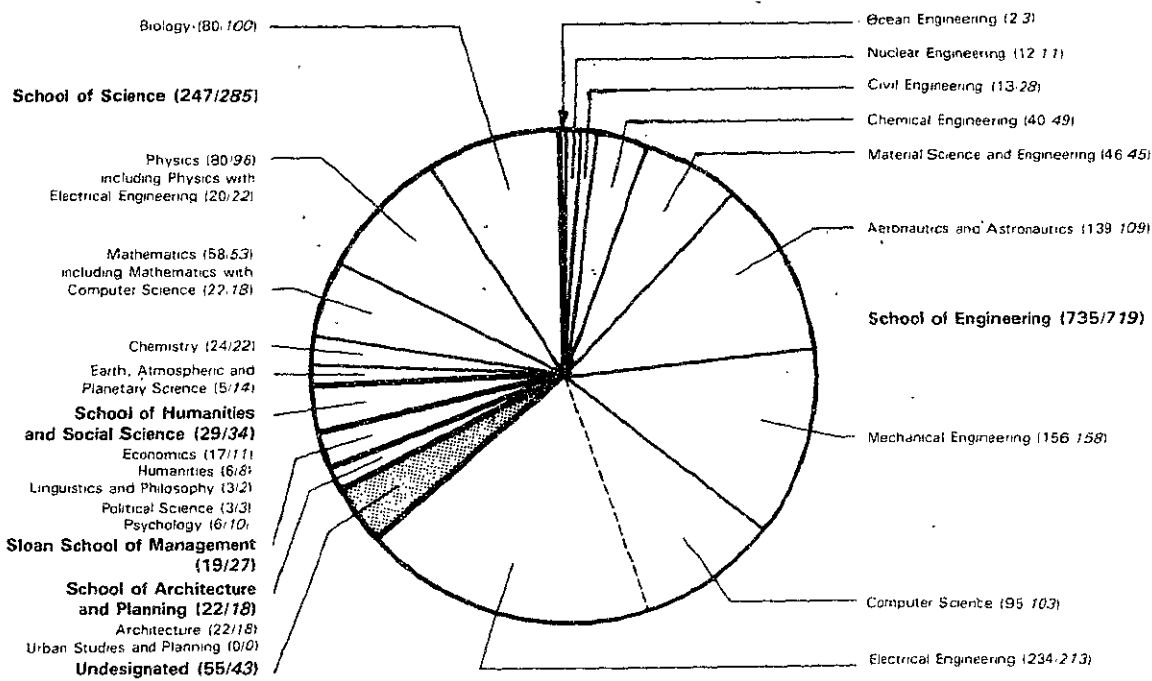


## Breakdown of sophomore majors



This is the official fifth-week count of declared sophomore majors provided by the Registrar's Office. Numbers in italics after the slash are the numbers of sophomores in the department or school last year. There are a total of 1113 sophomores this year; there were 1126 last year.

## Course VI attracts 329 sophomores

By Marcia Smith and Earl C. Yen

Three hundred and twenty-nine sophomores have declared a major in the department of electrical engineering and computer science, according to the fifth-week count by the Registrar's Office.

This year's enrollment marks the first increase in the number of sophomore EECS majors in the past three years. Last year, 316 sophomores declared majors in Course VI.

Only 95 sophomores declared a major in computer science, compared to 105 in last year, but 234 students chose electrical engineering, an increase from 213.

David Wiley '61, associate dean for student affairs and head of the Undergraduate Academic Support Office, said, "I figure that next year there will be much fewer [sophomores joining EECS] because of the lower class size [of this year's freshman class] and because there are more women, who shy away from electrical engineering."

The physics with electrical engineering and mathematics with computer science options attracted 20 and 22 sophomores, respectively. The two programs were initiated in 1984-5 to help ease the overcrowding situation in EECS.

The department of aeronautics and astronautics, currently the

third-largest undergraduate department, has observed the largest jump in sophomore enrollments from last year. Around 136 students in the Class of '89 are majoring in aeronautics and astronautics, though only 109 students in the Class of '88 joined the department last year.

Enrollment in the department of civil engineering, on the other hand, has declined more than in any other MIT department. Only 13 sophomores are studying civil engineering compared to 28 last year and 30 in 1984.

Prof. Robert V. Whitman '49, former undergraduate officer in civil engineering, said he was not concerned over the drop in enrollment.

"We've known the enrollment to be as high as 25 to 30, and as low as around 13," Whitman commented. This year's low sophomore enrollment does not represent a downward trend in the department, he added.

"The numbers are going to fluctuate," Whitman said. This (Please turn to page 11)

## Project Daedalus prototype set to fly

By Michael J. Garrison

Phase II of Project Daedalus has a good chance of breaking up to six world records for human powered flight, according to project leader Steven R. Bussolari '83. Bussolari hopes the Daedalus prototype aircraft, named the Michelob Light Eagle, can break the record for straight line flight distance (about 23 miles), distance around a closed course, and flight duration.

The team can simultaneously set the same three records for female pilots, since triathlete Lois McCallin is currently the only pilot to have passed all of the team's qualifying standards.

Phase II of the program calls for the Eagle to make repeated test flights culminating in a January attempt on the world records, Bussolari said. The longest flight possible at MIT's home airport, Hanscom Field, is the length of the runway, he added. The actual record attempts will be made at

Edwards Air Force Base.

With the lessons learned in Phase II, which is about half completed, the team expects to design and build another aircraft by next September. This plane, to be called Daedalus, will undertake the 69 mile Phase III flight from Crete to the Greek mainland.

The physical demands of Daedalus require an "elite endurance trained athlete," Bussolari explained. McCallin was chosen from over 300 applicants to undertake the 4-5 hour Daedalus flight.

During the flight "the pilot must maintain 70 percent of maximum aerobic power," Bussolari said. For a 150 pound pilot "it is like riding a ten speed bike on level ground at 23 miles per hour" without a rest, he added.

Unlike the Man-Vehicle Laboratory's previous aircraft, the world speed record breaking Monarch B, neither the Eagle nor

Daedalus will be equipped with an energy storage device to help ease the pilot's workload.

McCallin has about 100 hours in light airplanes, and has been practicing in gliders, ultralights, and a 1946 Piper Cub, Bussolari said.

### Design Innovations

The 88-pound Eagle features several advances over older human powered aircraft. In order (Please turn to page 11)

## Drug law will not cut into student aid

By Harold A. Stern

A Reagan Administration plan to divert \$100 million of student financial aid funds to fight drug abuse in elementary and secondary schools was unsuccessful, said William McKay of the Department of Education.

Secretary of Education William J. Bennett announced the proposal as part of the White House's \$900 million plan to fund drug education programs and strengthen law enforcement, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Instead, Congress required the appropriation of new funds to pay for the proposal, McKay continued. The money would be spent over a three-year period: \$200 million in fiscal year 1987, \$250 million in FY '88, and \$250 million in FY '89.

The largest part of the funds would be distributed through state governments, McKay said. It would then "filter down through to local programs," he continued.

A sizable portion of the plan centers on combatting drug use in colleges and universities. The legislation called for the "establishment, implementation, and expansion" of programs of drug education and enforcement in higher education:

- Grants would be given to schools to train teachers to fight drug abuse and develop drug-education curricula.

- "Rehabilitation referral programs" would be instituted, McKay said.

- Stiffer penalties would be assessed people caught producing or distributing drugs within 1,000 feet of a college campus, *The Chronicle* reported. Presently, the stiffer penalties apply only to the sale of drugs near elementary or secondary schools.

## Most seniors have not met writing requirement

By Earl C. Yen

Nearly two-thirds of the senior class has not completed Phase II of the Institute Writing Requirement, said Bonnie J. Walters, coordinator of the Committee on the Writing Requirement. Approximately 670 seniors still need to satisfy the requirement in order to graduate.

"I'm concerned because it's mid-October, and the deadline [for submitting a paper] is March 1," Walters said. "The Institute definitely intends to stand by the requirement."

If many seniors do not complete the requirement, "There are going to be a lot of disappointed parents around graduation," she

added.

Students can satisfy the requirement if they:

- Receive a grade of B or better in Science and Engineering Writing (21.780) or English as a Second Language Workshop in Writing (21.339 or 21.340).

- Receive a writing grade of B or better in a School of Engineering cooperative writing subject, such as Introductory Digital Systems Laboratory (6.111), Computer System Engineering (6.033), Measurement and Instrumentation (2.671), Unified Engineering (16.003/16.004), and several others.

- Submit a ten-page expository paper from an MIT subject, usually within the student's major.

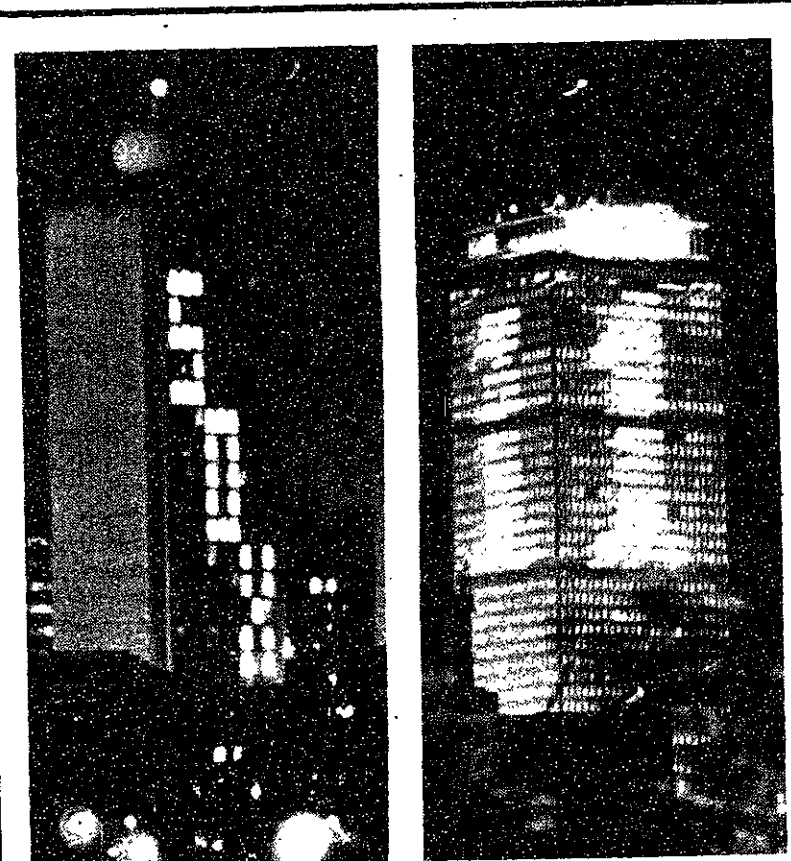
The vast majority of students has tried to meet the requirement by submitting a class paper, Walters said. The committee has so far failed more than 50 percent of all class papers submitted on the first try. "The mere fact that a paper is turned in doesn't mean it will be accepted," she observed. "The writing requirement is not like the swim test."

