

Forum discusses 6.001

By Andrew L. Fish

"IAP [Independent Activities Period] is going to be totally ruined," one student said at an Undergraduate Association (UA) forum called to discuss the proposal of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) to offer Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001) during IAP.

EECS proposed that an intense version of the introductory programming course be offered over the three week period in January. The course would then not be offered during the spring term.

About 30 students, administrators, and staff members attended the forum. The majority of attendees were opposed to the plan; complaints focused on the perceived detrimental effect the proposal would have on IAP and the freshman year in general.

Many participants were concerned that large numbers of freshmen would enroll in the IAP offering. Last year 406 freshmen completed the course, 316 during the spring term.

"IAP is the first time [freshmen] get to deal with MIT without the pressure," a student observed.

"MIT wants freshmen to keep from killing themselves," another student added, noting the maxi-

mum credit limits freshman have. "Is it healthy to go nine months without a break?" he asked.

Some believed that the EECS proposal would encourage freshmen to remain at MIT during IAP. "Freshmen are here least of all" during IAP, noted Mary Z. Enterline, IAP manager.

Bringing freshmen back for IAP to take a course might not necessarily be beneficial, several attendees commented.

Many undergraduates utilize the time IAP offers to go on trips or work, a student claimed. Students can benefit from IAP without being on campus, she asserted.

Also, another student was concerned that this proposal would discriminate against those who had to work during IAP. Professor Alvin W. Drake '57 admitted that 6.001 was "a very demanding course," and that a student probably could not complete the IAP offering and have a full time job.

"I'm worried about the precedent this would set," a student said. He said that more engineering courses could be offered during IAP until it became "a three week term."

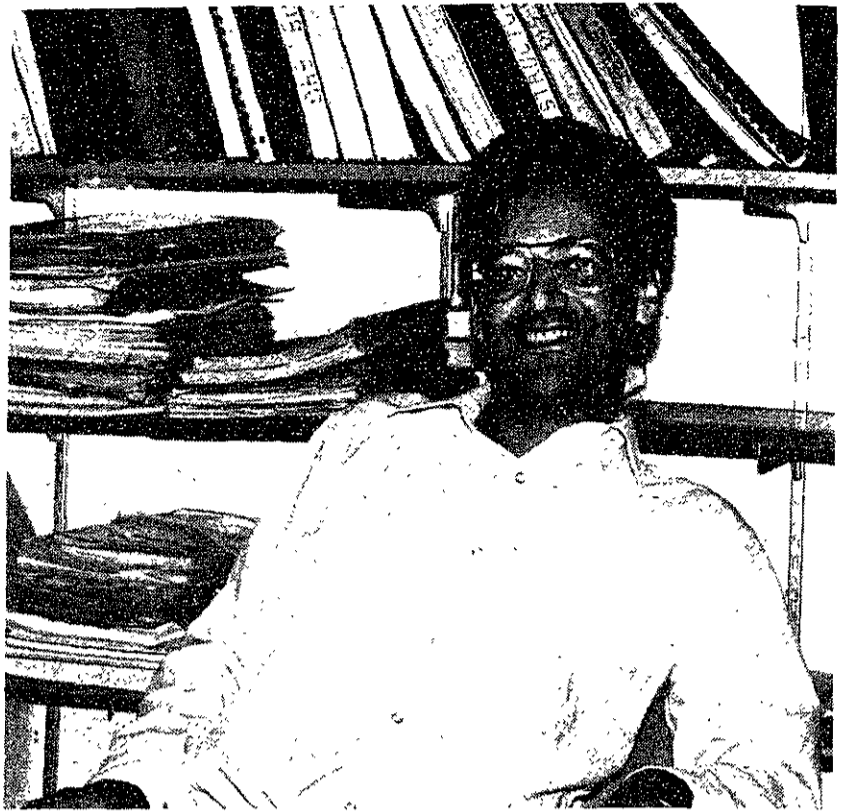
One student feared that the early registration date for the class — Oct. 15, as set forth in

the proposal — would force freshmen to choose to major in EECS after only a few weeks at MIT.

One graduate student thought the IAP offering would be a good idea. The IAP offering would allow people who could not take the course during the term the opportunity to learn the material, he said.

Another student said he felt that the IAP course should be offered as another option, along with the spring term offering. Associate Dean for Student Affairs David S. Wiley '61 responded, claiming that EECS could not find the resources to offer the class both during IAP and spring term.

A group of faculty and administrators will be meeting to discuss the proposal on July 24. UA President Bryan R. Moser '87 said he would communicate the students views to the group.



Assistant Professor of Ocean Engineering Amiram Moshaiov, the new junior housemaster of MacGregor House. (Tech photo by Steven Wheatman)

Housemasters chosen

By Michael J. Garrison

Four new housemasters will join the MIT residence system next September. Bexley Hall, McCormick Hall, and East Campus are all acquiring new housemasters, and MacGregor House is getting a new junior housemas-

ter.

Graham C. Walker, associate professor of biology, will be taking the place of Professor Margery Resnick, current housemaster at McCormick. He and his wife, Jan, decided to take the position when it was offered to them late last spring.

"My wife and I are going to do this jointly," Walker said. He explained that his wife is a computer scientist, with "a strong personal interest in [the development of] women professionals." A Symbolics employee, she will serve as a positive role model, he added.

Walker hoped that he might be able to improve the sense of unity in McCormick. "Students spoke about a lack of unity" brought about by "too many splinter groups," he explained. Walker did not feel that the problem was serious, but rather that it should be an area for future improvement.

At Bexley, Frank Solomon, associate professor of biology, is stepping into the place of Profes-

sor Judah L. Schwartz, who left this summer. Solomon said that he and his wife Vicki "were not certain [about taking the position] until [they] met the Schwartzs and the kids at Bexley."

"We both believe in creating a situation where people can be themselves," he said, explaining that Bexley is a good place for personal growth. He hopes to leave Bexley in the form in which it is now, "a nice community" which he attributes to the Schwartzes and Bexley residents.

Tunney F. Lee, associate professor of urban studies and planning, is replacing Professor Daniel N. Osherson, who took the East Campus position last year on a temporary basis.

MacGregor's new junior housemaster, Assistant Professor of Ocean Engineering Amiram Moshaiov, is replacing Professor T. Alan Hatton. Moshaiov could not be reached for comment.

Sororities will begin rush on Friday

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But he added that the extra hours were likely to exhaust fraternity members.

Lash did not think that the smaller number of men in the freshman class would hurt rush. About 620 men will attend MIT, 100 fewer than last year. "Every year there are freshmen that are turned away because of a lack of space," Lash said.

The IFC has a target of 400 freshmen, the same as last year, Lash said. Rush chairmen are working very hard this summer to recruit freshmen, he added.

Women's Rush

In a departure from last year, the two non-residential sororities, Alpha Phi and Alpha Chi Omega, will be permitted to begin rush on Friday along with the other IFC living groups. Last year Alpha Phi was not permitted to begin rush until Monday.

Lash said the IFC had no right to limit Alpha Phi's rush last

year. This year's IFC Executive Committee decided that the sororities were "entitled to the privilege" of beginning rush on Friday, Lash said.

Martha G. Lyman '88, Women's Independent Living Group (WILG) rush chairman, said that the sorority rush will not "have much of an effect" on WILG's rush. WILG is the only all female independent living group.

"We're looking forward to having competition," Lyman said.

The sorority rush will be "hard on freshmen," Lyman said. She noted that women could be both rushing a sorority and looking for a place to live. "It could be confusing for them," she said.

Keyser Rush Committee

The changes in rush are due in part to concerns of Associate Provost S. Jay Keyser. "I was worried about the deleterious effects of flushing [being denied a fraternity bid]," Keyser said.

Keyser formed a committee consisting of representatives of the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs, the IFC chairman and rush chairman, and the R/O coordinator to discuss ways to improve rush.

"It's a very bad thing for a young person to come here and have to compete for a place to live," Keyser said. The committee was trying to do "anything that would ameliorate the affects of flushing," Keyser said.

