

Freshman Essay Evaluation

Whoever writes becomes a writer. It means that interest in the art has gone and curiosity about the artist is what's most important. It becomes a kind of idolatry.

—Sam Baskett, *Singer Toll*

19%	45%	36%
PASS	MARGINAL PASS	FAIL

The highest human entertainment. And literature does it, unlike gossip without mention of the real names.

30%	41%	29%
PASS	MARGINAL PASS	FAIL

We know what a person thinks not when

690 pass writing exam

By Andy Fish

Seventy-one percent of students taking the Freshman Essay Evaluation received passing marks, according to figures released by the Committee on the Writing Requirement.

Of the 970 students who opted to take the evaluation, 291 passed, 399 received a marginal pass, and 280 failed the exam.

The students chose one of six essay topics, including divestment in South Africa, improvement of

life in a country, decriminalization of marijuana, the bombing of the *Rainbow Warrior*, a personal cause, and test-tube babies.

Bonnie J. Walters, chairman of the Committee on the Writing Requirement, selected the essay topics with the aid of other committee members. The topics were all oriented to current events, because "I feel it is important to give something you can get your teeth into," she said.

The evaluation is graded in two sections. Thirteen or fourteen readers who "are not generally from MIT" graded the exams given on Sept. 3, Walters said. She characterized them as "people with a lot of experience in writing."

"Equally qualified" volunteers grade the tests taken on Sept. 6, Walters continued. They include writing department personnel, administrators such as Associate

Provost S. Jay Keyser, and librarians, all "people with a background in writing."

When asked if the grading was balanced between the two sections, Walters said the outside readers in some cases might be more strict. She added, however, "some faculty are quite stringent."

Readers undergo a training session in July. During grading, the staff takes breaks when a single essay is duplicated and graded by all of the readers. This system assures that grading is consistent.

Twenty more students passed the evaluation than last year, even though 60 fewer students took the exam. Walters did not know why the results were improved. "I wish I could say the students are coming in better prepared. I'm not sure that's true."

Professor Kenneth R. Man-

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MIT changes its financial aid policy

By Sally Vanerian

A change in MIT's financial aid policy has reduced the amount that MIT grants are decremented as a result of outside scholarships.

MIT's original policy, according to Leonard V. Gallagher '54, director of the Student Financial Aid Office, was that when a student on financial aid received an outside scholarship, his grant was reduced by the same amount.

This policy was not popular with students or donors, he said.

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid (CUAFA) recently instituted the Scholarship Incentive Pro-

gram, according to committee chairman Kenneth R. Manning.

Under this new program, outside scholarships are first used to reduce the self-help level by up to \$1000, Gallagher said. Any additional scholarship money will be used to reduce the grant. Gallagher explained that the committee hopes to provide an incentive for students to apply for outside scholarships.

Eighty percent of all MIT undergraduates receive financial aid of some sort, Gallagher said. Sixty-five percent of these students — or 52 percent of all undergraduates — receive aid from the Institute, he added.

Self-help is that portion of a student's financial aid that can be satisfied through government or MIT loans. The financial aid package given to undergraduates receiving aid at MIT consists of two parts: self-help and grant, Gallagher explained. The self-

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Three administrators leaving

By Edward E. Whang and Harold A. Stern

Three administrators have announced their plans to leave MIT. Linda Vaughan, associate dean for student affairs, will become the dean of students at Lesley College. Acting Director of Admissions Julia C. McLellan retired in early June. Nelson Armstrong, associate director of admissions, is contemplating a return to graduate studies.

As a member of Student Assistance Services (SAS), Vaughan took particular concern with women's issues, according to Robert M. Randolph, associate dean for student affairs and section head of the SAS. She also served as a liaison to the homosexual community and took responsibility for training Nightline counselors. "She's a very respected member of the community and a great asset. It will be hard to replace her," he said.

"It's anticipated that she [Vaughan] will soon become vice president of student affairs at Lesley College," Randolph said. "It's a good move careerwise."

The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA) will find a replacement for Vaughan with the help of an advisory commit-



Photo courtesy MIT News Office/Calvin Campbell

tee of students, according to Randolph. "It's the new school year; it's a hard time to look for people. If really good people don't turn up, we'll wait. We're not going to hire just to get a warm body," he said.

McLellan began her career here as a secretary to MIT's first director of admissions nearly 40 years ago. Since then, she has served under all four directors, according to Daniel T. Langdale, associate director of admissions responsible for transfer admit-

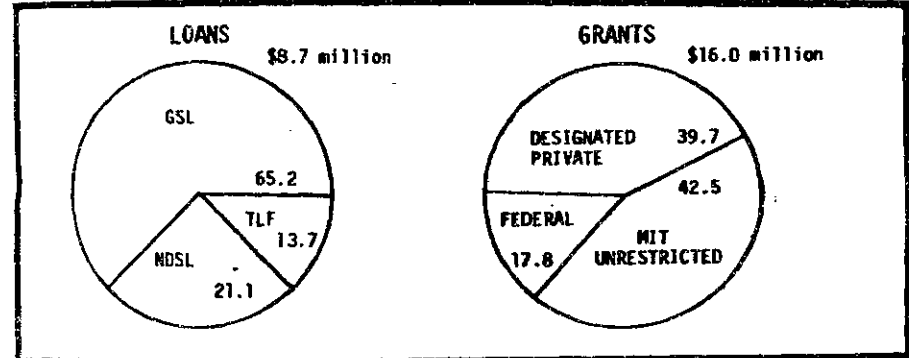
tance. McLellan was senior associate director of admissions when she replaced Peter H. Richardson as director of admissions in August, 1984. "She had planned to retire last year, but she decided to stay on another year when Richardson announced his resignation. She was a real institution — she will be sorely missed," said Michael C. Behnke, director of admissions.

She "colored the whole landscape," Langdale said, influencing each director she served under. McLellan "remarkably humanized this enterprise," he continued. "She didn't see it [the admissions process] as just a program," Langdale added, saying that McLellan offered "a receptive posture to thousands of young people."

Armstrong began his MIT administrative career in the Financial Aid Office 10 years ago. He spent five years there, directing the student employment and job search programs. Armstrong then moved into the Admissions Office, where he became associate director, Langdale said.

The Admissions Office assigns

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No accurate prediction of class size possible

By Katie Schwarz

Analysis

Last in a series on issues affecting housing and class size.

Inaccurate predictions of class size and dormitory spaces by the Admissions Office and the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA) resulted in an unexpectedly high level of dormitory crowding this fall.

These projections' accuracy cannot be improved significantly, because the timetable of the admissions process requires them to be made far in advance, and because privacy considerations make some information unavailable to MIT.

MIT is also affected by variations in the off-campus housing market, which it cannot influence directly. For example, rising rents in the Boston area have caused more students to remain on campus.

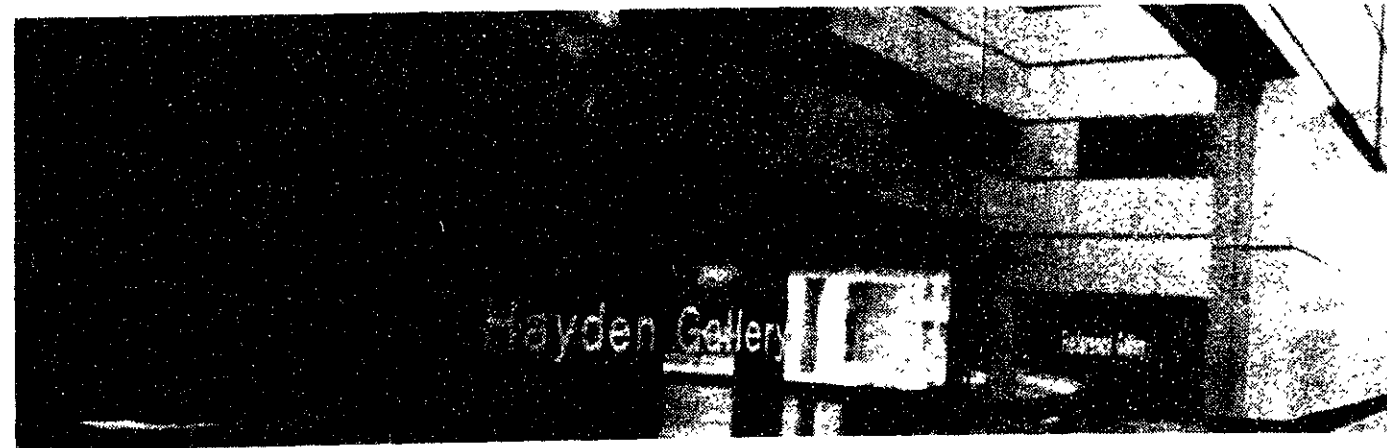
MIT faces three courses of action. It could revoke the guarantee of eight terms of housing for undergraduates, build new housing, or reduce the incoming class size.

President Paul E. Gray '54 recently recommended the third alternative.

Erratum

The headline on page 15 of *The Tech* ["Bexley still has unfilled spaces," Sept. 20] was incorrect. Bexley Hall currently does not have any vacant rooms.

