

Isaac Chuang
Students began competing last night in the preliminary round of the 2.70 contest. The final rounds begin tomorrow at 7pm in 26-100. The event will be shown on MIT cable channel 10.

Athena to deploy computers

By Ben Z. Stanger

Project Athena expects to begin to install computer workstations in Delta Upsilon next week, the first of five living groups which will receive Athena equipment on an experimental basis, according to Alana J. Erickson, deployment manager for Project Athena.

DU, pika, Theta Delta Chi, Zeta Beta Tau, and 500 Memorial Drive should have Athena workstations installed by the end of the academic year, Erickson said.

This is "the first time MIT has gone and put computers in living groups," said Joseph Harrington '88, pika's Athena contact. But delays have slowed down the process, Harrington said. Pika had expected to have seven workstations in place this summer, but the house is now scheduled to receive the equipment in mid-December, Harrington said.

Each living group will receive a package including computers, printers, modems for off-campus houses, and software now available on the Athena system. Each

house will receive a different amount of hardware, ranging from five workstations at DU to over 24 workstations at TDC.

TDC will have "intensive" workstation setup

TDC will have more workstations than any other living group, with a workstation in every student's room and two in the library, making it an "intensive" house, Erickson said. All five living groups were offered the intensive installation.

"We spent a lot of time debating the pro's and con's," said Gregory M. Belaus '88, TDC's Athena contact. The fraternity will have freedom in determining the form that the system will take in the house, he said, noting that the success or failure of the workstations will have effects on MIT students four years down the road.

The other three independent living groups were hesitant to follow the intensive program adopted by TDC. This may be because houses have to pay for electricity and building costs to accommodate the new computers, according to Erickson. The computers will cost pika about \$66 per month, Harrington said.

About 20 percent of pika's residents didn't want any computers installed at first, because of fears that pika would become a "nerd house," Harrington explained. "People aren't afraid of that anymore," he added.

TDC made substantial renovations in the house a few years ago, Erickson said, which may have permitted them to become "intensive" while other living groups were reluctant.

"We would like to get everybody, in all the living groups, wired up," Erickson said, in reference to the potential for integrating computers into undergraduate life. She emphasized, however, that the current installations are experimental, and that Institute officials will have to decide how extensive they want the system to be.

The Project Athena Study Group, with funding from the Office of the Provost, will examine the houses' response to the computers, Erickson continued. Gregory A. Jackson '70 will survey reactions in pika and TDC next term. If the living group workstations are not positively received by MIT students, Erickson said, Athena will not be afraid to pull out of the experiment.

The money for the pilot placement of workstations in the living groups currently comes from grants and Athena's \$20 million operating budget. If the experiment is successful and the administration decides to install workstations in all of the living groups, then the Institute will have to consider ways of financing it, Erickson added.

(Please turn to page 9)

Faculty divided over HASS proposal

By Katie Schwarz
and Jai Young Kim

Many professors are dissatisfied with the revised humanities requirement proposed by the Committee on the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences earlier this year, according to Travis R. Merritt, director of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Office.

"I think there's a lot of adverse reaction to it," Merritt said of the proposal, issued in August after a year-long study. Two committee members submitted separate dissents. Faculty from engineering and humanities have objections to the proposal, Merritt indicated.

Controversy centers on the humanities distribution requirement. Under the proposed system, undergraduates would have to take a distribution subject in each of four categories: Contemporary Sociology and Cultures, Historical Studies, Literary Studies, and The Arts.

The dissents by Associate Professor of Literature John Hildebidle and Political Science Senior Lecturer Louis Menand III dispute this scheme.

These disagreements can be resolved, said Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Ann F. Friedlaender '64, who saw the problem as a mismatch between the committee's categories and the Institute's resources. For example, there are currently not enough art courses at MIT to permit an Arts distribution category.

Friedlaender has directed the HSS School Council to modify the categories so that "a large number of interested groups," particularly Political Science and Philosophy, can take part in the distribution system.

The HASS Committee also proposed an Institute requirement in the social context of science and technology. Not all faculty think this is necessary, Merritt said.

"It simply won't work"

The HASS Committee report stressed that the present requirement lets students bypass large areas of knowledge.

But some think the highly structured four-category proposal goes too far. "It simply won't work, and it doesn't make much

sense intellectually," said Hildebidle. MIT's present system is "not so radically bad that it needs to be thrown out," he continued. "I'm not convinced that people would be better educated."

Hildebidle's dissent stated that (Please turn to page 2)

New group studies military influence

By Michael Gojer

A recently formed presidential committee has begun to look into questions about the rising military influence at MIT raised last May in Science, Technology, and Society Director Carl Kaysen's report to the faculty.

This new committee, named the *ad hoc* Committee on Military Impact on Campus Research and chaired by Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences Department Head William F. Brace '46, is expected to release its findings sometime in the spring.

Kaysen chaired the fact-gathering *ad hoc* Committee on the Military Presence at MIT, which found a 50 percent increase in military research funding at MIT since 1980 as well as a significant

military influence on student career choice.

The charge of the new committee is "to consider views and questions raised by the Kaysen committee and recommend possible changes in Institute policy," Brace said. The committee will not address ROTC or Lincoln Labs issues, as the Kaysen committee did, but will focus on on-campus research, he added.

"It's a little early to say just what we'll come up with," Brace said.

Graduate students discuss committee plans

The committee is currently organizing departmental forums on military-influenced research, according to Thomas C. Hsu G, one of two graduate students on the committee.

The Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences has already held the first of these departmental seminars, which was "exceedingly well-attended," Hsu said.

The forums, Hsu explained, will inform students and faculty about the kinds of research which are going on within their department.

The committee plans to hold its next forum in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, but details have not yet been worked out.

The value of the forums has been questioned by some members, however. Steven A. Farber G, the committee's other student member, said he wonders "whether the forums are going to be successful in illuminating the questions of the committee's charge."

Farber also thought the committee should meet more often. So far the committee has met monthly, with its next meeting planned for December 16.

Both Hsu and Farber said the

committee was eager for an undergraduate member. The Undergraduate Association's nominations committee plans to interview a student for the available position, according to Walter A. Rho '87, nominations chairman. He hopes the student member will be chosen in the next month.

SACC urges addition of faculty members

The Science Action Coordinating Committee is concerned about the faculty composition of the new Brace committee. SACC member Rich W. Cowan G explained that "the committee has people who are higher-ups in MIT policy. Anybody in a position of authority at MIT has to deal with military influences; they aren't in a position to be criticizing them."

Cowan said there are a large number of faculty members who are "independent of lab responsibilities [and who could be] fairly critical." He said that younger faculty members are not well-represented on the committee.

SACC plans to propose the addition of two new faculty members to the committee who could be more sensitive, according to Cowan. SACC received good response to its October faculty letter surveying interest in the issue, he added.

Nicaragua's Ramirez calls for peace

By Julian West
and Veena Trehan

Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez told a nearly full Kresge Auditorium Sunday that Nicaragua wants peace with the United States. He described Nicaraguan leaders as committed

to pluralism, non-alignment, and a mixed economy.

Throughout his talk, Ramirez pointed to advances in land reform and literacy under the Sandanistas. He compared the revolution in Nicaragua to the American revolution of 1776 and

cited similarities between the constitutions of the two countries.

