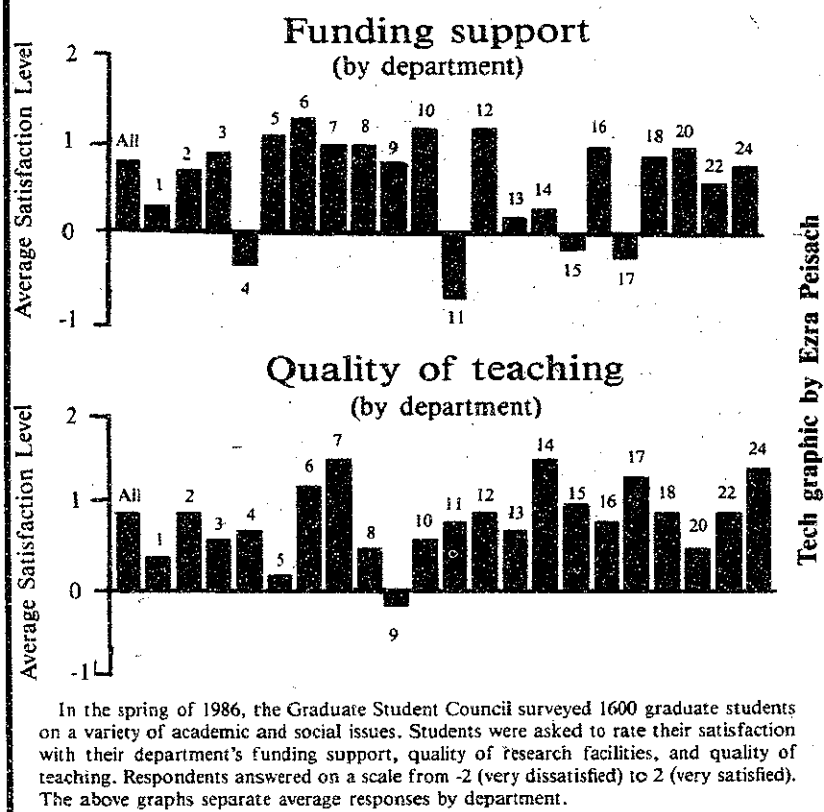


Graduate students' views on academic quality of MIT



In the spring of 1986, the Graduate Student Council surveyed 1600 graduate students on a variety of academic and social issues. Students were asked to rate their satisfaction with their department's funding support, quality of research facilities, and quality of teaching. Respondents answered on a scale from -2 (very dissatisfied) to 2 (very satisfied). The above graphs separate average responses by department.

Faculty debates HASS proposal

By Akbar Merchant

The Committee on the Undergraduate Program has proposed a new humanities distribution requirement which calls for a distribution requirement of three subjects, each in a different "field."

The proposal lists five fields: Cultures and Societies; Historical Studies; Literary and Textual Studies; Mind, Thought and Value; The Arts.

The faculty debated the proposal during Wednesday's general meeting, and will vote on the motion at the April meeting. Much of the debate centered on the definitions of the categories of distribution subjects listed in the proposal.

The proposal would reduce the number of HUM-D subjects to around 50, more or less equally divided among the five fields. This year MIT offered 156 HUM-D subjects in 22 fields. However, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences has reduced the

number of subjects to 98 for next year as an interim measure, Dean for Undergraduate Education Margaret L.A. MacVicar '65 reported.

The increase in the number of HUM-D subjects since the requirement was instated undermines the breadth the distribution was intended to provide, said Richard Cartwright, head of the Linguistics and Philosophy department, representing the subgroup of the humanities and social sciences school council that worked on the proposal.

The proliferation of HUM-D subjects has resulted in an incoherent definition of distribution subjects, Cartwright said.

Literature professor David Thorburn, however, charged that the vague definitions of the five fields will further confuse the existing problem with proliferation of HUM-D subjects.

The Cultures and Societies field, for instance, could include just about any course in history, any literature course that studies historical and social contexts and, presumably, some courses in linguistics and psychology, Thorburn said.

As a result, the present dilemma of what makes a HUM-D subject distinct from others will remain, Thorburn asserted.