Museum to use gallery space



Tech photo by Mike Klug

The Wiesner Building lobby is reflected in the new Hayden Gallery doors.

By Mary Condello

The relocation of the Hayden Gallery will free the space formerly occupied in Building 14 for lectures, concerts, films, and other public events, according to Marcus A. Thompson, professor of music. The gallery was moved to the new Wiesner Building (E15) last March.

There have been several proposals for the use of the interior gallery and corridor space which have remained empty for the past

few months, according to Professor Travis R. Merritt, director of the Department of Humanities.

The MIT campus contains few performance spaces, Thompson said. When the gallery space became available, members of the music department issued a joint request with other Course XXI sections for the use of the interior gallery.

"It would be nice for public events to be in this building [14] rather than solely in Kresge,"

Thompson added. Poetry reading, dance, and drama productions might be held in the inner gallery as well.

But refurbishing must be completed before the main gallery can be used extensively. "The requested renovations are being looked at and the cost determined," Thompson explained.

"The gallery will be stripped of old materials and be usable next year," said Nancy Cavanagh, an

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Alternative programs meet goals

By Jacqueline Gottlieb

Three alternative education programs for freshmen filled nearly all their openings during Residence/Orientation week. A total of 136 freshmen enrolled in the Experimental Study Group (ESG), Concourse, and the Integrated Studies Program (ISP).

Forty freshmen were accepted into the ESG program, according to ESG Associate Director Holly Sweet. This represents approximately 70 percent of the freshmen who expressed interest in it over the summer. Last year ESG had the largest number of applicants in its history, 60. The number of applicants was back to normal this year, Sweet said. "I don't know what happened last year. It was just an anomaly," she explained.

This year's freshmen are a more diverse group than usual, according to Sweet. "We have people from frats, from MacGregor, from the West side of campus," she said. In the past most students lived on the East side of campus, and many of them came from Senior House.

In keeping with an ESG tradition, the percentage of international freshmen accepted is approximately 20 percent. "The international students tend to be more motivated than usual, otherwise they wouldn't be here," Sweet explained. "Often they do not know how their backgrounds compare with those of American students. The self-paced program suits them well."

Concourse provided spaces for 65 freshmen out of the 118 applicants, according to Concourse administrator Cheryl Butters. Director Jerome Y. Lettvin '47 expressed a desire to have a physics or chemistry lab in Concourse.

In general there is a lack of labs for freshmen at MIT, Lettvin said. "Not particularly for lab hours, but just so the freshmen have a lab to work in."

Lettvin also wished that MIT would eliminate the Independent Activities Period. "With all the holidays, the term is very short and it is very difficult to cover all

Fewer students fail freshmen writing exams

(Continued from page 1)

ning, director of the Writing Department, was very pleased by the improved results. He said, "The high schools are getting the message." The improved scores did not affect enrollment in writing courses, he said. "A lot of students still want to take writing," he explained. "We have a steady enrollment."

Walters stressed that the evaluation is only one option in one phase of the writing requirement, which she termed "a gradual process." Only 10 or 15 students complete Phase 1 through the English Achievement Test each year, she added.

The achievement test option exists to "send a message to high schools that MIT takes writing seriously," Walters continued. Phase 1 can also be completed through a paper or a writing course, "the least popular choice," she said.

"The philosophy of the requirement is to get students to write in all of their subjects," Manning said. He added that the writing department is "happy about that." Writing is one of the most popular choices for humanities concentration at the Institute, Manning said.

MIT is a school with a "diversity of talents" and "some excellent writers," Manning said. He added students who did not pass the essay evaluation should not feel bad. "Bright students can be taught to write very well. We're here to help people."

the material."

ISP filled 31 of its 35 spaces, which represents a doubling relative to last year's enrollment in the program, according to administrator Anne E. Armitage.

Created last year as part of the Science, Technology and Society (STS) program, ISP has three main goals, according to Armitage: to coordinate the teaching of freshman physics and calculus, to integrate the teaching of humanities and of science and to create a learning atmosphere in which students get to know their professors and tutors very well.

Students participate in the

main curriculum lectures in ISP. Their recitations and tutorials, usually of 10 students, are taught by alumni, graduate students or faculty.

The program can accommodate recitations and tutorials for any of the freshman courses, Armitage said. An official 6.001 recitation will probably be instituted next term, she added.

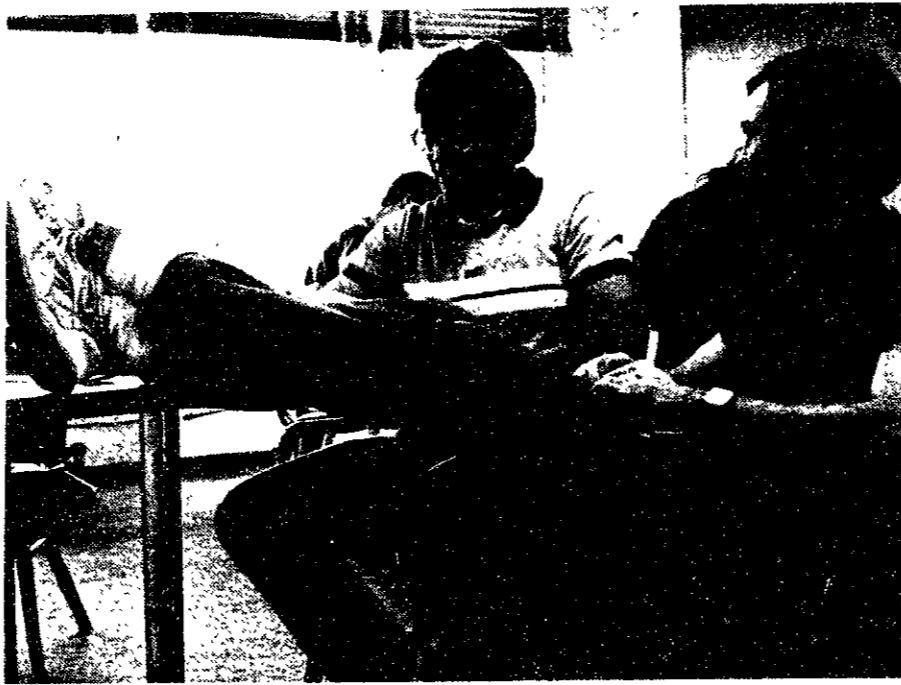
ISP will offer STS111, Facts and Artifacts: Types, Accounts and Models, in ISP during the spring as a companion course to 6.001. STS100, STS200 and STS111 are taught fully in ISP. The program also offers five

seminars each term, which concentrate on the relations between science and society.

"If a freshman wants to to pursue a subject not offered in ISP, a foreign language for example, he is welcome to do so," Armitage said. "We are not very restrictive."

ISP is located in the basement of Building E51. Its lounge, three tutorial rooms and the nearby dining hall provide the space for recitations and informal get-togethers for the students.

It is possible to join ISP through add date, or for the spring term, Armitage added.



Tech photo by Eric I. Chang

ESG tutor Jim Mahoney (r) helps freshman Alfonso B. Amparan.



Before Yom Kippur

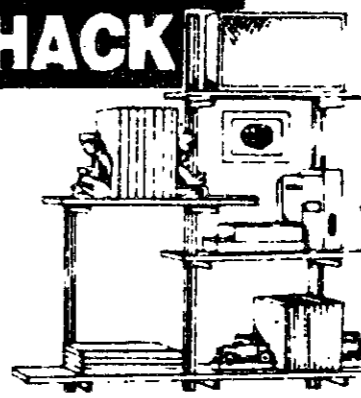
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CANAAN

news roundup

World

Rescue efforts continue after quake — The ordeal facing Mexico City after two devastating earthquakes last week is far from over as rescue workers continue sifting through tons of rubble. According to a presidential spokesman, current figures indicate 1700 confirmed deaths, while the search continues for 2000 others believed to be trapped alive beneath fallen buildings. The US Embassy lists four Americans known to be dead and 11 others missing, all of whom were tourists staying in hotels.

French government admits guilt in bombing — French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius disclosed to reporters in Paris that his government did indeed order the bombing of the Greenpeace ship, the *Rainbow Warrior*. The French government had steadfastly denied any responsibility since the incident occurred in New Zealand two and a half months ago.

UN General Assembly to open 40th meeting — The United Nations General Assembly convenes in New York City this week to begin five weeks of speeches, discussions and debates. As many as 59 heads of state and 159 foreign ministers, including President Reagan, will attend to help mark the UN's 40th anniversary.

Nation

88,000 turn out for farm aid — A crowd of nearly 88,000 jammed Memorial Stadium at the University of Illinois for the Farm Aid concert, intended to assist financially strapped farm families throughout the Midwest. Organized by Willie Nelson and Neil Young, the event brought in \$7 million during the 14-hour marathon. While raising pledges, the organizers also hoped to stir some pride and among farmers.

Defense department plans long-range spending cut — According to the Reagan Administration, the Defense Department has approved sweeping cutbacks in its spending plan that will extend through the next five years. Senior Pentagon officials rewrote plans for personnel, operations and weapons. No reductions were made in nuclear weapons spending.