Ramirez first put his remarks in a cultural and historical context. The struggle for liberty in Nicaragua dates back to the 1920's, he said.

Ramirez listed nine accusations which he said the Reagan administration commonly levels against the Nicaraguan government, including totalitarian policies, threatening Nicaragua's neighbors, and exporting revolution to other Central American countries.

In response to the charge of totalitarianism, Ramirez pointed to elections held in 1984 in which 7 political parties fielded candidates. Only under the former Somoza government, which ended with the Sandanista revolution in 1979, did Nicaragua suffer from totalitarianism, he said.

Explaining restrictions on freedom of the press, he remarked that there was a state of emergen-

(Please turn to page 2)



Zev Waldman
Vice President of Nicaragua, Sergio Ramirez, speaking on Central America last Sunday in Kresge Auditorium.

inside

Peter Gabriel concert
review on Page 6.

Review of the French
film, "Rouge Baiser."
Page 6.

Faculty disagree on HASS requirement

(Continued from page 1)
 problems in defining the categories will result in poor staffing of each category with the present faculty. There is no consensus on exactly what the distribution categories should be, the dissent continued, pointing out that the committee's version leaves out psychology and philosophy.

The dissent suggested improving, not replacing, the present system by simplifying the 20-odd distribution fields to eliminate "the more obvious overlaps."

Moreover, Hildebidle explained, the new distribution system would compel junior faculty members to teach large, fairly general classes.

MIT professors do not want to be in a service department teaching survey courses, Hildebidle and Merritt emphasized; they want to teach their own specialties, especially since they have no graduate students and few undergraduate majors.

The humanities faculty fears that the new proposal, which constrains four of the eight humanities courses that undergraduates must take, would take students away from advanced and specialized humanities subjects, Merritt added. Menand agreed that "the integrity of intellectual enterprise of the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences must be recognized and protected."

Menand also felt that MIT students, with good advising, can wisely choose their subjects from the academic departments without having to place them into four categories. "Because MIT freshmen are not *tabula rasa*, they should have the opportunity to pursue already developing interests without having to study in specific fields," he explained.

"One of the advantages that MIT offers is that you're not required to take certain courses,"

said Hildebidle, and he pointed out that most people are here because of that advantage.

Menand's dissent stressed the quality of teaching, saying that "excellent teaching is potentially more broadening for a student than required study in predetermined categories."

HASS report is an unsatisfactory compromise

Merritt saw the committee report as an unsatisfactory compromise between two factions. Engineering faculty want to see a "commonality" in a humanities core along the lines of freshman

physics and calculus, he explained, but humanists today do not believe in a core of cultural knowledge that everyone should study.

Professor of History Pauline Maier, who chaired the HASS Committee, acknowledged that Hildebidle and Menand made up half of the humanities faculty members on the HASS committee.

"These people had the right to dissent," she said, but maintained that "the current distribution is simply not functioning well. Some change needs to be established."

Vice President Ramirez: Nicaragua wants peace

(Continued from page 1)
 in Nicaragua and said that the freedoms would be returned when the state of emergency was lifted. He asked what would have happened if *The New York Times* had decided to support Hitler during the second World War.

As to the charge that Nicaragua exports revolutions, he explained that "revolutions as a social and political phenomenon cannot be exported."

He said that the Nicaraguan military buildup was due to the threatening presence of the United States in the region. The presence of 2000 American soldiers in Honduras, the presence of a warship 60 miles away from Nicaragua, and the allotment of \$100 million to aid the *contras* creates the feeling that a large military is necessary, he explained.

Ramirez expressed the Nicaraguan desire for negotiations on weapons limitations and the complete removal of foreign military advisors from the region.

Ramirez denied that Nicaragua is a threat to the security of the

United States and affirmed its interest in remaining non-aligned. "We will never allow the establishment of any sort of military base of a foreign power on our soil," he said.

As for questions about Eugene Hasenfus, Ramirez stated that Hasenfus has not currently been sentenced and that he does not know what will happen to the captured American. During a trial in Nicaragua, Hasenfus confessed to working for the CIA and was convicted of conspiracy and terrorism against the state of Nicaragua.

Ramirez was a writer and poet before the revolution. He was elected Nicaragua's vice president under Daniel Ortega in 1984. Ramirez also spoke at Harvard last night.



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news roundup

from the associated press wire

World

Ortega says Hasenfus ruling was justified

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said on Friday that his country was right to pass a stiff prison sentence on US mercenary Eugene Hasenfus. The Nicaraguan government may pardon Hasenfus in an effort to improve relations with the United States, Ortega said.

The Nicaraguan people will back whatever decision is made, Ortega added. (AP)

Swiss official says reducing nukes would be destabilizing

Eliminating Europe's nuclear deterrent must be linked to serious efforts to balance conventional forces, according to Swiss Foreign Minister Edouard Brunner. Nuclear weapons have provided "a sort of mutual deterrent in the East and West," and substitution with unbalanced conventional forces might once again bring on the "tensions of war," Brunner said. (AP)

Barclays withdraws from South Africa

British-based Barclays Bank announced its withdrawal from South Africa yesterday. The main reason was an unfavorable South African economy, the bank said. Barclays sold its interest to a group of South African investors for \$236 million. Barclays Bank is the largest foreign firm to pull out, and some bankers fear that other foreign firms will follow. (AP)

Two Philippine political leaders die; rumors of coup surface

Philippine leftist rebels claimed responsibility on Friday for the murder of politician and businessman David Puzon, a close associate of former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile. The ambush-slaying of Puzon was aimed at "weakening the fascist clique which wants to return to power," the leftist group claimed.

Ulbert Ulama Tugung, a Moslem official allied with President Corazon Aquino, was gunned down on Sunday. Gunmen in a car opened fire with automatic rifles when Tugung was standing in front of a Manila hotel.

New rumors of a coup are flying in the Philippines. Troops that appear to be loyal to Aquino surrounded the Presidential palace on Sunday. The military sealed off the state-run radio and television station in Manila. Senior military commanders were meeting at the Defense Ministry compound, where there was also stepped-up security. The Armed Forces Chief of Staff ordered commanders to defend the government against the alleged plot to oust President Aquino.

Aquino asked for the resignation of her cabinet on Sunday, saying the country needs a "fresh start." Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile has already resigned, Aquino asserted. Enrile has been the central figure in rumors of an impending coup. Aquino appointed Enrile's deputy to take his place.

Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, who is now in exile in Hawaii, had no comment on the latest developments, but said earlier that the continuing unrest is playing into the hands of communists. (AP)

Cardinal Law visits Nicaragua, discusses mission of Mother Theresa

Cardinal Law, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, began his visit to Nicaragua on Sunday in an effort to aid the Church there. The Church is struggling with itself and with the Marxist Sandinista government, Law said. Significant talks are going on, he continued.

Law said he hopes to improve church-state relations. The Nicaraguan government has closed the church newspaper and radio station and has expelled several outspoken leaders.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta will send four of her nuns to Boston to work for the poor and the elderly, Law confirmed. The four members of the Missionaries of Charity Order could arrive in the next six months, he added. (AP)

India sues Union Carbide

The government of India filed a lawsuit on Sunday asking for over \$3 billion from Union Carbide. India is seeking that much in damages from the 1984 toxic gas leak at the company's Bhopal plant. The disaster allegedly killed more than 2300 people. Union Carbide said the size of the suit is "without foundation."