Thorburn suggested adopting names from the existing academic map to reduce the vagueness. For example, the Cultures and Societies field could be called

Economics and Political Science, while Mind, Thought and Value could be called Psychology, Linguistics, and Philosophy.

Thorburn said that he will present a formal amendment to this effect at the April faculty meeting if the proposal remains unchanged.

Cartwright replied, "The proposal is vague and deliberately so."

The vagueness in the category definitions should not be alarming, Cartwright said. In a few years the categories will become clearly defined by the record of accepted and rejected course proposals, he explained.

The false assumption about the existence of a list of clearly categorized intellectual distinctions should be avoided, Cartwright said.

Cartwright said he opposes Thorburn's proposal because many things taught in the departments fit into none of the categories in the proposal.

What will come out of the proposal will be a mix of interdisciplinary and disciplinary HUM-D subjects, probably a 50/50 mix, said Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Ann F. Friedlaender.

Friedlaender also foresaw a fair amount of overlap between fields initially. After a few years, however, the 50 HUM-D subjects listed in the catalog will be new, not refreshes of courses taught now, (Please turn to page 2)

Graduates satisfied with academics

By Kenyon D. Potter

Second in a two-part series on the 1986 Graduate Student Survey. Today's story focuses on academics.

Graduate students are "moderately satisfied" with academics at MIT, according to a report from the 1986 Graduate Student Survey. The survey was conducted in February of last year by the Academic Projects and Policies Committee of the Graduate Student Council.

"In general, I feel that the report conveyed a positive message from the graduate community," commented Frank E. Perkins '55, dean of the Graduate School.

"The purpose of the survey was to allow students to convey their opinions about their respective departments," said Norman E. Wereley G, president of the GSC. Wereley said the survey had

been successful in "getting the facts [about graduate student feelings] out in the open." Approximately 1600 graduate students responded to the survey.

On average, graduate students felt satisfied with their departments, the survey indicated. However, students in some departments indicated higher levels of satisfaction than students in other departments. [See charts for breakdown of responses by department.]

Students were asked to rate specific areas of their respective departments on a scale: very dissatisfied, -2, to very satisfied, 2. The survey posed questions on a variety of academic issues:

• **Approval of MIT:** Students were asked about their overall approval of the Institute. The vast majority, 83 percent, believed they had made the right

choice in coming to MIT. However, 36 percent responded that they had "considered leaving" before graduation.

• **Academic quality:** Many departments fared well in satisfying student expectations in academics. The departments of electrical engineering and computer science, biology, physics, and earth, (Please turn to page 11)

New IFC board plans for next year

By Vance S. Hampleman

Although there is only one returning officer to the InterFraternity Conference Executive Board, IFC chairman Paul W. Parfomak '88 is enthusiastic about next year's prospects. Parfomak, of Delta Tau Delta, was elected chairman during last Wednesday's IFC meeting at Delta Upsilon.

"It's a whole new crew," Parfomak said. "A lot of the officers, though, do have considerable experience within their own houses."

Parfomak comes to the chairman post after having served last year as editor-in-chief of InFoCus, the IFC's newspaper. Before serving as InFoCus editor, Parfomak served one semester on the InFoCus staff. Parfomak has also served on the IFC hazing policy committee.

According to Parfomak, his goals as IFC chairman are much the same as last year's. Parfomak said that the IFC tried last year to improve the fraternities' community relations and to get more of the fraternities involved in the IFC's activities.

"We were able to vastly improve community relations last year," said Parfomak, "but there still remains a need to get all the houses involved in the IFC. We want the IFC to exist for all the fraternities; we're not an elite group. I think we can get more of the fraternities involved by improving the communication between the IFC and the houses,

and among the fraternities themselves."

One key issue for this year's chairman is improving the IFC's image in the eyes of the MIT administration, Parfomak said. Parfomak feels that although IFC/MIT relations are in general very good, MIT views the IFC as being divided.

"A lot of the fraternity/administration problems arise from a lack of understanding," said Parfomak. "We need to get more organized and present a unified position to MIT."