When the committee fails a paper, it asks the student to re-write it, she said. "It takes a while for a paper to be evaluated, re-

(Please turn to page 11)

### Fall back

Daylight Savings Time ends this Sunday, October 26, at 2 am. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to sleep Saturday night.



Jerry Broda

Yes, there are Red Sox fans on both sides of the River. . . Fans use the Green Building to convey their support for the Sox in a somewhat more literate manner than those in the Prudential Building. Boston travels to New York leading the series, 3-2.

## inside

Photo Essay: Life with Sailboats. Page 2.

Journey into the underworld with "Menage." Page 8.

John Updike's latest novel, *Roger's Version*. Page 8.

# photo essay



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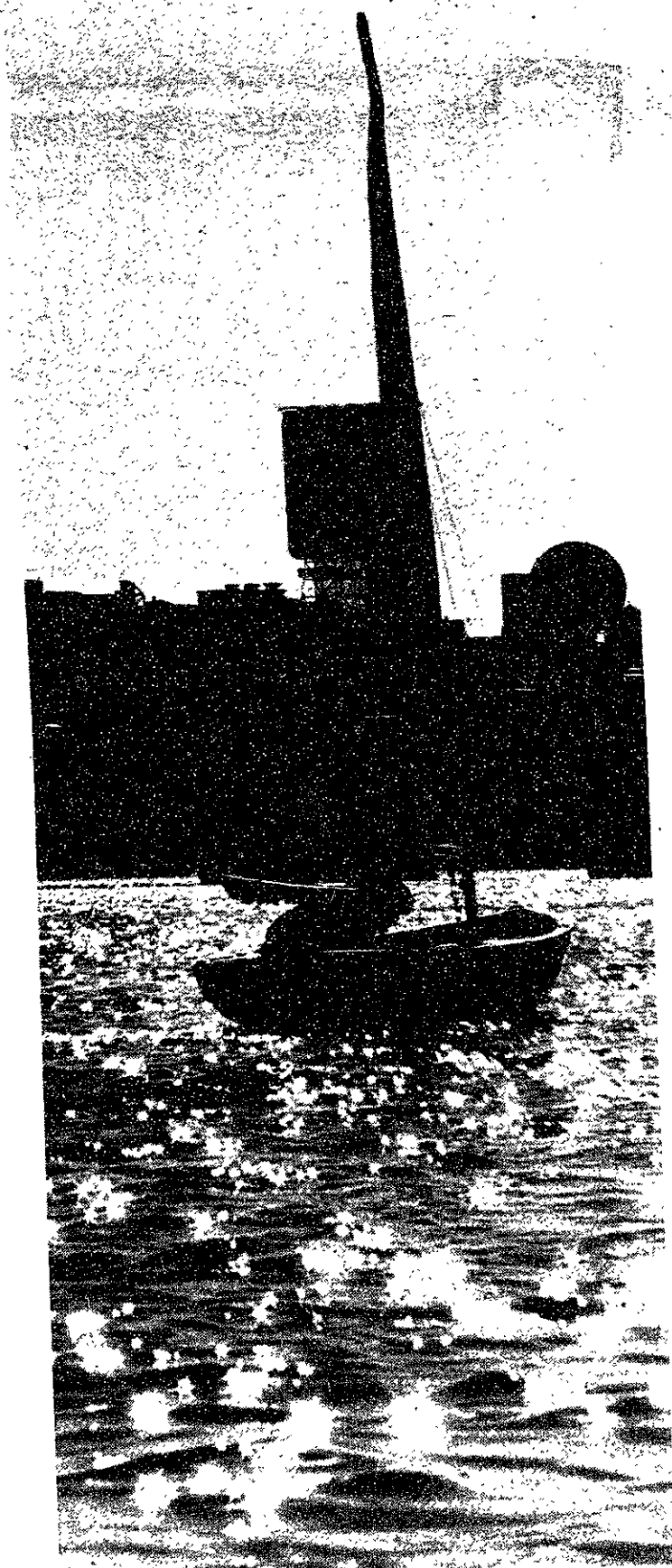
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by  
**David  
Watson**

# news roundup

from the associated press wire

## Nation

### Meese denies court power

Attorney General Edwin Meese said in a speech Tuesday evening that Supreme Court decisions are not "the supreme law of the land." Government officials should be guided by their own Constitutional decisions rather than those of the court, Meese argued.

Court decisions should only affect the parties in a particular case, Meese continued. Decisions should not bind any other citizen or government official, he said.

Meese criticized some US senators and others for placing judicial rulings "on par with the Constitution." Meese singled out a particular case, *Cooper v. Aaron*, which stated that the barring of official segregation of schools was "the supreme law of the land." The decision should only have applied to the parties involved, Meese countered. The court "was, and is, at war with the Constitution," he said. (*The New York Times*)

### Peace marchers arrive in New York City

A march for peace that started out as a splashy media event in Los Angeles is receiving attention again, this time in New York City. Hundreds of marchers brought their cross-country trek into upper Manhattan yesterday. Their welcome was a mixed bag; "Good people," commented one onlooker, while another said, "Get a job." (AP)

### Deceased servicemen identified

The Pentagon has announced that the bodies of four of the 21 servicemen handed over to the United States by Vietnam in April have been identified. Three of the Americans were Air Force officers: Lt. Col. Richard Castillo (TX), Lt. Col. Harold Zook (PA), and Maj. Gordon Wilson (IN). The fourth serviceman was identified as Patrick Hess, a Navy ensign from Minnesota. (AP)

### Transportation department allows airline merger

Delta Airline's request to buy Western Airlines will not stifle competition among air carriers, the federal government determined yesterday. The proposed merger will be an \$860 million transaction. (AP)

## Local

### Pro-divestment protesters arrested at Wellesley

Students protesting Wellesley's investments in corporations that do business in South Africa blocked all entrances to the campus yesterday. Forty-three were arrested and charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct. Thirty-three of the students refused to give their names to the authorities, and are spending the night in a Massachusetts correctional institution awaiting trial today. A boycott of classes is planned for today, the protesters said.

### Wall Street prospers

The stock market climbed sharply yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial average was up about 26½ points, and winners led losers by two-to-one. Trading was heavy as 152 million shares changed hands.

Wall Street was pleasantly surprised by a government report showing a September rise of nearly five percent of new factory orders for durable goods. It was the biggest monthly gain of orders for big-ticket items in nearly two years. Stock traders were also encouraged by a strong bond market yesterday. (AP)

### Ford Motor Company is hot

It was a hot third quarter for the Ford Motor Company. Ford's earnings soared 121 percent over the same period last year. For the other two of the big-three automakers, however, the summer quarter turned cold. Chrysler earnings were down more than 25 percent, and General Motors' profits took a 49-percent tumble. (AP)

### Crib toys found deadly

Infants could strangle on three versions of a soft crib toy, the federal government announced yesterday. The Johnson and Johnson baby products company is recalling the toys called "Soft Triplets," "Piglet Crib Gym," and "Triplets Marching Band." Two deaths have been reported involving the toys, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said. (AP)

## Sports

### Ainge suffers back injury

The Boston Celtics reported yesterday that guard Danny Ainge is sidelined by a back injury. He will miss the rest of the team's preseason tune-up games. Ainge was injured in a collision with a Houston Rockets player. The Celtics said X-rays show damage to the side of a vertebra. The team said it expects Ainge to be ready for the Oct. 31st opener against the Washington Bullets. (AP)

## World

### US will not dismiss diplomats

The United States and the Soviet Union can put the recent quarrel over ousted diplomats behind them, the State Department said yesterday. There will be no US retaliation for the latest Kremlin expulsion of American diplomats in the Soviet Union. The Soviet government had ordered five Americans out in response to the United States' move to expel 55 Soviet diplomats. (AP)

### Pakistani plane crashes

A Pakistan International Airlines passenger plane has crashed in Pakistan, airline officials announced yesterday. About 40 people were killed in the mishap. The propeller plane crashed about five miles south of Peshawar just minutes before it was to land, the airline said. The plane was on a flight from the eastern city of Lahore. According to the officials, rescue crews said that a few passengers may have survived. There were 49 passengers and five crew members aboard the twin-engine airplane, the officials reported. (AP)

### Cavaliers officially snag Harper

The Cleveland Cavaliers and Guard Ron Harper have signed a multi-year contract. Harper became the Mid-American Conference's all-time leading scorer while playing at Miami, Ohio. He averaged almost 20 points per game. Harper was one of Cleveland's two first-round draft choices this year. (AP)

## Weather

### Seasonal weather will return

After a couple of unseasonably warm days, the weather in New England will begin to feel "fallish." High pressure will extend from the Great Lakes eastward to the New England coast and provide our area with at least three days of sunny but cool weather. By Monday, however, clouds and rain from what was once hurricane Rosalyn will move into the Boston area from the southeastern states.