Cereal

Captain Crunch missing — Captain Horatio Crunch, an internationally known mariner, was reported missing by the Quaker Oats Company, according to the *Crunch Chronicle*. The Crunchberry Beast and Smedley, two members of the captain's crew, are maintaining a 24-hour vigil.

Sports

Billy in hot water again — New York Yankee manager Billy Martin suffered a broken arm Sunday morning in a barroom fight with Yankee pitcher Ed Whitson. The fight occurred at the team's hotel in Baltimore. Martin had tried to break up a fight between Whitson and another patron but ended up having to scuffle with Whitson.

Spinks halts Holmes' string — Michael Spinks won a 15-round decision in Las Vegas, NV, to gain the World Boxing Association heavyweight crown, and thus stopped Holmes one victory short of tying the 49-0 record of Brockton native Rocky Marciano.

Christopher Peck

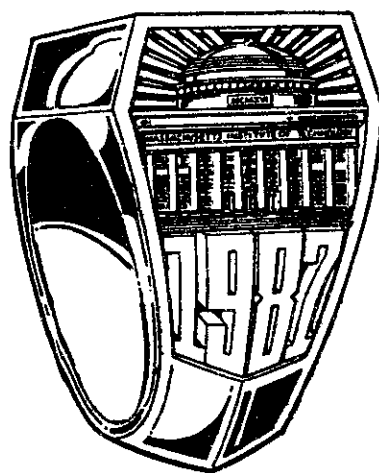
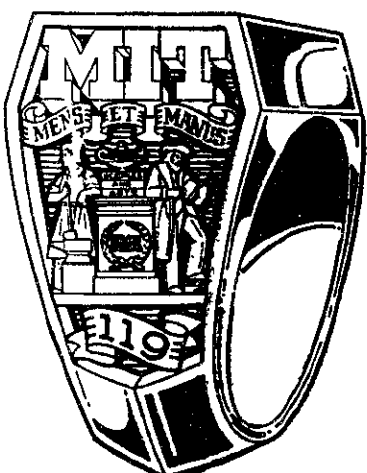
Weather

Hammerin' Hank on the way — If Tropical Storm Henri tracks closer to the coast than now expected, we will have a very stormy Tuesday, with windswept heavy rain. Weather should improve later in the week.

Michael J. Garrison

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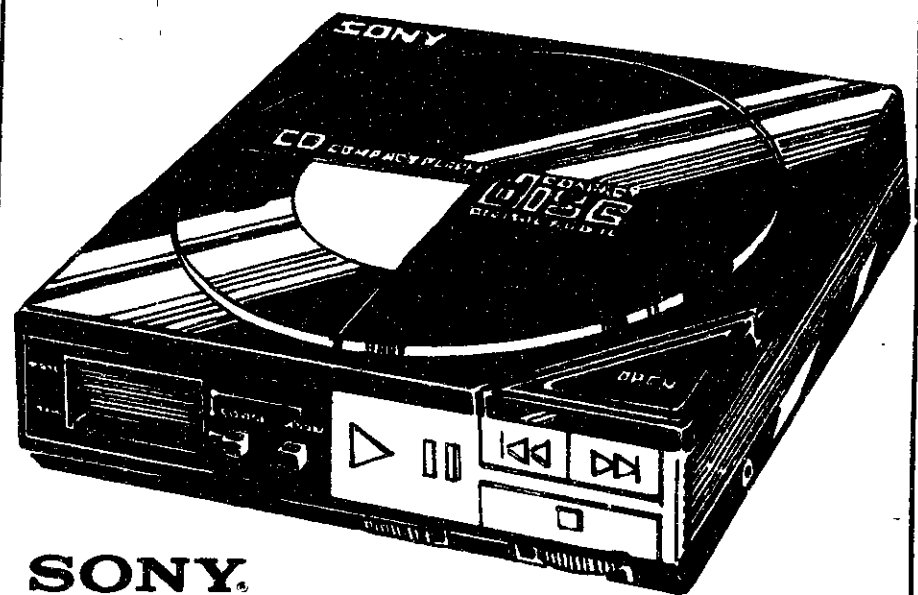
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opinion

Editorial

MIT: reduce class size

Overcrowded housing and misjudgments in admissions have plagued MIT for the past four years in a row. Nearly twice as many students are living in crowded dormitory rooms this fall as the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs originally expected.

Over half of all freshmen living in dormitories, together with some upperclassmen, live in the 195 rooms that are crowded. Some fraternities have crowded freshmen to ease the strain on the dormitories. All undergraduates on the waiting list have been refused Institute housing.

The overcrowding has almost reached the record attained in 1980, the year before Next House opened. At that time, MIT mistakenly believed the new dormitory would alleviate the crowding problems.

The MIT administration recognizes that the current crowding is a serious problem. "We're not going to have this again," said President Paul E. Gray '54.

However, Gray and the personnel of the Admissions Office seem reluctant to reject more applicants to reduce the class size. They should be concerned not about "unhappy people who wanted [to go to MIT] and couldn't," but about unhappy people already at MIT — the people unable to change dorms or roommates because of the crowding, the fraternity members dealing with the hassles of rushing extra freshmen, and the students bearing the burden of overused academic facilities.

Inaccurate administration predictions caused some of the crowding. Because of the immutable timetable of the admissions process, predictions must be made so far in advance that they are inevitably uncertain.

What should be done? Scientists and engineers know that a measurement is meaningless without a statement of its uncertainty. The Academic Council should take account of the uncertainty it faces and leave more margin for error.

The original prediction of 100 crowded rooms must be questioned. The purpose of crowding students in the fall is to fill spaces appearing during the year because of early graduations and withdrawals. Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert A. Sherwood expects occupancy in Institute houses to decrease by a net of about 35 students this year. Thus only 35 crowded rooms — instead of the current level of 195 — would have been sufficient.

"Crowding usually lasts only during the fall term," says the MIT Undergraduate Residence Book. Is this statement sincere?

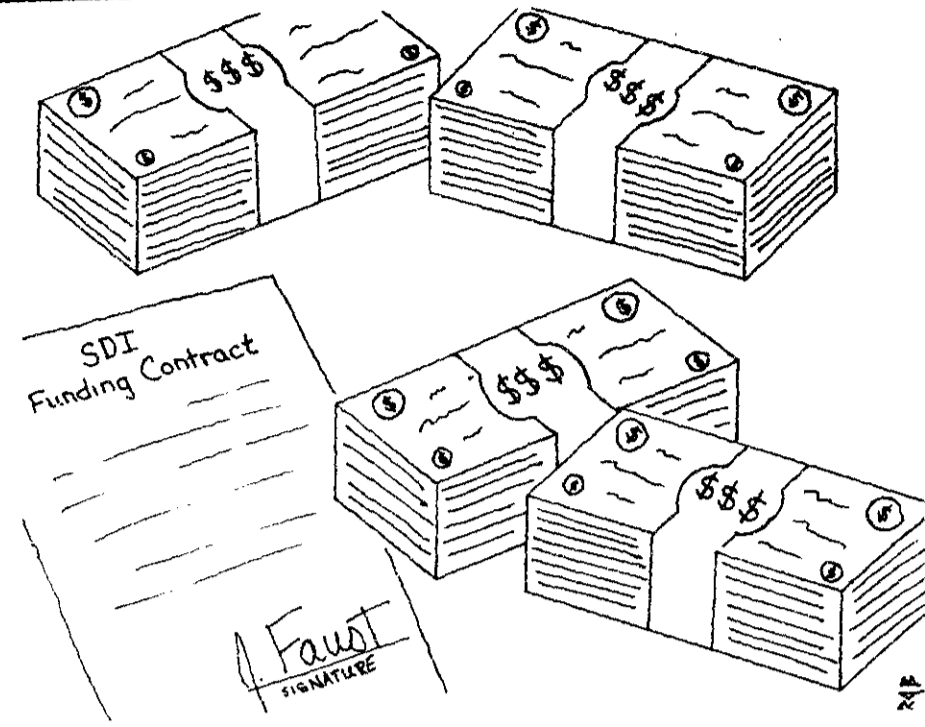
Crowding can be alleviated either by building more housing or by reducing the number of students eligible for housing. Building more dormitories is a poor option. The Institute has no plans to budget money for future housing. Financial aid is rightly a much higher priority.

There is also no space on the central campus, and, as with Next House, a new dormitory will not alleviate crowding if not combined with a cautious admissions policy.

MIT could artificially reduce the demand for on-campus housing by revoking its guarantee of eight terms of housing to undergraduates. Such a measure would be severely detrimental to student life. It is unacceptable.

Gray has taken a step in the right direction. He is asking the Academic Council to reduce the size of next year's incoming class. This is the right way to solve crowding problems. The president has indicated that the accompanying loss of tuition revenue is not a serious drawback.

The Academic Council should not hesitate to reduce the class size by as much as necessary to result in an acceptable crowding level — that is, 35 rooms. The class size reduction should be large and permanent.