"Dormitories should be seen as viable alternatives," Keyser said. He felt the changes in rush would allow freshmen better opportunity to see what dormitory life was like and ease the tension of rush.

Sherwood resigns after eight years

(Continued from page 1)

would coordinate rush if no successor is chosen in time.

McBay said the ODSA has already received a number of re-

sumes, and she will soon appoint a search committee to include housemasters, staff and students. The ODSA has contingency plans in case the post is not filled before R/O Week.

Moser emphasized the importance of student feedback in the selection of the new dean, saying also that the new person would have to look for ways of improving student life that haven't been thought of before. "At this point, its going to be the people who work for Bob who hold R/O together," Moser said.

Looking back

Sherwood said a main goal of his was to increase the level of student self governance. He said

he felt student leaders are now taking a more active stance in decisions made about student life.

Sherwood said that his successor will have to face many problems during rush. Because of the higher number of women, it will be "much tougher for [fraternities] than it's ever been in the past," he said. The higher number of women increases the need to find a house for Alpha Phi, he added.

"I've had an excellent experience here. . . . I've enjoyed the students tremendously," Sherwood said. He didn't want to leave MIT, he lamented, but "this is an opportunity that one does not turn down."

Freshman class has more diversity

(Continued from page 1)

cline of 25 from the previous year, "very disturbing."

Steps taken by the Admissions Office to reverse this downward trend included increasing personal contact with prospective applicants and affirmative action policies in judging applications.

Admissions seeks more diversity

Admissions policy for the Class of 1990 was different than that used in the past. Efforts were made "to not make as fine a distinction as made in the past. Before there were very distinct groupings based on standardized test scores, like SATs," Behnke said. Now the Admissions Office is placing less emphasis upon test scores, but class rank and grade record will play a greater role, he said.

The Admissions Office is working on new projects to attract next year's students, Behnke said. They have designed a new audio/visual presentation and have started publications such as newsletters and prospective bulletins for interested high school students.

There will also be a new selection procedure next year, Behnke said. The admissions process will give non-science achievement greater weight in the selection process. The new selection pro-

cess will be more time consuming, he said. "Since we expect more people to apply, it's essential for more of the faculty and administration to read and evaluate applications," he added.

The intended majors of the class have changed in comparison to past years, Behnke said. Fewer applicants expressed an interest in electrical engineering and computer science — 263 compared to

311, or 31 percent down to 26 percent. More are considering economics, political science, and the humanities, he added.

High school students "are more willing to find out about MIT — it's not just for white males who study all the time. We capture their attention, get them to listen, and they respond . . . leading to a broader pool," Behnke added.

New food service company to improve dining standards

(Continued from page 1)

on staff. Some dining facilities, such as the Koshier Kitchen, will be studied for possible improvements while other changes are being made. Forced commons will also be under review for the first term.

"Any company could do a good job for MIT"

All companies who bid for contract said MIT has a customer market which it must develop, according to Brammer. Lawrence E. Maguire, associate director of Housing and Food Services, said the companies estimated a potential of up to \$12 million in annual sales versus the \$7 million MIT saw in the past.

Finalists in the bidding were ARA and Marriot. Brammer said

both companies made good proposals. ARA manages the food service at over 340 US colleges, including Boston University, Wentworth College and Suffolk College.

Robert H. Kassel '86, a member of the committee which selected ARA, said that although "any company could do a good job for MIT," ARA's proposal was not the best suited to MIT.

"The proposal stressed a strong marketing approach, which is not something MIT needs," Kassel said. "MIT settled for a safe bet. . . . [ARA] won't take you to the moon but they won't leave you nowhere."

"There's definitely going to be a change. Whether it will be good or bad remains to be seen," Kassel concluded.

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news roundup

from the associated press wire

World

Bomb kills eight in Spain

Spain's ruling socialist party is blaming Basque separatists for yesterday's bombing which killed eight soldiers and injured 44 people. A booby-trapped van exploded in Madrid as a busload of civil guards went by. Crowds reacted angrily to the blast, chanting both anti-government slogans and slogans against the guerrilla group blamed for the blast. (AP)

Vietnam chooses hardline leader

A Western diplomat says Vietnam's choice for leader of its ruling communist party shows "they are more rigid than we thought." The party has chosen 79-year-old Truong Chinh, the man regarded as Vietnam's strictest ideologue and a founder of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party. The diplomat, who asked not to be named, says Vietnam will likely be more conservative, especially in its economic policy. (AP)

South Africans protest restrictions

Tens of thousands of South African blacks are involved in new protests against the nationwide state of emergency. About one fifth of the Johannesburg workforce stayed home yesterday, and attendance was spotty for the first day back to black schools. Some city schools reported empty classrooms, but others said most students showed up. New security systems, including identity cards for students, are in effect at the schools to prevent unrest. The government had said that students who did not enroll for the new term yesterday would be barred from classes for the rest of the year. (AP)

Nation

Bus and truck collide

Yesterday's collision between a Trailways bus and a tractor trailer on an Arkansas interstate highway injured at least 28 people, four of them critically. A state police spokesman said the truck was trying to make a u-turn across a median when it was struck by the bus, which overturned. (AP)

Chemical cleanup continues

Crews are continuing to mop up the mess left by a derailed chemical train in Miamisburg, Ohio. A tank car loaded with toxic chemicals caught fire, spewing a cloud of poisonous gas. State health officials say they're going to keep an eye on the nearly 400 people who were exposed to the fumes. (AP)

Shuttle grounded until 1988

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Chief James Fletcher said the agency now realizes it cannot meet its initial target date of July 1987 for the next shuttle flight. He said he no longer expects the shuttle to resume flying before the first three months of 1988.

Fletcher also disclosed that NASA engineers are working on a totally new design for the shuttle's solid rocket boosters, which caused January's crash of the Challenger. The new design will be a contingency in the event no other suitable approach is found for the booster rocket seals. (AP)

United States considers black South African ambassador

A source in the Reagan administration said Robert Brown, a black man, is being considered to be the new ambassador to South Africa. Earlier this year Brown led a group of teachers to South Africa to help develop a US training program and improve education conditions there. The source says other candidates are being considered. (AP)

Garbage pile still growing

Garbage piles are beginning to look more like mountains as a strike by city workers in Philadelphia continues. Mayor Wilson Goode is considering bringing in private haulers to cart some of the trash away, but he says contract talks have made some progress and he is holding off for now. (AP)

Sports

All-Star game set for tonight

Dwight Gooden of the New York Mets will face Roger Clemens of the Boston Red Sox in the 57th Major League All-Star game tonight in Houston.

Clemens has 15 wins against two losses, and he leads the American League in strikeouts with 146. Gooden earned his start with a 10-4 record, a 2.77 earned run average, and 101 strikeouts. (AP)

NCAA puts Bradley on probation

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has penalized Bradley University for recruiting violations and unethical conduct by head basketball coach Dick Versace. The Braves are barred from post-season competition and off-campus recruiting for the next season, although the school was officially put on probation for two years. Versace signed a new one-year contract today that school officials announced would be his last. (AP)

Local

Amirault trial deliberations continue

The jury in the sexual abuse trial of Gerald Amirault is continuing deliberations in Middlesex Superior Court. Amirault is charged with the rape and indecent assault of nine children at the Fells Acres Day School. His mother and sister face trial on similar charges at a later date. (AP)

Weather

Fair weather forecasted

Tuesday: Intermittent clouds and sunshine with a chance of an afternoon thunderstorm. Highs 78-82.
Tuesday night: Clear and comfortable. Low 60.
Wednesday: Partly cloudy with highs of 78-80.
Thursday: Chance of showers with highs in the high 70's to low 80's.