Union Carbide originally sued India for allowing people to live near the plant. The company claims that sabotage caused the gas leak. (AP)

Nation

Mourners remember death of JFK

At half past noon on Sunday, approximately 100 people turned out along the route taken by John F. Kennedy when he was assassinated 23 years ago. The former President was remembered by his brother, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA), at his grave in Arlington National Cemetery. (AP)

Drug busters hit jackpot

Fifty tons of marijuana were seized on Sunday by the US Coast Guard from an unregistered ship 40 miles north of Columbia. It was the biggest pot haul this year, according to officials in Miami. The haul is worth more than \$40 million. Ten Colombians on the ship were arrested, a Coast Guard spokesman said. (AP)

Congressional leaders attack Iran arms sale

The Senate Intelligence Committee is investigating the reasoning of holding a "high-risk" meeting with Iranian officials without telling Congress. CIA Director William Casey defended President Reagan's actions at a meeting on Friday, but House Democrat leader Jim Wright (D-TX) left the meeting renewing his charge that Reagan broke the law by failing to inform Congress of the sale for several months.

Anthony Beilonsen (D-CA) claimed that President Reagan's arms deal with Iran was not only illegal and a reversal of policy, it was a "failure." In the Democrats' weekly radio address, Beilonsen said US terrorism policy is now "in shambles." A President should inform Congress to prevent "terrible blunders like this one," he claimed.

The Iranian operation was "a high-risk policy initiative" and it is too early to tell if it was successful, Chief of Staff Donald Regan said.

Criticism of the arms deal is likely to do nothing more than generate partisan bickering over foreign policy, asserted Henry Kissinger, Dean Rush, Edmund Muskie, and Alexander Haig at a conference in Atlanta. (AP)

Kerry predicts Congress will protect financial aid to students

Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) said on Sunday that he believes Congress will reject major cutback proposals in financial aid to students. It is doubtful whether the reductions proposed by Education Secretary William Bennett will save much money, Kerry said. Bennett's plan would include an end to government subsidization of student loan interest rates. Kerry said the United States needs action to keep it economically competitive with other nations. (AP)

"Hands Across Delco" ends GM strike in Illinois

Striking workers at a General Motors Delco Electronics plant reached a tentative agreement Friday with the management, but it was too late to prevent GM from laying off another 10,000 workers at four assembly plants. Nearly 48,000 non-striking workers have now been laid off.

The strike officially ended on Sunday, after hundreds of striking union workers and their families joined hands to form a "Hands Across Delco" chain outside the Delco laboratory. (AP)

Local

More anti-apartheid demonstrators arrested in Cambridge

About 20 anti-apartheid demonstrators have been charged with disorderly conduct and trespassing, Cambridge police said Friday. They were arrested for allegedly blocking entrances to Harvard's Fogg Museum. The protesters said they were trying to disrupt a dinner for Harvard Endowment donors and Harvard Corporation members. The dinner went on as scheduled, *The Harvard Crimson* reported. Protest spokesman Mackie McLeod said the participants were members of the 350-Divestment Coalition and the Harvard-Radcliffe Students Against Apartheid.

The demonstrators were released on their own recognition, pending court appearances, said Cambridge Police officer David Betz. (AP)

House votes to repeal state surtax

The Massachusetts House voted 135-8 yesterday to repeal the state surtax. The vote came without debate. The House and Senate had both previously voted to repeal it, but Question 3 on the fall referendum unintentionally reimposed part of it when voters approved a strict tax limit. The repeal legislation is expected to sail through the Senate without a problem. (AP)

Dionne dies in drunk driving accident

Eighteen-year-old Thomas Dionne was pronounced dead at Lowell General Hospital Friday night shortly after a high-speed car crash Friday night, State Police reported. His friend, 18-year-old Donald Cote, was charged with drunk driving and motor vehicle homicide. The car was traveling at an estimated 100 mph before it skidded, rolled over three times, and hit a guard rail. Both teenagers were thrown from the vehicle. (AP)

Seabrook testing to go ahead as planned

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board rejected on Friday a Massachusetts protest to a license for fuel-loading and zero-power testing of the Seabrook nuclear plant. The license request should have been denied because Massachusetts has not filed evacuation plans for its six communities within ten miles of the facility, said Massachusetts Attorney General Francis Bellotti. The Appeals Board said that response ability should not be deemed a condition for the license in question.

The ruling can be appealed to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or to the courts. (AP)

Perez creates brouhaha in transit station

Boston police joined MBTA officers in disarming a gun-wielding man who tried to shoot travelers in a transit station on Friday. Manuel Perez of Boston, faces charges of assault to murder, assault and battery, and firearms charges. Terrified transit patrons fell to the floor at Washington Street Station, investigators said. Perez screamed and tried to fire a pistol, but it misfired. (AP)

Sports

Patriots achieve Pyrrhic victory over Bills

The New England Patriots beat the Buffalo Bills on Sunday by the score of 22-19. The Patriots improved their record to 9-3 thanks to a 13-yard touchdown from Tony Eason to tight end Greg Baty with less than two minutes to play. But six players were knocked out of action in the process. Right tackle Steve Moore broke his left ankle and will be lost for the rest of the season. Left guard Paul Fairchild, linebackers Steve Nelson and Larry McGrew, cornerback Rod McSwain, and wide receiver Irving Fryar were injured also. Fryar was later involved in an automobile accident, suffering a concussion. The Patriots will face the New Orleans Saints this Sunday. (AP, *The Boston Globe*)

Weather

Seasonably mild

After the relatively cool weather experienced last week, New Englanders will now experience some milder weather. Temperatures for the balance of the week will range from normal to slightly above normal levels. With the exception of a few showers Thursday morning, Thanksgiving weather will be fine. Elsewhere across the country the holiday weekend will be dry with the exception of the Northern Plains, Pacific Northwest, and portions of the East Coast. Temperatures will be mild in most areas except for the western Great Lakes.

Today: Mostly sunny and cool. High 48° (10°C).

Tonight: Clear and cool. Low 38° (3°C).

Wednesday: Morning sunshine giving way to increasing clouds and afternoon rain. High 52° (11°C).

Thanksgiving Day: Morning showers ending. Clearing skies and falling temperatures. High 50° (10°C).

Forecast by Michael C. Morgan

Compiled by Robert Adams

opinion

Guest Column/Arthur P. Mattuck

Evidence of faculty racism questionable

The wide circulation of the Black Alumni Survey and the national attention being given to it have caused concern to me and some of my faculty colleagues. I refer to those quotations from alumni which accuse the faculty of racist behavior.

Dean For Student Affairs Shirley M. McBay urges the faculty to get beyond the "denial" stage and address the issue. I don't think we're denying the possibility of faculty racism, but I for one am unhappy with the evidence for it that was presented in the report.

When the report on sexual harassment came out, it struck resonant chords; we all knew faculty with sexist attitudes, and we had heard stories. By contrast, the minority report caught me and many of those to whom I have spoken by surprise; I don't know of any racist mathematics faculty, and have heard no stories.