**Friday:** Partly cloudy and cool. Winds NW at 10-15 mph. High 55°.

**Friday night:** Clearing and colder. Low 39°.

**Saturday:** Sunny and cool. High 56°.

**Sunday:** Partly cloudy and milder. High 60°.

**Monday:** Becoming cloudy with rain arriving. High 57°.

Forecast by Michael C. Morgan

Compiled by Robert Adams  
Chris Colby

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Michael Mazur

What Art Means to Me

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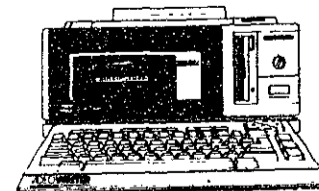


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# opinion

Column/Simson L. Garfinkel

## Defeat the abortion referendum

I'm not going to be able to change anybody's views on the question of abortion or the passage of Question #1, so I'm not going to try. The purpose of this column is to instill in Massachusetts voters who are opposed to the amendment a sense of the importance of their votes. It is very important for those opposed to the amendment to vote *no* on election day. Voters who are in favor of the amendment are encouraged to stay home and watch television.

For the past few weeks, debate over abortion and the abortion funding amendment has filled the opinion pages of *The Tech*. Last year at this time, debate over the anti-pornography amendment to the Cambridge Human Rights Ordinance filled the pages of *The Tech*. It seems that every year at election time, people find a different single issue to flame about.

If last year's amendment had been approved by the electorate, it would have allowed individuals to sue producers and sellers of pornographic material on behalf of sexual discrimination victims. If this year's abortion funding amendment gets passed, it will put an end to state funding of abortions. It will also pave the way for Massachusetts legislators to stamp out abortion if the Supreme Court overturns its *Rowe v. Wade* decision.

On the surface, there are a lot of similarities between the two referendum attempts. Both have something to do with women; both have something to do with

sex. Let us hope that the abortion funding referendum will meet a fate similar to that of the anti-pornography amendment and be turned down by our electorate.

The danger in such logic is that it doesn't hold. Cambridge and Massachusetts do not have a good track record on voting consistently on referenda issues from year to year.

In Nov. 1983, the issue was the proposed Nuclear Free Cambridge Act. The referendum would have outlawed the development and manufacturing of nuclear weapons and components of nuclear weapons in Cambridge. Allegedly, the Charles Stark Daper Laboratory, Inc. would have been the only corporation in the city affected by the act. Officials at Draper said they would leave Cambridge if the measure was approved. The referendum failed.

The same electorate had passed the Nuclear Freeze resolution in Nov. 1982 and two referenda in 1981, one which opposed sending US military aid and arms to El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, and one which called for a freeze on the further development of nuclear weapons in the City of Cambridge.

Voters here are a fickle bunch. Rather than deciding each question on its relative merits, it seems as if decisions are based on the toss of a coin. Subtle differences among the issues does not suffice as an explanation, nor

does the changing composition of the electorate. The best explanation is fluctuating levels of voter mobilization.

Due to the unpredictable nature of the Massachusetts voters, it is vital that those opposed to the abortion funding amendment show their opposition and vote against it this November. These voters should also convince their friends and families to join them in supporting the opposition and vote accordingly.

Guest Column/Adam Grossman

## Vote to clean up toxic waste

The United States is often described as being "number one" in many aspects, but few people know that we are also "number one" in hazardous waste production, with more than a quarter of a billion metric tons of hazardous waste produced annually. Very little of the waste is recycled or even pretreated before disposal, and is simply deposited in or on the land. Moreover, according to a 1985 Congressional Budget Office study, the technologies used for disposal "often are inadequate to prevent groundwater contamination."

Massachusetts has long been an industrial state. Careless, unrecorded, and even illegal disposal practices over the last hundred years have led to what the federal Environmental Protection Agency estimates as over 1500 dumpsites within the Commonwealth.



In addition, 90 percent of our communities depend, at least in part, on groundwater for their drinking water supply. This combination of factors makes us particularly vulnerable to contamination of drinking water: Massachusetts is now one of the worst states in the country for hazardous waste problems.

Unfortunately, chemical contamination of groundwater is not a problem that environmentalists merely speculate for the future. If you are from Amherst, Burlington, Holbrook, Norwood or Woburn, you probably know that there are health threats which exist today. Even if you are not from one of the 43 towns in the Commonwealth which have already lost part of their drinking water supply, you may realize that the trouble is immediate.

Question #4 on the Nov. 4 ballot, the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Initiative, was brought to the voters by a coalition of groups including MassPIRG, Greenpeace and Massachusetts Fair Share. The initiative, if passed, will establish a rapid, yet workable timetable for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering to find, assess and contain the hazardous waste dumpsites in the state within the next decade.

The imminent threat of hazardous waste contamination requires the kind of immediate action proposed by the initiative. The current rate of cleanup is far too slow. As it is now, it would take over a century to clean up all of the dumpsites in the state, and to date only 400 of these estimated 1500 dumpsites have even been located. Of these, only a small fraction have been contained or cleaned up. Moreover, the DEQE has no systematic method of quickly finding the sites, and even when they are found, action is slow.

A variety of discovery methods are proposed by the initiative, including the assessment of landfills and industrial lagoons and the investigation of past industrial waste handling procedures. The initiative requires that the environmental dangers be controlled within four years after a site is identified; permanent cleanup technologies must be used when available.

The proposal does not change the present DEQE policy of having the cost of each cleanup paid for by the responsible party. If no party can be identified by the state, the cost of the cleanup may come from general state revenue or from a new tax levied on chemical feedstocks, but this is a matter to be determined by the legislature after the initiative is passed. Total annual costs to the state may run as high as \$30-\$50 million, but this is only about \$10 per person per year. In comparison, a family of four might spend \$200-\$250 per year on bottled water.

As State Senator John W. Oliver (D-Franklin & Amherst) said quite candidly of the proposal, "we need to know where these sites are. We need to act to prevent the contamination of our drinking water. . . . We need this law."

He is right: the problem of hazardous waste dumpsites does not go away, but gets worse with time as the chemical contamination spreads further into the water tables. In other words, if we do not pay now, we will pay more later both in dollars and in lives. The Hazardous Waste Cleanup Initiative provides the state with an aggressive and realistic program which will bring the dangers under control within a decade, not within a century. If you are concerned about clean drinking water, I urge you to vote yes on Question #4 on Nov. 4.

Guest Column/Carol Shiue

## Illusion and disillusion: a paradox unresolved

*Illusions: false ideas or conceptions.*

*Disillusion: to free of illusion.*

*Illusion* is conventionally associated with negative qualities, which would make one think that *disillusion* would have positive connotations. Paradoxically, however, *disillusion* is associated with bitterness, disenchantment and disappointment.

Though it may be more desirable to see reality for what it really is, both the individual and society as a whole depend upon illusions for their survival.

As members of an allegedly scientific and rational society, we view the world in a certain framework. We assume that the universe can be studied rationally and that what we perceive with our senses is an accurate representation of "reality." We look at past generations and point to

their unwillingness to abandon inaccurate ways of looking at the world because of their commitment to what were, in fact, illusions.

The greatest revolutions in science are rebellions against illusions, as when astronomers established that the sun and not the earth is at the center of the planetary system. This view of the universe was resisted, precisely because society clung to the illusion that human beings were of central importance. Copernicus's theory was unacceptable, not because it was invalid, but because it challenged the accepted illusions.

Similarly, the concept that different species of organisms are related to each other and share a common ancestor — the theory of evolution — has become an integral part of modern biology.

Still today, groups object to evolution, not because of its scientific worth, but because it disrupts some basic illusions about the nature and importance of human life.

While this generation recognizes the illusions of the past, present society itself most probably suffers from illusions that will be exposed only by our descendants; it is the nature of illusions that they are unrecognizable to those suffering from them. Societies tend to feel superior to their predecessors, largely because they believe they have escaped their ancestors' illusions. Every generation, however, felt the same, and perhaps we have to recognize that we are less unique than we think. History itself might be seen as a progressive series of past illusions that never ends.

Within a society, illusions are also necessary on a more personal scale. Just as history is held together by a fabric of illusions, the existence of interpersonal relations depends on another level of illusions.

Does giving one's truthful opinion, which may not always feed someone else's illusions about their self-worth, serve any purpose? Truth and honesty are virtues, but sometimes little good may be found in honesty. Illusions maintain a standard of civility in social interactions, and it is only the tacit understanding of the presence of illusions that permits human beings to engage in discourse that does not degenerate into conflict.

The question of the appropriateness of illusions to every real life situation cannot be answered here based on abstract extrapolations. Illusions are not always desirable, but neither are they always avoidable or to be avoided.

# The Tech

Volume 106, Number 46

Friday, October 24, 1986

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**Editor in Chief** ..... Harold A. Stern '87  
**Managing Editor** ..... Mark Kantrowitz '89  
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## feedback

### McBay quells alcohol rumors

*(Editor's note: The Tech received a copy of the following letter to Dean for Student Affairs Shirley M. McBay and the reply below.)*

Dear Dean McBay,  
 Recently, we have heard rumors that you are planning to withdraw MIT support for liquor licenses granted to student organizations. This policy would officially make MIT into a "dry campus" for both undergraduate and graduate students.

We have also heard rumors that you are planning to announce this change in policy shortly before or during finals week of this term.

While we doubt that there is any actual truth to these rumors, we are concerned that they might

indeed be true. Since a few facts will serve to stop these rumors, we invite you to state whether or not these rumors are true.

William E. Sommerfield '88  
 Henry N. Holtzman '85  
 John T. Kohl '88  
 and three others

Dear William:

The so-called rumors about the withdrawal of liquor licenses for student organizations at MIT mentioned in your letter are not true. Thank you, however, for your attempt at clarifying this misrepresentation, and I trust that you personally will join in stopping its spread.