Rush is another big issue on the minds of fraternity members. Parfomak doesn't foresee the MIT administration making any changes in fraternity rush, although he feels the orientation aspect of R/O week will be emphasized. The high percentage of women in next year's entering class will again make Rush highly competitive for fraternities, according to Parfomak.

"There will be an even higher number of women in next year's class," Parfomak said. "Many fraternities will be worried about (Please turn to page 2)

Nimoy speaks to a packed Kresge

Feature

By Amy Gorin

Leonard Nimoy spoke to an adoring and enthusiastic crowd in Kresge Auditorium Tuesday night. His lecture, entitled "Confessions of a 'Star Trek' Lover," sold out three days after tickets went on sale, according to LSC.

He spoke about the history of "Star Trek," its impact on his own career, and his relationship with Spock.

Nimoy's career predates "Star Trek" considerably. Born in Boston in 1931, he decided to become an actor while still in his teens, a decision he considers himself "lucky" to have been able to make at such a young age. In

a pre-lecture interview, Nimoy said his interest in the theater stemmed partly from an interest in stage magic and illusion.

Nimoy first appeared on stage at the age of eight, in an amateur production in a now-closed theater on Charles Street, not far from MIT.

In his lecture, Nimoy claimed Spock attended the Vulcan Institute of Technology, a comment which elicited one of many rounds of applause from the audience.

Spock started, according to Nimoy, as an idea in the mind of Gene Roddenberry, creator and producer of the "Star Trek" series. Roddenberry had an idea for a show set on a starship in the future and wanted an alien in a highly visible role as a "constant reminder" of the existence of non-humans. Besides his prominence, Nimoy said, Roddenberry only knew "he wanted this character to have pointed ears."

Nimoy himself was intrigued by the half-human, half-vulcan nature of Spock. Vulcans, for the mythical MIT student who doesn't know, rid themselves of emotion after violence had almost destroyed their culture. Although Spock was raised on Vulcan, he still has a half-human emotional side. Spock's dichotomy (Please turn to page 10)



Mr. Spock did not speak in Kresge Auditorium on Tuesday. Leonard Nimoy, however, did. Marc Itzkowitz



The new IFC officers include (from left) treasurer Dara J. O'Rourke '89, chairman Paul W. Parfomak '88, vice-chairman Steven P. Margossian '88, and secretary Carol D. Arko '89. Victor Srethabhakti

HUM - D fields are vague

(Continued from page 1)
she concluded.

The proposal calls for the number of HUM-D subjects to be reduced to approximately 50, divided more or less equally among five fields. The use of vague terminology such as "approximately 50" and "more or less equally" is comforting, said Travis R. Merritt, director of the Humanities Undergraduate Office.

If we have 50 HUM-D subjects and someone proposes one more that sounds good, we should not have to reject it, Cartwright said. Also, there is no need for absolute equality between the five fields, he argued.

Professor Catherine V. Chvany expressed concern that foreign language is not included in any of the five distribution fields.

MacVicar quickly responded that under the proposal students will take five other humanities

IFC seeks to improve house involvement

(Continued from page 1)
filling their houses. This will make Rush even more intense and competitive."

The other newly-elected officers are Steven P. Margossian '88 of Theta Chi, vice chairman; Carol D. Arko '89 of Fenway House, secretary; Dara J. O'Rourke '89 of Alpha Tau Omega, Treasurer; Hayung Choi '88 of Chi Phi, Rush chairman; T. Tupper Hyde V '88 of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Judicial Committee Chairman; James E. Canning '89 of Delta Tau Delta, community relations; Steven B. Chanin '89 of ATO, financial advisor; Edward Devoc '87 of Delta Kappa Epsilon, purchasing manager; Jeffrey M. Hornstein '89 of Zeta Psi, programs chairman; and Timothy J. Collins '89 of DTD, alumni relations.

courses in addition to the distribution requirement. Students could take foreign language as a humanities concentration.

The proposal has the endorsement of the CUP, the Council of

the HSS school, the Commission on Engineering Undergraduate Education, and the Faculty Policy Committee, reported Professor of Mathematics James Munkres of the CUP.