Guest Column/Alan Szarawarski

Morals must be consistent

Debates about politics usually continue interminably and produce more enemies than converts. Controversy and dissension reign, leaving important issues unresolved.

Despite months of bitter controversy over pornography last year, few members of the MIT

community understand the basic arguments of both sides.

Much of this disagreement occurs because individuals (and institutions) frequently first decide issues on the basis of their self-interest and biases and then formulate moral and intellectual justification for their positions.

Self-interest may be subtle. In a nation where ostentatious displays of wealth merit respect but one child in five grows up in poverty, many individuals avoid guilt by believing that poverty is simply the result of laziness.

On a lighter note, consider Duke's (from Doonesbury) quip, "Honey, all labor leaders are sensitive to the [plight of] the working class. That's how they avoid belonging to it."

However, those who attribute beliefs solely to self-interest are too cynical. People take strong positions on issues even when they have no clear self-interest. Legitimate disagreement occurs because individuals decide political questions based on the relative importance they attach to a handful of fundamental principles — like compassion, fairness, justice, personal freedom and the intrinsic worth of human life.

A Libertarian, single-mindedly devoted to minimal government (on the principle of individual liberty) opposes government spending for the poor. A Libertarian will not be swayed by eloquent oratory about the poor's suffering. Such oratory leaves his or her underlying value system unchanged.

Because values are not amenable to strict logical tests, it might seem that the political goals of individuals or lobby groups are all equally legitimate. But many of the political action committees which influence government decisions are motivated more by self-interest than sincere commitment to moral principles. Clearly a method for challenging their positions is necessary.

While it is difficult to attack a set of values, one can demand that values be consistently applied. Opinions based on applying different sets of values to different issues are rationalizations for vested interests or examples of sloppy thinking.

The strength of this approach is demonstrated by applying it to the positions of a powerful voting bloc on two vexing issues — the so-called Moral Majority's positions on abortion and welfare.

The several million members of the Moral Majority are led by Rev. Jerry Falwell, a man with an uncanny knack for avoiding critical scrutiny. To fairly test whether Falwell's beliefs are self-consistent, one must grant him his assumptions without completely avoiding skepticism. Falwell might be the recipient of Divine Guidance, but other Christians of substantial religious feeling, like the Catholic bishops, disagree with him.

Most Americans do not believe that women should be completely

(Please turn to page 5)

Column/Joe Shipman

Oh, the incompetent MBTA makes me mad

Aaarrggghhh!!!!!!
Now that I've got that out of my system, maybe I can calm down enough to write this column. Oooh, they make me so mad!

I am talking about Massachusetts' most extravagantly incompetent organization, the MBTA (shudder!).

Last term I wrote a column about hostile bus drivers, confused ticket clerks, inflexible conductors, and incompetent bureaucrats. They must have seen it, because since then they have really been out to get me.

Or maybe they have simply gotten worse.

What got my blood boiling today was a relatively minor piece of idiocy, but it was so characteristically brain-damaged that I couldn't take it any more and ran over here to vent my spleen.

I wanted to take the #71 bus from Harvard Square. I went into the brand-new bus terminal there, where signs directed me to the lower platform.

I arrived at 2:17 in the afternoon; the bus was scheduled to leave at 2:20. At 2:23 I heard a mumble from the loudspeaker and made out the words "up the ramp." I went up to find that the #71 had just left from the upper ramp. The next one was scheduled for 50 minutes later.

There were no signs posted downstairs or at the doors saying that the place of departure had been changed, and the (unintelligible) announcement was not made until the bus had already left. None of the employees at the station admitted having anything to do with the foul-up, nor could they provide the name of anyone responsible.

The latter is the most distinctive feature of the T — *nobody is responsible for anything, or knows anybody who is*. The MBTA has no complaint department listed in the phone book, and all of the listings are just numbers without addresses. Whenever one of the numbers is called, it is answered by either a machine, or, even worse, an MBTA clerk.

The clerks might as well be finite-state machines themselves; they are not only incapable of handling a complaint or any non-standard request for information

but are also incapable of sufficiently understanding your problem to pass it on to the appropriate person. At least an answering machine accurately takes down everything you say.

As I said last term, the T is a monopoly and doesn't need to provide good service. Only political pressure will make them change. But what can be done?

One solution is to take employees who've screwed up and put them in stocks in front of the Harvard Square station, where they can be pelted with rotten fruit by disgruntled passersby. Unfortunately it would be difficult to locate the individuals at fault.

If the commissioner of the MBTA were an elected official, we could boot him out of office every two or three years. This remedy, though, might not lead to real improvements, if experience with other elective offices in the Commonwealth is any guide.

Unfortunately, our only recourse is to complain. To make the most of this, we should concentrate enough hear on a single official that he'll be forced to do something; diffuse protest will just fade away unanswered.

So, are you tired of rude bus drivers?

Do you get mad when there is no token clerk in a subway station late at night, and the revolving gate is busted, so you can't get in to take the train (but it eats your token anyway)?

Have you had enough unannounced 20-minute delays between stations?

Are you fed up with having five subways go by in the other direction while you wait half an hour for *your* subway, resulting in your missing your commuter train because it left 3 minutes early?

Are you disgusted with a railroad where trains are not only regularly late, but regularly (and without notice) *cancelled*, forcing you to wait two hours (or, if it's the last train of the night, to take a taxi)?

Then do something about it. Write a letter to Fred Salvucci, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation, 1 Ashburton Place, Boston; or just send him a copy of this column.

The Tech

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opinion

Guest Column/Elliot Marx

Report truth about MIT

When I first came to MIT, I expected that most of the students would be nerds — with no interests beyond studying and computer hacking.

Lisa Birnbach warned me in her college handbook about the prevalent "social ineptitude" among students here. *The Yale Daily News*, which also prints a college handbook, claimed that MIT students are typically scientists with no interests in the humanities, implying that we do not care about other people, both in our society and in others.

To my surprise, I have found these descriptions of MIT students to be inaccurate, if not outright false. Even though many students here are strong in math

and science, there is no such thing as a typical student. Personal pursuits here are extremely diverse. In Random Hall alone, I have met a soccer player, an artist, a composer, several guitar players, and a comic book collector.

MIT has a higher percentage of foreign students than that of just about any other college in the United States. These students add tremendously to the diversity of cultures and races represented here.

If only I had known these things about MIT before I came here! I might have been able to convince some of the other seven students from my school who were accepted by MIT. Unfortunately,

they did not enroll, partly because they believed the negative stereotypes they had heard about MIT.

These stereotypes probably originated several years ago. MIT admissions officers were not attracting a diverse group of people then. Their one concern was admitting future scientists, whether or not they were nerds. Intelligent people either applied to an Ivy League school or MIT, never both.

Today, however, more people are applying to both MIT and Ivy League schools. Admissions officers here compete with the Ivy League for intelligent students who have a wide variety of interests and talents.

I hope that in the future, high school graduates will make a more informed decision about applying to and enrolling at MIT. Reporters and surveyors cannot describe MIT as well as we can, because they are not experiencing life here. I urge every one of you to go back to your high school. Replace the unsubstantiated rumors with informed truth.

Arguments are often based on self-interest

(Continued from page 4)
prohibited from having abortions. Millions of people who have not had or performed an abortion and who do not risk having their sexual activity inhibited by a ban on abortion still oppose Falwell's desire to ban all abortions.

That hundreds of thousands of women each year accepted great risks to have abortions when these abortions were illegal indicates that a great many women desperately want abortions. Furthermore, even a modest enforcement effort would require extensive government involvement in daily life.

These points are merely to demonstrate that Falwell is willing to accept government intrusion as the price of preserving life and avoiding possible pain by the fetus/baby.

Certainly a three-month old child merits the same consideration as a three month fetus. Falwell, however, seeks to reduce social spending, including programs directed at needy children. He is not willing to have the government impose on the public to fund such programs, but he is willing to have the government ban abortions. Falwell is not consistent here in his belief in the role of government power.

Falwell cites welfare fraud as a reason to cut benefits. Despite well-documented waste and fraud in the military, though, he supports the current military buildup.

Falwell claims that social spending undermines family structure. But why doesn't he advocate restructuring eligibility instead of reducing benefits?

Falwell and his supporters may not be troubled by the preceding questions. Nevertheless, examining political goals by questioning whether they are derived by consistently applying moral principles enables one to mount a seri-

ous challenge to positions on even the most complicated, emotion-laden issues.

Can supporting the overthrow of the Nicaraguan Government while opposing sanctions against South Africa be justified?