Forecast by the National Weather Service

Compiled by Andrew L. Fish

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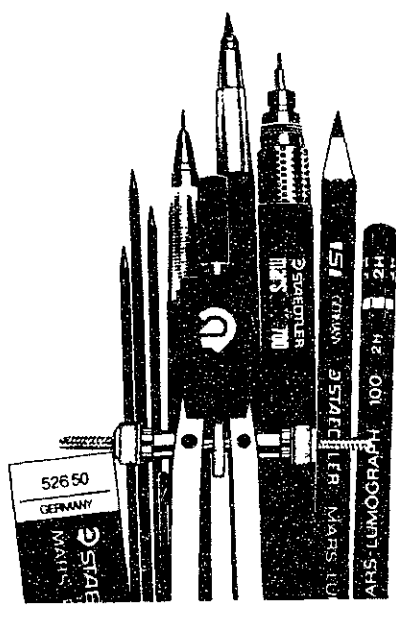
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opinion

Editorial

EECS proposal is shortsighted

The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) has made a proposal to offer an intense version of Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001) during the Independent Activities Period (IAP) instead of the spring term. This effort is misguided and will not accomplish its stated goal of easing the burden on already overloaded students.

This proposal would force many students, especially freshmen, to add an intensive three week term to their already hectic academic years. This runs contrary to one of the goals of President Paul E. Gray '54, who called for the easing of "pace and pressure" in his inaugural address.

In addition, the plan undermines the traditional purpose of IAP. Students would not be "freed from the rigor of regularly scheduled classes," as the course catalog claims. Rather, they would be required to work full time on challenging and intense academic subjects.

EECS would be setting a potentially dangerous precedent by offering a core-curriculum course during IAP. The consequence could be that IAP develops into a high-intensity mini-term, with students in all disciplines having to brace themselves for an additional month of problem sets, lectures, and exams.

Also, some students will not be able to complete the entire coursework of 6.001 in three weeks effectively. Low grades, high drop rates, and lack of material retention will be the result.

As an alternative, EECS should consider offering a less intensive, IAP seminar covering some of the material offered in 6.001. Such a course, devoid of the pressures of problem sets, exams, and long days in lab, could offer a good alternative to students in other majors who might not be able to take 6.001 during the term. It could also serve as a preparatory course for those interested in 6.001 for the spring term. This is an addition worth considering.



Column/Steven Wheatman

IAP is a time for relaxation

IAP: it's like summer, only without the heat.

IAP is a time to relax, and unwind after a hectic term. For freshmen, this is their first break after arriving at MIT.

At the beginning of IAP of my freshman year, I went home to visit my parents. Since it is too far and too expensive for me to go home during shorter vacations, I, a lonely freshman, welcomed that break.

Numerous upperclassmen had told me how much fun IAP is. They told me it was a chance to experience all of the good things of MIT and Boston without the burden of classes and problem sets. I followed their advice and cut my time with my family short and returned to Cambridge for the second half of IAP.

That January, I (a Florida boy) had a lot of fun during my first winter up North. I went to Talbot House with my living group; we went downhill skiing, cross country skiing, and I tried tobogganing for the first time. It was a great chance to really get to know my floormates. When we returned to campus, I spent many long nights learning to play bridge, a game I will enjoy for the rest of my life.

Even being on pass/fail for a term, I really needed that break from school. And when it was over, I was rested and ready for school.

* * * *

My experiences with the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) began on February 1, 1983. Over 600 students showed up for Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001). It was crazy. At least 140 freshmen were dropped from the course. At other schools, students are dropped from classes all of the time, and no one really is surprised. But at MIT, it is a rare occasion when anyone is shut out of a course because of over-enrollment. And for \$15,000 a year, you expect to be able to take the courses that you want.

I was one of the few freshmen who were not dropped from that course. I endured an overloaded EECS computer system (its last term before the HP Chipmunks), several all-nighters, and the rest of the usual torture which the class is notorious for. I learned a lot, had some fun, and decided to major in Course VI.

My friend "Stan" said I was lucky. He was not. Through the luck of the draw, "Stan," who was absolutely positive that he wanted to be a computer scientist, was kicked out of the class. Upset, but with no recourse he was forced to double up 6.001 and Circuits and Electronics (6.002) spring term sophomore year, followed by Signals and Systems (6.003) and Computation Structures (6.032/6.004) that

spring to get on schedule. Originally, he had wanted to take 6.001 fall term of his freshman year; his advisor talked him out of it.

The result of doubling up the 6.001 and 6.002 classes is a course load which will weary any student, thus lowering the "quality of undergraduate life" that the administration is so worried about.

Through several years of over-enrollment, Course VI has done a commendable job of handling the number of students who have come their way. Conveniently scheduled classes, numerous recitations and tutorials aid every student who chooses that route.

Now they plan to cancel the spring offering of 6.001. To me, this goes against common sense. If you have a popular course, it would seem only logical that you offer it *more* often, not less. To make up for this class cancellation, they propose to offer an intensified version of the course over IAP.

There is no way that the complete course could be adequately covered in that time period. Just ask anybody who has taken the class. There is simply too much material to absorb. Anyone who attempted this feat would have to live, eat, and breathe the course. Forget about sleep, that would have to wait till February.

The proposal suggests that the department seeks to achieve "more intimate student-faculty contact." Offering some sort of Scheme seminar would be a good idea and still achieve the department's goals. Without the time constraints of other classes, those who wish will have the opportunity to do additional exploration in the area (ie. hacking).

Offering the complete course over IAP is a bad idea; cancelling the spring offering is ever worse. So I only ask the powers that be to stop and consider; it's not broken, please don't try to fix it.

Column/Robert E. Malchman

Court decision will encourage prejudice

The pernicious effects of last month's Supreme Court decision holding constitutional the Georgia statute criminalizing consensual sodomy will not manifest themselves through a police presence in the bedroom, but through aggravating and encouraging prejudices against homosexuals.

The facts of the case underscore the unlikelyhood of any prosecutions under the Georgia statute or similar ones in over 20 other states.

A police officer came to Michael Hardwick's residence to serve a warrant on him for failure to pay a fine. The person answering the door said he did not know whether Hardwick was home, but the officer could check inside. The policeman entered the apartment and walked past an open door through which he saw Hardwick and another man engaging in oral sex.

The two were arrested and charged under a statute that provides in part, "A person convicted of the offense of sodomy shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than 20 years."

After a preliminary hearing, the district attorney decided not to prosecute.

Hardwick filed a civil suit in federal court asserting that he is a practicing homosexual, that the statute places him in imminent danger of arrest, and that it violates the Ninth Amendment — that the people have rights not enumerated in the Constitution — and the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The Supreme Court opinion by Justice Byron R. White rejecting Hardwick's claims is worth reading (volume 54, *United States Law Week*, page 4919) for its obfuscatory razzle dazzle. Despite the orientationless wording of the statute, White narrows the decision to homosexual sodomy.

Previous Ninth Amendment privacy holdings have dealt with family, marriage or procreation. There is no demonstrated connection between these issues and homosexual activity, White declares. He continues that Hardwick has no substantive rights under the Due Process Clause.

But if the law is enforced only against homosexuals, it runs afoul of the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause; if it is enforced against everyone, including married heterosexuals, it runs afoul of the Ninth Amendment.

The likely source of this creative decision is the majority's distaste for homosexuality. The Hardwick decision goes far in writing that distaste into law.

Employers could refuse to hire or retain homosexual employees, or could inquire into their bedroom practices — after all, you would not want to hire a felon, would you?

The Court's addition of the word "criminal" to arsenal of epithets available to homophobes lends a rational air to their prejudice. The Court does a disservice to the country when it encourages intolerance. The encouragement is the most pernicious element of its decision.

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opinion

Guest Column/Robin Wagner

Get involved with curriculum reform

As many of you know, over the last year and a half, the MIT community — faculty, students and staff — has come together to re-examine its educational philosophy, curriculum, pedagogical methods, and learning environment. Fundamental questions are being asked.

What should today's science and engineering students — tomorrow's technical and business leaders — know about the world's diverse humanistic and cultural traditions? How much scientific and technical education should a student majoring in the humanities or social sciences have in order to be truly educated? In short, how can MIT's undergraduate program best prepare its future graduates to meet their personal and society's needs?

