

Freshmen pick majors

By Earl C. Yen

First in a two-part series examining freshmen choices of majors.

The MIT Registrar has released the results of its survey of intended majors of the Class of 1988. Seventy-five percent of the freshman class responded to the survey, which was conducted by the Undergraduate Academic Support Office (UASO).

The survey indicates that there may be a drop in next year's enrollment in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS).

Twenty-nine percent of the respondents indicated that they plan to major in Course VI, compared to 33 percent of the Class of '87, 36 percent of the Class of '86, and 32 percent of the Class of '85.

"It looks hopeful," said UASO Executive Officer Peggy Richardson. "Students seem to be spreading out."

Freshman advisors were encouraged to "talk to students about the alternatives," Richardson continued. "Too many students were not going in [Course VI] for the right reasons," she explained. "We hope that most advisors did [talk to] students that were undecided."

It is impossible to tell whether the apparent decrease in Course VI enrollment is a result of a "natural movement" away from Course VI or is caused by the creation of the new alternative programs in Physics, Mathematics, and Management, Richardson said.

Professor Kenneth R. Manning, chairman of the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid (CUAFA), said that the survey will be used to help decide whether or not the CUAFA will place restrictions on Course VI enrollment for enter-

ing freshmen classes beginning with the Class of 1990.

The Committee on Educational Policy's EECS restriction plan, which the faculty approved last October, sets a limit of 310 students in Course VI enrollment for the Class of 1988 as a condition for avoiding restrictive admissions for future freshmen classes.

"If the numbers look clearly favorable, the CUAFA will probably want to act to not emplace restrictions," said Manning. "If it's borderline or unfavorable, CUAFA will wait until the [Registrar's] third-day count of majors and then decide."

Manning was unable to comment on whether the survey results appear favorable. "I really have to wait until the committee meets as a whole," he said. "I can't make that decision for the committee."

Moser, Tai reveal plans for UA

By Robie Silberglett

Undergraduate Association (UA) President Bryan R. Moser '87 and Vice President Mary S. Tai '87 have begun a reorganization of the UA Council three weeks into their term of office.

"We aren't changing anything structurally — only attitudes," Moser said. The pair plans to get people more involved and more cooperative.

Moser and Tai have made an effort to keep the doors open at the UA office, located on the fourth floor of the Student Center. "The office belongs to the 4000 MIT undergraduates; come up and visit us," Moser said.

The UA, in an effort to encourage a greater sense of community among student groups, has scheduled a party for May 10 for student activities with offices in the Student Center and Walker Memorial, Moser continued.

The UA will try to encourage "new attitudes" with biweekly announcements in *The Tech* aimed at informing and involving the student body, Moser said. Class governments, Association for Student Activities student groups and the UA will be able to advertise their activities without having to request money from the Finance Board, Moser explained.

UA encourages student proposals

Moser and Tai described their work with the Dormitory Council and the Inter-Fraternity Council on the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Alcohol's proposals as an example of the usefulness of the UA as a body promoting cooperation.

Moser and Tai have helped both groups develop statements regarding the committee's proposals, Moser said. The groups' recommendations will be combined into a single comprehensive policy suggestion by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Alcohol by the end of next week, he added.

The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs will be receptive to the committee's proposals if they are viable and address liability

and the questions of people not associated with MIT, Moser continued. "There is no adversarial relationship with the Dean's Office," he explained.

"What I want to see coming out of this committee is the students' hashing out for themselves what the policy should be," Moser said. He said he would like to see student government at MIT adopt a similar attitude. "The UA should make proposals. The UA in the past has waited for the administration's proposals and then said 'No, we don't like that,'" he said.

Another project Moser and Tai have initiated is to provide the UA office with the resources to aid students in lobbying on the state and federal level, Moser said.

The UA donated both money and personnel to an Experimental Study Group booth in Lobby 10 that encouraged students to write to their state and federal congressmen and senators concerning student financial aid cuts, Moser said. The only requirement for UA sponsorship is that equal support be available to both sides of any issue, he added.

Other projects that Moser and Tai plan to have underway by next fall include the revitalization of the Student Committee on Educational Policy, student representation in the planning for the reorganization of the Student Center and Walker Memorial, and student representation on the issue of Course VI overenrollment and the possible elimination of need-blind admissions.

Issue-specific monthly forums will also begin next fall to supplement the existing UA Council monthly meeting, Moser said. Moser and Tai plan to prepare for these meetings by taking samplings of student opinion while visiting living groups. "We are going out and knocking on doors," Tai said.

Both Moser and Tai plan to remain at MIT this summer and said that they expect to be able to

spend a good deal of time working on UA projects.

"We are just finding out what has to be [done] and playing it by ear," Tai said of the first three weeks of Moser's and her term.

NSF awards fellowships

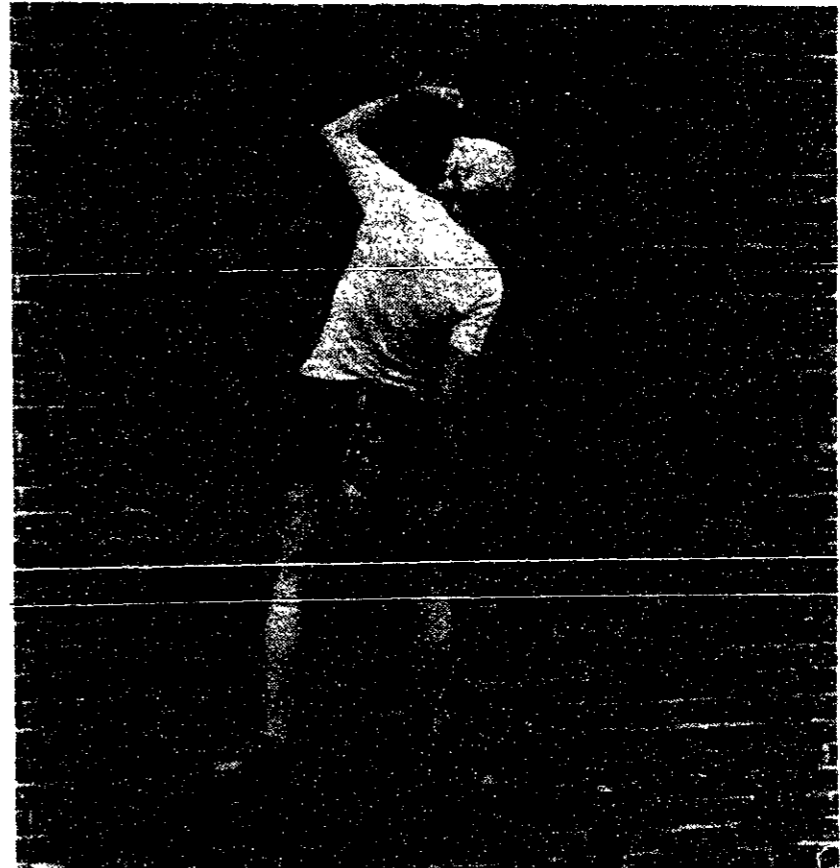
By David P. Hamilton

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded graduate fellowships to 21 MIT undergraduates on April 12. MIT was also the most popular choice of graduate schools among fellowship recipients.

The MIT students are among 540 scholars to receive national fellowships this year, according to Terrence Porter, director of the Division of Research and Career Development at NSF. Over 4400 college seniors and first-year graduate students applied for the fellowships.

"NSF graduate fellowships are awarded to those eligible students who show potential for major contributions in science and engineering work," Porter said. The award decisions are based on academic records, grade point averages, recommendations, and graduate examination scores, he continued.

The fellowship consists of a stipend of \$11,100 a year, or \$925 a month, according to a statement released by NSF. The graduate



Tech photo by Rich R. Fletcher

Does the thought of finals have you climbing walls? Final exams are less than 3 weeks away, and the end of the term crunch has driven this student up the walls near the MIT cathedral. A more sane outlet for frustration may be the upcoming activities of Spring Weekend, which include a concert featuring REM, the IFC Olympiad, parties, and the SCC picnic on Sunday. Spring Weekend is also probably much less of an uphill battle.

school which the NSF Fellow attends receives \$6000 yearly from NSF as a cost-of-education allowance in lieu of tuition fees charged to the fellowship recipient.

NSF provides the awards for three years of graduate study, but they may be used over any five-year period in order to allow the recipients to teach or pursue research while they are not receiving their fellowship stipends, according to the press release.

"The fellowship award is good at any graduate school," Porter said.

MIT is the graduate school most commonly selected by NSF fellows, Porter continued. This year, 76 Fellows have declared they will attend an MIT graduate school, making MIT the most popular choice.

Stanford University and Berkeley were runners-up in this category, with 71 and 57 Fellows respectively.

There are currently 200 Fellows at MIT, out of approximately 1600 nationally, Porter said.

Wilson reveals study results

By Ben Stanger

The MIT Center for International Studies held a seminar Wednesday on "The Human Costs of Apartheid." The seminar addressed the migratory labor system and the problems of poverty in South Africa.

Willard R. Johnson, MIT professor of political science, chaired the session.

The meeting featured Francis Wilson, director of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Politics and Development in South Africa since 1982. Wilson is a professor at the University of Capetown in South Africa.

Wilson said the migratory labor system in South Africa makes that country distinct from the rest of the world. South African workers are required to live in rural areas, up to 500 miles away from the cities where they work. "[The migratory labor system]

would be my focus for any discussion of the cost of human apartheid," he said.

The Carnegie study is important because it will let people consider strategies for economic change, Wilson said. South Africa is one of 12 countries in the world which export food. In spite of this, many blacks starve to death.

Wilson first collected responses from South Africans about the need for a study of poverty in the country. The typical white response was that an inquiry into poverty is needed. The typical black response was that money should not be spent on the study because poverty is obvious to blacks. They agreed, however, that if the study presents solutions to poverty, then it is worthwhile.