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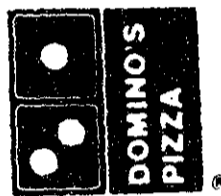
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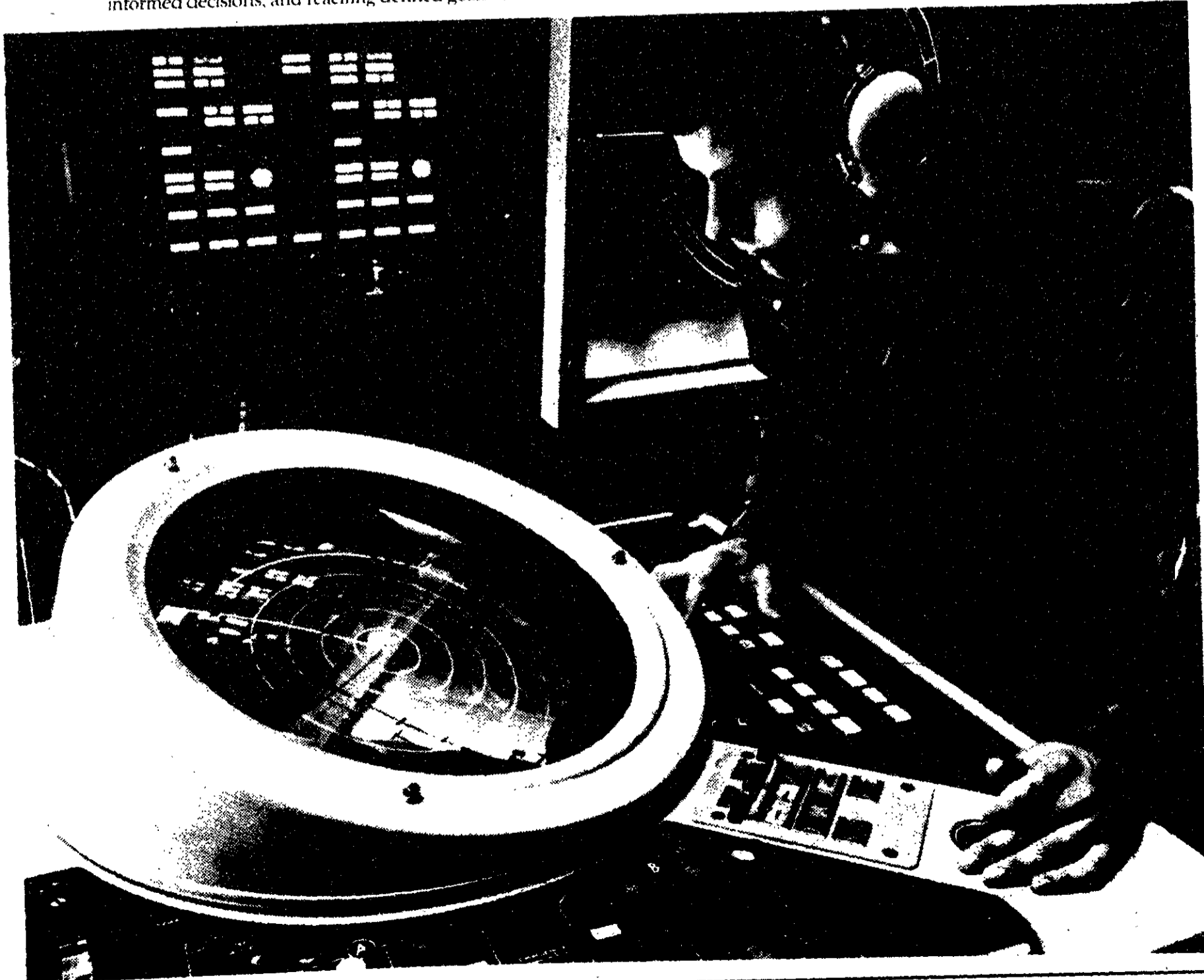
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feedback

Tech story was relevant

To the Editor:

Congratulations on an excellent edition of *The Tech* [Tuesday, Sept. 17]. I have read *The Tech* faithfully for years, but never remember such an impressive collection of writing.

Vedantham's story and Fujina's photos on the anti-apartheid demonstration were informative and relevant as were the pieces on coming out, the Coop, and overcrowding. Keep up the good work.

Stephen J. LeBlanc '85

artsartsartsartsartsartsarts

Harbisons render recital rapturously

Rose Mary and John Harbison in recital including premiere of new John Harbison work, Kresge Auditorium, September 21.

While Boston flocked last week to pay \$75 for a mediocre recital by Luciano Pavarotti, the MIT community attended a priceless concert for free. The Harbisons — Rose Mary and John — gave a new definition to pleasure Saturday night with performances which combined wit and charm with a deep sense of musicality.



Rosemary Harbison

Tech photo by Rich Fletcher

The program — running from Bach via Saint-Saens and a new composition by John Harbison to Kreisler — might at first sight seem an odd one, but performances from the Harbisons gave the evening logic and continuity.

John Harbison challenged Rose Mary to learn Bach's *Sonata in C*, BWV 1005 for unaccompanied violin. "As the other side

and got by far the easier side of the bargain," he said introducing the concert to the audience. But while the Bach sonata stands as an emblem "of what a composer could risk for one instrument" Rose Mary Harbison's playing was serene throughout in a performance which was quite at home with both the technical horrors and expressive dynamite of this king of solo works.

The opening *Adagio* was relaxed and nicely measured. The lulling, almost hypnotic opening developed dance-like to prepare us for the work's great fugue. Harbison spun over the most complex passages of the *fuga* with exhilarating control. Her instrument always seemed to sing, to have a glorious lightness even at the deepest moments, to harmonize the conflict between the gaiety above and profundity beneath in a synthesis of beauty.

The *Largo* and *Allegro assai* served to wind down the work, nimbleness of playing providing joy to the last note.

Saint-Saens *Introduction et Rondo Capriccioso*, op.28 can be given a syrupy-sweet gloss that prevents penetration to the core of the work. But the Harbisons provided a refreshingly clean and revealing performance. Rose Mary Harbison played the violin part tightly, but always melodiously, while clarity and understated rhythmic drive marked John Harbison's piano playing. The work grew remarkably as cross-currents vigorously flowing in the most torturous passages were despatched with ease and grace.

John Harbison is known for imbuing the originality of his music with lyricism, and in his new composition — *Four Songs of Solitude* — he has not let us down. Saturday night we heard three of the songs — the ink from the fourth is hardly dry, said Harbison in an introductory. The lyrical

qualities of the first song overlaid the work's reflective, inward-looking textures: although Harbison's work is intimate, — not massive in structure like the Bach — connections with the earlier Bach work became quite apparent in the pitting and combining of intellect and romance in Rose Mary Harbison's eloquent playing. There were elements of Schubertian color to the second song; the third — reflective once more — ended leaving the listener

deep in thought.

Kreisler without schmaltz is quite a revelation — and Harbison husband and wife pared three Kreisler pieces down to their basics, bringing them off with both charm and substance. The unpretentious virtuosity of Rose Mary Harbison was well matched by the elegant light piano accompaniment of John: The two Harbisons in league produced rapture.

Jonathan Richmond



Rosemary and John Harbison

Tech photo by Rich Fletcher

Erratum

The recording number for the Thomas Allen recital of Mozart arias reviewed in *The Tech* on September 6 was incorrect. The recital is available on Angel record #DS - 38043 and tape #4DS - 38043.

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American Flyers soars on sky-high adrenaline

American Flyers starring Kevin Costner, David Grant, Alexandra Paul. Screenplay by Steve Tesich. Directed by John Badham. Opens Friday, September 27 Sacklars. Rated PG-13.

The *Breaking Away* of 1985? Could well be. Certainly *American Flyers* is a satisfying movie. It is about two brothers' struggle to revive their love for each other, as they display an unrelenting passion for bicycle racing under a shadow of family medical problems. Brothers David (David Grant) and Marcus (Kevin Costner) travel from Wisconsin to Colorado to compete in an Olympic-calibre bike race.

From start to finish, this high-adrenaline movie keeps us on the edge of the race course. Shots of wheels spinning, pavement whizzing by, and mile-long drops down the Rocky Mountains add to an intense excitement, together with an appropriate, climactic musical score. Hundreds of bicyclists participate in a grueling race 100 feet up the Rocky Mountains. Water

stations, support cars, banners and cheering fans put us right in the race.

Screenwriter Steve Tesich continually couples slapstick humor with chilling seriousness, as when David knocks over a pot of stew in the kitchen. Our first reaction is to laugh, but soon after we are shocked to realize that his clumsiness is due to sickness. It is a strong comedy, filled with much black humor but also one that retains its gut-level emotion.

As in *Breaking Away* (Tesich's other bike-racing film), *American Flyers*'s simple and direct plot is accompanied by strong-punch dialogue such as: "You've lost weight" — "No, you've lost touch" or "I'm still alive so don't ignore me." Director John Badham (of *War Games* fame) and Steve Tesich collaborated to make lines such as these clear and full of impact. Lines like "I think I'm going to die" are delivered with both the humor and the seriousness which they deserve. The terse conversation comes across as spontaneous

and genuine. The actors' efforts are full of sincerity.

David Grant plays a charming and likeable younger brother, delivering a strong performance. Kevin Costner undergoes a shaky character development at the outset but pulls through by the end of the film. Perhaps what is most impressive is that both of these actors clearly perform their own hairpin turns and other outstanding bicycle stunts — all at the rate of 60 mph.

