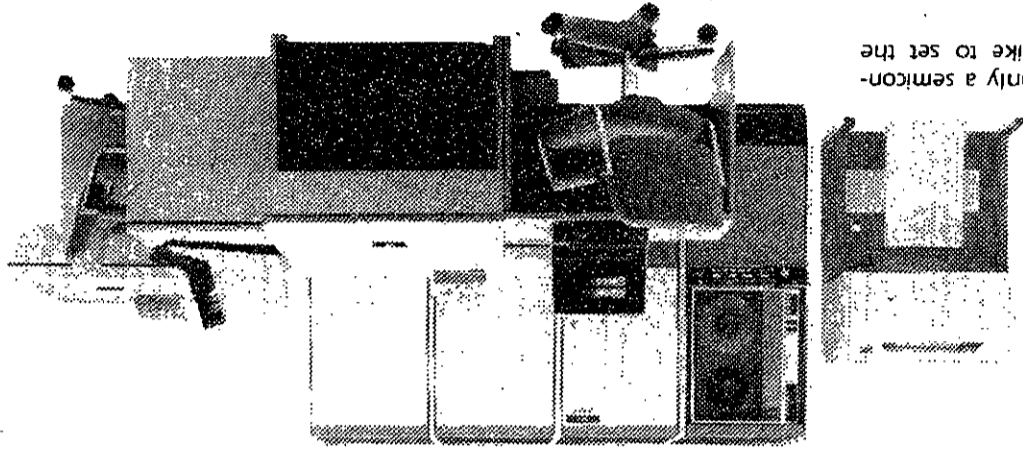
**Responsible male roommate** need- ed to share 2BR Arlington house. Quiet neighborhood near bus line. Driveway parking. No smoking or pets. \$212 plus utilities. Call Steve at 648-4051, 253-5819

If you are a member of Gamma Phi Beta, please call (617) 682-6971 for information on Gamma Phi's ac- tivities in the Boston area. Ask for Kathie.

**STUDENTS AGAINST REAGANISM**  
Are you concerned about Reagan Administration policies on the envi- ronment, arms control, and equal rights? Join Students Against Rea- ganism. Organizational meeting of MIT chapter: Today, 3pm, 4-153.

**Help Wanted.** Two full-time posi- tions available in sunny Santa Bar- bara, CA. LISP SYSTEMS PRO- GRAMMER - will be developing 68000 Lisp. KNOWLEDGE ENGI- NEER - will be developing expert system on Symbolics 3600. Con- tact: Denton Bolly, Inference Technologies Division of The Orig- inal Computer Camp, Inc. (800) 235-6965.

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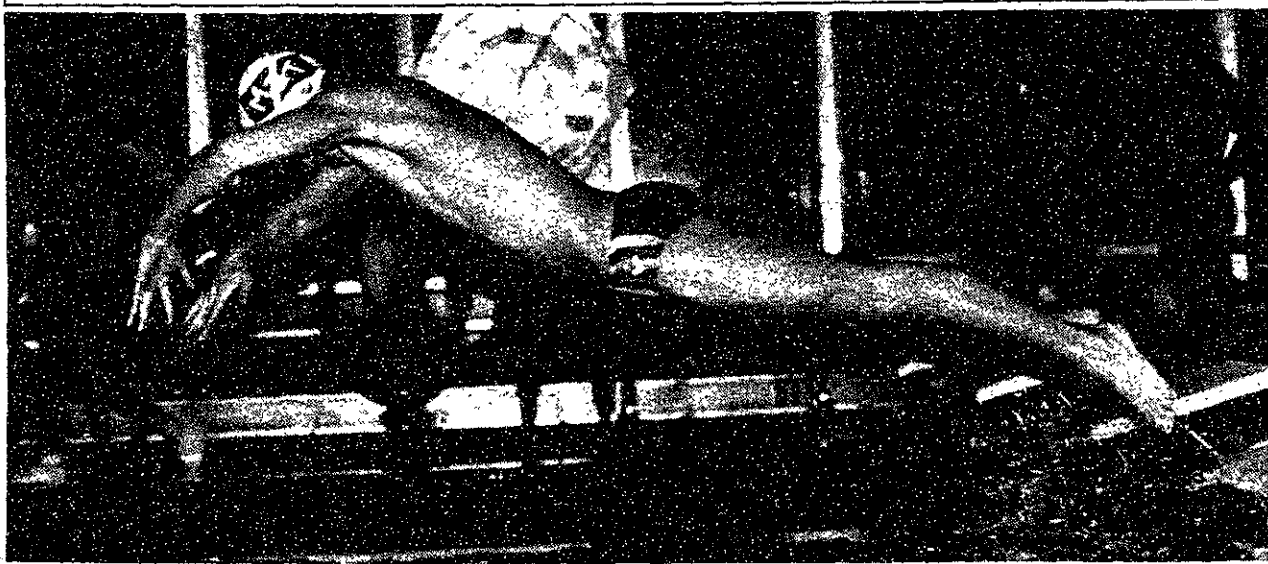
As a Fairchild engineer, you'll be part of a team dedicated to not just the maintenance of the company's leadership, but to the furthering of it. To that end, we have an R&D program designed to stretch your skills to the limit, as well as continuing educational support and inhouse training to enhance your professional development.