It is against this no-rumor background that the report deserves some scrutiny. The comments are undated, and it is at least possible that some of the most inflammatory faculty behavior reported no longer reflects the current situation.

Are comments accurately remembered? If "you" is heard or remembered as "you people," a statement not intended as racist becomes so. The alumni comments are presented in a context which implies that they are accurate, with no apparent attempt to check on their validity; isn't the faculty entitled to its day in court?

For me, at least, this is not idle carping; such carping would be petty, directed at a report which obviously represents a sizable effort and whose topic is so serious. I offer three anecdotes from my own experience to illustrate why I am hesitant to accept the report at face value.

Several years ago the same Differential Equations (18.03) exam was given in two successive hours in Walker and it was necessary to clear the earlier students out before letting the new ones in. An Asian-American was slow in leaving, and we exchanged some harsh, but non-ethnic, words. Two years later I was startled to hear that his whole fraternity

"knew" that I had a strong prejudice against Japanese students.

Many years ago, the mathematics department held up the graduation of a student; he felt this was unjust. A year later the case was discussed again in an Institute committee, and I was urged to give him his degree with "Look, you've already gotten your pound of flesh."

As it happens, I am Jewish and the student was obviously not. I was sure then and now that the faculty member who made the comment was and is not anti-Semitic, but after 15 years the memory is still fresh.

And, finally, in a recent meeting I remarked about certain difficulties that occur in running a recitation; several minority attendees heard me say that I and my colleagues "ask minority students easy questions," and were justifiably upset at what this implied about the faculty having low expectations of minority students. It isn't what I said and I don't have low expectations of any group or class of students.

The point of all this is the obvious one: whether we like it or not, in an emotionally charged situation there is difficulty communicating across ethnic or racial lines. What is said may not be what is meant, and it may be still different from what is heard. Care is needed in assessing reports of such situations, and some independent verification is called for.

As a faculty member, I certainly would like to know what the situation today is. If there are people who can give fair evidence, I'd like to hear it. Minority students should speak up if they feel faculty members are showing prejudice, and give everyone a chance to clear the air. Such speaking up can be to existing Institute offices, or to new ones if the administration feels they are needed.

Our department reaches all students, especially in their first year; I certainly hope and think that there are no difficulties of this sort in any mathematics classes, but if there are, I would like to hear about it.

(Editor's note: Arthur P. Mattuck is head of the department of mathematics.)



Column/Simson L. Garfinkel

Athena alternatives explored

Education, the final frontier. These are the voyages of Project Athena; its five year mission: to explore new networks and new configurations for high performance graphics workstations; to fund and to develop a new generation of educational software; to boldly go where no university has gone before! [music]

Not quite. If the goal of Project Athena was solely to integrate computers into the undergraduate curriculum, there were many other strategies that could have been adopted besides the one Athena chose.

If the goal of Athena was to get vendors to contribute large amounts of money and equipment to MIT, there were more efficient ways by which that goal might be accomplished. If the sole objective was the development of courseware, that goal could have been achieved without involving the entire student body.

Still another option for the Institute in 1982 was to resist embarking on a campus-wide project under the grounds that the technology was not ready for

such a project. This column attempts to explore each of these options. This column is not intended as a criticism of Project Athena; instead, it is simply an exploration of what MIT could have done in Athena's place.

Option 1: campus-wide timesharing computers

Project Athena was divided into two "phases." The first phase was the creation of a campus-wide network and the installation of approximately 50 VAX 11/750s. Each 11/750 operates as a timesharing computer using UNIX.

Phase II, which is just now starting, is the deployment of "workstations" around campus and the migration of user accounts from the timesharing computers to the workstations. Each workstation has nearly twice the computation power of a single 11/750.

The goal of using workstations has dictated the form and intensity of Athena's system development. Much effort was required in order to make workstations usable. From the beginning, faculty

and students have been told to view their accounts on the timesharing systems as transitional.

As an alternative, Project Athena could have chosen to remain with timesharing systems. The approach might have locked IBM out of a substantial part of the project, since IBM did not, until very recently, sell a computer similar to Digital's VAXes.

IBM's problems aside, Project Athena could have upgraded or replaced its 11/750s with Digital's newest VAXes (the 8600 and 8800 series). These computers can support between four and ten times as many users; they would have solved Athena's overcrowding and performance problems. The conversion would not have otherwise changed the way in which users relate to their machines.

With a stable and powerful computing base, the Project could have spent more effort responding to student and faculty criticisms. Instead of asking users to put up with poor services in the short term, using the excuse that workstations would be coming in a year or two, the Project

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feedback

Doubts insufficient to denounce SDI

To the Editor:

In a column appearing in *The New York Times* on Nov. 11 and reprinted in *Tech Talk* on Nov. 19 ["Need seen for 'Star Wars' advisory panel"], President Emeritus Jerome B. Wiesner and Kosta Tsipis categorically attacked all pro-Strategic Defense Initiative scientists by referring to their support for SDI as a "syndrome."

Their argument against these scientists consisted of singling out one of them, Edward Teller, and attributing to him two errors in technical judgment made in the 1940s and 1950s. The implication was that past flawed judgment of one supporter of a cause discredited all who support the cause.

This is a very weak argument: certainly any worthwhile technological proposal will win the support of some people with poor technical judgment; thus, questioning the judgment of one supporter does not contribute a plausible criticism of the proposal or any of its other supporters.

Another shortcoming of this column was that Wiesner and Tsipis treated SDI as a system. Though Reagan's SDI proposal in March, 1983 was more or less a system proposal, the concept has matured as other ballistic missile-defense technologies have been explored. One should view SDI in 1986 as a policy to defend the United States from ballistic missiles, viewing SDI as any one

of the many possible systems with which this policy could be implemented. In other words, support for defending the United States from ballistic missiles is not equivalent to support for building a satellite-based laser system.

Denunciation of one of the more exotic proposals for an SDI system should not be accepted as a valid substitute for a critique of the SDI policy. Nevertheless, Wiesner and Tsipis' acceptance of the popular, derogatory label "Star Wars" for all of SDI facilitates this substitution by making mention of the policy call to mind one particular vision which is then dismissed as "folly and foolishness." Other present and future missile defense technologies make doubts about satellite and laser technology insufficient cause to denounce the SDI policy.

Wiesner and Tsipis concluded that Reagan's "two goals, a space-based defense and a world relieved of nuclear threat, are in conflict." Hence, they accepted

Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev's insistence that SDI must be written off before any treaty is signed, while they criticize Reagan's insistence on keeping SDI. Why not accept Reagan's insistence on preserving the option to defend the United States, and criticize Gorbachev for insisting that the United States give up its right to defend itself from missiles?

Wiesner and Tsipis were correct that the president must "seek serious, responsible and uncensored technical and scientific advice from a panel of the nation's most distinguished and trusted citizens, including scientists." Hopefully he will find people who will give due consideration to all technological implementations of the SDI policy, and hopefully such consideration will be based on evaluation of the actual technologies rather than criticism of the judgment of selected advocates of these technologies.

John F. Pitrelli G

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Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without express prior approval of The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

The Tech

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opinion

Project Athena's road not taken

(Continued from page 4)

could have acted immediately to solve what courseware problems users considered to be serious defects in the system.