Actresses Janice Rule and Rae Dawn Chong play an unusually cold mother and girlfriend. Their friend Alexandra Paul, by comparison, is a bit of a caricature. But their common emotional intensity makes up for the detached nature of their characters at important points in the film. Overall it's nice to see a movie where one really cares what happens to the characters, and wishfully anticipates the plot.

There are few flaws in this exciting movie. Vapidly delivered lines such as "Be strong now, OK?" do exist as does a less-

than-believable rapport between brothers David and Marcus. One finds it hard to believe that each would greet each other with a warm "Hello, you son-of-a-bitch" after having spent years apart. In other more touching scenes actors David Grant and Kevin Costner seem to forget their brotherhood. We find them speaking at each other, not *with* one another. And of course lines like "I'm a fig-newton" or images of rockets going off during a romantic bedroom scene are so trite that one can only roll one's eyes and laugh.

American Flyers is an entertaining movie — it touches on issues of family and personal achievement. One can't expect much philosophical gain from it, nor too much verisimilitude. However, unlike several contemporary serious movies, it is escapist pleasure — a fun, fast-paced movie that will have you laughing and crying at the same time.

Emily Brudnoy Singer

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80 percent receive some financial aid

(Continued from page 1)
 help level this year is \$4900, including term-time earnings and loans.

The Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL), National Direct Student Loan (NDSL) and Technology Loan Fund or term-time earnings help students fulfill the self-help requirement of \$4900. Undergraduates can receive \$2350 through the GSL, with an interest rate of eight percent. Interest does not accumulate until six months after the student leaves school. GSL interest rates vary each year.

MIT applies annually to the NDSL program, Gallagher said. The NDSL can loan the student \$1300, at an interest rate of 5 percent, he added. This leaves a minimum of \$1250 of self-help, Gallagher said, which can be accumulated through term-time earnings or still another loan, this one from the Technology Loan Fund.

The Technology Loan Fund loaned a total of \$750,000 last year, he said. Much of it was given to foreign students who are not eligible for the GSL or the NDSL, Gallagher noted. Remaining financial aid is given to the student in the form of a grant, he explained.

The federal government provides about 18 percent of all grants given to students, Gal-

lagher said. The Institute also annually receives donations from alumni, friends of MIT, and corporations.

Forty percent of MIT grants are dollars given to the Institute designated for specific programs, according to Financial Aid Office statistics. MIT uses its own unrestricted funds to provide the remaining 42 percent.

Unrestricted funds are money given to the Institute that not designated for a particular purpose, Gallagher said. MIT has chosen to appropriate a large portion of these funds as grants,

Associate directors to leave admissions office

(Continued from page 1)
 tasks to its associate directors, just as most administrative offices do, Langdale explained. Armstrong was responsible for minority admissions, he continued.

Armstrong "did a fine job of representing MIT to the minority community," Langdale said. John B. Searles '86, a member of the Black Student Union, offered a "remarkable expression of affection" for Armstrong at an open house sponsored by the minority community for the former admissions officer, according to Langdale.

he added. The Financial Aid Office is planning to give out \$6 million in the coming year.

The big question that looms ahead in financial aid is that of funds, Gallagher said. The proportion of need met by self-help is going up as the tuition increases, Gallagher said. Congress, however, is resisting President Ronald Reagan's conservative budget propositions concerning financial aid, he said, and there is talk in the federal government of a 1987 aid program. Next year should be stable, he predicted.

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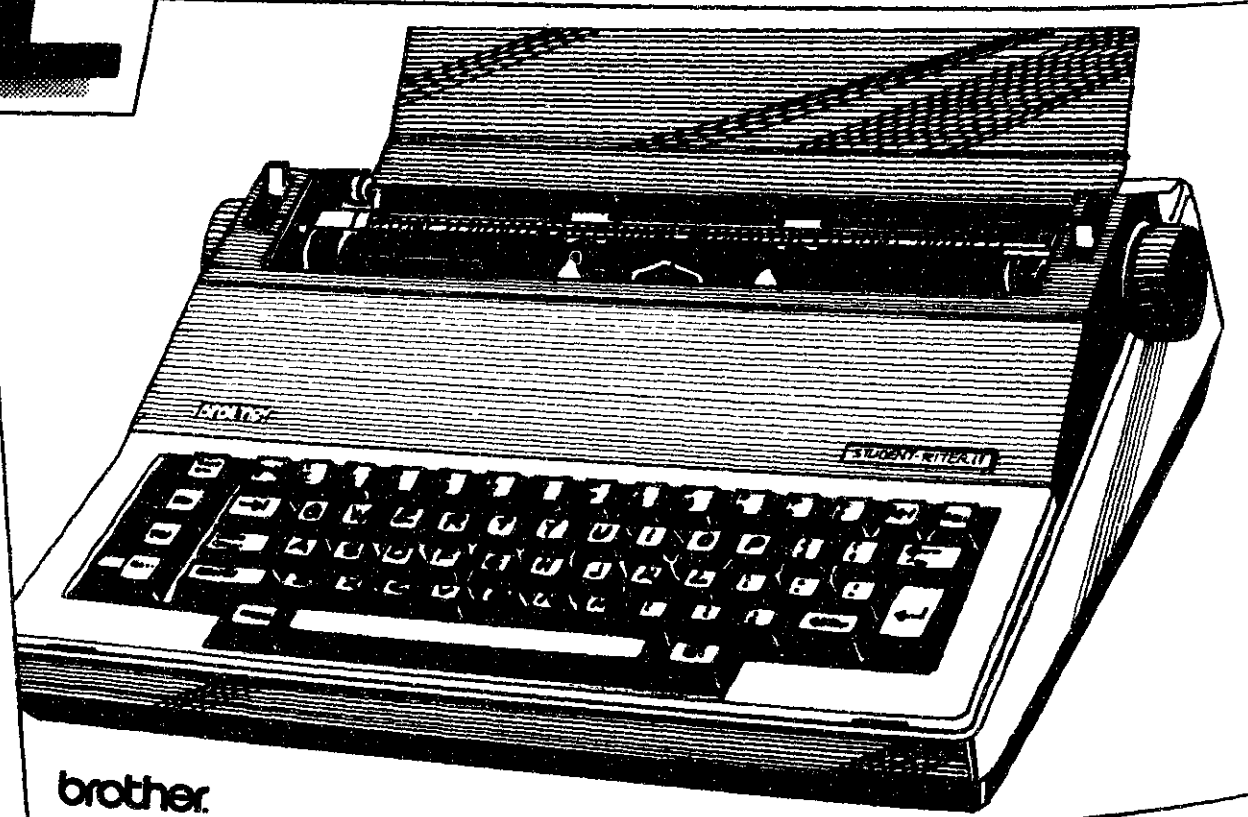
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Uncertainty causes crowding

(Continued from page 1)

More offers of admission to students on the waiting list were accepted than the Admissions Office anticipated, and fewer students than expected withdrew from MIT before enrolling. Consequently, the Class of 1989 exceeds its targeted size of 1025 by over 30 students.

Predictions inherently uncertain

Both the ODSA and the Admissions Office must make predictions representing thousands of independent decisions by students.

The number of returning upperclassmen must be projected in January so that the class size can be set in time for the Admissions Office to process applications.

But January is sometimes too early to foresee factors affecting students' decisions. This year's rapid rise in area rents began in the spring, after the class size target had been set.

Plans made to utilize Hayden building gallery

(Continued from page 1)

Administrative officer for the music department. There are plans to add "movable seating, track lighting, and a grand piano," she said.

Corridor space uncertain

The future of the corridor gallery is uncertain. The MIT Museum put in a proposal for permanent use of the space, and is still awaiting a decision. Two exhibits will definitely be shown in the next few weeks, according to Warren Seamans, director of the MIT Museum.

The first exhibit will be at the end of September, when the American Institute of Graphic Artists will hold its conference here. The work will be displayed in the corridor gallery.

In mid-October Course XXI will be holding a convocation in honor of its 30th anniversary. "The Museum will be showing an exhibit of photographs, printed material, and other memorabilia depicting the history of humanities at MIT," Merritt said.

"There are plans for a series of exhibits of general interest to the MIT community sponsored by the Museum or independent groups on campus," Seamans added.

Future exhibits, if approved, might include "Women in Medieval Art," "History of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineering," "Albert Einstein and American Physics," and "MIT and Industry," Seamans said.

Renovations are necessary for the corridor gallery as well as the interior space. For example, new glass cases must be installed. Those previously used by the Hayden Gallery were accidentally discarded when the gallery was

Respect for applicants' privacy hinders predictions by the Admissions Office. The office does not ask where else candidates have applied, nor where they have been accepted.

The response of students admitted from the waiting list cannot be estimated accurately without knowing their plans at the time they receive their acceptance. The summer withdrawal rate depends heavily on the number of students accepted from other schools' waiting lists who then decide to attend those schools. This information is also not available to MIT.

Little room for adjustment

The Admissions Office maintains the waiting list as a means of adjusting the class size. If the "yield" of admitted students who decide to attend MIT is different from its anticipated value, the office compensates by admitting more or fewer students from the waiting list.

Yet this year, the unexpectedly large yield from the waiting list

was a major cause of the larger-than-intended class size.