Stephen A. Brobst
The Hoodoo Gurus headlined at Strat's Rat last night.

film forum

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John Esaki

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Bob Nakamura

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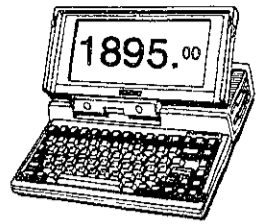
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news roundup

from the associated press wire

Nation

Reagan holds first news conference since November

Last night President Reagan held his first official news conference since November. Much of the questioning by reporters concerned the Iran-*contra* scandal that has dominated his presidency in recent months. However, little new information was learned. The President says he still doesn't know what happened to the money reportedly diverted from the Iranian arms sales.

The conference was the 39th of Reagan's presidency.

Senate refuses to block rebel aid

The Senate voted Wednesday 52-48 to reject a resolution that would have stopped \$40 million in aid to the Nicaraguan rebels. Administration officials had fought ardently for the defeat of the bill. The President's victory might not be a permanent one, however, because some Senators warned they would vote against future requests unless Reagan vigorously pursues peace talks.

House votes to raise speed limit in rural areas

Restrictions against driving faster than 55 miles per hour may soon be eased. The House approved legislation Wednesday to let states raise the speed limit on rural parts of their interstate highways to 65 miles per hour. Before the vote, opponents of the bill argued that a higher limit would mean more automobile accidents and lost lives. The vote was 217-206.

Cattle slaughter reaches milestone

The Agriculture Department's program to trim dairy production by slaughtering dairy cattle has reached one million head.

Under the program, dairy producers were paid by the government to sell off their herds and to stay out of dairy production for five years. The program was undertaken to cut the nation's big surplus of dairy products and to shore up prices.

Immunity sought for Poindexter and North

Congressional investigators have decided in favor of a plan that would grant limited immunity to two key figures in the Iran-*contra* affair. Former National Security Advisor John M. Poindexter and his former deputy, Lt. Col. Oliver North, would be allowed to break their silence in three months without the fear of prosecution. But until that time, independent counsel Lawrence Walsh would be in a position to question both men without granting them immunity. House and Senate panels are expected to open joint public hearings on May 5.

United States conducts nuclear test

The United States has conducted its third nuclear test of the year at a site deep beneath the Nevada desert. The Soviet Union responded to the year's first test in February by ending its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing.

Possible AIDS vaccine tested

A French researcher reportedly has given himself an experimental AIDS vaccine. In an article in the British journal *Nature*, he wrote that the vaccine spurred his immune system to create defenses against two varieties of the AIDS virus. American scientists are saying that the results are interesting but do not prove the vaccine works. Presently the AIDS disease is incurable.

Sports

Clemens rejects latest Sox offer

Boston Red Sox Manager Lou Gorman says the ball is now in the court of pitcher Roger Clemens. That was Gorman's response after learning that Clemens's agents had rejected the team's latest contract offer. It added nothing to a \$500,000 base salary. But Gorman sweetened the package of incentives by \$100,000.

Local

Girls outperform boys on state tests

Massachusetts girls outscored boys in the recent statewide tests of basic skills, according to state education official Allan Hartman. But Hartman was unable to explain the reason for the gender pattern. The tests were given in October and the exam scores went out to the schools earlier this week. They were the first uniform tests given in Massachusetts. The tests were given to 170,000 pupils in grades 3, 6, and 9.

Weather

Lousy weather

During the past few days our weather has been influenced by a quasi-stationary low pressure system positioned just to the south of the Maritime Provinces. If you have enjoyed such weather (most people haven't) then you will also enjoy the next 2-3 days. It looks as if this weather pattern will remain stationary until at least Saturday. That means that we can expect clouds, below normal temperatures, and even a little snow for our region until then.

Today: Mostly cloudy and not as warm as Thursday. High temperatures will be near 40°F (5°C) and winds will be northerly at 5-10 mph (8-16 kph). There is a chance of snow flurries.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a continued chance for snow flurries. Low temperatures will be near freezing with a continued North wind.
Saturday: Continued cloudy with highs near 40°F (5°C).
Sunday: Partly sunny and warmer! Highs in the 40s (6-9°C).