This option would never have received funding from either DEC or IBM. These companies would have had little to gain by providing MIT with conventional computing resources so that professors could write a new generation of educational software. Rather, one of the biggest payoffs for IBM and Digital will be the creation of a distributed processing UNIX environment — a powerful operating system to run on the next generation of computer hardware.

Educational software is nice, but it doesn't sell computers to business, and no company ever got rich selling computers to schools.

Option 2: personal computers

It is not immediately clear what educational role a campus-wide fiber optic network serves. Although electronic mail and instantaneous communication with other users of the system are fun, they are also expensive distractions. With the exception of software distribution, many of Athena's goals could have been satisfied if students carried their files with them on floppy disks or tapes.

A logical extension would have been to base Project Athena on personal computers such as the IBM PC/AT. Several schools have adopted this strategy, requiring every entering student to purchase the same computer (typically Apple Macintoshes).

Athena could still have developed fancy educational software; when a professor wanted to incorporate a program into a subject, he would distribute copies that students could run either in public clusters or in the privacy of their own rooms.

This approach would have substantially minimized Project Athena's operational expenses. Criticisms of this approach usually attack the PC/AT as a "losing computer," without defining the term very well. The PC/AT is a very powerful computer — as powerful as the workstations which Athena is now deploying. Newer PC/AT-like computers are faster.

A survey of the software currently available for the PC/AT reveals that personal computers could support programs of the style and power which Athena hopes to develop for MIT sub-

jects. For example, there are several excellent computer-aided design packages available for the PC/AT and a lisp which is faster than lisp on the 11/750.

Yet the PC/AT approach suffers from the defects of the mainframe alternative: it would not have mustered the support from the MIT or the corporate sponsors that Project Athena has, since little in the way of system development or hardware innovation would have been accomplished.

This approach would also have barred Digital from supplying a hardware base, since Digital does not manufacture a computer with price and power similar to those of IBM's AT line.

Option 3: research only

Another option for research in computers and education at MIT could have been just that: keep the project a research project, without directly affecting current students. The pay-off of the project would be several years away, in the form of software, textbooks, and entire curriculums which would be published and used at other universities and high schools.

Students would be involved in the project to the extent that students are needed to test software and to be experimented on, but there would no large-scale cluster such as the Student Center to unrealistically raise student expectations.

From the perspective of the outside world, it does not matter if Athena affects every student at MIT or just a few. What matters is how much of the Athena software gets out from MIT to the rest of the world. Of secondary concern is how the project affects the caliber of students which MIT graduates during the five years of the experiment.

To be an educational research experiment was never the goal of Project Athena. The irony is that many students believe that Athena considers itself to be so. The Project reinforced this attitude with its publication a few months ago stating that "Project Athena is an experiment; it is not a service."

A research-only project would have had greater flexibility, since it would not be important to consider wide-scale implementation of the programs developed. Many more of the applications could have grown beyond the limits of the "standard Athena workstation." Although parts of Project Athena do match these

descriptions, they are currently in the minority.

Option 4: no campus-wide program

MIT didn't have to have a Project Athena. While advances in computer engineering are beginning to challenge assumptions of the past 30 years, there hasn't been a revolution in microcomputers in the past few years.

Without Project Athena, computers still would have been integrated into the non-engineering aspects of the MIT curriculum, but at a much slower pace. Some of the current participants in the Project might have been better off if they had waited two or five years before embarking on their programs in order to allow the computational environment time to settle.

Of course, the wait-and-see attitude was never characteristic of MIT, and some departments might never have mustered the economic resources and technical expertise to accomplish even Athena's most modest aims.

Without Athena, the split in resources between the department of electrical engineering and computer science and the rest of the Institute would have been intensified. Almost certainly many students would have majored in Course VI simply to get experience with computers that Athena hopes to provide.

The benefits which students have received from Project Athena to date are actually quite small compared to what could have been done with the money, although it is doubtful that the money would have been available to purchase a conventional computer system.

Given the MIT community, the goals of IBM and DEC, and the current level of development in the computer industry, it is doubtful that any other project would have been possible.



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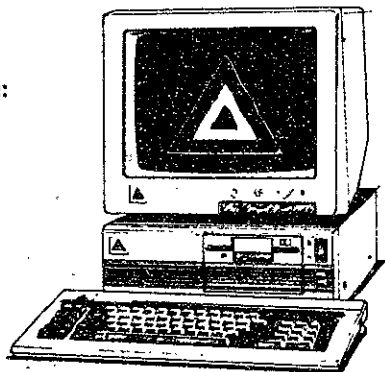
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Gabriel's success hasn't spoiled him yet

PETER GABRIEL
With Youssou N'Dour.
At the Worcester Centrum, Nov. 21.

By SIDHU BANERJEE

PETER GABRIEL has not abandoned his avant-garde, artistic approach to rock; this was made evident in his concert Friday night at the Worcester Centrum. After years of smaller clubs and a cult following, the mastermind of the original Genesis transformed his singing and staging into a larger than life performance that confused, numbed, shocked, inspired, and entertained.

With a set emphasis on keyboards (a computer terminal was placed next to synthist David Sancious' set), rhythm, and stage design that gave new meaning to track lighting (a set of tracks surrounded the stage, and lights placed on trolleys were moved and rotated from stage to audience in well-choreographed gestures), Gabriel turned the entire Centrum into a work of art pierced by his unique voice.

The song "Red Rain" was transformed into a light storm, Gabriel's chaotic rocker "No Self Control" finally climaxed as the lights literally fell on him repeatedly, and the fluidity of "Mercy Street" was emphasized as Gabriel, lying on stage, slithered across the stage with one spot trained on him.

The message in his lyrics was not at all understated. "Shock the Monkey" revealed the pain and torture of animal testing with a brilliant light show that swept out across the auditorium with every crescendo and reacted to Gabriel's manic movements in rhythm to the song. The simple lyrics and delivery of songs such as "Family Snapshot," an introspective tribute to the tortured minds of assassins, or "Don't Give Up," a song of hope and perseverance in the face of seemingly unbearable odds, offered some of the strongest moments in the concert.

Still, something seemed wrong with the show for the first part of the concert. Gabriel has never offered himself as a straight ahead, music-for-money performer, instead opting for a distanced, "creative" approach.

His motions on the stage during some of the early songs appeared too contrived to be rousing, and though the music was accessible the audience had the distinct impression that Gabriel was not. Even while mocking the attitudes of "Big Shot" successes with Phil Collins gestures and movements, he was saying, subtly, "I'm better than that, and I'm better than you."

The distance was swiftly bridged — and

the tension that had built up around that distance exploded — in one of the show's highlights, "Lay Your Hands On Me." The song began quietly and built up to the rousing chorus, at which time Gabriel offered himself to the audience, allowing himself to be carried away from the stage by the outstretched hands of people in the first several rows. As he was gently carried back to the stage the audience reaction was stronger than ever. It seemed all 10,000 fans lept from their seats and roared their approval. "Sledgehammer" took the crowd and shook them from their awe into a celebration of dancing and clapping. "In Your Eyes" highlighted the skills of Youssou N'Dour and his troupe from Dakar, and the closing highlight, "Biko," was delivered with a mastery and intensity rarely found in music today. After transforming the audience into a co-

herent mass, all waving fists in disgust of the policies of South Africa, he said only, "The rest is up to you..." and left the stage. The audience continued waving and chanting for several minutes, until the show was over.