Margaret L. A. MacVicar '61, dean for undergraduate education, believes that now is an appropriate time for MIT to be asking these questions. "MIT's graduates will be catapulted by a technological and complex world into positions in their communities requiring sensitive leadership and a respectful understanding of diversity and human values," MacVicar said. "These, as well as a base of technical knowledge, must be equal goals of our undergraduate program."

Why should MIT students concern themselves with these education-related issues? Undergraduate Association President Bryan Moser '87 summed it up: "To succeed at such reform — to improve the quality of education and life for students and faculty — the participation of all members of the MIT community is necessary. The discussions, research, and experiments in education in which we are [now] involved as MIT students will effect a new concept in education for a world influenced so heavily by science and technology."

Graduate Student Council President Norman Werely emphasizes that graduate students should get involved as well. "It is appropriate to have graduate student representation on educational policy committees," Werely notes, "and to date, this representation has been minimal. Graduate students have a unique viewpoint to offer — they have a comprehensive picture of what an undergraduate education should be, having already completed their undergraduate degree. Their opinions have provided and will continue to provide an important component to broad-based discussions and forums held on educational policy."

How can you become involved? There are many activities already planned — or waiting for you to think up and organize — for this school year. You can:

- Do research on educational policy for the Student Committee on Educational Policy, a general committee of the Undergraduate Association.

- Enroll in "Student Perspectives on Educational Policy and Reform" (STSS08), an undergraduate seminar offered this fall.

- Help design and conduct student subject evaluations with the Course Evaluation Guide (CEG) Committee of the UA, and student departmental organizations.

- Work with student government. If you're a graduate student, you can help the Academic Projects and Policies Committee of the GSC. If you're an undergraduate, you can work with the UA Council or SCEP. While you're certainly welcome to join the GSC or UA, you don't have

to be a member to participate in their activities.

- Educate yourself on the progress of the review process to date. There are six faculty committees that have participated in the review process so far, and at least one new committee planning to start up in the fall.

- Five of the faculty committees and several student groups have issued reports which are now available to students in the Dewey and Humanities Libraries. Additional reports will be released in the fall. These reports make for fascinating reading on current thinking on topics such as the MIT student culture, the learning environment, the history of MIT's humanities and social sciences curriculum, and visions of MIT in the future.

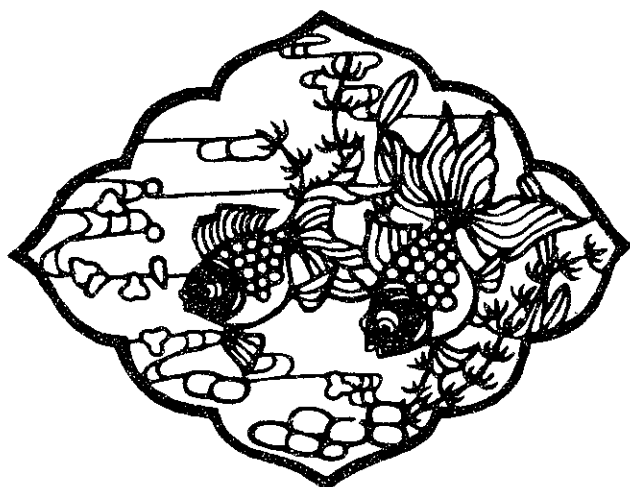
- Pass your thoughts on to the student representatives of the four currently active undergraduate education policy committees. You might consider applying for membership on one of these committees when a student position becomes vacant.

- Attend faculty meetings that are devoted to discussions of

the curriculum reform. If you have something really important to say, you can ask those students who have speaking privileges — the UA president and vice-president, the GSC president, the student members of the Faculty Committees on Faculty Policy, Undergraduate Programs, and Graduate School Policy, and others invited by the chairman of the faculty — to convey it for you.

- Submit comments or questions on undergraduate education that you would like printed to the Undergraduate Education Bulletin Board, room 1-211. Intended for all members of the MIT community, the bulletin board will resume its weekly appearance in *The Tech* this fall.

These are just a few ways in which you can help chart the course of MIT's future program in undergraduate education. What else can you think of? As CEUE Chairman Jack Kerrebrock, associate dean of engineering, said, "If we all work together, we can make education at MIT more effective and also more fun. We need your ideas and enthusiasm."



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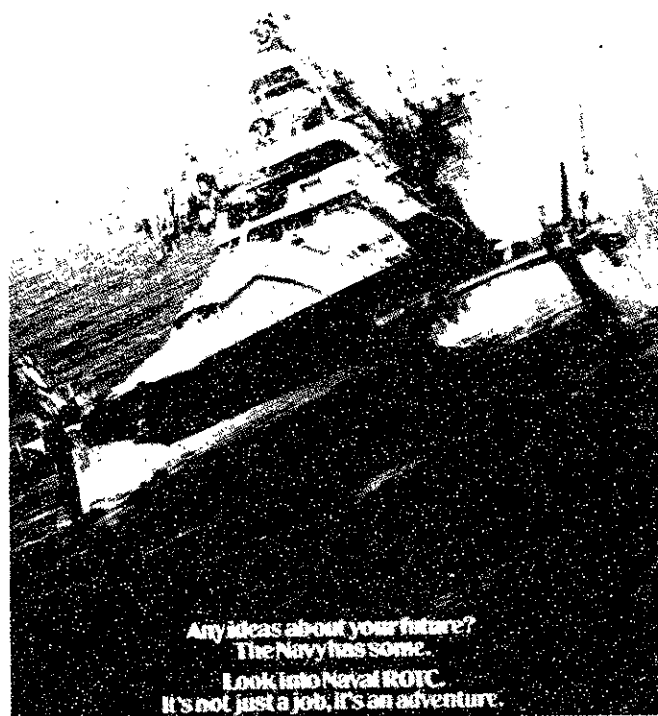
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High Hearts are high trumps

HIGH HEARTS

A novel by Rita Mae Brown.
Bantam Books, 464 pp., \$17.95.

By DREW BLAKEMAN

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR is perhaps the most highly romanticized period of our nation's history, with dashing Rhett and coquetteish Scarlett heading the mythos. This, despite the fact that this was by far the bloodiest war this country ever fought, with more than 500,000 soldiers from both sides killed (and a like number sustaining injuries) out of some four million Union and Confederate combatants.

One of the lesser-known facts of the War Between the States is that a number of women disguised themselves as men in order to join the battle. Some were killed; those who survived generally melted back into society — either reverting back to their feminine identity or remaining in masculine drag. A tiny handful publicized their exploits on the battlefield by writing books and becoming the toast of the 19th Century lecture circuit.

Rita Mae Brown's latest novel, *High Hearts*, follows the trials and tribulations of the fictitious Chatfield family, prominent Charlottesville, Virginia horse-breeders, through the first sixteen months of the war. On April 12, 1861, eighteen-year-old Geneva Chatfield marries her beau, Nash Hart. She is a tall, slender tomboy who happens to be the best horseman in Albemarle County; he is a budding poet who is glad to be marrying into an equestrian family which is not involved in the dirty business of commerce.

That same day, the hostilities begin in earnest, with the South Carolina militia's firing upon Fort Sumter and driving out the Union troops garrisoned there. With the word-war over and the shooting-war about to commence, Virginia wasted little time in voting to repeal the Constitution of the United States and to join the fledgling Confederacy. Henley Chatfield, Geneva's father; Sumner, her brother; and her new husband, Nash, all jump to enlist

in the army, figuring to win a quick victory over the Yankees and be home by Thanksgiving.

With the menfolk gone, Geneva and her mother, Lutie, are left in charge of the plantation and its numerous slaves. Geneva cannot bear to be separated from Nash even before their honeymoon has ended; she decides to enlist in the army so she can fight with him and be at his side. With the help of her personal servant, Di-Peachy, Geneva cuts her hair and dons her husband's clothing, hoping to be able to pass as a man.