Shirley M. McBay  
 Dean for Student Affairs

## feedback

### Student apathy has chilling effect

To The Editor:

Yesterday morning, while on business in the basement of the Sloan School, I happened to notice a young man reclining in a rather awkward posture on the stairs. It was immediately apparent to me that the fellow had had an accident, and when I asked whether he required some attention, he told me that he had fallen on the stairs, had injured his back and head, was experiencing tingling in his legs, and so forth. I telephoned the Campus Police, who set about the business of securing him an ambulance and, along with a young lady from the Sloan admissions office, stayed with him until help arrived. The young man was quite

calm, asked for a cigarette, had me lock up his delivery truck and was whisked away by ambulance. When I called the hospital later in the afternoon I was informed that he had been treated and released. All was OK.

Not quite. There is one aspect of the incident which troubles me deeply. From the moment this fellow slipped to the time I began assisting him, any number of Sloan School students passed by, and not one offered him one whit of help. In point of fact, while I was sitting beside him, as many as one dozen students passed by, and again none of them asked whether we needed a hand — they were more concerned about whether they could "pass by"

than with his state of health. I found this response — or lack of it — to be chilling.

I am acquainted with Sloan School students in my work, and unhappily I must say that I am not particularly surprised by this egotism and apathy on their parts. At a time when President Paul E. Gray '54 is trying to move the Institute toward a more humanist orientation, this incident is pointed. So much for conscience and caring in the world of American business. Congratulations, future businessmen and businesswomen of America; you'll fit right in.

Peter C. Heron  
Senior Secretary, Energy Lab

### MIT's financial aid is not favorable to all

To the Editor:

I am enthusiastic as a student to read of MIT's favorable financial aid program ["Fewer undergraduates qualify for aid," Oct. 17]. However, the program's self-proclaimed success also warrants a view of the cracks in the system.

As a recent transfer student from Boston University, one of the first letters I received was from the Student Financial Aid Office. It more or less read that finances should not be a detriment to choosing MIT. Director of Student Financial Aid Leonard V. Gallagher '54 echoes this view by stating that the SFAO "will continue to meet its policy of providing all financial need to students and continue to meet its obligations to students."

If it has been the Institute's policy to meet all determined need since 1967 then they have failed in my case.

After ten years of business exposure, including operating a small corporation, I sought to

continue my education on a full-time basis.

I was declined all federal financial aid on the basis of my wife's and my own substantial income reported on our tax return for 1985. Naturally this figure was reduced by over 50 percent in 1986, but to no avail. I was also refused any aid from MIT funds, stating that I had too many resources. How this judgment came to be boggles me (a finance major). My wife's income barely covers our mortgage payment. It is true that I have the resource of a home, but this asset certainly is not liquid.

My only alternative to continue my education at MIT beyond this semester is to sell my home, which I am therefore forced to do.

Thus, I am regrettably sorry to say that my situation was not evaluated fairly or accurately by the SFAO.

Frank Poirier  
Sloan School of Management

\* \* \* \* \*

### STUDY IN EUROPE

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OCTOBER 1986

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# arts arts arts

## Film's bizarre journey into underworld defies classification

### MENAGE

(Tenue de soirée)  
Starring Gérard Depardieu, Michel Blanc  
and Miou-Miou.  
At the Nickelodeon

By JULIAN WEST

**Y**OU WILL BE VERY DISTURBED if you go to see this film, the newest offering from French filmmaker Bertrand Blier. It invites comparisons with his hit of a decade ago, "Les Valseuses," but is probably quite different from any other film you have seen lately.

The film opens with a married couple,

## Updike attempts to relate sex, computers, and God

### ROGER'S VERSION

By John Updike.  
Knopf, 329 pp. \$17.95.

By KATIE SCHWARZ

**"W**HAT REALLY INTERESTS ME is whether God had any choice in the creation of the universe," Einstein wrote. Physicists, trying to simplify and generalize their equations, are wondering whether simplification has a limit: Are there cosmic laws that cannot be derived from anything else, that must be taken as axioms? Are different laws — a different strength, say, for gravity or the nuclear binding forces — logically possible?

Surprisingly, it turns out that the universe is sensitive to twiddling of the fundamental constants. Changing them by more than a tiny fraction would make the cosmos radically different and life impossible, physicists calculate. Why are they so delicately tuned? Did Someone set them up that way? Or is there some undiscovered interrelation that makes our particular set of physical laws the only one possible?

These are the questions tackled in John Updike's latest novel, the story of a cynical divinity school professor approached by a student who hopes to prove God's existence by computer. Dollops of technical jargon are dispensed through the pages as characters argue about evolution and the big bang. Updike is well read and up to date in physics, biochemistry and comput-

Antoine (Michel Blanc) and Monique (Miou-Miou), engaged in a violent, public argument. They allow a tall, domineering fellow named Bob (Gerard Depardieu) to intercede by buying first their silence and then their friendship.

Bob leads them on a midnight journey in which they break into and trash some extremely lavish houses and attractive sets. It becomes obvious that Bob leads a charmed existence. Antoine and Monique are seduced by his charisma, and believe him to be their salvation from a penniless, petty life. The audience, enjoying themselves, agrees.

But Bob is an instrument not of salvation but of damnation. He leads the loving

couple into a dark underworld, reminiscent of Genet's fantasy world of thieves and homosexuals. Homosexuality is never far from the surface, as Bob prepares to seduce Antoine away from his wife, with her complicity.

The film refuses to be taken seriously. Instead of simply robbing houses, the threesome takes them over, almost waiting for the occupants to return home from the opera. When they do, the idle, bored rich invariably pull out revolvers and proposition the housebreakers. This tended to provoke derisive laughter from reviewers who were taking everything too literally.

But a nightmare world is still a dream-world, and things should be expressed on

an ethereal level. These characters are obsessed with sex, not on an emotional level but on a physical one. They do not want to know how difficult they will find surrender to intimacy, but how much it will hurt. It all becomes very tiresome. In fact, the film seems a lot longer than its 84 minutes running time.

This film, which at first seemed to be doing for troilists what "La Cage aux Folles" did for transvestites, never says anything positive about anything; it attacks wealth, poverty, straight society, gay society — there is no escape anywhere.

Monique tries to escape into reality, saying "I want a little apartment to look after." But that is just another vehicle for her oppression — and she escapes to the clutches of a pimp. In a world where people are objects, sexual or otherwise, and identity is meaningless, Pedro the pimp is the only other character with a name.

Filmmaker Blier has been accused of misogyny, but the attitude towards women in "Menage" is not negative. At worst it is confused. Bob tells Monique that he cannot compete with her, or any woman, for attractiveness; "you're made for love," he says. But later he describes how heterosexual lovemaking pales beside male sex. He casts her out sexually, then totally, pawning her into sexual slavery.

All three of the principals turn in outstanding acting performances. Depardieu and Miou-Miou have been favorites both of Blier and the French public since appearing in "Les Valseuses." Blanc, who has not worked with Blier before, won this year's best actor award at Cannes.

All three pilot their characters plausibly through the despair of the underworld. They are believable in a world which is not. On top of everything, it was an accomplishment to deliver some of the lines with a straight face.

The film has not yet been given a rating. Perhaps they have not figured out how to rate it. I have not figured out how to recommend it. I guarantee that, if nothing else, it will expand your French vocabulary. But I suggest that when next you visit the Nick to see "Blue Velvet" or "True Stories," take a look at the poster for "Menage." It has nothing at all to do with anything, but if you can't handle the poster, don't even think about the film.

er graphics; even MIT students will probably encounter science they don't know in this book.

Of course, Updike is also an established literary author known for his novels concerning sex, adultery, and Christianity, and this one is no exception. The computer-project plot line is intertwined with two affairs: one between Roger (the professor) and his niece Verna, a 19-year-old unwed mother living in a nearby slum; the other between Dale (the student) and Roger's wife Esther.

It all takes place in an alternate-universe version of Cambridge, at a university that seems an amalgam of Harvard and MIT, with domed science buildings, spired humanities campuses and an artificial intelligence lab bloated into a cube. Still more strange is a trace of science fiction: Roger seems to peek at Dale's consciousness for stretches of time, becoming telepathically aware of all his thoughts and spying on his trysts with Esther.

What's remarkable about this novel is the balance struck between the philosophical and emotional dimensions. Updike brings flesh, heart, soul and brain together, not in an eternal golden braid, but in a dark writhing inseparable tangle. The common thread is the problem of the mind, which can know the material world through senses and reason, but can never directly experience other minds or God.

Dale hopes to mend that paradox with a chain of reasoning that leads inevitably to God, but Roger is repulsed. A follower of the conservative theologian Karl Barth, he

emphatically believes in the isolation of the psyche, the futility of pursuing God through any route of knowledge; correspondingly, he has little regard for human relationships, and has let his marriage atrophy. (The telepathy between Roger and Dale seems to be a function of Dale's faith: when that faith is gone at the end of the novel, Roger has only fantasies, not visions.)

This is not to imply that the book is all dueling logics. The characters are real people, confused, curious and half-wishing they could make a joke out of the whole thing. Roger's Barthian detachment doesn't permit him joyful laughter, but it does provide many moments of dry amusement. "Cranberry juice depresses me . . . It looks dyed," he muses, and reminisces about his childhood in the Ohio towns of South Euclid and Chagrin Falls.

There is a way, beyond argument, for science to be emotionally meaningful — through metaphor. As Dale begins to use scientific concepts not as intellectual armaments or stepping stones but as images and symbols: he feels like a knot in four dimensions. Updike's recent poetry has taken a similar tack, trying to frame exotic phenomena in terms of human values, and to use natural processes as metaphors for human emotions.

Poetry, Updike seems to be saying, is the only way to reconcile scientific objectivity with human subjectivity. Scientists and poets alike will find much to wonder about in this novel.