**We will be conducting on-campus interviews March 7 & March 8**

See your Placement Office for details, or send a letter of interest to: Fairchild Digital Test Systems, University Relations, 1725 Technology Drive, San Jose, CA 95115. As an affirmative action employer we encourage women, members of minority groups, veterans, and the handicapped to apply.

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# sports



Brett Miwa '86 starts the second leg of the 400-yard freestyle relay against Bowdoin College during Saturday's meet.

## Swim teams split final meet

By Steven Wheatman

The men's and women's swimming teams finished their regular seasons against Bowdoin College Saturday at the Alumni Pool. The men's team won 72-36 while the women's team lost its meet 95-45.

The men's 400-yard medley relay team of John Belzer '84, Bob Schoelein '84, Andy Renshaw '85, and Peter Hickman '85 quickly quieted an excited visiting squad with a first place finish and a national qualifying time of 3:39.32.

In individual events, Erik Bettez '87 won the 1000-yard freestyle in 10:14.91. Brett Miwa '86 just edged out teammate Bill Gordan '87 to take second in the 200-yard freestyle. Joe Lo '86 then splashed to a first place in the 50-yard freestyle in 22.24 seconds, tying his own school record from two weeks ago.

The diving team of Clark Dorman '87, Peter Ulrich '86, and Andy Marshall '87 turned in an uncontested 1-2-3 finish.

Andy Renshaw '85 won the 200-yard freestyle with a national qualifying time of 1:57.80. Hickman and Lo delivered a 1-2 punch in the 100-yard freestyle with times of 49.07 and 50.83 seconds.

The 500-yard freestyle finished dramatically when Belzer came from behind to win by one-tenth of a second with an impressive time of 4:59.01.

With the meet out of the Polar Bear's reach, the 400-yard freestyle relay team relaxed and had fun in the final event. Andy Lumsdane '85 swam the first leg of the relay with the butterfly stroke. Teammates Miwa, Gordan, and Renshaw kept with the more conventional crawl stroke to turn in a winning time of 3:24.69.

While drying off from a playful dunk by his victorious team, head coach John Benedick said this meet was the type he wanted his team to swim in final preparation for the upcoming New England Division III Championships on Feb. 25 in Springfield.

The women's medley-team of Irene Griff '87, Megan Smith '86, Valerie Beyer '85 and Bonny Schwenke '86 took second place in the 200-yard relay to start the meet.

In the grueling 1000-yard freestyle, Kjirste Carlson '84 and Babette Nickles '85 captured second and third place respectively with times of 11:33.49 and 12:45.08. Julie Marquet '87 placed third in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:14.00. Betty Beitz '84 finished second in the 100-yard backstroke.

In the 200-yard butterfly, Rebecca Perry '86 and Beyer turned in times of 2:20.60, and 2:29.76 respectively to take second and third. Smith was MIT's top finisher in the 50-yard freestyle with a third place time of 30.49.

In the 100-yard freestyle, Marquet took third with a 1:01.60 performance. In the 500-yard freestyle, Carlson and Nickles returned to snare first and third places with times of 5:42.45 and 6:20.32 respectively. Perry and Beyer repeated their performances in the 100-yard butterfly, finishing 1:03.99 and 1:08.33.

The "Senior Relay Team" of Beitz, Carlson, Beyer and Mary

Kay Biscan '84 finished the meet by winning the 400-yard freestyle relay with a 1:56.57.

Lori Blackwelder '86 topped three Bowdoin opponents in the diving competition to take first in the 1-meter and 3-meter competitions.

The women leave tonight to compete in the New England Division III Championships in Maine.



Lori Blackwelder '86 slips into the pool to take first place in the diving competition Saturday.

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