The researchers divided their inquiry into three stages: finding

The NSF graduate fellowship program has been in existence for 34 years and has awarded over 23,000 fellowships. The ranks of NSF Fellows have included nine Nobel laureates and five winners of the Field Medal in mathematics.

This year's Fellows come from 48 states and the District of Columbia. 178 of this year's award recipients are women. The awards were distributed among scientific disciplines as follows: 20 in mathematics, 15 in applied mathematics, 30 in computer science, 45 in physics and astronomy, 41 in chemistry, 29 in earth science, 163 in biological sciences, and 100 in the social sciences and psychology.

Ondria Jaffe '85, an MIT undergraduate who has decided to attend MIT graduate school on her fellowship, described her fellowship as a "real bonus."

"Now I don't have to take an RA or TA position or even an outside job," she said. "[The fellowship] will allow me to concentrate on my research, which is the whole point of the award."

the facts, understanding the causes of poverty, and planning short and long range strategies.

A large number of students went out into the field to collect information about poverty in South Africa. They compiled 301 area studies, Wilson said. The organizers of the inquiry were then able to paint a macroeconomic picture from these studies.

The number of people living below the poverty level has risen from 13 to 15 million over the past twenty years, and the number of totally destitute people increased sixfold in that period, Wilson claimed. Blacks make up the vast majority of people living below the poverty level, he added.

But in the poorest areas of the country, the percent of the population stricken by poverty has dropped. Wilson attributed local

Erratum

Philip Morris Inc. does not have business dealings in South Africa, as reported in the April 9 issue of *The Tech* ["Hundreds protest at Columbia"]. The report should have stated that Columbia University holds shares in Phillips Petroleum, a company that does have South African interests. *The Tech* regrets the error.

(Please turn to page 2)

Craft claims a need exists for civil disobedience in women's movement

By Harold A. Stern
 Activist Nikki Craft spoke on civil disobedience and her personal involvement in the feminist movement last week. Pro-femina sponsored the lecture.

"Civil disobedience is a very important option," Craft said. She has been arrested 34 times on a variety of charges. Women would not have been granted the right to vote had it not been for "a few women willing to illegally enter the voting booths," she said. "We take what we learned from the non-violent movement and apply it."

Getting arrested, however, "is only a small part" of the women's movement, Craft stressed. She believes that her actions are "filling a void that needs to be filled."

Craft has founded numerous activist groups, including:

- **Women Armed for Self-Protection:** "A small group of women committed to becoming proficient in the use of various weapons, who called for immediate and drastic retaliation against rapists by their victims."

- **The Kitty Genovese Women's Project:** Craft led a group of women into the Dallas County Records Building. After months of research, they compiled the names of approximately 2100 indicted sex offenders and printed over 25,000 copies of the list.

- **Preying Mantis Women's Brigade (PMWB):** This group's statement of purpose claims, "... We refuse to hold mankind's laws, objects, and positions of power to be sacred, and vow to ... create havoc and ...

topple the empire that profits from the rape, death, and psychological destruction of 53 percent of the population."

The primary target of the PMWB was *Hustler* magazine and its publisher Larry Flynt. An open letter to Flynt from the brigade accused *Hustler* of providing "a slick support network for men who commit countless atrocities against women ... you routinely make a laughing matter of sexual torture."

Members of the PMWB went through Santa Cruz, tearing up copies of *Hustler* in stores and boycotting all places that sold the magazine. Their protest resulted in the removal of *Hustler* from 28 Santa Cruz stores.

A Pro-femina flyer stated that its opposition to pornography is not based on any personal distaste for the material. Rather, it said that the distribution of these materials results in violence to women.

"Women's safety and our very lives depend on challenging these women-hating, slanderous lies that pornographers are marketing about us," stated the "Outlaws for Social Responsibility," another group that Craft founded.

Craft led a campaign against *Penthouse* publisher Bob Guccione and numerous photographs which depicted apparent acts of violence committed against women. Craft showed pictures which appeared in the magazine such as a woman hanging from a tree, a girl tied to the outside of a house, and a female figure dashed against the rocks on a seashore.

"I do not want to hide these images," Craft said. "[We must] get them into media. Whenever we tear up magazines we do not do it because we think that to tear up the images is going to help anything; we tear it up in retaliation. We are not going to respect these images as women. [It is] a symbolic act of expression."

Craft presented several caveats for the women's movement. She warned the audience against allying with right-wing groups in the fight against pornography. "At every demonstration we have 'We do not oppose nudity' signs. We feel it is very important not to ally with the right-wing on this issue. [We have to] force them to deal with the topless rights."

The "Cross-Your-Heart Support Committee" fought for the right of females to appear topless in public. Craft and eight other women have been arrested nine times in Santa Cruz and are taking their case to the state Supreme Court.

Craft stressed that although the right to appear nude in public is not the only goal the committee is fighting for, its symbolic value is great. "It is as trivial as where you sit on a bus," she claimed, comparing her struggle in Santa Cruz to that of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Montgomery, AL.

Craft plans to be arrested in Cape Cod in the summer for appearing topless on the beach. She invited the audience to attend. "If I can turn one woman into a criminal, then I have done my job here."

Social factors contribute to an increase of poverty in South Africa

(Continued from page 1)

decreases in poverty to an increase in the number of civil service and mining jobs.

The conductors of the study were able to identify "22 Faces of Poverty," a list of social factors which contribute to poverty. Wilson presented the following examples:

- **Fuel:** Poor people may have to miss payment of electric bills and have their service cut off. Because of this, the poor must use candles and kerosene, which are more expensive than electricity.

This is only one of the ways in which "poverty is expensive," he said.

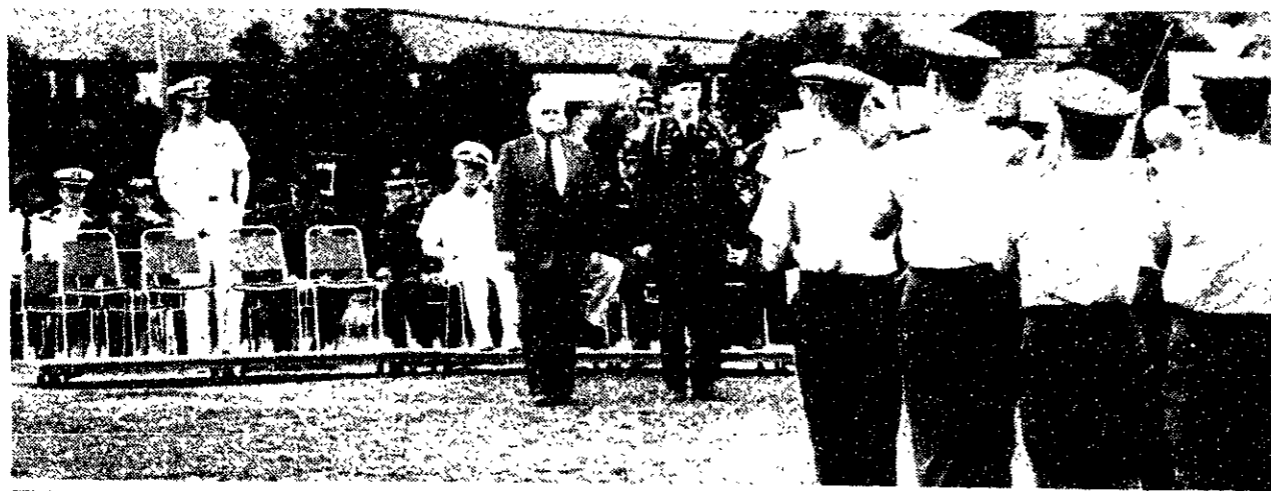
- **Infant mortality rates:** In 1981, the urban black infant mortality rate was 15 times the white infant mortality rate. Wilson believes the rural discrepancy is even worse.

- **"Bureaucratic double-bind:"** Blacks can only collect unemployment insurance in the areas where they live, although they usually live far away from the cities. They must stay in the cities, however, if they want to

find another job. They cannot do both.

Wilson offered a short-run strategy which would result in "political flexibility" in the long run. He suggested that South Africa set up institutions which will give organizational skills to blacks.

The primary consideration is humanity, according to Wilson. The black man has been "cut in half" by the government, he said. "Half his time is spent at work in town and the other half is spent on the reserve with his family."



President Paul E. Gray '54 presides over the annual tri-service ROTC Pass and Review, which was held yesterday afternoon on Briggs Field. Approximately 500 students from MIT, Harvard, Tufts, and Wellesley participate in the ROTC program at MIT.

Tech photos by Stephen P. Berczuk

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news roundup

World

South African rebel says divestment movement is working — Oliver Tambo, president of South Africa's outlawed African National Congress, said the campaign for divestment is helping to turn the tide against apartheid in his country. Armed uprisings by black South Africans against the white government are also gaining momentum, he said. "The white South African regime is becoming more demoralized."

Ethiopian government ousts victims from camp — Ethiopia has evicted nearly 60,000 famine victims from a feeding camp, according to a State Department report. The State Department called on the Ethiopian government to take immediate steps to rectify the situation. M. Peter McPherson, director of the Agency for International Development, said that the action amounted to imposing a "death sentence" on half of those ousted from the camp.

Guerrillas skirmish at Thai-Cambodian border — Thailand-Vietnamese troops and Cambodian guerrillas fought for over three hours Wednesday, with both sides suffering heavy casualties, according to Thai military reports. More than 10 Vietnamese were killed or wounded, and the Khmer Rouge guerrillas suffered as many casualties.

Nation

Republicans stage mock walkout from House — GOP congressmen held a symbolic walkout Wednesday after the House, dominated by Democrats, voted to declare Francis X. McCloskey the winner of Indiana's 8th District congressional race. McCloskey won his district by only four votes, making his the closest House race in history. The only previous exodus from the House occurred during Reconstruction, when Democrats walked out to protest the allegedly fraudulent seating of a black Republican in Congress.