We can be sure that commercial success has not converted Gabriel from his artistic, novel approaches to music and stage. Gabriel is one performer who, now that he can sell out arenas, will begin to offer an experience combining staging and music, the audience and the performers, and light and sound in unique ways.

As he came back after his final encore and bowed to the audience with his "cast," he returned the approval we lavished upon him in the final moments. He is still perfecting the big stage performance, but even now it is a moving, exciting, and entertaining show.



Peter Gabriel

Communism mixes with romance in Parisian film

ROUGE BAISER (Red Kiss)
Directed by Vera Belmont.
Starring Charlotte Valandrey and Lambert Wilson.
At Copley Place.

By PETER DUNN

"ROUGE BAISER" begins and ends with men leaving women to fight wars elsewhere. The mother's lover flees Paris for Moscow to elude the Nazis in 1937, while her daughter's love leaves Paris to join in the fight in Indo-China 15 years later. In coming full circle, "Rouge Baiser" asks: how does love sur-

vive in times of political strife?

Set in Paris in 1952, "Rouge Baiser" follows loosely the coming of age of a 15-year-old French girl, Nadia (Charlotte Valandrey), the daughter with a Polish mother and a Jewish father. Nadia loves poetry and takes after Rita Hayworth and Scarlett O'Hara. Her stunningly beautiful, childlike features and spunky, headstrong attitude remind one of Vivien Leigh — she seems to have the cold, resilient heart of Scarlett O'Hara but is also capable of tenderness when it suits her. Nadia constantly rebels against her parents, not caring that everyone knows of her numerous lovers and that many consider her a slut — but

this also reveals her immaturity as to her place in the pecking order in the world.

Most impressive about Nadia is her fierce, naive embracement of leftist ideology. She writes to Stalin hoping beyond all hope that he will write back, inviting her to meet with him. She makes slippers for the Soviet leader with embroidered hammer and sickle so that when he crosses his feet they will make out the Soviet logo. She sells leftist magazines on the street corner, attends communist party meetings, and belongs to a communist youth group. And she attends demonstrations at a time when the Parisian police try to stifle such protests, often quite violently.

It is at one of these demonstrations that Nadia first becomes involved with Stéphane, a photographer for what Nadia calls "that fascist rag," the *Paris Match*. Stéphane is taking photographs of the demonstration and manages to catch a few as the police corner Nadia and proceed to beat her to a pulp. Fortunately Stéphane stops them quickly enough to avoid any real harm to Nadia, but not before getting some juicy, bloody photos. Our first impressions of Stéphane are of a cold, heartless photographer who will do anything for a front-page picture. He lets Nadia get pummelled near to death for the sake of a good snapshot, then takes her still half-unconscious back to his place — but only to shoot a few more bloodied pictures of her.

However much we believe Stéphane's approach is unethical, Nadia in turn does no better. At a communist party meeting, she said that she was taken to the police

(Please turn to page 8)



Nadia (Charlotte Valandrey, center) participates in a demonstration

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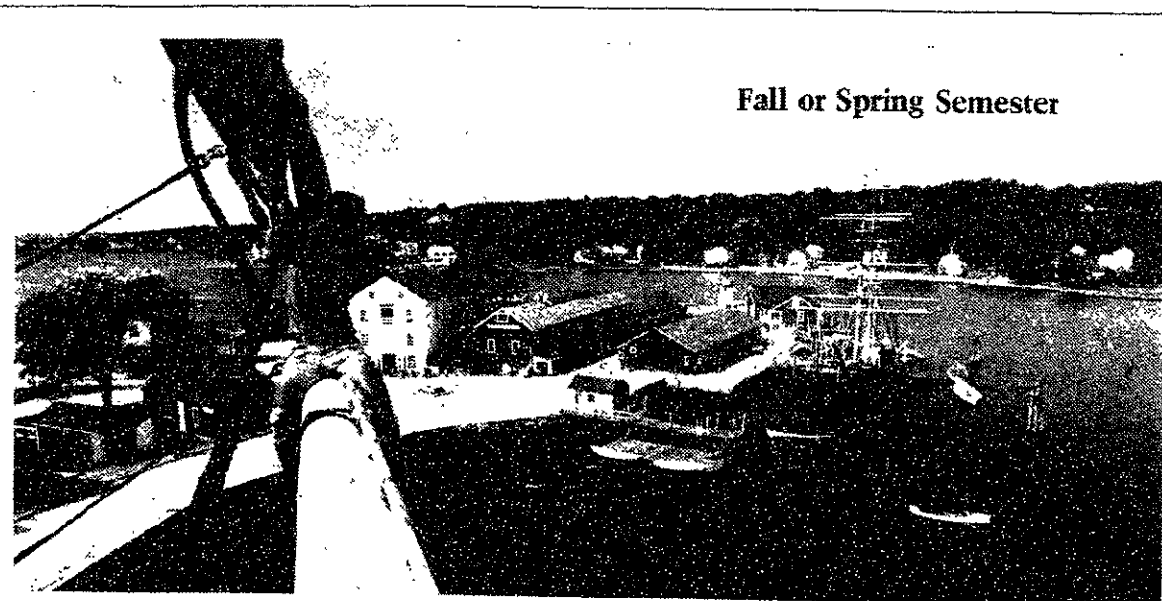
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Karole Armitage in *The Elizabethan Phrasing of the Late Albert Ayler*

Elizabethan Phrasing is a cultural hodgepodge

THE ELIZABETHAN PHRASING OF THE LATE ALBERT AYLER

Choreography by Karole Armitage.
Design, scenery and costumes by David Salle.
Performed by the Armitage Ballet at the Opera House, Boston, Nov. 20.

By MICHIEL BOS

EVER SINCE Sergei Diaghilev organized the legendary Russian Ballets in Paris approximately 70 years ago, their performances have been standards against which to measure success in the integration of the arts. In retrospect they stand not only as landmarks in the development of 20th century art, but also as the century's first great artistic synthesis — not to mention their role in communicating many of the new idioms in art to the public.

At the present day there are no more Diaghilevs around, it seems — nor Stravinskys, for that matter, or Picassos. But the idea of fusing music, dance and visual art in a single all-encompassing spectacle has not lost its attractivity. Clear, common statements from the various branches of

creative endeavor seem especially called for in the wake of the widely-declared death of Modernism. Put in this perspective, the present collaboration of Karole Armitage, an up-and-coming dancer and choreographer, with David Salle, a highly visible and controversial representative of the new painting, carries no mean promise.

A first fruit of this artistic collaboration, "The Mollino Room," was staged by the American Ballet Theatre last year, with Mikhail Baryshnikov dancing the lead. The second had its American premiere in Boston last weekend in the plush setting of the Opera House.

The title of this second work, "The Elizabethan Phrasing of the Late Albert Ayler," sounds rather puzzling. What common ground could unite saxophonist Albert Ayler and the Elizabethans? What relevance to modern dance for Ayler's death or past rhetoric? The performance opened with a generic answer to these and similar questions. Watched by a gigantic eye projected on a screen behind her, Armitage danced to the words of the monologue "Subconscious Mind" by hepcat (Please turn to page 8)

Pinchas Zukerman shines on viola and violin alike

PINCHAS ZUKERMAN

Recital at Symphony Hall, Nov. 23.
Event in the Wang Celebrity Series.