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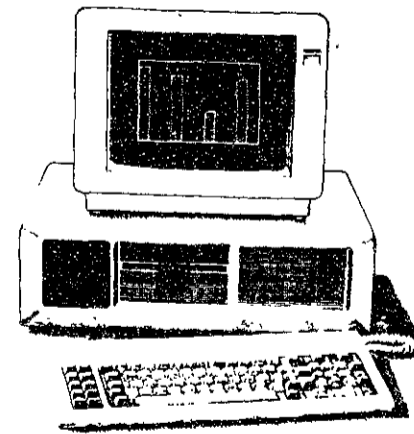
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# arts arts arts

## Canadians can produce fine films as well as great hockey players

### MY AMERICAN COUSIN

Written and directed by Sandy Wilson.  
Starring Margaret Langrick  
and John Wildman.  
Opening Oct. 24 at Copley Place.

By PETER DUNN

AS FAR AS AMERICANS ARE CONCERNED the Canadian film industry is non-existent. Canadians make good bacon, produce great hockey players, keep their cities spotless, and are known for their unassuming, gentle dispositions. Every now and then the National Film Board will make a good short that will garner them an Oscar, but the major film releases, like "Atlantic City" or "The Grey Fox," go relatively unnoticed.

The only time that Canadian films play in Boston is when the Coolidge Corner has a retrospective. This is quite unfair: plenty

of fine films are made in Canada and deserve to be seen by American audiences. So when "My American Cousin" was scheduled to open in Boston, I jumped at the chance to see the winner of six Genie awards (the Canadian equivalent of the Oscar) including the 1985 Best Film of the Year award.

"My American Cousin" follows the day-to-day life of Sandy Wilcox (Margaret Langrick) during the summer of 1959, the summer of her 13th birthday. This particular summer is significant to Sandy because, in her mind, it signals the important transition from immature child to mature teenager. Unfortunately, Sandy is not only still treated as an infant by her parents but also feels trapped in a dead-end life.

The film's opening shot best exemplifies Sandy's situation: a beautiful night shot of Lake Okanagan and Mr. Wilcox's Paradise Ranch in British Columbia quickly dissolves to Sandy writing in her diary in



Butch impresses the locals in "My American Cousin"

large, bold letters, "NOTHING EVER HAPPENS." Sandy's wishes for a change seem to come true when her 18-year-old California cousin, Butch Walker (John Wildman), arrives that very same night in his flaming red convertible. Butch is a gorgeous, blond, blue-eyed hunk, and Sandy instantly becomes infatuated.

But Sandy's troubles are not over. She still feels trapped by her mediocre life on her father's cherry farm and Butch lends little support to her protestations. Not only does Butch think, much to Sandy's consternation, that Paradise Ranch is a wonderful place, but he is conceited to boot. Decker out in white T-shirt, jeans, and biker boots, constantly preening his duck-tail hairdo, Butch believes he is God's gift to women and, although he feels an initial attraction to Sandy, deems her beneath his attention once he discovers her age.

Most of "My American Cousin" displays Butch trying to impress the local townsfolk and trying to pick up the prettiest girls in town. Butch seems emulate James Dean by acting the rebel without a cause but, unlike Dean in that '50s classic, is more concerned with showing off than with being accepted. Butch is not a very likable character, seems consumed with presenting the right appearance, and Sandy's continuing attraction after he constantly dismisses her advances is almost unbelievable.

"My American Cousin" suffers from the typical faults of most Canadian feature films. The script is quite bland and is not

helped at all by the stilted delivery of the actors. Canadian filmmakers do not have the pool of excellent actors and writers to choose from that Hollywood filmmakers do. The film also suffers from the typical Canadian film style: an inordinate amount of time is spent on viewing longshots of beautiful scenery, disrupting the flow of the story, and the remainder of the film is shot mostly with loose closeups of characters talking to one another.

Fortunately "My American Cousin" rises above these minor faults with its interesting storyline of teenage first love. Although the actors' lines sometimes come out all wrong, it is easy to identify with the feelings expressed. Sandy's crush is very understandable considering how wordily and exotic her fascinating cousin from America must seem.

Reading the title, I expected to see in this film an investigation of the major differences between Canadians and Americans (a favorite topic of Canadian filmmakers considering the inferiority complex that most Canadians feel they must dispel). Instead, I found an interesting film concerning the coming of age of a young girl that had nothing to do with Canadian infatuation with American culture.

Even though "My American Cousin" comes out as distinctly Canadian, with the usual flaws of a Canadian film, it takes on the quality of most Canadian products — unassuming but easily liked. This is not a great film and will most certainly never win an Oscar, but it comes off as a heart-felt, pleasing piece of work anyhow.

## "World Party" not revolutionary

### PRIVATE REVOLUTION

By World Party.  
On Chrysalis (CBS).

By JULIAN WEST  
and MICHAEL J. GARRISON

WE WERE CONFUSED about this new album. To start with, we couldn't figure out whether it was *World Party*, by the hit group Private Revolution, or possibly World Party's newest hit album *Private Revolution*. A closer inspection of the sleeve revealed a title track, "Private Revolution," but then the B side contains a selection called "World Party."

We gave up on the title, and looked for more clues about the content. The only one we eventually turned up, in tiny six-point type, was the acknowledgement: "Thanks to Barv, Peter Beasley, Dickie . . . Steve Wallace, Hilary Watson, Suzie Zamit, and God." Finding God on the sleeve does not necessarily mean that you will find God on the vinyl, and certainly not that you will find God by listening to it. In this case, however, it is telling.

Consider the lyrics of "The Ballad of the Little Man":

*He's an animal but he thinks he's God*

*Gets him mixed up with HIM  
And we're all at the mercy of this little man within*

A Christian friend in high school was a big fan of Billy Joel, and of the song "Only the Good Die Young." He explained the lyrics by saying "I don't have to agree with his philosophy to like the song." In other words, it may be rubbish but it sounds good. Let's dance. Exactly the reverse is true of songs like "Private Revolution."

*Someone's been hiding the pieces  
Someone's been burning down the trees  
So we need your revolution baby  
There's a PLANET TO SET FREE*

You know they're right, but it's lyrics alone are not enough to make a song enjoyable.

So there, you have been warned. Two more warnings. In "Making Love (To the World)" the group seems to think it is Prince's private Revolution, insisting on spelling a conjunction *cos* and a personal pronoun *u*.

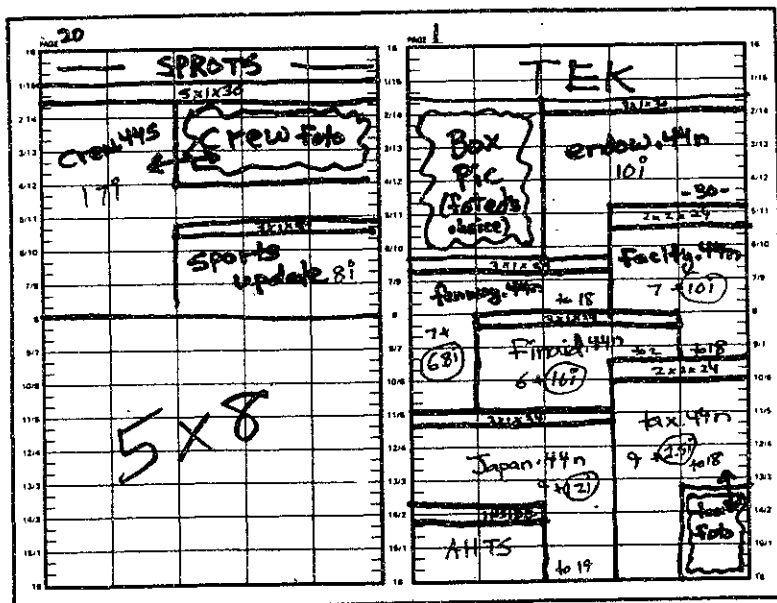
And with "All I Really Want to Do," the least original cover of the year, vocalist Karl Wallinger tries to impersonate Bob Dylan. He doesn't sound like Dylan, but boy does he try.

Enough! You have been warned.

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# Eagle set to break world records

(Continued from page 1)  
to help the pilot make the long, overwater journey, Daedalus will be equipped with a version of Eagle's automatic flight control system, which is being tested on Phase II. Human powered aircraft "tend to be difficult to fly," Bussolari explained. "They don't always respond in the direction you expect."

Eagle is heavier than it was designed to be, Bussolari said. "A lot of that is due to the fact that we were unable to obtain . . . high modulus graphite" in time to incorporate it into the plane, he explained. "It's a prototype — it's expected to be heavy."

A group of about six, including faculty, students, and alumni, designed Eagle, Bussolari said. "Most of them either worked on Monarch or Chrysalis [an earlier MIT plane]." He added that the team which built the plane was much bigger, "about 15."

Eagle boasts a newly designed airfoil created by Mark Drela, a professor in the department of aeronautics and astronautics. The computer code Drela created as part of his PhD thesis "is being used to design several airfoils," Bussolari said.