Admission of students on the waiting list is the last action that the Admissions Office controls. Hence the office cannot compensate for an unexpected response from the waiting list. If the office made more use of the waiting list, the uncertainty in the class size would therefore be magnified.

MIT cannot know the yield from the students admitted in March until May 1, the "candidate's reply date" for nearly all colleges in the country, and it cannot make offers of admission after June 30 because of an agreement with the Consortium on Financing Higher Education. Hence the Admissions Office has only two months to work with the waiting list, and it would be difficult to have more than one or two rounds of admission from the waiting list in two months.

Shrinking class only solution

Since the ODSA and the Admissions Office cannot guarantee the accuracy of their predictions, the only way to prevent overcrowding is to leave a margin of error by admitting a smaller class.

Director of Admissions Michael C. Behnke has said he will aim for a lower number than the official target, because Gray has directed him not to exceed it.



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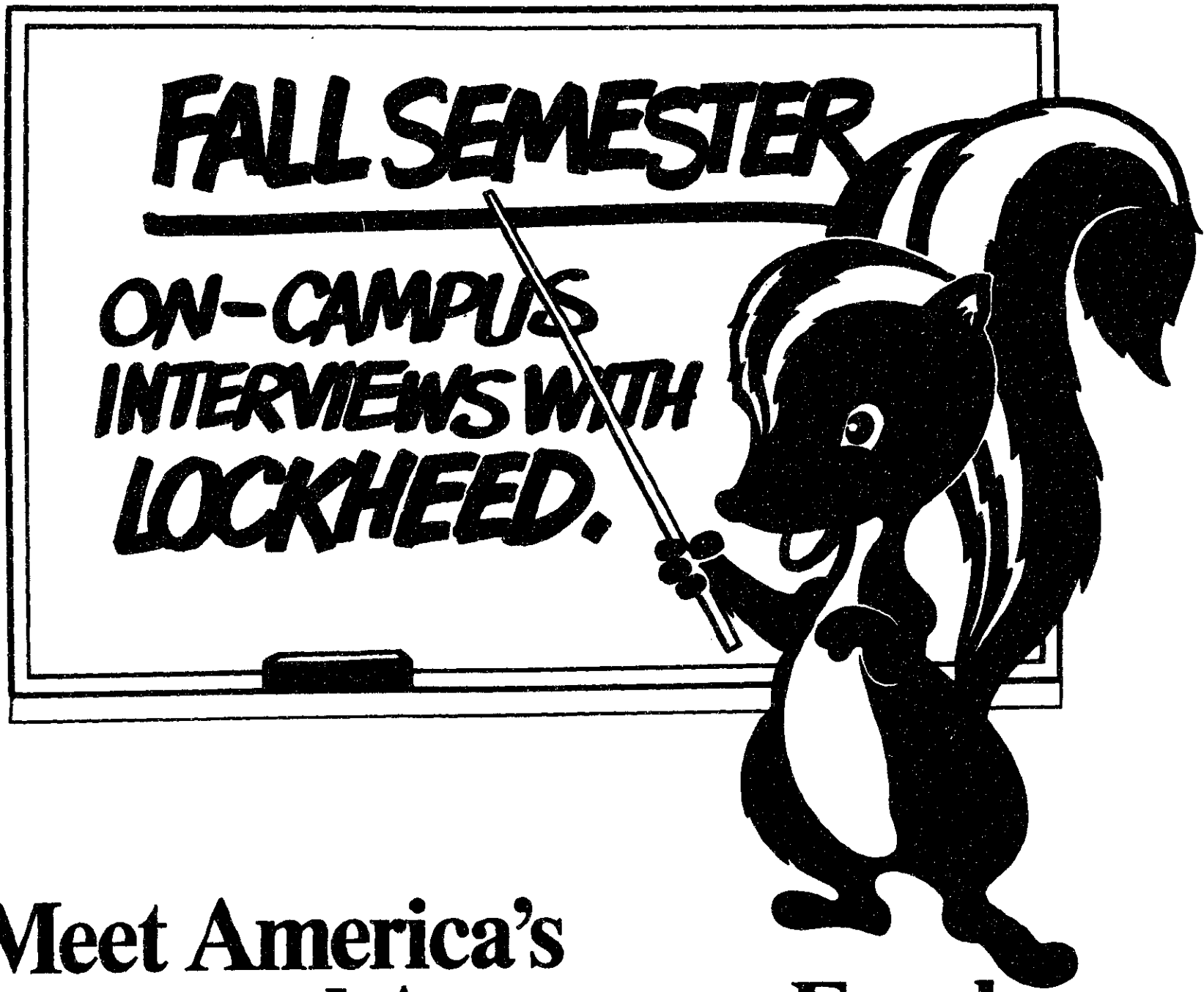
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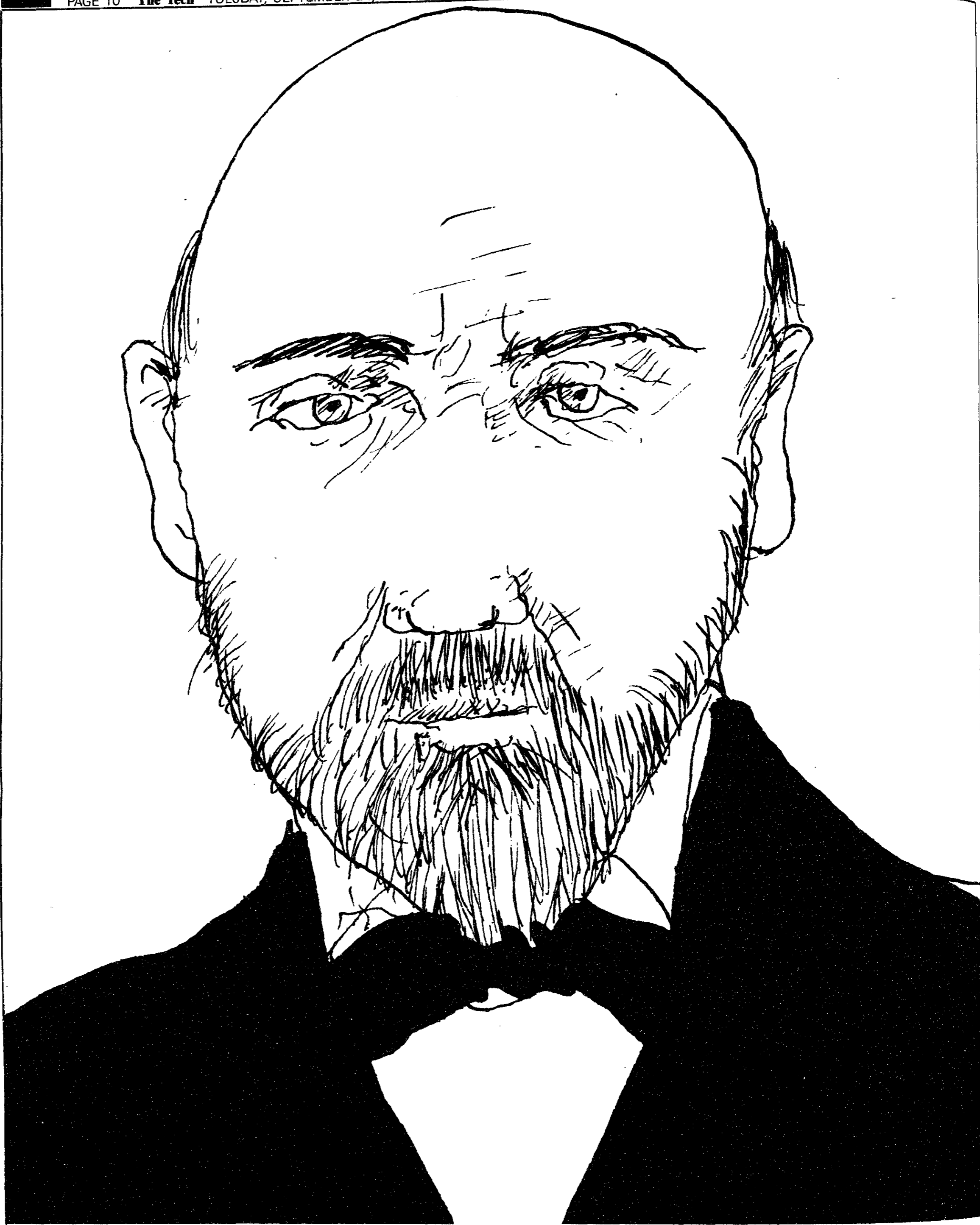
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sports



Tech photo by Donald Chan

Charlie Sardo coaches the football team during a practice session.

Batsmen hold even record

(Continued from page 12)

...iled. Instead of having the bases loaded with no one out, MIT had a single runner on third with two outs. He did not score. Steve Stoller led off the Engineers' seventh with a chopper in the infield. He was called out on close play. Coach Fran O'Brien vehemently protested, prompting his ejection from the game. It was a frustrating loss for the team.