Although she looks more like a fourteen-year-old boy than a fully-grown adult, the outmanned Confederacy cannot afford to be too picky in turning down those who want to fight. Geneva, now calling herself Jimmy, is permitted to join the cavalry, but only after being forced to display her equestrian prowess by beating the cavalry commander, Colonel Mars Vickers, on an improvised steeplechase course. She passes this test with flying colors, and quickly becomes a favorite among the regiment for her superior horsemanship and gritty determination.

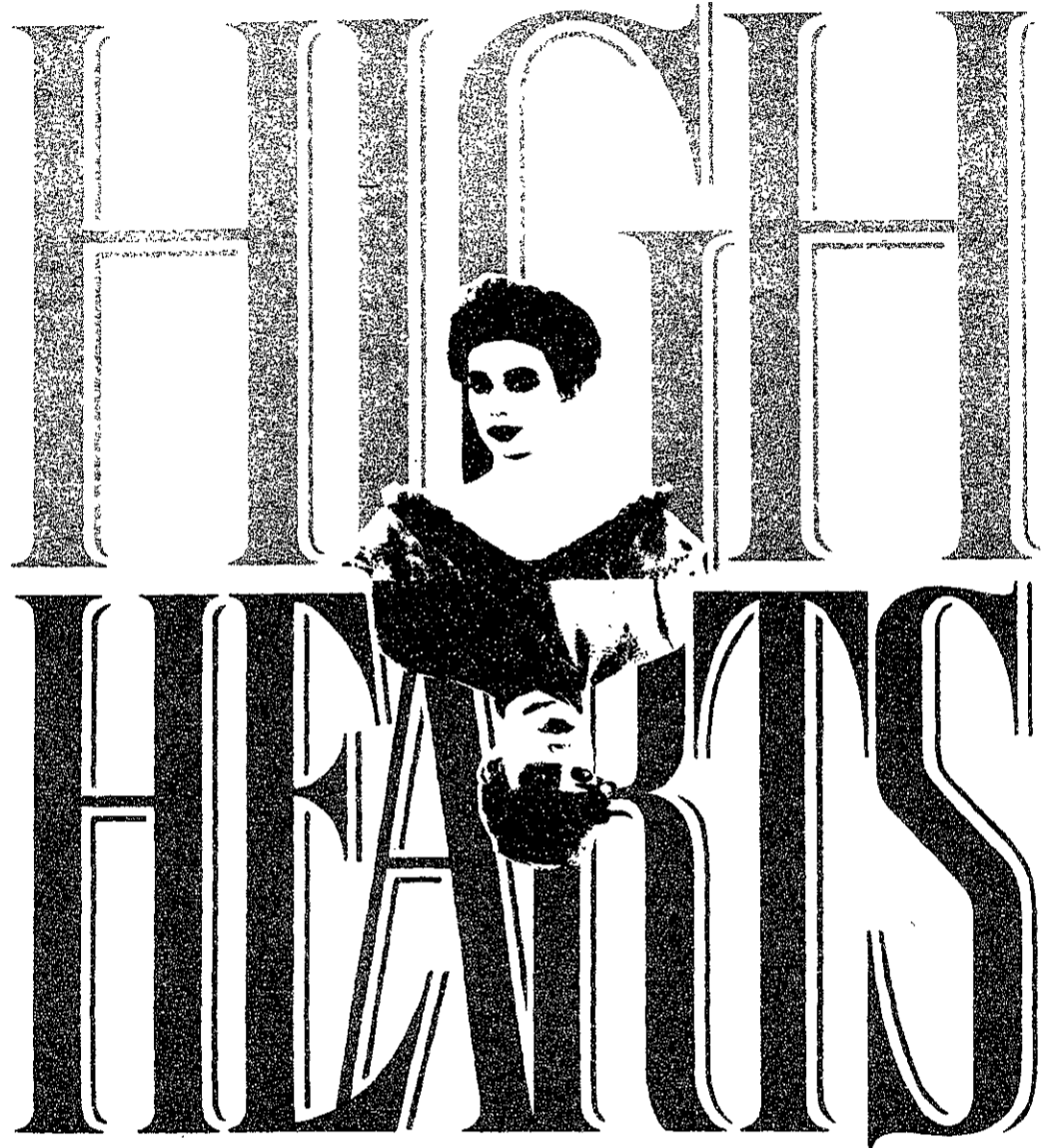
With the army still in training for its first battle, which would not be for several more months into the future, Lutie Chatfield has her hands full trying to run the expansive estate. Lutie's personal servant, Sin-Sin, and the plantation's chief cook, Ernie June, escalate their long-running power struggle over who should be the head honcho among the slaves and thus command the most power at the estate. Another of the slaves is brutally murdered, his head bashed in with a brick, with the unknown killer still at large and working on the plantation. The action in *High Hearts* shifts back and forth between the war in the battlefield and the war back home; occasionally the two take place on the same ground.

By the time of the first major engagement in the war, the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) in late July 1861, Geneva/Jimmy and the rest of her regiment are in fine form. The Yankees are soundly defeated and forced to beat a hasty retreat back to Washington, but Confederate

casualties are high. Lutie and the other plantation matriarchs are asked to provide nursing care to the injured. Although shocked at first by the carnage, they throw themselves into their task and continue tending to the wounded throughout the seemingly never-ending war.

Arts

RITA MAE BROWN



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On the Town

ART AROUND MIT
What's hot on campus.

By RONALD E. BECKER

THE TREND IN MODERN art seems more to startle than to entertain. This is borne out by the outrageous display of twisted metal and stone in Lobby 7. The flyer that accompanies the pedastalled wonders gives the title as "Machine Planet Architecture." I prefer the impromptu title taped to one of the uglier hunks of twisted metal by a hacker — "Safety Belts Save Lives."

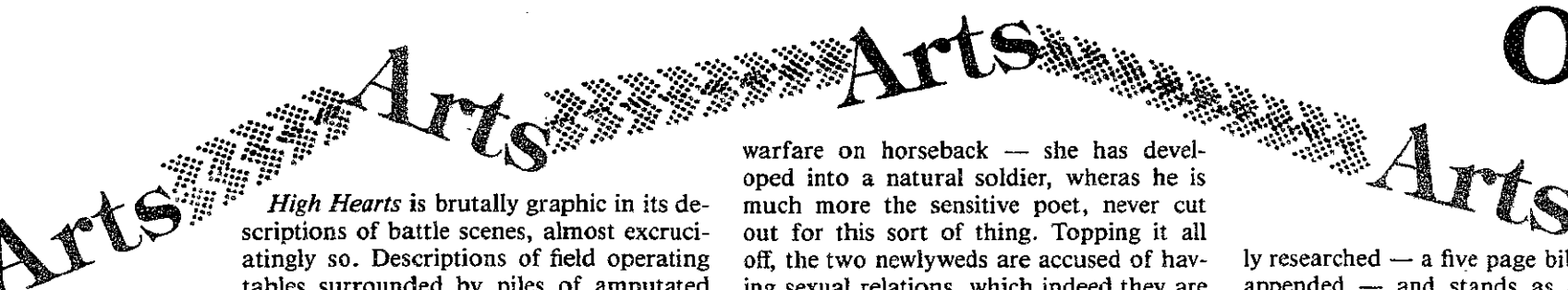
Indeed, it looks as if a multi-car accident took place at high speed under the rotunda. The display is by a fellow at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies, Joe Davis. It is apparent that the sculptures took a lot of time and effort. However, they are grossly out of place in the lobby. They would look better in the rock garden of a rich widow in rural Vermont.

MIT should consider the appropriateness of the surroundings before planting sculptures in Lobby 7. Art in Lobby 7 can be successful. The colored frames that previously adorned the front windows were well-received by all — color beautifies an otherwise drab area. Equally drab hunks of stone do not.