### Daedalus seeks sponsors

The entire Phase II budget of \$195,000 was donated by the Anheuser-Busch company, Bussolari said. The company also provided considerable free materials and labor. The project received free flight facilities, equipment, and materials. "Draper Labs gave us

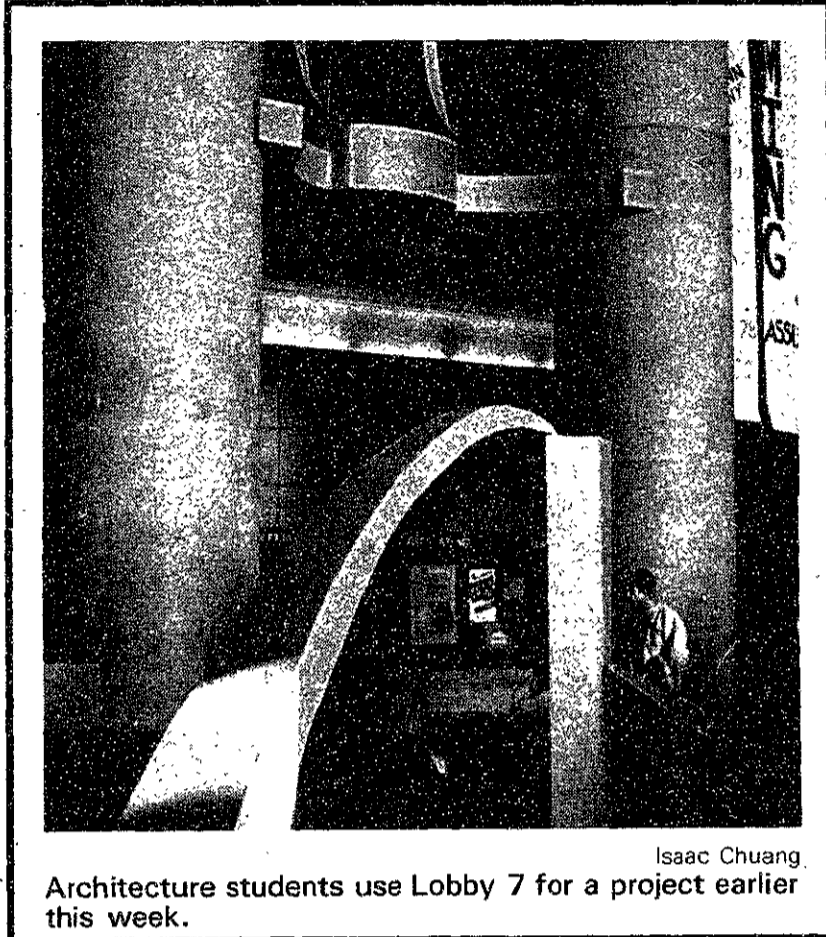
two people half-time," he noted. Otherwise "we would never have been able to design and flight test the prototype airplane for \$200,000."

The group is still seeking funding for Phase III, Bussolari said. Because no sponsor has been found, the group has had to suspend plans to make the Phase III flight in March or April.

The Phase I weather monitoring program, co-sponsored by

MIT and the Smithsonian Institute, established two time slots during which a flight could be attempted. Because the spring slot has been ruled out, the group is "looking at September [1987] for the next possible attempt."

Flight testing at Hanscom Field is open to the public; interested spectators can call 863-5771 after 4 each morning to hear a recorded message about the day's schedule.



Isaac Chuang. Architecture students use Lobby 7 for a project earlier this week.

# Course X enrollment continues to fall

(Continued from page 1)  
year just reflects the range of fluctuation."

The department of chemical engineering, which attracted only 40 sophomores this year, has seen a steady decline in undergraduate enrollment over the past five

## Seniors avoid new requirement

(Continued from page 1)  
written, and re-read," she explained. Processing each paper takes at least two weeks, she said. "If we get a flood after the deadline, the committee can't guarantee that all papers will be read in time for graduation," she warned.

The most common reasons for rejecting a paper are the lack of a "perceivable structure," unexplained tables and figures, and a lack of headings, she said. "We're looking for as nearly a professional paper as an under-

graduate could be expected to write," she explained.

Walters pointed out that students can satisfy Phase II by submitting papers written for classes taken in previous terms. "It's not necessarily the best way, but it can be done this way."

Approximately 50 students have taken one of the science writing courses, and six students have succeeded in having a Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program-related paper approved.

ing. A few years ago, the department averaged from 110 to 130 students per undergraduate class, but enrollment has steadily dropped since 1983, Mohr indicated.

"Chemical engineering is in a state of transition," Mohr explained. "It's moving away from the oil and chemical industries and into biotechnology."

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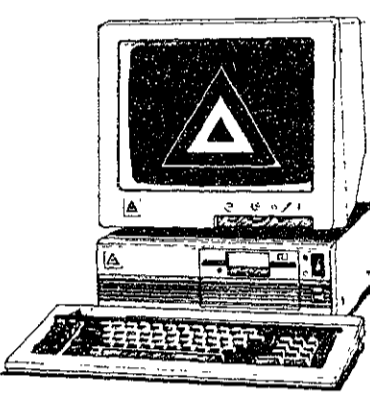
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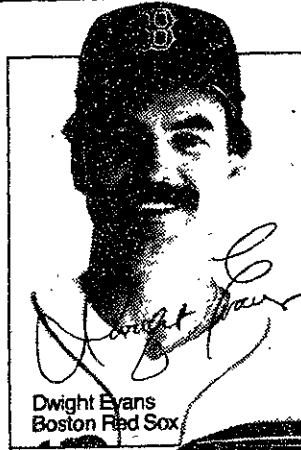
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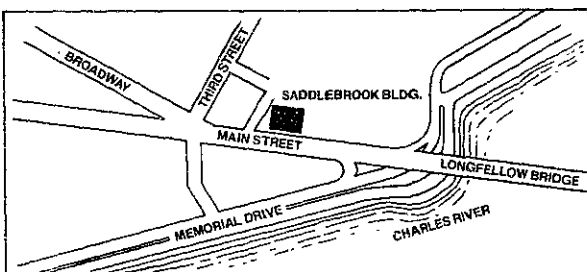
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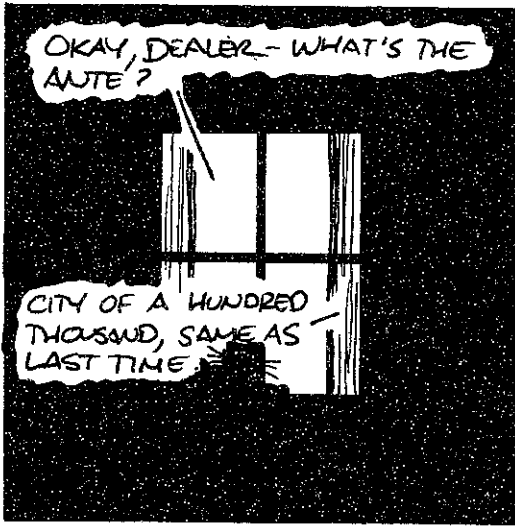
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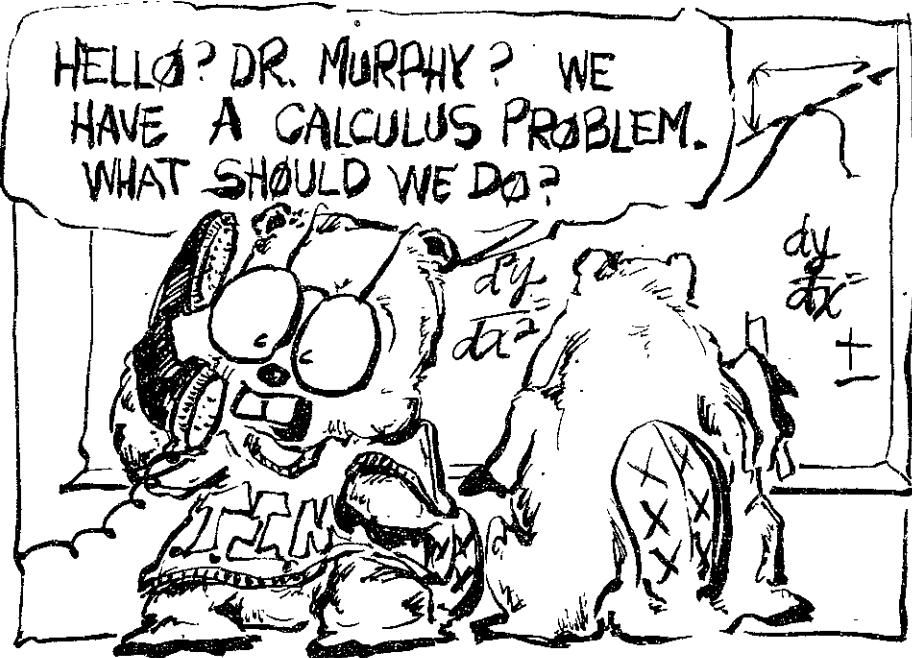
## Outside Looking In

By V. Michael Bove



## T.I.M Beaver

By Kevin Burns



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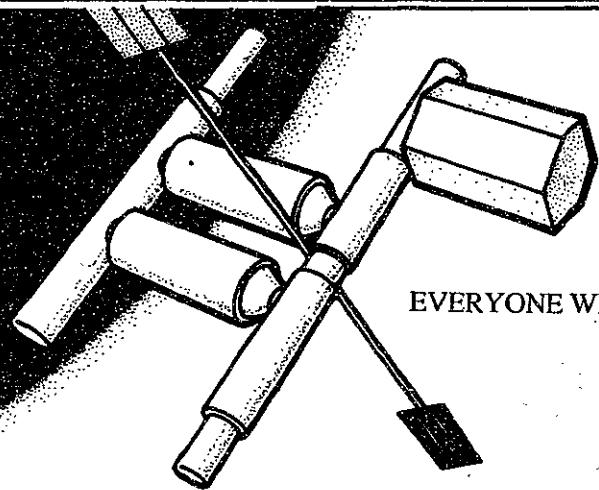
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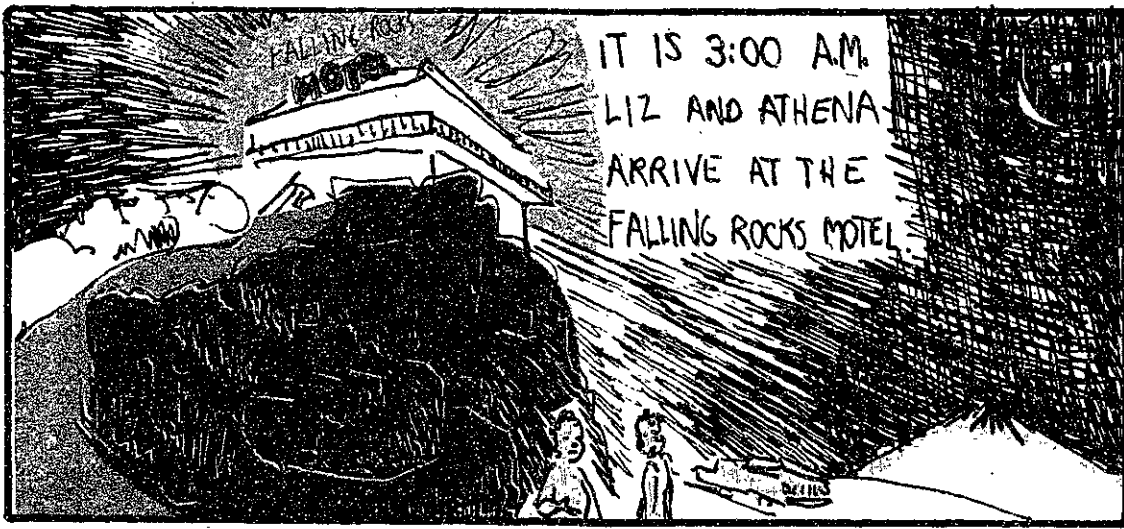
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By Jim Bredt