Local

UMass apartheid protesters arrested — Thirty-two students protesting apartheid at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst were arrested Wednesday afternoon after staging a four-hour sit-in at offices of the university's treasurer. The students were later arraigned on trespassing charges. The sit-in followed a noon rally where 200 students demanded the immediate sale of university-held stock in companies that violate a trustee policy of divestment from companies that operate in South Africa.

Sports

Red Sox continue to lose — The Red Sox extended their losing streak to five games with a loss to the Seattle Mariners, 7-0. Since winning their first four games at Fenway, the Sox are 5-12, have been outscored 95-63, and have batted .228. In the last 32 innings they only twice have had hits with runners on base. The Sox are currently five games out of first place.

Weather

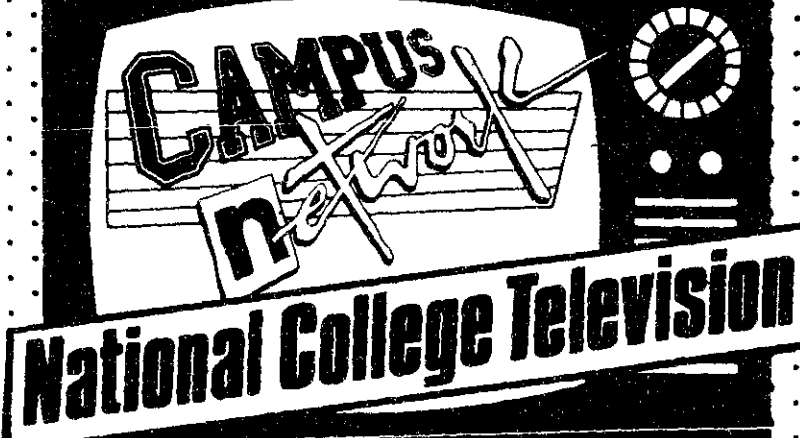
Massachusetts just does not compare to the Midwest — Sunshine may return this afternoon, but it will be only fair through Monday, with highs in the 50s and lows down to 30.

Edward Whang

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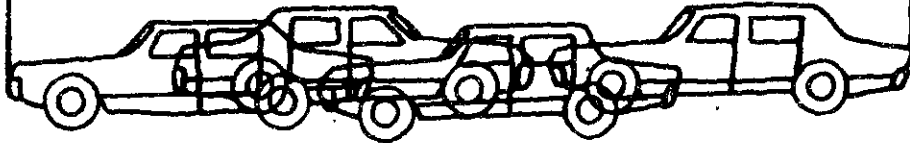
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- reading applications
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Applications for this position are available from Lynne Gemma in the Admissions Office (3-108) and should be returned to her no later than May 15, 1985.

opinion

Editorial

Divestment debate requires the facts

On April 24, some members of the MIT community rallied against apartheid in South Africa.

After the rally, a group of students walked to President Paul E. Gray's office. Gray cited some statistics about the level of US corporate investment in South Africa. Some members of the group did not agree with the statistics and started chanting, "Liar, liar."

"You better be goddamn careful when you call me a liar, because I think in this case I know more about the facts than you do," Gray responded.

Much of the heated discussion that took place in the Gray meeting was laced with childish accusation and misinformation. The two sides accomplished little.

The facts. What are the facts to the complex and controversial issue of apartheid and divestment? How can students and the administration obtain these facts?

The Tech denounces the South Africa's apartheid policy. But divestment, not the evilness of apartheid, is the vital issue. Divestment represents a potential economic weapon for combating apartheid. Across the country, students are calling for their universities to divest from corporations that have dealings with the government of South Africa.

But how many students and corporations can honestly say they know how effective or ineffective divestment would be?

Students must show the administration they are serious. They can do so by gaining a familiarity with the facts. They must be able to *understand* the arguments for and against divestment. Then can they debate intelligently rather than engaging in childish confrontation.

Only with information can people take serious, educated positions on controversial issues. Judging from incidents that have occurred on this campus, people here are uninformed.

President Gray said that US investment in South Africa made up one to three percent of the economy while the protesters thought it made up an "enormous" percentage.

Either Gray is wrong, or the protesters are wrong. Either way, somebody is misinformed.

Students can and must inform themselves on the issue. They can read newspapers, go to seminars on South Africa, talk to the president, and attend anti-apartheid rallies. They can discuss the issue with each other.

Members of the MIT Corporation must inform themselves on the issue as well. They must provide information on MIT investments in the companies under attack for their involvement in South Africa. The Corporation must state clearly what its position is on divestment, and the reasons for its position. It must state what it feels are the relevant issues.

Students want to plant the seeds of change. Protests have spread across the nation, slowly but surely, at Harvard, Tufts, Berkeley, Columbia, and at MIT.

Students cannot effect change, however, if they are rude to the very people they expect to make the changes. At other schools, students seem to understand this. Their demonstrations are geared toward making administrations hear and feel pressure, yet not at the expense of breaching communication.

Change can only occur when mutual cooperation and discussion come to fruition.

Column/Joaquin Tinio

Dealing with others after MIT

It is not enough that you should understand about applied science in order that your work may increase man's blessings. Concern for man himself and his fate must always form the chief interests of all technical endeavors . . . in order that the creations of our mind shall be a blessing and not a curse to mankind. — Albert Einstein.

In a few short weeks approximately 1500 graduate and undergraduate students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will march into Killian Court to receive their diplomas. It will be a warm and beautiful June day as the family and friends of the Class of '85 peer anxiously at the long procession of black-robed figures, hoping to catch a glimpse of their sons and daughters. Time will seem to stand still in this special arena, framed by majestic walls and the open sky.

Amid the chirping of curious birds, the clicking of Nikons and the humming strains of "Pomp and Circumstance," names will be called out one by one. A handshake from the President. The diploma. A smile. An exhilarating feeling of triumph from having achieved the unachievable

(or so we thought). It will seem like only yesterday that we were sitting cross-legged on the grass on a warm August afternoon, eating greasy fried chicken, chatting awkwardly with fellow freshmen. We listened to speeches from Paul Gray, Shirley McBay and a man named Peter H. Richardson who exhorted us to be careful and always look both ways before crossing Massachusetts Avenue.

We've since crossed Mass. Ave. many, many times and now eagerly await that milestone in our lives called Graduation Day. We leave behind four years of mind-bending toil and innumerable sleepless nights as we look down the road to a Ph.D. or M.D. and, eventually, a prestigious and high-paying position at General Motors, Hughes Aircraft, IBM, a national laboratory, a research university. Having joined the ranks of that legendary band of survivors called MIT alumni, we will be counted among America's elite, members of a sort of modern day aristocracy. Young. Wealthy. Powerful. We will be technologically competent in a world which finds itself increasingly governed by science and

technology.

Back in December, *Newsweek* ran a cover story on that band of baby-boomers known as Yuppies. The article was far from complimentary. Without exception, the young, upwardly mobile professionals who marched across the pages of *Newsweek* were portrayed as acquisitive, greedy and self-indulgent. The worst was a 28-year-old California lawyer who said she buys two outfits a week and would be happy with \$200,000 a year — until she has children. The '80s have become the Age of Reagan, the conservative era of the Me Generation, and the Yuppies have become a metaphor for national selfishness and greed.

Will the Class of '85 become a new generation of Yuppies, one-dimensional technocrats who strive for riches but lack any sense of social responsibility? No. The Admissions Office continually strives to select intelligent, mature and well-rounded men and women. Although some of us may appear to be otherwise, all of us are, with few exceptions, basically decent, responsible individuals.

(Please turn to page 6)

Column/Corrado Giambalvo

Rush livable minus alcohol

Bacchus is mad. Really mad. The mythological God of wine is exasperated. His gift to the mortals has, been the world-wide — and recently the MIT campus' — focus of much despair. From broken families to drunk driving to disruptive behavior, alcohol has caused more problems than benefits; or so it seems.

What a grave shame! The making of alcoholic beverages has long been an art. Golden champagnes, warm and amiable brandies, full-bodied cognacs, fiery schnappes of all types of herbs were made to sensuously massage our taste buds. These creations were intended for an educated and sophisticated palate or at least one that could become that way.

But this art is a far cry from the mindless guzzling of urine-hued beer which seems to be so popular nowadays.

Don't get me wrong. Many a time have I indulged in a "Bud" or a "Lite," but really only to replace those vital body electrolytes lost during vigorous exercise. And, in fact many times have I accompanied my meals with wine. So, before you start shouting "you hypocrite," without mercy, let me also admit that I too have been drunk. So why the column?

I reject a number of claims made about the dry rush issue. Rush is for the mutual exposure of living groups and prospective pledges to achieve the best possible combination of the two — where everybody is happy. Each party should (must) present as accurate a depiction of themselves as possible.

So now everybody starts screaming "Hey man, we get totally wasted every weekend and the freshmen should know it."

Freshmen should be told about alcohol use at the fraternity, in much the same way that they are informed about social dues, pledges' responsibilities, how many meals a day they will get, and where they will sleep. Indeed many aspects of living group life are not represented — for example, how irritable all the senior members can become when they are doing their thesis, how people really act after an all-nighter of problem sets, the incredible politics of officer's elections, what it's like to study under a lot pressure, what it's like to have a party on the second floor when you want to quietly rest on the third floor.

It sounds like I am accusing living groups of being deceiving and dishonest. Hardly the case. I am in a fraternity at MIT, and I strive for honesty when it comes to telling the prospective pledges what they can expect. And I am sure that everybody else is too; but some things are just not talked about since the emphasis is on having a good time. One hears at The Picnic ". . . no matter where you end up, you'll be happy. . ."

Beach trips, baseball games, and rollerskating tend to be the occasion rather than the rule. Therefore, whether you have alcohol or not should not make any difference. One does not stay drunk or party perpetually at MIT. To a certain extent, that is the impression we give during rush, isn't it?

Certainly, rush would not be the same without alcohol. People could not protect themselves in cocktail party mode. Their psyche would be slightly more challenged. They would have to convince people to live in their home by communicating with them consciously.

More importantly, let us not forget the law. MIT administration probably feels obliged or maybe even forced to abide by the law which prohibits the sale or administering of alcohol to people under the age of 21.