Forecast by Robert X. Black

Compiled by Niraj Desai

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Work to stop HUM-D reforms

To the Editor:

I want to agree with the letter on the proposed Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences requirement ["Speak out now on HUM-D reforms," March 17]. Yet I do not agree with the position taken by the authors of the letter, Bryan R. Moser '87 and Jonathan H. Gruber '87.

They seem to give all the reasons why some faculty, including the authors of the new proposal, are in favor of the changes. Yet they do not mention why many faculty are opposed to the new proposal.

Although I have only spoken to a limited number of faculty members about the proposed changes, given what they have said and my own reading of the changes, there are some serious issues that need to be addressed, if not changed, before the approval of the new requirement.

The major flaw of the proposed changes is the elimination of over 100 humanities distribution subjects. I do not know if these subjects would be eliminated from the curriculum or if they would have their HUM-D status removed.

But whatever the change, this is eliminating one of the major strengths of MIT's HUM-D requirement. I grant that some current HUM-D courses do not measure up to the HUM-D requirements, but I honestly think eliminating two-thirds of the current offerings is a bit much.

First, the creation of the five categories from which HUM-D's will be drawn would leave 10 HUM-D classes per category per term. According to the letter by Moser and Gruber, enrollment in these classes will be limited "to maintain the class discussion standard." Let's put the class discussion standard at 30 people per class (which is a large figure to have any significant class discussion).

As always happens, "popular" classes will be oversubscribed, while the more obscure classes will be undersubscribed. The assumption here is that all classes will have relatively equal academic demands on the student. With this, I see a significant number of students being turned away from these popular classes, unless many sections are offered. And if many sections are offered, the obscure classes will suffer from low enrollment anyhow.

So what has this accomplished? A small number of popular classes will be filled with students who would rather be taking another class. Many disgruntled students will not be able to take the class they want, unless of course they want to wait another term or year to take a particular

class.

This seems OK for the professors of these popular classes because of the high enrollment (there is no change here because the real popular courses already turn students away). But for the other classes, they will have a number of students who are in the class solely because of its HUM-D designation. This does not nurture an environment of strong student interest and participation in the class.

Is this progress? I really don't think eliminating the broad range and depth of the current HUM-D system is going to help make MIT students more well-rounded.

Now what about the five proposed categories from which the three HUM-D's are supposed to be drawn? The idea behind this proposal is laudable, but is the creation of five such specific categories going to achieve the depth desired, or is it going to amount to more arm twisting? With the drastic elimination of the number of HUM-D subjects offered, what if there is no class in one or two of these fields that really interests a student? Won't this amount to the student having to take a class in which he has no real desire?

Also a concern for the new proposal is the creation of common culture with respect to the humanities. The argument here is that with this new, limited requirement more people will be taking the same or similar courses so, at the dinner table, they can discuss the Biblical interpretations of "Crime and Punishment" instead of the new digital design they learned in one of their Course VI classes.

Well for what it is worth, the only argument I will give here is the argument of variety. What is wrong with having everyone take different HUM-D classes? Given the fact that many people are already taking the same classes, wouldn't it be a pleasant break to take a class and see different faces and perhaps meet new people?

Does MIT want to churn out engineers who have all been taught the same engineering courses and the same humanities courses? By eliminating choice in the HUM-D selection, aren't we just creating more carbon-copy engineers and helping to eliminate any diversity in the educational experiences of MIT students?

The counter argument is that the purpose of electives is to achieve this diversity. Yet in many of the engineering majors, how much freedom do you really have for taking exotic and different classes?

As I said, I agree with Gruber

and Moser in that the time is now to address the issues of the proposed changes in the HUM-D requirement. These are important changes and students should be involved. What I presented is an alternative to the proposed requirement, ideas which seem to be "band-aids" and "cover-ups" to the real, unaddressed problems of the engineering and science curricula and work-load, student culture, and the educational emphasis (or lack thereof) of the Institute.