## IT'S THE LEGEND OF FRED



IT IS 3:00 AM. LIZ AND ATHENA ARRIVE AT THE FALLING ROCKS MOTEL.



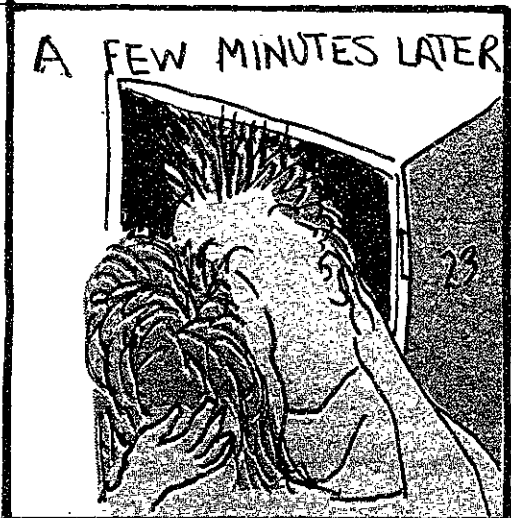
LIZ, I'M AFRAID THAT THIS IS THE LAST YOU WILL SEE OF ME. BUT YOU SAID YOU'D HELP GET TIM BACK.



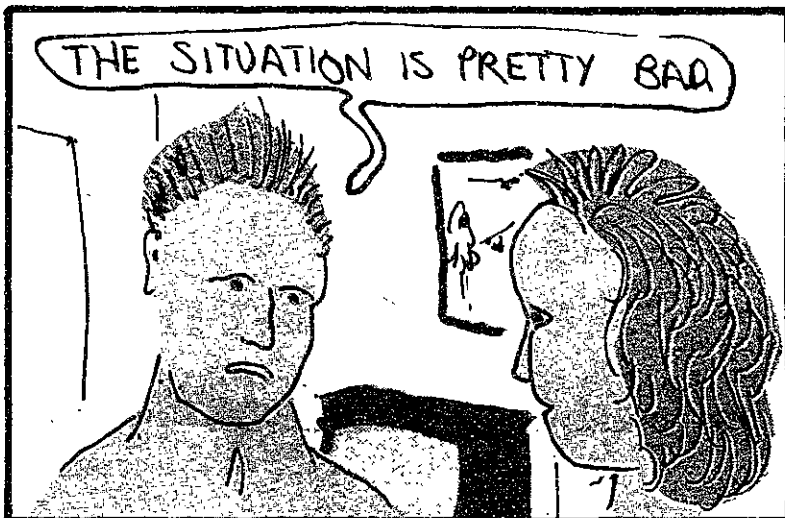
'YOU'VE GOT HIM BACK. BESIDES, I'M NOT GOING VERY FAR.



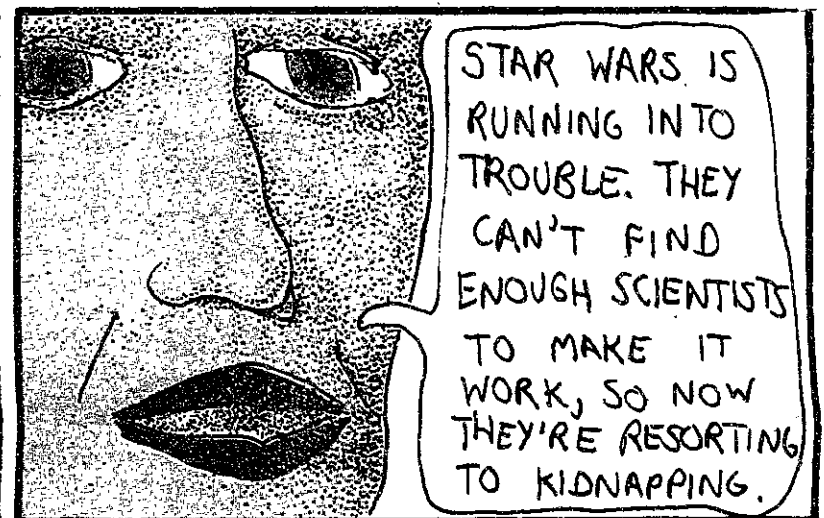
LIZ FORGETS THAT ATHENA HAS GONE AND WALKS UP THE HILL TO THE MOTEL WHERE TIM IS WAITING



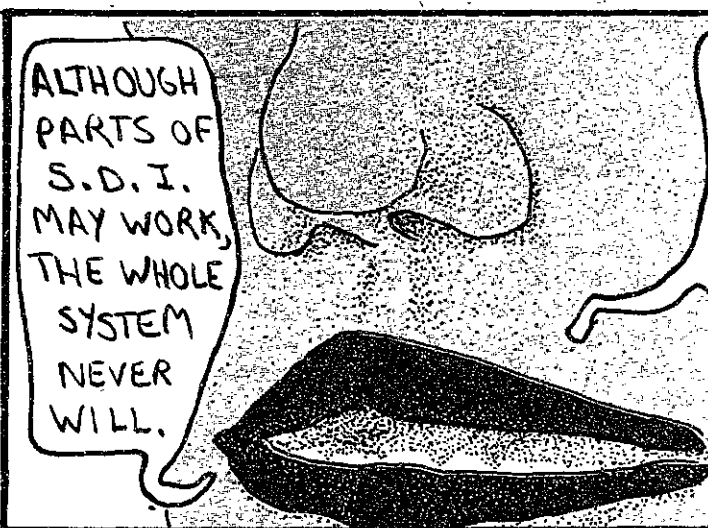
A FEW MINUTES LATER



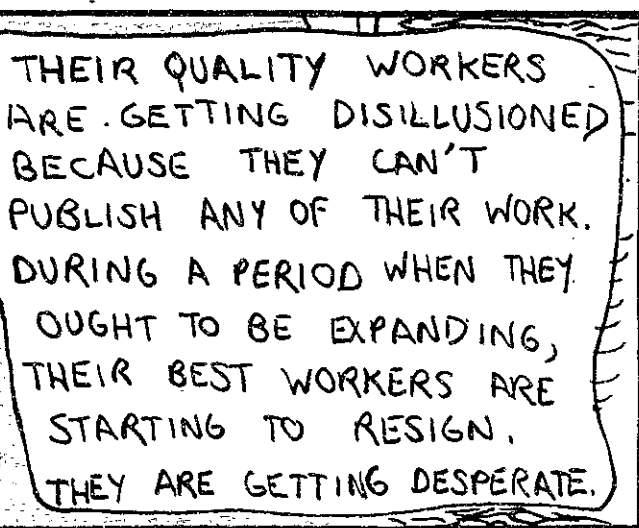
THE SITUATION IS PRETTY BAD



STAR WARS IS RUNNING INTO TROUBLE. THEY CAN'T FIND ENOUGH SCIENTISTS TO MAKE IT WORK, SO NOW THEY'RE RESORTING TO KIDNAPPING.



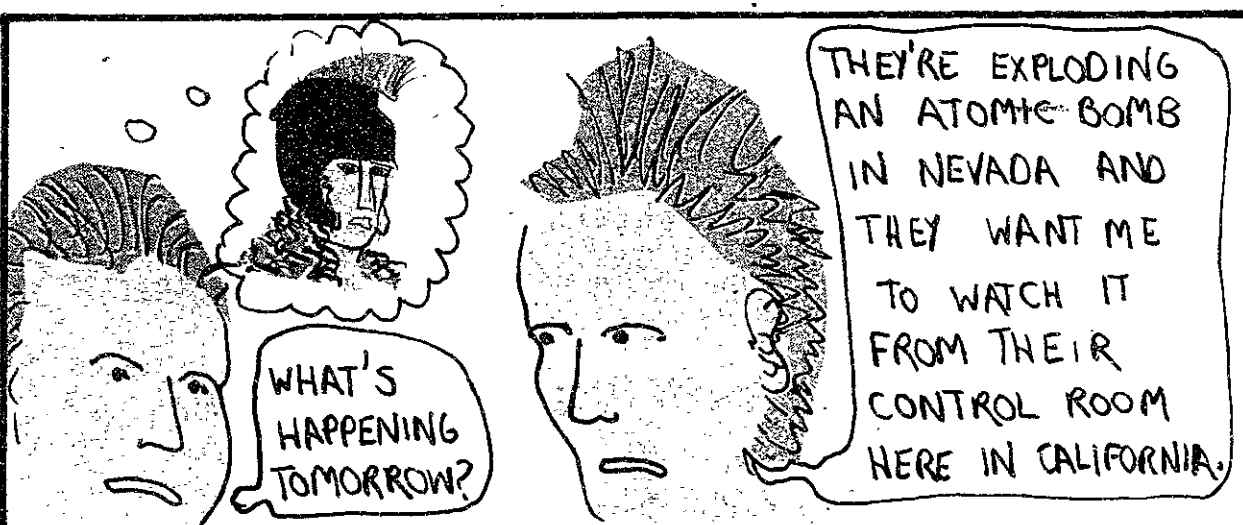
ALTHOUGH PARTS OF S.D.I. MAY WORK, THE WHOLE SYSTEM NEVER WILL.