I was brought up in Italy with wine on the dinner table for the whole family to enjoy; in moderation for the young ones, of course. Now I occasionally accompany my meals with wine, and I enjoy a beer after a good run. I rarely feel the need to get wasted, I escape in other ways, equally questionable perhaps. After all, who's to say that enkephalins and endorphins are more acceptable than alcohol?

My disappointment is that for some of us, parties revolve around the consumption of alcohol. (It wouldn't be the first time I hear: "Hey, the keg's finished. Let's leave this place.") We ought to be able to really enjoy the situation through our unobstructed conscious efforts.

I do not condemn drinking — in fact I encourage it. But I am really surprised that Rush is, in some people's opinion, seriously threatened if it be made dry.

Instead of bartender courses we need relaxation courses. I'd drink to that!

The Tech

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opinion

Guest Column/John F. Piotti

Dry rush sacrifices honesty

My fraternity's Rush Chairman complained to me recently that the ODSA would not allow him to put a certain photograph in this year's Residence Book. The photo, which had been taken at a formal dinner, showed one of our more All-American type brothers, flanked by two attractive young ladies who were obviously enjoying his company. To me it seemed perfect: the photo was a persuasive (albeit misleading) depiction of everyday fun at Sigma Chi. I guessed that the ODSA's objection had something to do with "truth in advertising."

But the Dean's Office was not objecting to the unnatural euphoria of the three students, only that their euphoria might be due to unnatural libations: you see, the photo also revealed a bottle of wine.

Still, I think it's important that incoming students and their parents are not besieged with photos and text that depict the use of alcohol. Because the Residence Book is necessarily limited in the explanations it can offer, it is often better to leave certain things unseen and unsaid.

The same degree of restraint is not needed during Rush Week. Then, members of living groups have an obligation to be as much like themselves — and as candid with the freshmen — as the atmosphere allows. This would be jeopardized by the imposition of a "dry" rush, as currently advocated by the ODSA. Policies regarding alcohol should be no different during rush than during the semester. New alcohol guidelines are needed, but they should be reasonable policies that are applied uniformly over the entire school year.

Trends and Law

The Dean's Office has been quick to point out that a hundred other campuses have recently enacted a dry rush. These actions are not reason enough for MIT to follow suit. The only "trends" the Institute should feel some obligation to follow are those that have been articulated into law.

One form of "law" is the rules of National Fraternities, which local chapters must follow. Contrary to campus rumor, all fraternities have not passed resolutions mandating dry rushes at their chapters. (If indeed they had, there would be little need for the ODSA to consider the issue.) The national regulations that I have seen simply re-affirm an obligation to follow university policy and abide state law.

The recent change in Massa-

chusetts law is more substantive. The increase in the drinking age from 20 to 21 cuts the number of "legal" undergraduates in half. Yet an outside observer might find it difficult to see how this affects rush, since almost all incoming students who will be younger than 21, would also be younger than 20. Of course, the reality of the situation is different; as Dean Sherwood noted in *The Tech* (April 26): "We've been breaking the law for 20 years." Thus the new law might affect rush if it is accompanied by increased enforcement by local police; not only is this unlikely, but it would affect social life during the semester as much as during rush.

Why make rush different?

Dry rush is being advocated for several reasons, but most of the reasoning can be applied to times outside of rush as well. I have only heard one argument that articulates a benefit to stricter alcohol policies during Rush Week. This argument — that freshmen who are forced to stay away from alcohol will be able to make better decisions — has some merit, but not as much as someone who has never worked rush might expect. It's obvious that excess drinking may impede a freshman's decision-making ability; but it's also true that most living groups prefer a rushee with a clear head: how else can a group make a decision to extend a bid? At my house, as at others, rushees are occasionally discouraged (and never encouraged) from drinking. Rush Week is too short not to concentrate on the task at hand — getting to know the freshmen and their interests. (If a freshman's major interest is drinking, it's important to know that, too.)

Of course, there are a few fraternities that do use alcohol in rush tactics. Their results are their own reward, as their pledges — as often as not — contribute less to the chapter than to the house's beer funds. Yet if a fraternity is a "drinking house," it's important for freshmen to have the opportunity to see this during Rush Week.

Need for alcohol guidelines

None of this is to say that there is not a need for alcohol guidelines as long as they are applicable over the entire year. In fact, campus-wide alcohol standards are inevitable, if not overdue. But prohibitive policies should not be so strict as to reduce appropriate options for in-

dividual choice. Most students will use their time in college to increase their familiarity with alcohol. MIT's policies should recognize this; they should encourage the proper use of alcoholic beverages. In many instances, I believe that such educational goals may outweigh the desire to reduce legal liability to a bare minimum. Indeed, the ODSA's Alcohol Committee seems to agree: their proposed guidelines for parties — although restricting — stop far short of a dry campus. Why can't the Dean's Office be as reasonable about rush?

Fraternity rush is a major part of Residence/Orientation, which MIT sponsors. I suspect that the

(Please turn to page 6)

Column/H. Todd Fujinaka

The problems of injuring yourself

Last weekend, with my infinite luck, I twisted my left ankle at a picnic with my entry in the Blue Hills. Just as we were about to leave, I stepped on a tree root and ungracefully fell down. Fortunately, I was close to the cars we drove up in. I hobbled into one and sat down.

At the end of the ride home I noticed that my ankle had swollen to the size of my head. I couldn't put any weight on it. A friend made a quick call to the emergency line. Soon I had a ride from the Campus Police to the infirmary. They taped up my ankle and gave me crutches. Since it was Sunday, I had to wait until the following morning to have x-rays taken. I made an early appointment for the next morning.

Later that night I was in so much pain that I didn't think I would be able to sleep. I called the Medical Department for help. They cheerfully told me, "It's gonna hurt. It's a bad sprain." The call was a great help. It was just like the time I was thrown



into the Charles River. My feet were scraped up pretty badly but it was 11 pm. They told me, "Uh, can you call back tomorrow?"

The Medical Department was right, I was able to sleep. Monday morning I got up for my 8:30 appointment after a miserable 5 hours of pseudo-rest. I called the CPs for a ride from MacGregor to the Medical Department. Officer Friendly answered the phone and asked me, "Do you have crutches?" Well, yes I did. "Okay then, walk. These are police cruisers we have here. We're not a 'taxi service.'" I had just two words for him after the night I had just spent.

I walked from MacGregor to the infirmary and found out that using crutches is harder than it looks. The same nurse as I had the night before (while pretending to be shocked about the insensitivity of the Campus Police) checked my ankle. She gave me a prescription for tylenol with codeine. It was a good thing, too,

since my ankle didn't hurt nearly as much as it did the night before.

I went to the infirmary front desk and asked them to call the CPs so I could get a ride back to Mac. I was told that they couldn't call them. I had to get authorization from the "person I'd just seen."

The people at the Medical Department always wonder why we don't come in until we are really ill. They wonder why we don't come back for follow-up appointments after having pneumonia. I wonder why they think we're whining when we complain at night, only to be friendly and helpful during the day.

This episode has taught me several things. If you want a ride from the CPs, lie and tell them you have broken every one of your limbs. Always make sure your mother (or some suitable mother substitute) is near. And never, ever get hurt between 5 pm and 9 am.

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opinion

Advice to be decent and responsible after graduation

(Continued from page 4)

We grew up in the '70s in the middle of high inflation, oil-price increases and periodic recessions. We watched the long lines at unemployment offices all around the country on the evening news. All

at once, the simple act of graduating from college and landing a well-paying job became everyone's number one priority. This is the main reason we chose to attend MIT. But our seemingly fanatical efforts to succeed here

and land a well-paying job don't necessarily imply selfishness or greed. They simply reflect tougher economic times.

It seems unfortunate, then, that MIT should do so much to prepare us for a position in the

lucrative world of high-tech, but so little to prepare us for the heavy burden of responsibility that such a position brings. Everyone knows that MIT is not a place in which to heighten one's social awareness. One doesn't reflect too deeply on arms control and world hunger when exams, lab reports and problem sets loom in the distance. As we approach graduation, our non-scientific concerns have been suppressed under the heavy weight of academic demands. Here, then, is a reminder of some things that we already know (or should know), things that MIT tries its best to make us forget:

Be altruistic. A recent study revealed that the rich in America are donating less and less to charities. You'll be making buckets of money, so pick a charity and contribute to it regularly.

When the MIT Alumni Association solicits donations from you, give generously. Most of us were able to attend MIT only through the generosity of MIT alumni, so do the same favor for a future MIT student. Besides, it's tax deductible, and personally, I'd rather give my money to a needy MIT student than to the IRS. Give, give, give.

Avoid prejudice. Get to know someone before judging his merits. People aren't always what they seem to be.

Make sure that you can write well. Take writing courses if you

have to. An engineer who can't express himself clearly on paper isn't much good to anyone.

Be humble. MIT produces a lot of heavy-hitters who feel that the fate of the world rests with their brains. While this may or may not be true, an MIT diploma is no proof of personal superiority. Everyone was born with different abilities. That alcoholic in Central Square is as much a human being as you are. Respect everyone. God gave you the talent and ambition to aspire, strive and succeed, and succeed you will. But don't let it take a toll on egotism.

Be actively concerned with the world. Elect a president who won't increase military spending at the expense of social welfare programs and education. Become involved in politics — too many politicians have romantic, deluded visions of technology curing problems like the arms race.

We need more people in government who are technologically fluent. If at all possible, avoid working for the Defense Department. If you must, do a good job. A faulty weapons system is inherently more destabilizing than a fully operational one. Above all, strive to make the world a better and safer place for yourselves, your children and everybody else.

And one more thing — be careful and always look both ways before crossing the street.

Year-round alcohol policy needed

(Continued from page 5)

ODSA is pushing for a dry rush because it fears liability is greatest during R/O. Dean McBay (or her lawyers) may be too caught up in the trends, to look at the facts.