Claudio S. Goldberg '89

ROTC, military defend US freedom

To the Editor:

The letter by Andrew E. Tauber G ["Protest of ROTC is not harassment," March 13] contained an underlying theme or moral self-righteousness which was undeserved and unearned.

Tauber has reached a set of conclusions concerning his activism and its status in the world which is simplistic and self-serving at best, and dishonest and destructive at worst. Perhaps the liberal left-wing at MIT ought to be "confronted with the consequences of their choice(s)." Unfortunately, many of the survivors would be found passing time in re-education camps, and thus difficult to reach.

Certainly no one relinquishes his or her right to reach independent ethical decisions upon joining the military; in fact, most of the serious practical discussion of ethics and law under conditions of war and conflict are to be found in military journals. Perhaps Tauber means to say that no one in the military reaches the same ethical conclusions that he has reached, which is not the same thing.

Neither does the military "perpetuate an institution that subjugates people to totalitarian regimes and threatens the world

with nuclear holocaust." The world is living under a cloud of nuclear confrontation due to a complexity of political, economic, and ideological conflicts. US support of distasteful authoritarian regimes has little to do with our armed services, and more with congressional and administrative policies, which is a different issue than MIT's Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

We might also ask what exactly constitutes "support", and when do we have a right or obligation to apply pressure for changes. Whatever criteria our nation develops for these situations, we should insist that they be applied evenly and uniformly.

This means imposing equally severe economic penalties on both the Soviet Union and South Africa, or speaking out against famine aid to African nations that misuse funds and appropriate food donations for their own political purposes as easily as we criticize Guatemala, El Salvador, or Honduras.

I am as deeply troubled by injustice throughout the world as Tauber; however I am unwilling to create artificial distinctions between "socialist revolutionary progressive liberal" injustice and "authoritarian fascist" injustice.

I am also unwilling to sacrifice the armed services of my country (and thus its ability to retain its sovereignty) upon the altar of "world community and world peace," when we have every indication that these merely constitute a facade for communist totalitarianism. It would be ironic if nationalism becomes the sole hope of the individual who wishes to avoid losing his natural rights to a despotic "revolution of the masses."

The world is a rather hostile place. The maintenance of a defense by a democracy is a difficult, and sometimes self-contradictory concept. Tauber should feel fortunate that some individuals are willing to sacrifice (voluntarily!) a limited number of their freedoms to protect his.

Tauber's true antagonists are not ROTC members, though he chooses to focus his dissatisfaction there. His basic and sweeping condemnation is that our current system, MIT or federal government, just doesn't seem to be obeying him, and so he and his fellow dissidents resort to louder and more visible protest.

Tauber advocates a "policy" of confrontation with ROTC members in order to "convince (them)"

(Please turn to page 6)

Protesters are wrong about ROTC

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to the three letters in the March 13 issue of *The Tech* by Andrew E. Tauber G, by Lawrence K. Kolodney '85, and by Richard P. Poyner '87, Daniel S. Gross '87, and John D. Gold '89.

The authors of all of the letters were generally opposed to the Reserve Officers' Training Corps ["Protest of ROTC is not harassment," "Demonstrators did not harass individual students in ROTC," and "Protesters are singled out for their views, not their actions"].

I will begin by clarifying a situation referred to by Poyner, *et al.* I was in 10-250 on March 3 when the protesters were singing. They were disrupting our lecture to the point where the lecturer had stopped speaking and was staring at the door. There was a general grumble of dissatisfaction from the students, but no one made a move to remove the distraction.

Preferring action to complaint, I stood up and began to walk toward the source of the noise (Yes, I was wearing an Air Force ROTC sweatshirt). After I began to walk toward the door with a friend following me, the students began to cheer.

When I opened the door the protesters were still making their noise. The verbal exchange between us was peaceful enough and the protesters, having apparently made their point, politely agreed to leave. When my friend

and I returned to the lecture hall, we were again met with a burst of loud cheering. This cheering may have been in support of the protesters, but I felt that it was in support of my friend and me.