By EARL C. YEN

PINCHAS ZUKERMAN, one of the great virtuoso violinists of our time, displayed another dimension of his extraordinary musicianship Sunday afternoon. Performing before a nearly packed Symphony Hall, Zukerman played two viola sonatas to such convincing perfection that the audience forgot he was a violinist in disguise.

Accompanied by pianist Marc Neikrug, Zukerman opened with J. S. Bach's *Sonata No. 3 in G Minor for Viola da Gamba*. Bach's viola da gamba sonatas have equal parts for the pianist and violist, so that the keyboardist's left hand plays bass, and the right hand plays a second solo part. Zukerman and Neikrug performed the *Vivace*

movement with particular vibrance, and then settled down to play the *Adagio's* long, lyrical melodies.

With expected ease, Zukerman moved from the Bach sonata to Johannes Brahms' *Sonata in F Minor for Viola, Op. 120, No. 1*. The *Allegro* movement had a highly distinctive phrase, which Zukerman succeeded in highlighting. In the *Andante*, he beautifully played the movement's nostalgic melody while Neikrug accompanied him with concise, sharp chords.

When the audience returned from intermission, Zukerman abandoned his disguise and returned as a violinist. His first violin selection was *From Far Beyond Chrysanthemums and November Fog*, written by Toru Takemitsu, a contemporary Japanese composer. In some sections the work was superbly poetic, in others somewhat baffling. The one-movement

piece, which was unfamiliar to many in the audience, ended with a surprising question mark.

Zukerman concluded the program with a powerful rendition of *Sonata in A Major for Violin, Op. 13*, by Gabriel Fauré. The sonata rides a careful balance between passion and gentleness, a balance which Zukerman carefully supported. The first movement began with a lively piano melody which accompanies the soloist throughout. Playing with a more detached style, Zukerman sailed through the *Andante's* melodic, but uneasy lines.

But his best performance emerged in the last movements of the Fauré. The *Allegro Vivo* was marked by the bursting power of the original melody and the mellow tone of the middle portion. Zukerman played the finale, the *Allegro Quasi Presto*, with flamboyance, power, and assurance.

The audience begged Zukerman for an



Pinchas Zukerman

encore and received two. To signal his tiredness, Zukerman concluded his encores with a drowsy, but hilarious lullaby.

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Combination of Ayler and the Elizabethans fails to inspire

(Continued from page 7)

comedian Lord Buckley. A regular grid replaced the eye and a giant ring was lowered on stage; Armitage sensually went to pick it up and left with it. Thus the rules of the game were set: "The Elizabethan Phrasing" is eclectic, associative play, looking for its coherence to subdominant regions of the mind.

Buckley's voice returned later in the program with a "Hipsters, Flipsters, and Finger Poppin' Dandies" speech updating Antony's "Friends, Romans, Countrymen" from *Julius Caesar*. Somewhat later, against a backdrop showing 16th century ships, female dancers performed sporting tutus lit by tube light — an emblematic reference to the haute couture of a time gone by. So much for the Elizabethan age. As for Albert Ayler, he and Don Ayler ac-

counted for the music of the second half of the program.

Armitage had conformed her choreography to this diversity of inspiration. An affinity to classical ballet transpired, with women on pointe and clear-cut traditional gender distinctions. The movement involved a considerable number of quotations, from folk dance patterns to Oriental motifs. There was an ambiguity throughout as to the representational content of the choreography, which wavered between neutrality and maximal explicitness. Just as varied as the dancing, the imagery provided by David Salle involved motorcycles on film, dated kitchen appliances, a crocodile-like monster and much more.

Whatever the other merits of this diversity, it prevented the work from becoming

boring. Some passages clearly stood out. The second scene of the first half, set to Anton Webern's *Fünf Sätze Für Streichorchester*, with a backdrop featuring old lamps in an appropriately pale yellow field, was particularly attractive. A brisk choreography communicated fluidly with the dense atmospherics of the sound — but then, the Webern piece ranks among the highest summits in 20th century music. Shortly afterward, an meditative Armitage solo to a Japanese melody was accompanied by footage of motorcycle racers jumping their vehicles in a matching cadence. This confrontation of resigned restraint with canalized aggression brought the integration of design to its highest point for the evening.

But choreographic and visual interest decreased after the intermission, as the

ghost of Russian Ballets past seemed to have inspired a kind of "Petrouchka" pastiche. At the end, the big eye made a brief return, bending the work's tail toward its head and thus — perhaps unintentionally — stressing the problem of its overall coherence.

The latter issue was a crucial one, for there was no dearth of loose ends. "The Elizabethan Phrasing" is a cultural hodgepodge that barely exceeds the sum of its parts, mainly because, apart from some inspired passages, it fails to bring about that alchemy of the imagination that might glue together such a plethora of impressions and allusions. It is rich, but its richness resides mostly in a profusion of means. No Postmodern heir for Diaghilev yet, it seems.

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Love and the leftist ideology

(Continued from page 6)

station and further brutalized and taken advantage of by the officers of the law. Nadia and Stéphane are the perfect Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler, kindred souls who take advantage of their own situations to further their own desires. Nadia's beliefs dictate that she must hate Stéphane for what he represents but she is also attracted to him because they are so much alike.

As the love/hate romance between Stéphane and Nadia develops, their disillusion with their respective beliefs also grows. Nadia's blind faith in the communist way is shattered when her mother's lover returns after more than a decade to reveal that he was sent by the Soviets to Siberia for being a Jew. This is revealed through misty glass panes as Nadia spies on her mother and previous lover talking; at the end of the scene she finally gets a clear glimpse of the two through a broken pane and runs off as if, seeing reality clearly, she can do nothing but run from it.

Just as Nadia's growth into a woman and coming to grips with the realities of life is a jumbled mix of feelings and emotions, so too the film reflects this mood. In the tradition of the French New Wave, "Rouge Baiser" has a grainy, innocent feel to it, with a style that is dissociated and jumpy. This jumpiness aids to reflect Nadia's mixed feelings but is at other times at

odds with the passions of the film. Whenever the director tries to portray the romance between Nadia and Stéphane, the audience gets the feeling that though they may be physically attracted to each other, they are not truly in love and that they are only finding solace in each other's arms. Slow, sinuous tracking shots might have done a better job of reflecting the tenderness of the moment.

Although the film is touching in its innocence, this naïveté is eventually its major failing. Nadia is meant to embody all the virtues of the leftist ideology and her disillusion meant to reflect the world's awakening to some of the less pleasant aspects of the Soviet government. But Nadia is far too immature and her faith too blind to be taken seriously — to the audience it seems that Nadia's beliefs are only a passing phase of an impressionable teenager. This is partially redeemed by the fact that Nadia at times seems older than her years, but we are too often reminded of her age to long forget it.

"Rouge Baiser" is pleasant in its political dramatization of Nadia's coming of age that should have meshed its politics with its romance more efficiently. When at the end of "Rouge Baiser" Stéphane must leave Nadia, unfortunately the question is not "Will their love survive this political strife?" but simply "Will their love survive?"