The risk of alcohol-related incidents should be less during rush than during other times of year. The activities and whereabouts of every freshman (if not upper-classman) is always known, and there are far fewer events that draw people from outside MIT, admittedly the biggest problem. Besides — unlike most other campuses — the focus of our rush has never been on drinking, or even on hog-wild partying. MIT's rush is radically different from any other school; why should we look to other schools for our Rush Week alcohol policies?

At the same time, I can't see how MIT's legal responsibility is

any greater during R/O than during the school year, when all freshmen are required to live in Institute approved housing. Even if insurance companies see it differently, the extra premiums may be a small price to maintain the unscathed independence and vitality of the fraternity system: MIT currently contributes relatively little to the 'students and alumni it relies upon to operate over \$60 million in fraternity-owned assets.

Process flawed

The ODSA overlooked the fraternities when it formed its plans for dry rush. An issue as important as this should not have appeared overnight, yet InterFraternity Conference (IFC) Chairman Tinley Anderson was "informed" of the necessity of a dry rush only a few weeks ago (on the same day as the last IFC General Meeting of the year). Tinley and

his Executive Committee have put forth a yeoman effort to salvage some "process" out of the proposal; but for alcohol restrictions to ever work — for the policies to be anything more than documents used to reduce insurance premiums or to display in court — they must be understood and supported by the 1500 men and women of the IFC, on whom the responsibility of enforcement will fall.

We have before us a dry rush proposal of little merit, to which the IFC has had limited input. But with a little extra effort — and concern for the students — the Dean's Office could reach many of the same goals with a reasonable year-round policy that wouldn't sacrifice the honesty of rush, or the independence of the fraternity system.

(Editor's note: Piotti is a graduate student in Ocean Engineering. He is past chairman of the IFC, past president and rush chairman of his chapter, and currently serves on the National Board of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.)

feedback

Military needs study

To the Editor:

We are concerned about what may result from the commission that is being established to investigate the major impact of military funding on research and education at MIT. Unless it is given sufficient funding, manpower, time, and freedom to conduct open-minded debate, it may produce nothing but idle chatter. This would be unfortunate because the extent of military influence upon an MIT education is a highly contested issue; it needs study.

Such study may prove that there is a problem. If so, actions to restore normal relations between the military establishment and the university community may be warranted, for three reasons.

First, the academic freedom to choose one's research direction is fundamental to the principle of free scientific inquiry — pursuit of knowledge for its own sake — under which MIT operates. But the inordinately large availability of military money transforms academic decisions into economic ones.

"The nation's emphasis on defense produces a bias towards specific areas of research at the Institute, and makes it more difficult to move in other directions," said MIT's review panel on Lincoln and Draper in 1969. The resulting allocation of MIT's resources is particularly disturbing. It deemphasizes the technical fields which offer a broad educational experience — those disciplines in which academic pursuits are motivated by human needs, requiring students to consider societal effects.

Second, the Department of Defense is the primary source of interest in certain engineering fields, particularly those spawned since World War II. The resulting focus on esoteric military needs stifles creativity in non-military applications. One can argue that there are civilian spin-offs to the Strategic Computing Initiative, a recent DOD effort to rapidly advance computer science technology for military applica-

tions. But one would think that there are more efficient ways to develop beneficial technology than by accident.

Third, MIT has traditionally played an important role in carrying out studies which help determine the policy decisions of the elected representatives of the American people. The freedom to doubt or question established views or to consider unpopular ones is a vital component of university independence. MIT's reliance on military research funding may compromise its essential nonpartisan role.

The MIT community should be concerned about how the military link constrains our ability to provide critical input on the formulation and execution of defense policy, and eager to learn more about the extent to which the military determines our endeavors.

There is nothing to fear about the new commission, since its purpose is primarily to investigate the extent of military influence. Even if the commission's conclusions suggest some actions, actual decisions affecting MIT policy will still have to be approved by normal channels within the administration. We see no way that simply studying military influence could have any effect but to improve the quality of those decisions.

Rich Cowan G
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ARTS

REVIEWS



Photo courtesy Mark Morelli ©1985
Dorothy Dartland '86 (l to r), Carol Van Zoeren G. and Lee Higgins W '87 in
Dramashop's production of *Crimes of the Heart* by Beth Henley.

Susan entertaining,
not perfect

Dramashop's *Crimes of the Heart* definitely excellent

Crimes of the Heart, presented by the MIT Dramashop in Kresge Little Theatre last night, with additional performances Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and May 9, 10, and 11.

Don't be dismayed by the title of Beth Henley's *Crimes of the Heart*; it isn't the tearjerker it could have been. Despite many family tragedies and references to diseases, *Crimes of the Heart* is a very entertaining and endearing comedy-drama. Henley's intelligent script has been well interpreted and performed by the MIT Dramashop.

The story involves three sisters in a small Mississippi town in the early 70's. The oldest has just turned 30 and is depressed about herself and her family. The youngest has recently been arrested for shooting her husband, a local politician and powerbroker. The middle sister, an aspiring singer whose career is on the rocks, has recently returned from California.

In the few days covered by the play, the sisters go through a rollercoaster of triumphs and tragedies. Henley's excellent dialogue and twisting plot, supplemented by an often hilarious comedy kept *Crimes of the Heart* from becoming the boring melodrama it could have been.

The energy with which the play is performed only improves it. The Dramashop people have put a lot into this play, and their enthusiasm rubs off on the audience.

The three leading characters all performed well in distinctive ways. Dorothy Dartland '86, as the second sister, turns in some hot and cold acting, sometimes overdone or messy, but more often excellent. Carol Van Zoren G is more consistent as the frantic older sister. Her scratchy voice is well suited for the character's character. Lee Higgins W '87 is delightfully screwy as the youngest sister, a kind of Tennessee Williams Valley Girl.

Aside from some not-too-good Southern accents, the rest of the acting was good. Anna Lisa Fear '85 plays the snobby, social-climbing cousin. Wayne Heller '86 played the middle sister's ex-boyfriend. Michael Pauken '87 is good as the nerdy young lawyer.

Strong direction by Robert N. Scanlan '70 is evident throughout.

Dramashop's production also features the best set design of any play I have ever seen in the Kresge Little Theater. It was a location play, but with a very rich set. This Dramashop fare is the best MIT play I have ever seen. If Spring Weekend keeps you away this weekend, be sure to catch it the next. Theater like this on MIT's campus is too good to pass up.

Dan Crean

Punk gloom disintegrates in *Smithereens*

Smithereens, at the Nickelodeon Cinema. Starring Susan Berman, directed by Susan Seidelman

After the success of *Desperately Seeking Susan*, director Susan Seidelman's first film *Smithereens* is being re-released. Touted as a great film by a new director and a breakthrough in contemporary cinema, *Smithereens* stars Susan Berman as Wren, a thin, pretty punk groupie who makes a hand-to-mouth existence in New York city. She tricks her way into concerts, trying to become a part of the New York punk music scene.

The movie begins with Wren stealing a pair of checkered frame sunglasses from a lady on the subway. In her quest for recognition from the punk world, she pastes Xerox copies of pictures of her face on various walls around the city.

On the subway she meets a naive kid named Paul, (played by Brad Rinn,) who has just arrived, aboard his van, all the way from Montana. He follows her, hoping to make a friend in the city, but Wren is too busy to be bothered by anyone who isn't à la punk mode.

Eventually she goes out on a date with Paul, but dumps him for Eric (played by Richard Hell,) a musician in a punk band "hip" to have cut a record. Eric's talk about moving to Los Angeles where his opportunities could be greater prompts Wren to invite herself on board. However, her music-scene savoir-faire seems to work against her rather than the opposite.

As the film progresses, Wren is kicked out of her apartment for not paying her rent; she is forced to live out of a pair of shopping bags. She goes from friend to friend, trying to find someone who will lend her money or give her a place to stay. Paul, the former rejectee from Montana, is the only one who extends some genuine support. Yet again Wren treats him opportunistically, showing outright ingratitude and taking advantage of his feelings for her.

Everything begins to fall through for Wren; she's used up everything in her bag of tricks. Seidelman completely succeeds in suggesting an air of extreme desperation.

One of the reasons the movie (at the time of the original release two years ago) was credited as being so great was because of Seidelman's ability to show the presumed instability of punk lifestyle. The movie left me feeling that there was no hope for a better future for its protagonist; the same feeling I get this time every term and I didn't need a movie to complement the MIT-before-finals syndrome. If you need to feel better and need an escape from the books, go see another movie.

H. Todd Fujinaka

The Widespread Jazz Orchestra, April 25 at the Charles Hotel.

Today's Yuppie-led America is renewing its partiality towards the conservative, the traditional and the finely-crafted. One can see it in the shorter hair cuts, increasing familial aspirations and higher-priced ice cream stores that embody the MIT/Cambridge surroundings. The Widespread Jazz Orchestra, a sendback to the big bands of the 1930's and 40's, fits in perfectly with the new trend.

Surprisingly, the Orchestra didn't jump on the bandwagon when Benny Goodman and Linda Ronstadt's "What's New" found younger, appreciative audiences. This group was organized well over ten years ago and possesses the maturity and feel for the swing genre, and technique to prove it.

From a thick folder of rehearsed tunes, the Widespread Orchestra chose selections by the moment, including "Sometimes I'm Happy, Sometimes I'm Blue," "V.I.P." and guitarist Django Reinhardt's "Tears." Like premium ice creams, the ensemble's performance was consistently smooth and full-bodied. Well put-together arrangements by members of the group contributed to making the Widespread Jazz Orchestra sound bigger than their 10 pieces. The pair of horn players completed glissandos and "screeches" (really high notes, for trumpeters) without fault. The band's consistency was perhaps their greatest asset.

Predictability might have been a liability, however. The band certainly enjoyed bringing back the traditional sounds of earlier years. In fact, they hardly used their compositional skills other than to imitate the identities of famous predecessors (i.e. Duke Ellington and Count Basie, etc.), making the performance bland at times. One reason is that light swing jazz is a very subtle art form, consisting of "under-playing," and an internal feeling of the rhythm (no funk bass, heavy-handed drums here). For those unfamiliar with this style, it offers little of the high-powered energy of contemporary music.