On the other hand, the Weisner Gallery is the site of a very entertaining and well-executed display of works by Jonah Leon Garbus '81 (1957-1982). Entitled "MIT and Beyond," it is a collection of sketches that appear to be done mostly during lecture — either along with or instead of listening. They aren't finished pieces — just sketches — but they convey a much stronger sense of art than impersonal hunks of twisted metal. As usual the Weisner Gallery's display is well worth the trip.

* * * * *

The Project for Summer Student Theater (PSST) will be performing Sam Shepard's *The Curse of the Starving Class* next weekend in Kresge Little Theater. Performed by dedicated artisans, PSST productions are of the highest quality. The production will run through July 17-19. All shows start at 8 pm, admission is free.



High Hearts is brutally graphic in its descriptions of battle scenes, almost excruciatingly so. Descriptions of field operating tables surrounded by piles of amputated limbs, gangrene and maggots festering in ripped-up flesh, and one particularly gruesome scene where a woman goes insane after seeing her son's smashed body, litter this book. *The Red Badge of Courage* has been properly praised for its honest depiction of war and its refusal to glorify combat; *High Hearts* is surely this classic novel's equal in that regard.

As the bloody war progresses, the tide starts turning in favor of the Union forces. The North started with a larger population and more highly developed industrial capacity than the South, and thus were better able to withstand the war of attrition which ultimately developed. This was in spite of the superior military training afforded the Rebel armies; most of the career military men fighting on the side of the Confederacy had been high-ranking officers in the US Army prior to secession. Some would even venture to say that the forces of the Confederacy were the more valorous on the battlefield.

Whether this is true or not, the South certainly had more to fight for when proximity to battle lines is considered. The vast majority of the fighting occurred on Southern soil, with the result being that the Union was spared most of the destruction of agricultural and industrial resources suffered by the Confederacy, as well as casualties to civilians. An entire generation of young men, both Yankee and Rebel, was killed or maimed during the war, with disastrous long-term economic and psychological consequences suffered by the survivors on both sides. The situation was akin to that of returning Vietnam veterans, but on a much larger scale.

With the war raging around them, things are none too sunny for certain members of the First Virginia Cavalry. Nash Hart is humbled day in and day out by his wife Geneva/Jimmy's mastery of

warfare on horseback — she has developed into a natural soldier, whereas he is much more the sensitive poet, never cut out for this sort of thing. Topping it all off, the two newlyweds are accused of having sexual relations, which indeed they are — but to any observer their intimacy appears to be a classic homosexual affair between an older man and a younger boy. Ultimately, the boy Jimmy is revealed to be the woman Geneva, although she is not forced to leave her cavalry unit because she is too valuable as a soldier.



High Hearts ends with the quickness and surety of a pistol shot through the heart. The surprising denouement, as clever as any of Agatha Christie's (although no murderers are fingered), follows the survivors through the 45 years after war's end. The South had a hard row to hoe during and after Reconstruction, but the Chatfield family was able to draw from its stores of inner strength which were built up during the war and were able to survive the hard times.

This novel, Rita Mae Brown's fifth, is much, much more than a trashy historical Harlequin romance, although a smattering of elements of this style are contained within. *High Hearts* has been painstaking-

ly researched — a five page bibliography is appended — and stands as a sometimes grim, sometimes hilariously realistic portrait of a particularly difficult period in American history.

The politics of the era are also well-documented here. The internecine squabbling among the political leadership of the Confederacy is laid bare, as are the political ambitions of many of the military leaders, whose minds were often more in the statehouse than on the battlefield. Some of the myths surrounding the underlying causes of the Civil War are also laid to rest. The characters in *High Hearts* blame the radicals on both sides, such as Pennsylvania Senator Thaddeus Stevens and South Carolina Senator John Calhoun, for inflaming passions which led to the war. Slavery is dismissed as the secondary issue that it actually was.

This is by far Ms. Brown's best work to date, which is not to be interpreted to mean that her other writings are not good. They are, in fact, quite fine. *High Hearts* eschews much of the verbal slapstick that peppers her earlier books, replacing it with a darker, more ascerbic conversational repartee. Her character development is more complete here than in her previous books, a natural development in the refinement of her writing craft since her first novel, *Rubyfruit Jungle*, was published a decade ago.

High Hearts is a novel of exceedingly high quality, and contains the ingredients which make it a potential candidate for a Pulitzer Prize in literature. It is quintessentially American, covering a broad scope in relating the important issues of an era in American history, and is extraordinarily well-written. Ms. Brown's outspoken lesbianism will be a factor in any awards consideration, as judges often attempt to avoid any hint of controversy or politics in their decisions. But if a *Gone With the Wind* is deserving of a Pulitzer (1937), *High Hearts* is eminently as deserving.