THEIR QUALITY WORKERS ARE GETTING DISILLUSIONED BECAUSE THEY CAN'T PUBLISH ANY OF THEIR WORK. DURING A PERIOD WHEN THEY OUGHT TO BE EXPANDING, THEIR BEST WORKERS ARE STARTING TO RESIGN. THEY ARE GETTING DESPERATE.



TOMORROW THEY'RE GOING TO TRY AND PRESSURE ME INTO WORKING FOR THEM.

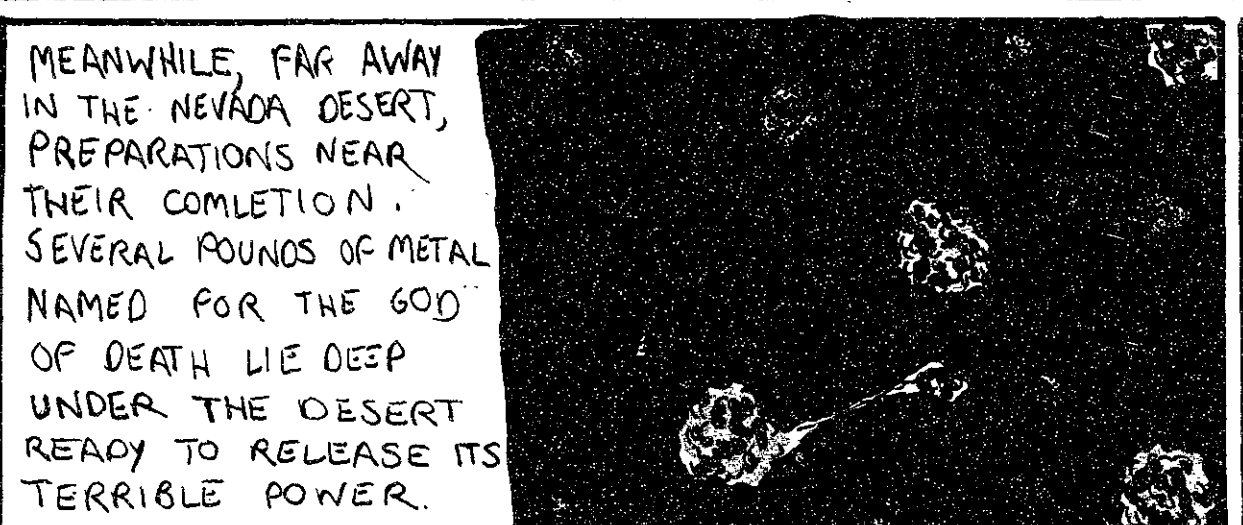


WHAT'S HAPPENING TOMORROW?

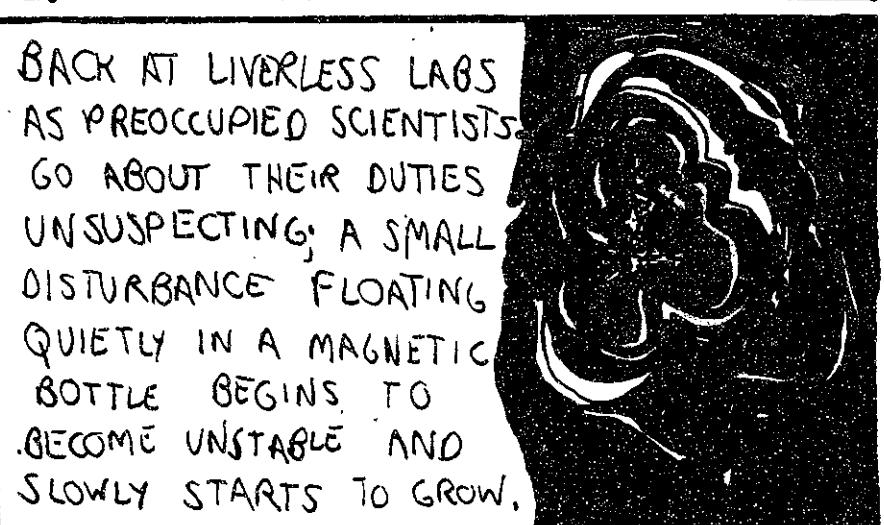
THEY'RE EXPLODING AN ATOMIC BOMB IN NEVADA AND THEY WANT ME TO WATCH IT FROM THEIR CONTROL ROOM HERE IN CALIFORNIA.



YOU MUST GET ME IN THERE TOMORROW NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!



MEANWHILE, FAR AWAY IN THE NEVADA DESERT, PREPARATIONS NEAR THEIR COMPLETION. SEVERAL POUNDS OF METAL NAMED FOR THE GOD OF DEATH LIE DEEP UNDER THE DESERT READY TO RELEASE ITS TERRIBLE POWER.



BACK AT LIVERLESS LABS AS PREOCCUPIED SCIENTISTS GO ABOUT THEIR DUTIES UNSUSPECTING, A SMALL DISTURBANCE FLOATING QUIETLY IN A MAGNETIC BOTTLE BEGINS TO BECOME UNSTABLE AND SLOWLY STARTS TO GROW.

# sports

Column/Harold A. Stern

## The Sox' Cloud will come back to haunt them

(A week ago, Leigh Montville, a sports columnist for The Boston Globe, wrote a piece describing how the black cloud that used to hover over Fenway Park has disappeared. But somehow, Leigh missed the point.)

"Montville Residence."  
"Hello. Is Leigh available?"  
"Speaking. What can I do for you?"  
"Leigh? This is The Cloud. I

need some advice."  
"The What?"  
"The Cloud. The Black Cloud. You know, I hang out at Sox games, waiting for the crucial moment, when Boston will come from ahead in the final innings to lose a seemingly insurmountable lead?"  
"Oh... That Cloud. I thought you had gone South."  
"No, and I need your advice.

McNamara's boys have been doing pretty well lately. But nobody's buying it."  
"I don't quite follow."  
"Well, they just beat the Angels, which was pretty good. You know, all those fans celebrating in Kenmore and all. I even saw a couple get married on Yawkey Way."  
"So what's the problem?"  
"Face it. The Angels were a

bunch of old men who couldn't beat Billy Buckner in a race to first. Deep down, nobody except Stephen King expects the Sox to take the Mets."  
"And?"  
"There's a whole new generation of Little Leaguers out there who hadn't even seen a baseball card the last time the Sox blew the big one. Anybody who hasn't heard of Bucky Dent hasn't paid

his dues as a Boston fan yet. If only I could get them to believe, I mean really believe, that the Sox have a chance. Then, Wham! And they could understand."  
"Well, I can write some columns insulting the Mets."  
"Leigh, you always insult the opponents of all of Boston's teams. Nobody cares anymore."  
"How 'bout if you arrange it for the Mets to lose the first game?"

## Men's cross-country outruns Tufts and Williams

**By Rod Hinman**  
The men's cross-country team trounced Tufts and Williams last Saturday at Franklin Park. MIT Sports Update

finished with 20 points, to Tufts' 40 and Williams' 76 points. A strong pack of four MIT runners took the lead early.

Turan Erdogan '87, Terry McNatt '87, Rod Hinman '88, and Sean Kelley '89 stayed together the entire race, exchanging the lead many times.

team would likely have won first place in the JV race.

Dave Afshartous '89 won the race in 28:38, Ted Manning '89 came in second at 28:44, and Sean Walker '89 followed at 28:54. After a pack of three Tufts carriers came Ken Michaud '88 at 29:37.

The men's varsity team placed second at the Lemoyne College Invitational in Syracuse, NY on Oct. 4, and finished second again last week at UMass-Boston's Codfish Invitational.

The men's cross country team races again on Nov. 1 at the All-New England Championship.

(Editor's note: Rod Hinman '88 is a member of the MIT men's cross-country team.)

## Women's tennis team successful in MAIAW championship event

**Sailors reach nationals**  
The MIT sailing team won the New England Sloop Championships held at MIT last weekend. The victory represents MIT's first 1st-place finish at the NE Championships.

tee has chosen MIT to participate in the MAIAW playoffs to be held this weekend at Smith College. The women's soccer team will play Smith at 11am tomorrow, and if victorious, will play the winner of the Clark-Brandeis game.

The women's soccer team lost 2-1 on Oct. 21 to Smith, dropping its record to 4-6-1 for the year.

## Men's soccer unbeaten in last eight games

The good news is that the men's soccer team has not lost its last two games. The bad news is that it has not won them either. The men's soccer team tied Stonehill 1-1 Wednesday for its second straight tie. On Oct. 18, the team played to a scoreless tie against Colby College in Waterville, Maine, MIT's eighth consecutive game without a loss. Their record now stands at 6-5-2.

By Earl C. Yen

## Women's soccer starts MAIAW playoffs tomorrow

The MAIAW selection commit-



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Honeywell representatives  
at the  
Honeywell Open House  
Tuesday, October 28  
Lobby of Building 13  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Together, we can find the answers.

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Time:	3:00-5:30 p.m.
Transportation:	2:30 p.m. pickup in front of the Administration Building Main Entrance on Mass. Ave. (Bus transportation provided by BBN)
Location:	70 Fawcett Street, Cambridge, MA
Sign-up:	Office of Career Planning and Placement by Friday, October 25

For further information, call Lesley Sullivan, at BBN, 497-2563.



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