As for the setting: the Charles Hotel's Reggata Bar may have also hurt the performance. The lounge, geared towards single-socializing and light drinking, was not "an appreciative home for real jazz," one saxophonist commented. "It's tough to find clubs to perform swing in Boston." That the evening's soloists could muster up the energy and urgency they did was admirable.

Resurgence of swing or no, the Widespread Jazz Orchestra will continue to perform for nostalgists and newcomers at such attractions as New York's Bottom Line, Washington D.C.'s Blues Alley, the Montreaux Jazz Festival and on "Alive at 5." They have recently added a female vocalist and put out their sixth album, "Paris Blues" (CBS/Columbia Records). My advice, though, is to catch the group (in a more appropriate setting), conservative thin ties, traditional pin stripe suits, tight sound and all in person.

Scott Lichtman

Desperately Seeking Susan, starring Madonna and Rosanna Arquette, directed by Susan Seidelman. Now showing at the Nickelodeon.

In 1983 I reviewed Susan Seidelman's first feature film, *Smithereens*, a rambling tale set in the seedy world of the New York punk underground. It follows the adventures of a girl named Wren whose only desire is for fame, even though she has no talent. Made for only \$80,000, it was an unpolished work. Nonetheless it was hailed as a feminist breakthrough, and won a Best Debut award at Cannes. Seidelman parleyed her newly gained notoriety into a deal with Orion Pictures to direct a low priority project that had been on their corporate back burner for a while, a script entitled *Desperately Seeking Susan*.

The title role is filled by Madonna in her much-ballyhooed feature debut. She plays a character similar to Wren: a professional freeloader whose only goal is to be the center of attraction. She snaps polaroids of herself, as did Wren, and bounces from boyfriend to boyfriend, settling anywhere someone will let her hustle some attention and a place to sleep.

The trouble begins when one of her paramours bounces off a sidewalk from a hotel window, a casualty of the hunt for the fabulous Nefertiti earrings, stolen from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He didn't have them, of course, because Susan had appropriated them — they look great with alligator jacket and rhinestone boots.

On the other side both of the cultural spectrum and of the Hudson River is Roberta (played by Rosanna Arquette), a suburban JAP housewife leading a frighteningly boring existence in Fort Lee, New Jersey. Roberta is vicariously thrilled by Susan's lifestyle, and soon she is following her around the Lower East Side.

That's when the plot complications arise. One of the bad guys in search of the earrings mistakes Roberta for Susan; their encounter results in a conk on the head for Roberta who in turn slips into Susan's identity. From there the movie turns into a screwball comedy chase involving family and friends of both Susan and Roberta, with the Nefertiti earrings to keep things going.

Despite the hard boiled setting of the movie, Seidelman betrays a relentlessly middle class sensibility. The most cutting and convincing scenes are not those set in the City, but those in Fort Lee. Roberta's husband and the denizens of their split-level environment are, ironically, the more varied and interesting genus compared to the art-punk inhabitants of the clubs and tenements across the river. As to portrayal of the latter, Seidelman can offer little more than dirt and hairdos.

The movie derives its tension from the friction of the two cultures, yet half the director's vision fails to come through. The whole earring/nesia *schtick* is a clumsy, cliché plot device and it forces Arquette, a promising new actress, to stumble through the movie in a dizzy, cotton-headed, undirected performance. The result is a film that is cute and fun in parts, but ironic in the wrong places and ultimately unconvincing.

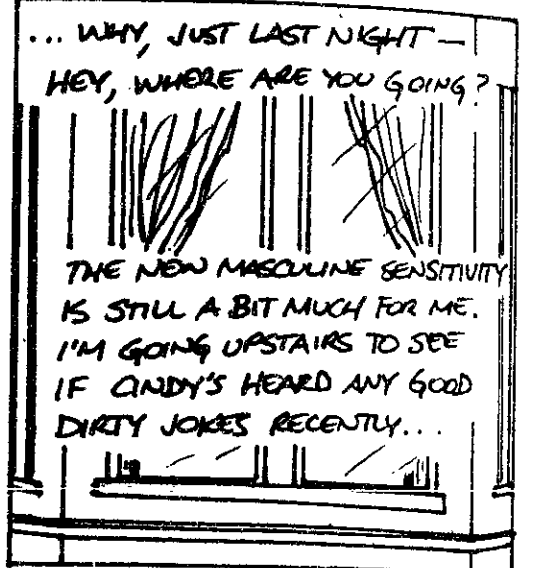
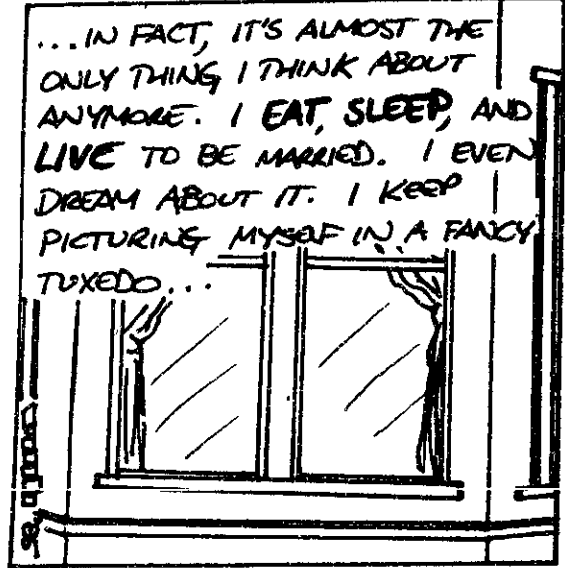
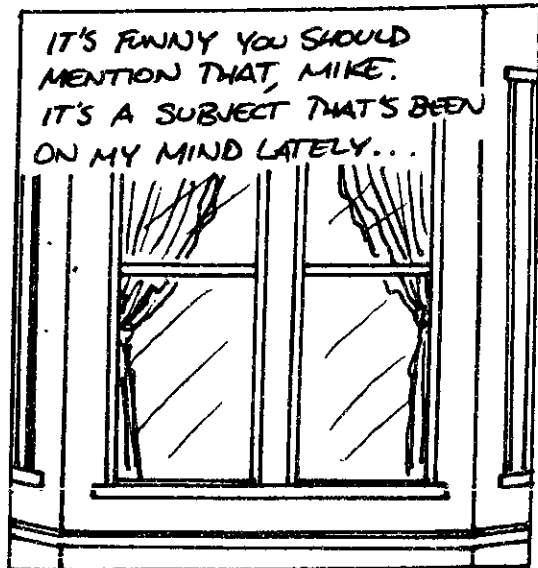
Of *Smithereens*, I wrote, "... Seidelman purports to present a mean, gritty view of New York, yet she stops short of total involvement. She pulls the audience back to a safe vantage point every time something really dirty threatens, and thus doesn't really shake up any sensibilities or provide anything but a flat viewing experience." The additional evidence of *Desperately Seeking Susan* makes it look as though this is due not to any lack of technical resources, but is a congenital fault of Seidelman's vision as a director.

But the film business needs feminist voices, and as Susan is turning out to be a hit, Seidelman will almost certainly be given the latitude she needs to work out the rough spots in her style in later movies.

Steve Hundley

comics

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by V. Michael Bove



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comics

The Legend of Fred
by Jim Bredt

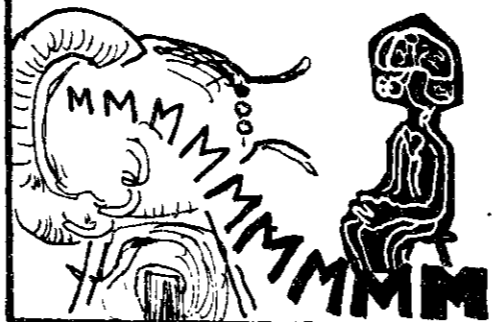
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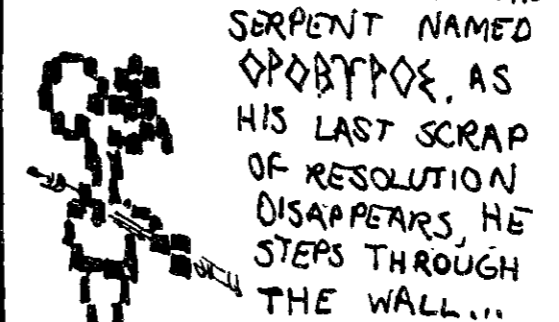
THERE IS A SECRET TO STARTING THINGS WHICH YOU ARE ABLE TO FINISH; AND HAVE THEM CONCLUDE IN A PLAUSIBLE AND SATISFYING WAY. UNFORTUNATELY I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS SO YOU'LL HAVE TO BE CONTENT WITH WHATEVER HAPPENS.

IN THE LAST FEW SECONDS QUITE A BIT HAS HAPPENED.