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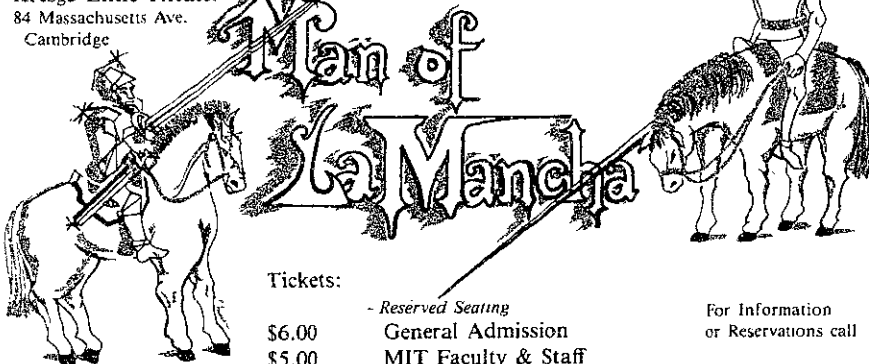
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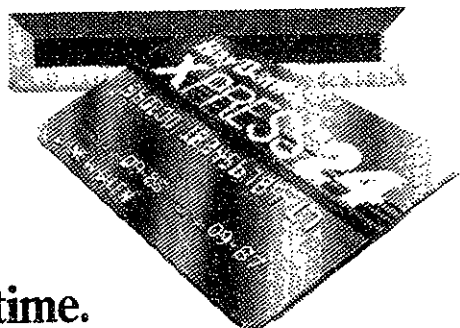
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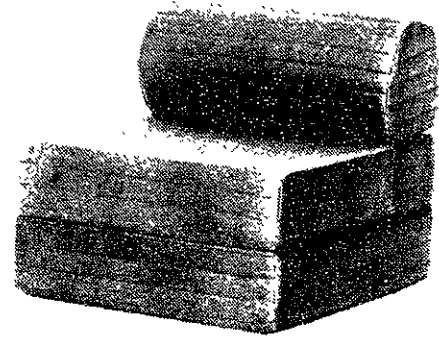
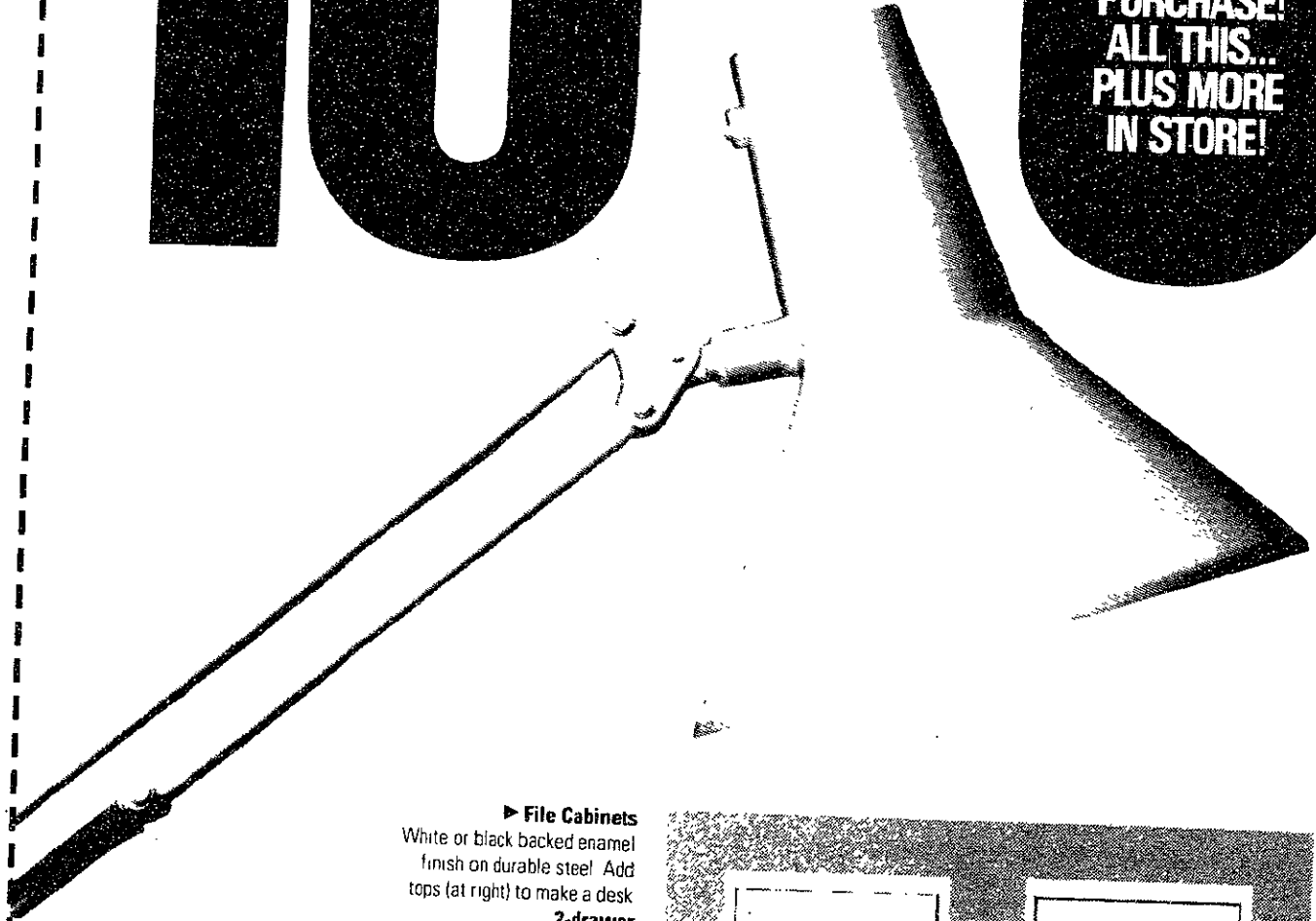
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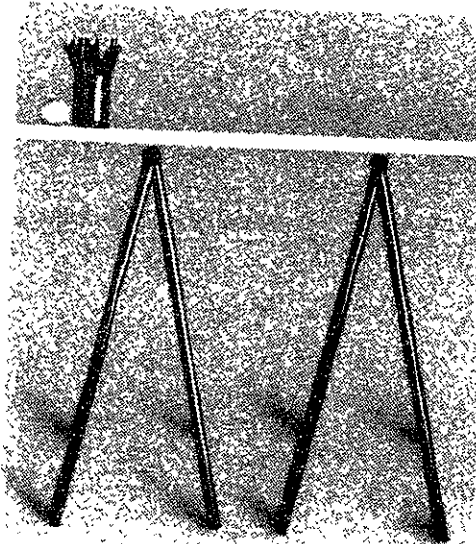
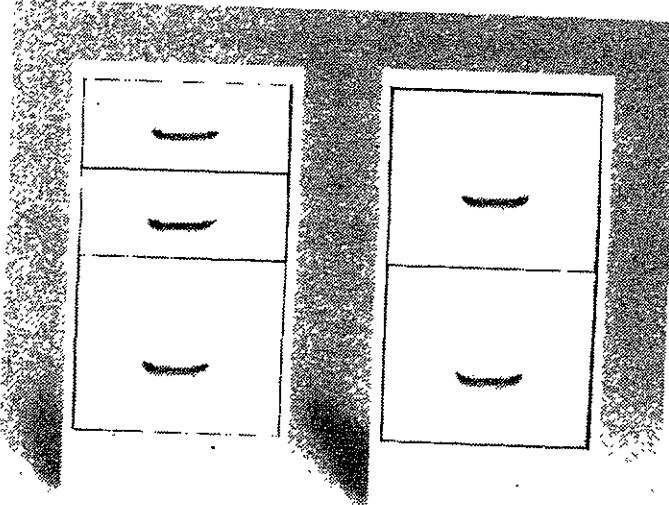
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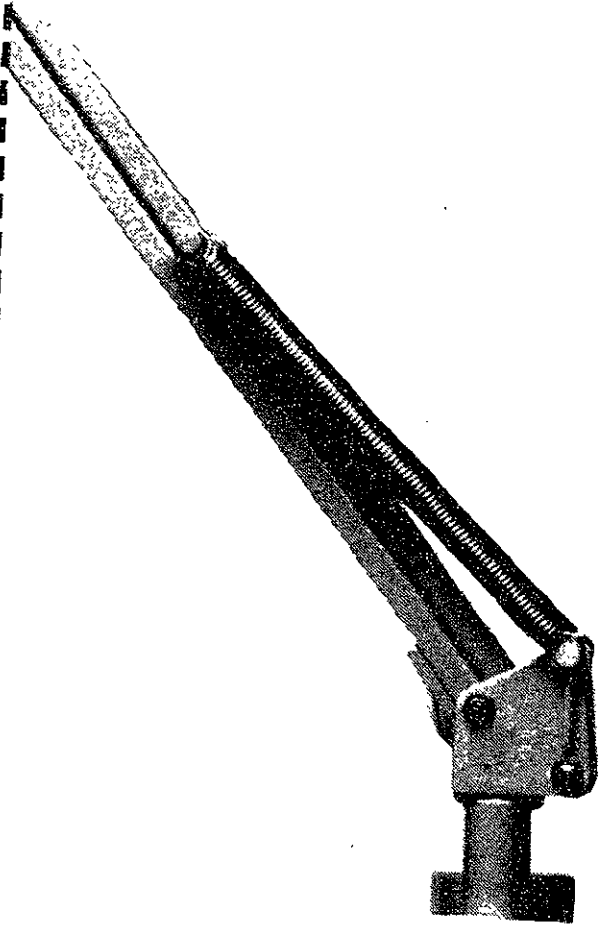