In game two, MIT was nearly flawless. The defense did not commit any errors. The combined pitching efforts of Mike Griffin '89, Jeff Evenson '88 and Robert Newkirk '89 held UMass Boston to only three hits. Adding to that, a ten hit attack and seven stolen bases, the Engineers played a fundamentally sound ball game. As a result, they pounded UMass 8-0.

The split twinbill kept the Engineers at .500 for the fall season (-4). The 15 game schedule for September, serves three main purposes according to O'Brien. First, it gives the seasoned veterans a chance to "get back into the groove" of playing, considering that most members of the team did not compete over the summer. The second purpose O'Brien hopes to accomplish in the fall, is to get a chance to see a handful of new players in action. Finally, the short season allows the players to develop a sense of cohesiveness" to carry into the spring season.

The burden of responsibility for the team's success will lie on the shoulders of the veterans on the squad. O'Brien highlighted Rich Zermani, as an example. He's one of those few players who can do it all."

Even with the loss of six four-star starters from last year, O'Brien is enthusiastic about the squad, considering the new talent has coming up. Mike Griffin

pitched four solid innings to pick up a win Saturday. Two local players, Steve Stoller from Newton South High School, and Tim Collins '89 from Milton High have performed well in their debuts in college ball.

One of the stars from Saturday's win, Tim Day, is also a freshman. The catcher from Oklahoma City picked up three hits in the second game. Day "is an outstanding catcher with incredible quickness," praised O'Brien. Last week in a game against Bentley, he stole four bases.

Two other people to watch are

Robert Newkirk and Mark Carroll '88. Newkirk pitched two impressive innings Saturday. His delivery is straight over the top and powerful. Mark Carroll should also provide the Engineers with a solid arm.

This weekend MIT hosts its Fall Classic, which will involve a round-robin tournament. MIT, Brandeis, Stonehill and UMass Boston will compete on Saturday and Sunday. The tournament ends the fall season for the Engineers. The spring season begins in March when MIT travels to Florida to play six games in 10 days.

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Tickets will be required for all Tuesday services. Students can pick up free tickets in Lobby 10 on September 23 or in Hillel September 18-20 & 23. Non-students should contact Hillel.

A pre-fast meal will be served in the Kosher Kitchen (Walker Hall, Room 907) on Tuesday, September 24 at 4:00 pm. Payment can be made with validine or cash.

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sports



Freshman Tim Day runs for the ball in Saturday's doubleheader against UMass Boston. MIT lost the first game 4-2, then regained its form for a decisive 8-0 win.
Tech photo by Paul Sajda

Baseball splits a pair with UMass

By Paul Paternoster

If you've ever seen Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, then you know how one person can be completely transformed into someone totally different. Judging from Saturday afternoon's doubleheader against UMass Boston, it is also possible for MIT's baseball team to show two different sides.

The opening game was a forum for mistakes by the Engineers, who committed four costly errors. These miscues led to three unearned runs, and a 4-2 victory for the visiting UMass squad.

MIT had many chances to get back into the game, but some poor base running and questionable officiating quickly eliminated any rally the Engineers had started.

With two outs in MIT's fourth inning, Rich Zermani '87 singled. After he stole second base, Mark Friend '86 got a base hit, putting runners at the corners. The next batter hit a ground ball which was mishandled by the shortstop. After gaining control of the ball, he threw to second base in an at-

tempt to force Friend. The field umpire called Friend out, even though everybody else watching the game felt he was safe by a mile.

In MIT's fifth, trailing 4-0, the Engineers picked up their first run. Mike Mountz '87 walked to lead off the inning and was able to reach third because of a couple of wild pitches by the UMass starter. Steve Stoller '89 reached first on an infield error. Tim Day '89 drove Mountz home with a groundout to short. With two outs, Craig Poole '86 singled to put runners on the corners for MIT's number five hitter Henry Hoeh '86. Hoeh struck out to end the inning.

The Engineers loaded the bases with nobody out in the sixth on a walk to Zermani and consecutive singles by Friend and Jim Casamento '88. Mike Mountz then singled to right to drive home Zermani, but in doing so rounded the bag too far and was picked off. With men at second and third, a suicide squeeze play

(Please turn to page 11)

MIT ruggers overcome Worcester team by 2

By Mike Murphy

MIT rugby's A team opened its league season with a 9-7 defeat of Worcester RFC at Worcester Saturday. The win raised the team's record to 2-0. The match, played in temperatures approaching the 90s, was marred by sloppy play and frequent penalties.

MIT opened scoring in the first half with a penalty kick by Rich Selesnick G to go up 3-0. Despite spending the remainder of the first half in the Worcester zone, MIT could not sustain the attack long enough to score.

Worcester opened the second half with their backs running aggressively and soon broke through for an unconverted try and a 3-4 lead. It did not last as

MIT came back to score on two of three penalty kicks by Selesnick and take a 9-4 lead. A penalty kick by Worcester lead to the final score.

MIT's B side was not as fortunate in its season opener, falling 0-27 to the larger, more experienced Worcester side. Despite spirited play in the back line by John Tandler G, John Suber '87, Nader Fotouhi G and Chris Wolfe '87, inexperience in the forwards prevented MIT from sustaining an offense.

Both MIT sides play at home this Saturday.

(Editor's note: Murphy is president of the MIT Rugby Football Club.)



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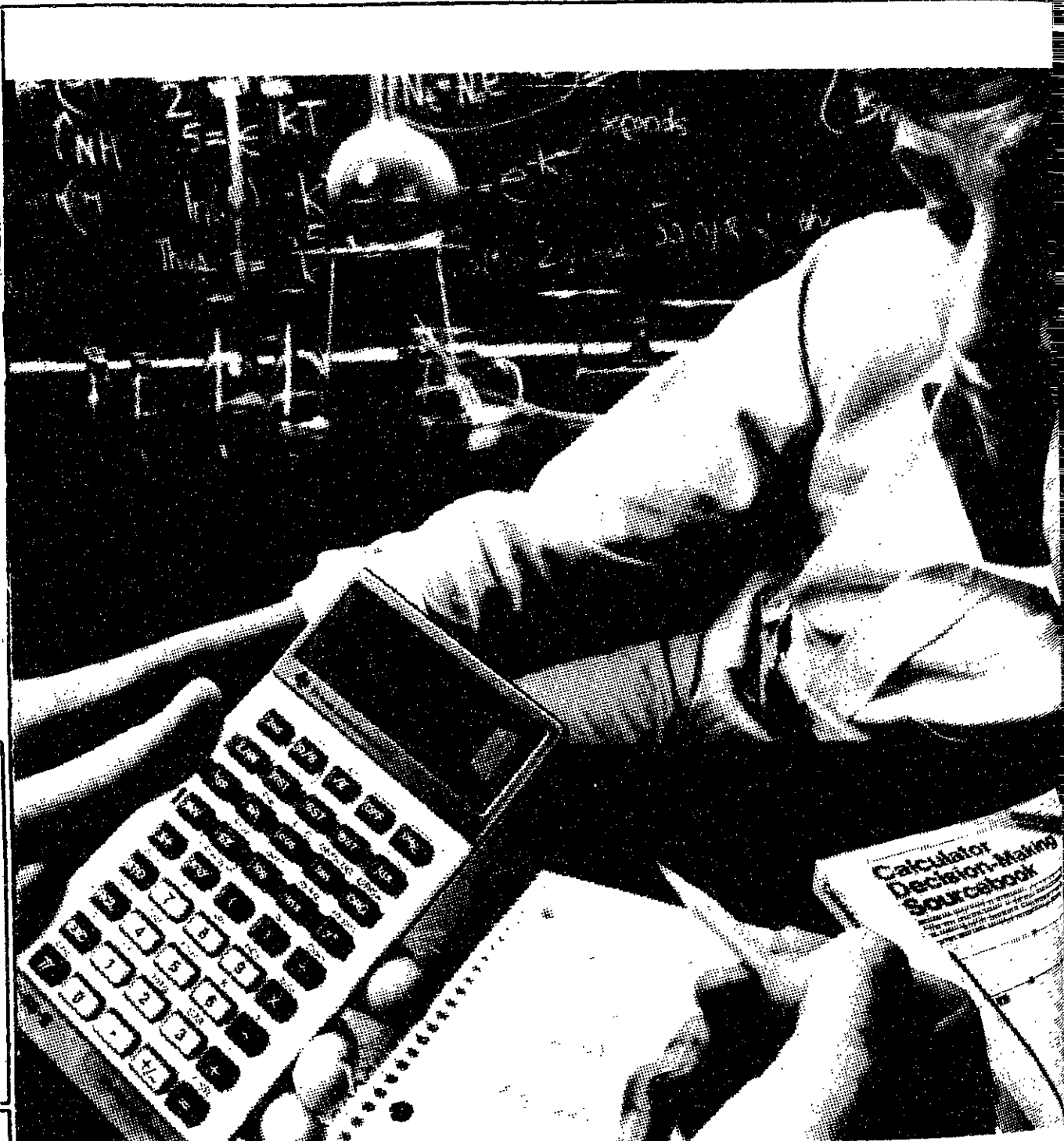
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