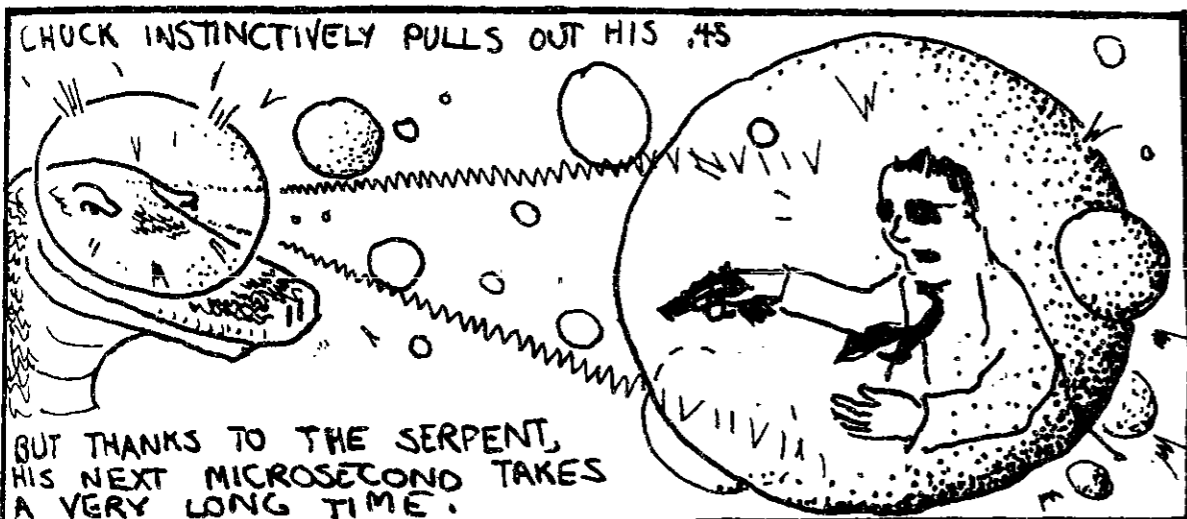
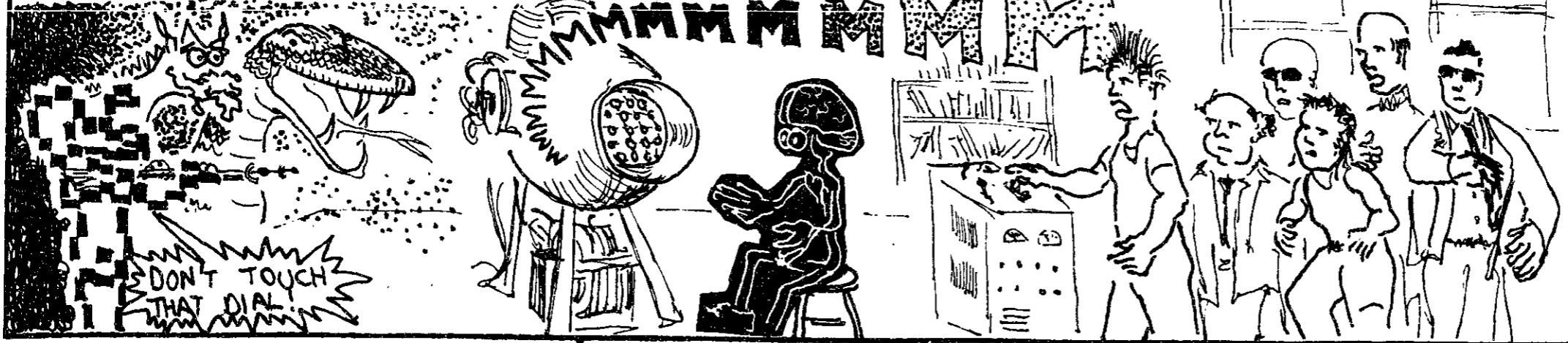
MIKE MEK MAN NERVOUSLY PEERS INTO THE KIND BOMB AS IT IS ENERGIZED.



JOE THE RAT REACHES THE HEIGHT OF THE POWERS THAT ARE IMARTED TO HIM BY THE SERPENT NAMED OPOBYPOE, AS HIS LAST SCRAP OF RESOLUTION DISAPPEARS, HE STEPS THROUGH THE WALL...



... INTO THE INDUCED APITUDE LABORATORY

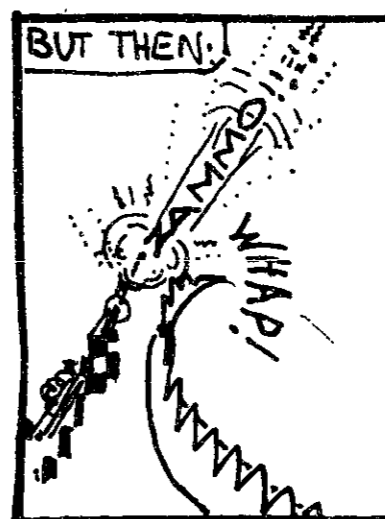


CHUCK INSTINCTIVELY PULLS OUT HIS .45

BUT THANKS TO THE SERPENT, HIS NEXT MICROSECOND TAKES A VERY LONG TIME.



I'M SORRY MIKE, BUT THE EARTH MUST BE SAVED!



BUT THEN!

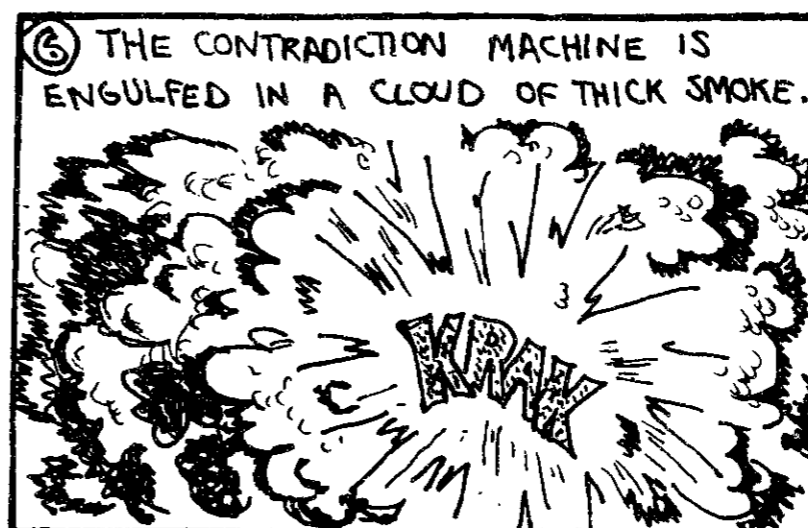
① 5 NANOSECONDS AFTER THAT, SOME RADIATION REFLECTED OFF THE BEAM SPLITTER STRIKES THE SERPENT, STUNNING IT.

② 12 NANOSECONDS LATER THE DEATH RAY STRIKES THE KIND BOMB AND TRIGGERS IT PREMATURELY

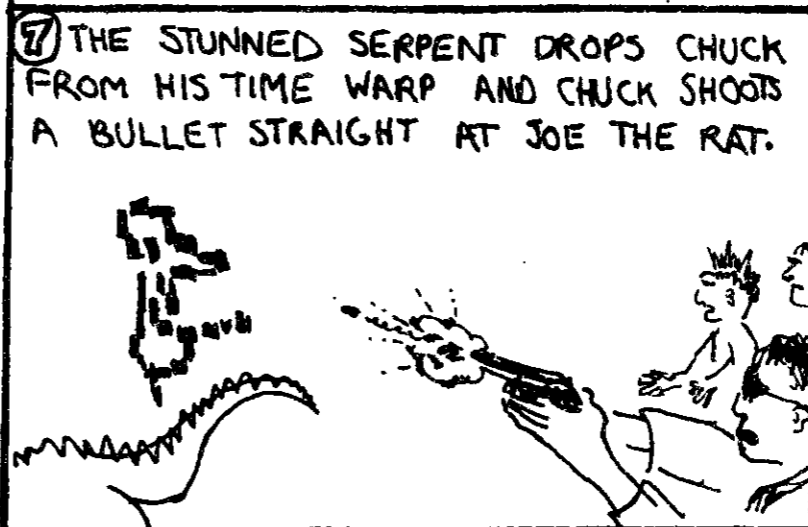
③ THE PULSE FROM THE KIND BOMB HITS MIKE IN ANOTHER 8 NANOSECONDS AND CONVERTS HIM TO A SPHERICAL WAVE.

④ 7 NANOSECONDS AFTER THAT, THE SPLIT PULSES FROM THE KIND BOMB RECONVERGE INSIDE THE CONTRADICTION MACHINE AS THE REFLECTED DEATH RAY HITS IT.

FRED KNOCKS JOE'S AIM OFF AS HE PULLS THE TRIGGER



⑥ THE CONTRADICTION MACHINE IS ENGLUFED IN A CLOUD OF THICK SMOKE.



⑦ THE STUNNED SERPENT DROPS CHUCK FROM HIS TIME WARP AND CHUCK SHOOTS A BULLET STRAIGHT AT JOE THE RAT.



⑧ AS THE MILLISECONDS TRAIL ON, MIKE MEK MAN EXPANDS AWAY FROM EARTH.

opinion

feedback

Silent Scream: the issues and analogies of abortion debate

To the Editor:

Having attended the screening of "Silent Scream" in 10-250 and having found that (through no fault of the organizers) the time was inadequate for a thorough discussion, I wish to comment on what was said at the meeting. I have not yet formed an opinion on the question of whether abortion is "morally wrong" and will confine myself to whether the Constitution should be amended so as to overrule *Roe vs. Wade*.

The main speaker, Mrs. Elliot, sought to show that a fetus is not merely "a piece of tissue," "part of the mother's body," but a child with the same rights as any other human being and that

abortion is therefore murder. (This, I think, is one of the "inflammatory . . . words" she made such a point of not using: I am not aware of any law preventing "pro-life" groups from using whatever language they wish.)

Since the former question is frequently debated, I shall merely mention two points before considering the latter. The speaker argued that although one may complain of pain in many parts of the body, no woman could suffer a pain in the fetus. This cannot be accepted as proof that the fetus is not part of the woman's body, since by that argument the brain is not either.

Mrs. Elliot rebutted arguments

about viability by comparing a fetus to a man on a dialysis machine, but I reject this analogy. I have read an analogy which seems to me far more accurate and which, in my opinion, shows that even an admission that a fetus is already a human being is not an admission that abortion is murder, as pointed out in the same source.

Suppose that a talented violinist (or what you will) falls ill through failure of the kidneys. Since the value of the analogy lies in its aptness rather than its plausibility, let us suppose that the genius can be saved only by having his blood pumped through another's kidney. When medical re-

ords reveal only one man whose blood type and other features are compatible, he is seized by the disciples of the great one and connected in the appropriate manner.