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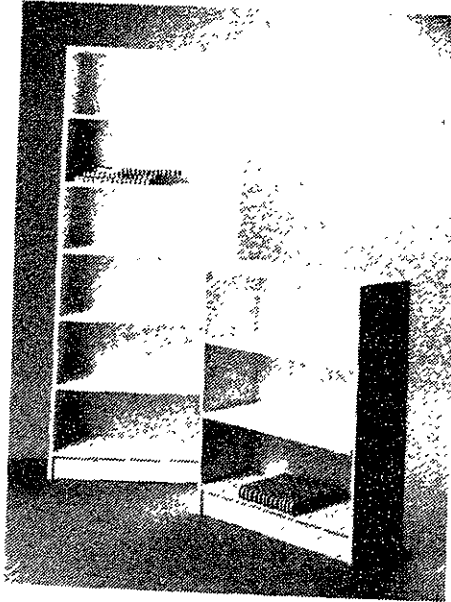
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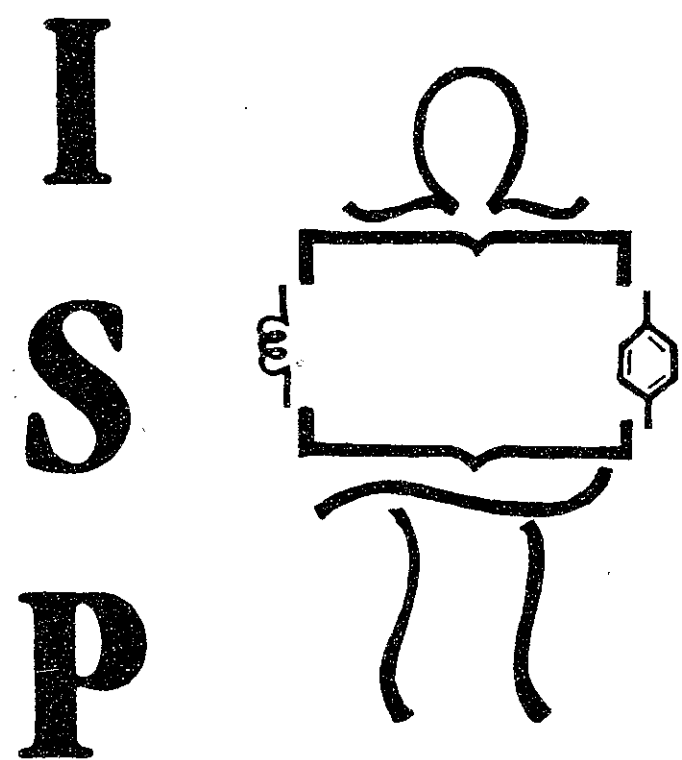
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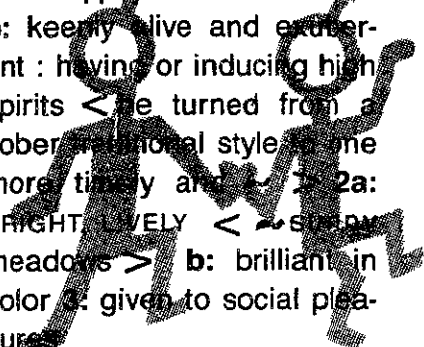
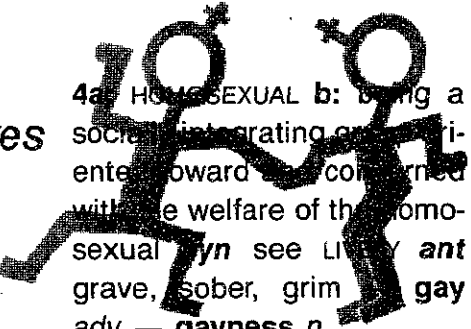
For information, write to ISP at 20C-117, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139

See you in August!

gay ['ga] adj [ME, fr. MF ga]

1a: happily excited: MERRY
b: keenly alive and exuberant: moving or inducing high spirits: he turned from a sober, rational style to one more lively and > 2a: BRIGHT, LOVELY < > 2b: brilliant in color > b: given to social pleasures

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4a: HOMOSEXUAL b: being a social integrating or i-
entertoward concerned
with the welfare of the homo-
sexual > yn see L I Y ant
grave, sober, grim gay
adv — gayness n

Why do you think we call ourselves "gay," anyway?

Gays At MIT 253-5440

The UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

The UA is student government at MIT. Its overall purpose is very basic: to improve the life of students here. It does this in many ways - representing students to the faculty and administration, ensuring the best and most effective use of resources available to students, and helping its members to develop useful skills and have fun.

We would like to welcome the incoming Class of 1990.

If you are interested in joining our efforts to make the life of students here the best it can be, call, write, or stop by the UA office during R/O week. Look for our events during the first two weeks of classes - until then, have a good summer and relax before college.

UA Summer Planning

Meetings are being held on Wednesday nights from 6 to 9 in the UA Office, Student Center, rm 401 to plan for next year in student government. Come and help us plan to improve student life. Call ahead and tell us you're coming so that we can order pizza - or just stop by.

Course Evaluation Summer Work

The newly revived Course Evaluation Guide needs student workers this summer. We are looking for people to help out in a variety of jobs: comment reading & summarizing, subject review writing, typing, and advertising sales. No experience required, but good writing skills would be helpful. Pay is available and some work can be done at home.

To help, drop by the UA office (W20-401) during our work sessions on Wednesday from 4:00 to 9:00 or on Saturday from 2:00 to 6:00.

If you have any questions, contact:

Dean Dellinger	x3-3182
John Kuenzig	236-4015
Nuran Cinlar	225-8479
messages at	x3-2696



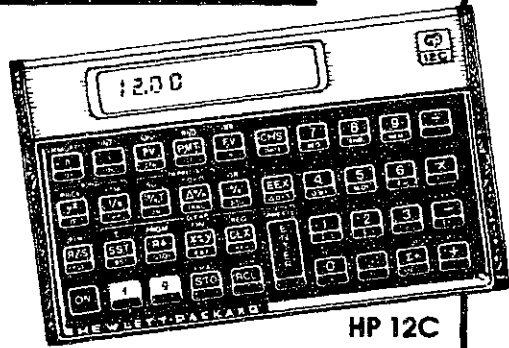
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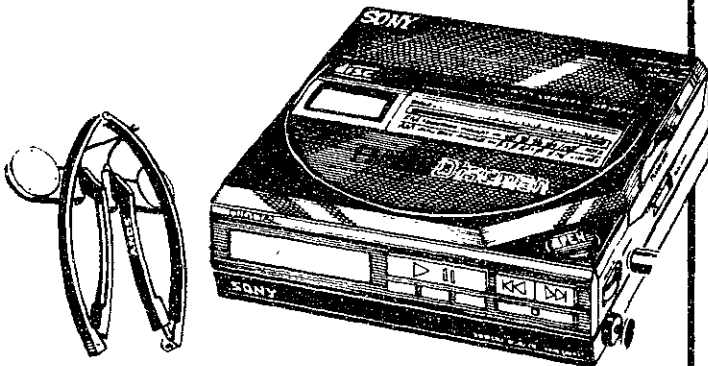
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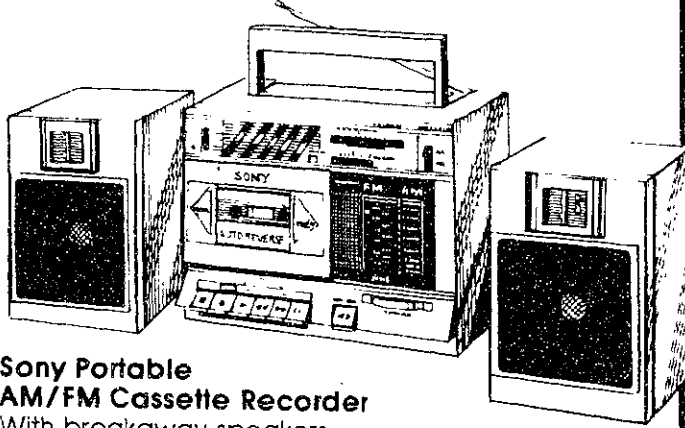


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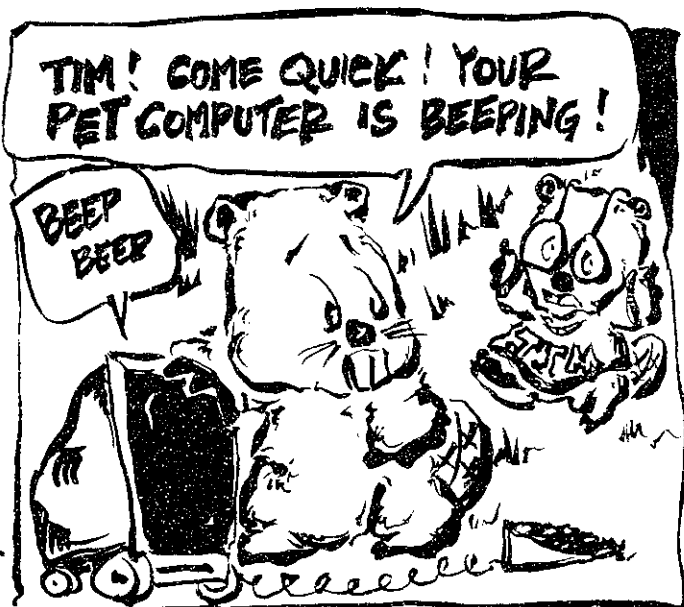
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