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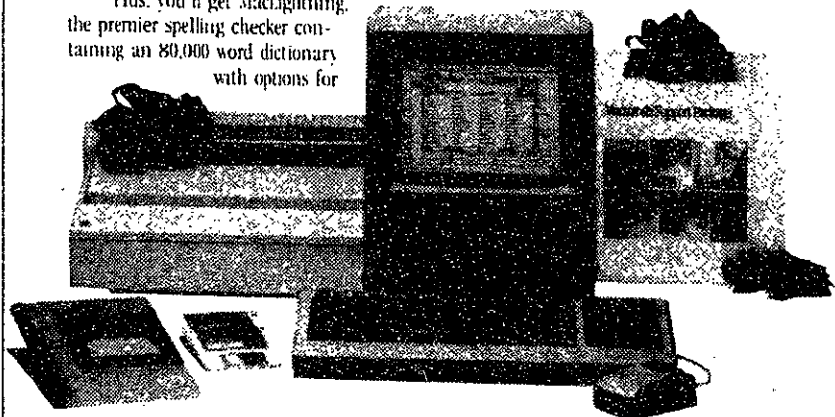
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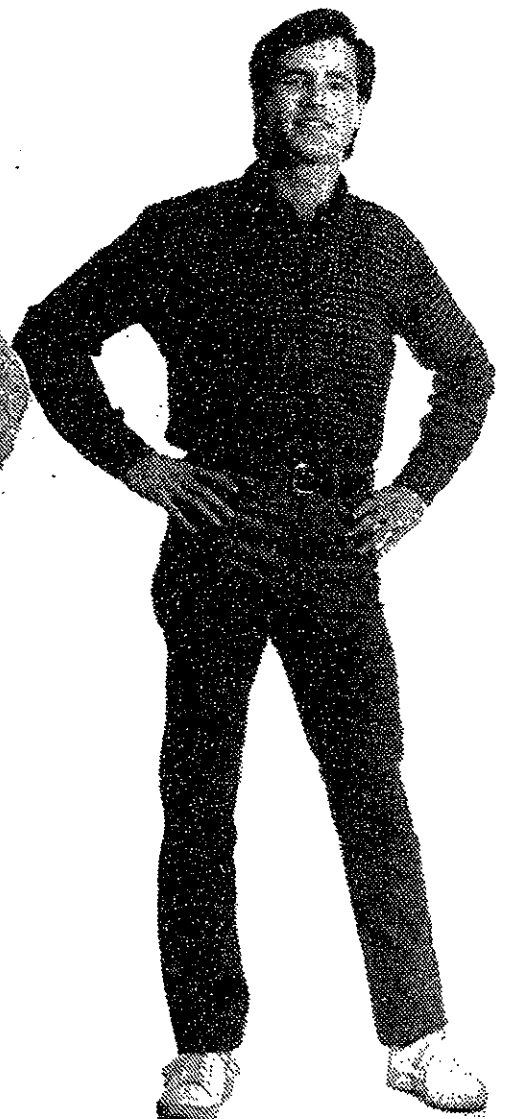
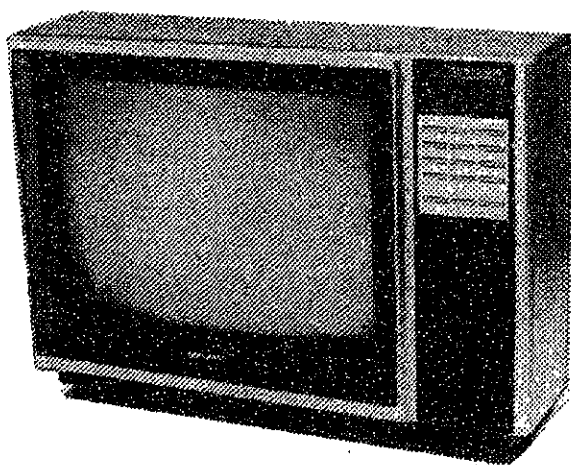
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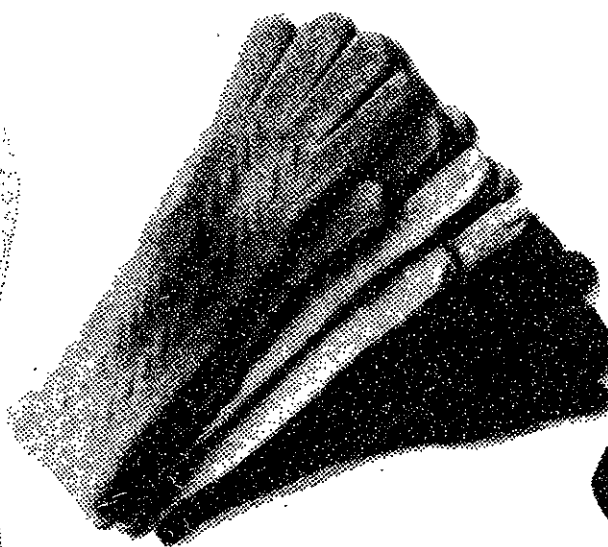
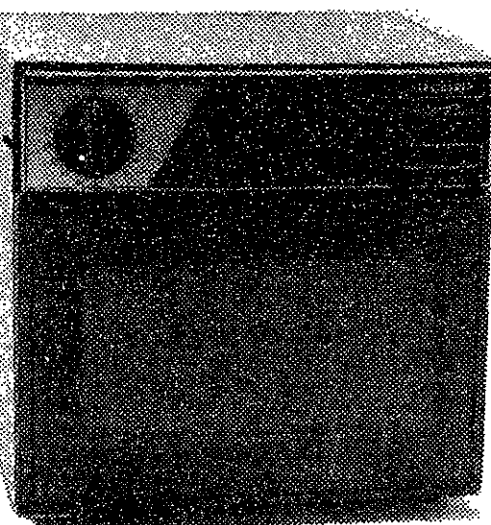
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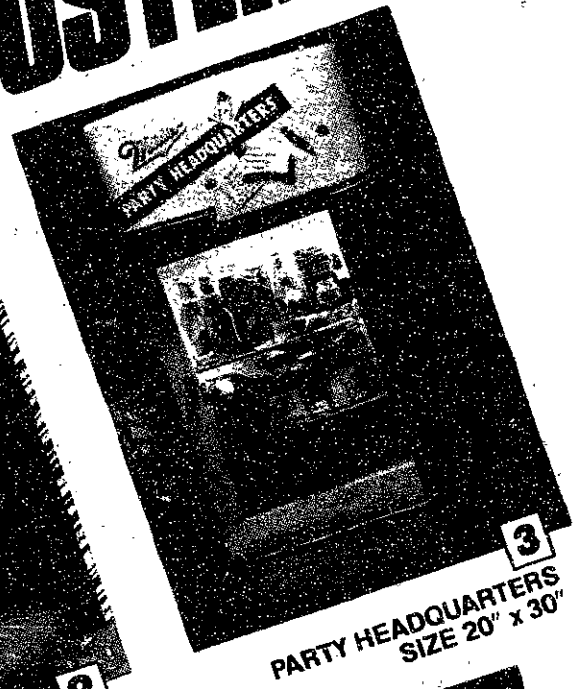
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