The victim is informed of the importance of the life he is now preserving and assured that the genius' kidneys will certainly recover within nine months. I sketched this analogy at the meeting and stated my own opinion that no law should prevent the man concerned from disconnecting himself and leaving the genius to his fate.

Mrs. Elliot replied, suggesting that I had not understood the analogy of the dialysis machine. In fact I had understood it and distinguished it from the case of a fetus attached to its mother, because the latter is a human being with her own rights, not an inanimate machine.

It became clear that it was the analogy of the violinist that was not properly understood when a member of the audience asked about pregnancy caused by rape, a case which corresponds precisely to the analogy.

The speaker began by saying that, "It's always the hard cases . . ." and went on to argue that abortion should not be permitted even when a woman has been raped. If I remember it correctly, the argument was that the woman is then the appointed protector of the life inside her: I am sure that it was not anything which distinguished the case of rape from the analogy. Nor can the deficiency be supplied by

complaining about hard cases.

In the first place, too little was said about another class of hard cases, namely those where there are medical problems.

In the second place, pregnancy caused by rape, however rare, is a vital case because a woman can always claim to have been raped. I understand that there is already some difficulty in tracking rapists down and obtaining convictions: any legislation which encourages vast numbers of false accusations will make rape effectively unpunishable.

The speaker rejected the suggestion of a member of the audience that abortion should be legal to make it safe, saying that one could argue for the legalizing of drugs on the same grounds. I am not sure how the argument would go, but since I happen to be in favor of legalizing drugs, I do not find the conclusion particularly repugnant. Moreover, this makes me wonder whether Mrs. Elliot agrees with Dr. Nathanson's argument against abortion that even when legal, it is not perfectly safe.

This brings me to the film itself. However clear the ultrasound picture may be to Dr. Nathanson's expert eye, it is, to me, little more than a blur. He seems to be aware of this problem and tries to compensate by a graphic description of what he sees. In any case, the cruelty of a particular method of abortion is not an argument against abortion, but against that method.

Jorgen Harmse G

Silent Scream posters removed

To the Editor:

Last Monday, the movie "Silent Scream" was shown in Room 10-250, but due to the relentless efforts of pro-abortionists, as soon as any posters were put up advertising the event, they were as quickly torn down. In a liberal, democratic country, that kind of behavior is inexcusable.

The citizens of this country should and do strive to learn the truth about important issues, so why should they be denied this opportunity? To the person or

people who tore down those posters: If you are so certain that abortion is not a crime, then why are you afraid that the people who watch this movie will be convinced otherwise? It is no secret that every day we are inundated with one side of the story; that abortion is okay, and not to be too upset about the fate of the millions of aborted children. It's time we really listened, really seriously considered the other side of the issue.

Of course, that's not too likely to happen if we are never allowed to hear arguments against abortion.

In this society, where political stability is cherished, extreme opinions are usually not very popular. Unfortunately, the abortion issue does not allow for very much compromise. This is a case of right and wrong. Calling abortion a "necessary evil" does not clear you of guilt if it is wrong. And there are a lot of people, conscientious, thoughtful people, who are convinced that abortion is wrong. If we are going to make a decision, let it be an educated, informed decision, not one dictated by the very small minority of reporters and radio announcers.

Martin Sarabura G

Pi Lambda Phi protests the non-alcoholic TANK competition

To the Editor:

When the brothers of Pi Lambda Phi discovered TANK was to be "dry" this year, there was very little interest in fielding a team. However, we have been quite competitive in the past collecting several titles and setting the record which fell last year.

Why the lack of interest? I asked the brothers as a group, and not one expressed a desire to consume eight to ten glasses of non-alcoholic grain beverage.

This year, Pi Lambda Phi will enter the competition, but it will be under protest. We would like Sigma Chi to continue receiving our annual contribution because we consider the Jimmy Fund to

be a worthwhile cause.

However, the brothers of Pi Lambda Phi will not compete this year or any year in which a non-alcoholic beverage is used. We understand the administration's decision concerning this year's event and we hope that a day comes when a more liberal political environment allows the competition to return to its original concept.

We would like to appeal to other competitors to follow our lead, but more important to us is that the community understand our absence from the event.

Andrew Gengos '86
President of Pi Lambda Phi



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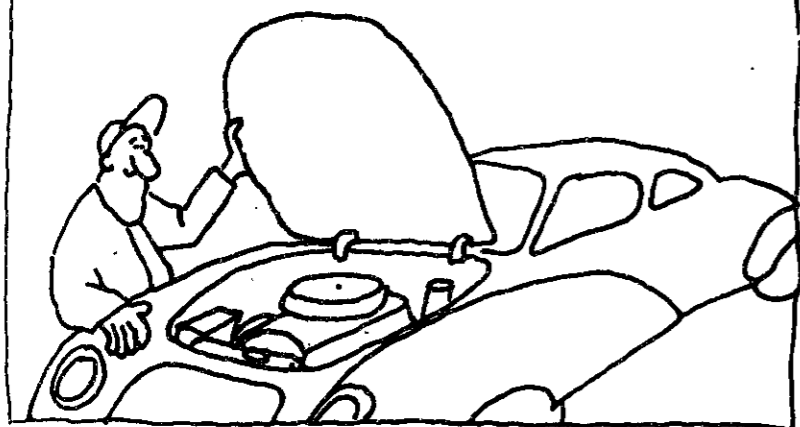
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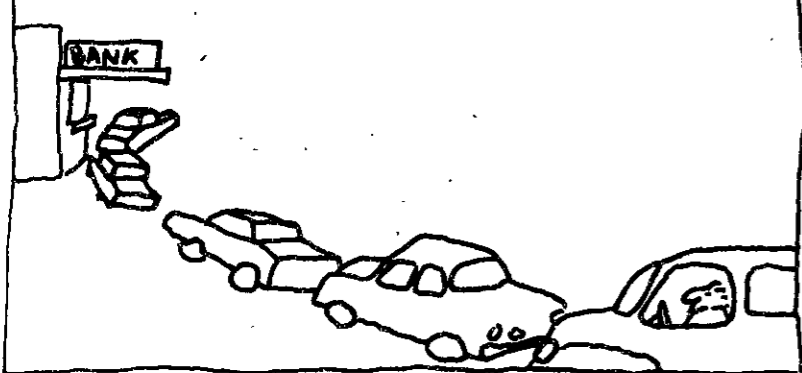
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The Peer Advising Fair

Who: Freshmen

What: The Peer Advising Fair

When: Monday, May 6, 2-5 pm
Tuesday, May 7, 2-5 pm

Where: Lobby 13

Why: Meet upperclass Students in your department. Discuss subject selection for fall.

Be There!

sports

Baseball squad falters, drops two GBL games

The baseball team's record dropped to 10-16 on the year with a pair of Greater Boston League losses this week.

The Boston College Eagles scored 18 runs with two outs in the sixth inning Tuesday to win, 21-0. The Eagles took advantage of four MIT errors, as 14 of their runs were unearned.

The Engineers rebounded in Wednesday's contest against host Harvard, taking a 4-2 lead into the seventh inning, but the Crimson scored a run in each of the seventh, eighth, and ninth innings to win, 5-4. Tom Hoffman '87 had two hits, including a triple, and Vinnie Martinelli '85 also had two hits to lead the MIT attack.

The Engineers return home today for a single-game homestand when they take on UMass-Boston at 3pm.

Harvard 5, MIT 4

MIT				Harvard			
ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Koh lf	4	0	0	DiCesare ss	4	0	0
Tantillo cf	3	1	0	MAndrw cf	3	0	1
Martinelli rf	4	1	2	DePalo lf	4	1	1
DChristn 1b	4	0	0	Rivero 1b	5	0	0
Sullivan dh	2	0	0	Maspans c	4	1	0
Hoffman 3b	4	0	2	Vierra 3b	5	0	2
Poole c	4	1	1	Caprio rf	1	1	1
Mountz ss	2	0	0	Andre 2b	4	0	1
MFrid 2b,ss	3	0	0	Schnldr ph	1	0	0
Simon 2b	1	0	0	Pakalnis 2b	0	0	0
Hoeh ph	1	1	1	Vallone p	4	2	1
Totals	32	4	6	Totals	35	5	7
MIT	1	0	0	Harvard	2	0	0
Harvard	0	2	0	MIT	0	0	0

E—Simon, Mountz 2, McFarland, Maspans, Vallone 2, LOB—MIT 3, Harvard 19. 3B—Hoffman. SB—McAndrews, Caprio 2, DePalo 2.
 MIT IP H R ER BB SO
 Zermeni (L, 4-3) 8 7 5 4 13 2
 Harvard
 Vallone 6 4 2 1 1 1
 Toland (W) 3 2 2 0 1 2
 WP—Zermeni.

Golf ends season

The golf team ended its regular season with a pair of victories

last Tuesday, taking a tri-meet from Babson and Lowell. The Engineers scored 410, followed by Babson with 419 and Lowell with 434.

Eric Asel '87 led MIT with a 77. Rob Irion '85 finished four strokes behind him with an 81.

The Engineers finish with a 9-1 record on the spring, and a 15-2-1 combined spring and fall record.

MIT also competed in the New England championships at the Country Club of New Seabury last weekend. The Engineers stumbled in the opening round and finished tied for 21st place among the 36 teams at the event.

Asel again led the MIT effort, firing 88-73 for a 161 over the two rounds.

Softball takes two of three

The softball team traveled to Smith Saturday for the Massachusetts Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women championships.

The Engineers opened the competition with a 7-2 victory over Regis College, but lost to Merrimack, 13-1.

MIT came back to win its third game in four tries, and its seventh of the last nine, defeating Anna Maria, 10-6, Monday. The squad is now 8-8 since coming north, 8-13 overall.

The squads will be in action again tomorrow morning when Nichols College comes to town for an 11 am game.

Martin Dickau



Tech photo by Henry Wu
 Rob Craig '86 readies himself for a backhand. The tennis team lost Wednesday's match against Amherst College, 5-4, bringing their season record to 9-5.

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