Also the comment in the Poyner letter comparing the protesters to the Logarithms or noisy equipment is totally ludicrous. The Logarithms obtain permission from the lecturer and make their presentation before the lecture begins; they do not arrive unannounced in the middle. Noisy equipment is an integral part of MIT, and it also comes and goes rather quickly. If noisy equipment, the Logarithms, or a group of ROTC students drilling, were disrupting my lecture, I would confront them the same way I confronted the protesters.

However, the Poyner letter was polite and simply reflected an understandable misinterpretation of the situation.

The other two letters on the page were filled with below-the-belt personal attacks on the moral character of anyone who would choose to join ROTC. Kolodney calls ROTC an "organization which trains people to kill, at the expense of taxpayers."

Tauber is more personal and says that ROTC members are denied the "ability to engage in moral reasoning" by joining the military. Tauber further asserts that, "In joining the military, they relinquish their right to reach independent ethical deci-

sions."

I cannot speak for all ROTC students, but in my case none of these statements ring true. First of all, the purpose of the US armed forces in peace-time is the deterrence of war. The military is available to be used however the civilian leaders of our country see fit to use it. We do not make a habit of killing, but if a threat to our country arises, we are willing to kill or die in order to maintain our autonomy.

As far as the decision to join ROTC, mine was not an immoral one. I enrolled in ROTC because I love the freedoms which the United States offers me, and I feel that they are worth defending, or dying for. Not everyone feels this strongly about his freedom, but those of us who do are proud of our stance.

As far as sacrificing morals to join the military, I see no evidence of this in my fellow cadets. We all have strong feelings on moral issues and actually discuss them openly among ourselves. We feel that all sides of an issue deserve to be heard and we are willing to die to defend that right if we are called to.

People have every right to criticize ROTC, but I have an equal right to express my dissatisfaction with what they say. Keep on saying what you want to say and I will keep on defending your right to do so.

Brian C. Kitchenka '90

The Tech

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Friday, March 20, 1987

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opinion

US forces intervene abroad

To the Editor:

It would be nice if we all could share in the views expressed by Brad McCracken in his letter ["ROTC students deserve our respect," March 17]. Unfortunately, history does not bear out his ideas.

McCracken's "mission set forth for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps" is self-adulation and deception. Talk about the "highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty" can undoubtedly be found in the programs of analogous Soviet institutions. Yet one can well imagine McCracken's (or any rational person's) reaction if one were to quote the Soviet versions as proof of the Soviet military's lofty ideals and noble intentions.

McCracken states that ROTC members "ensure . . . the rights set forth under the Constitution." This contention ignores much of post-World War II US history.

Perhaps the military wants to ensure that the United States enjoys its Constitution, but it cer-

tainly has not shown much respect for human rights or even human life in Guatemala (1954), the Dominican Republic (1965), and South Vietnam and the rest of Indochina (1952-1975), all of which were targets of direct aggression from the US military.

The massive number of interventions carried out by the United States should dispel the illusion that the military exists solely to defend the homeland.

Also, the military is not displaying McCracken's values of the "highest responsibilities of . . . citizenship and government," when it arms, trains, and directs the Nicaraguan *contras* or the Salvadoran army which, under US tutelage, has murdered over 60,000 people during the past seven years.

In addition to actual defense of the United States, the military — comprised of conventional and nuclear forces — serves as a policeman for the US empire.

Organizations such as the Rapid Deployment Force and the Ma-

rines, and weapons such as aircraft carriers or amphibious craft serve offensive purposes almost exclusively.

The case of nuclear weapons is more complex. Undoubtedly, deterrence works at one level, but the US nuclear arsenal has another dimension. Every president since Truman, possibly excluding Ford, has considered the use of nuclear forces to extricate the United States from its various crises, which have usually occurred in the Third World.

The world has come close to nuclear war on several occasions. Most nuclear confrontations have occurred over the Third World, a pattern known as "the Deadly Connection."

This connection between foreign intervention and nuclear war is the single greatest threat to peace today.

The US military, of which ROTC is a part, does not alleviate the threat of nuclear war, but instead aggravates it.

Erik C. Mar '88

Class cheered for ROTC students

To the Editor:

I am writing in reply to the letter written by Richard P. Poyner '87, Daniel S. Gross '87, and John D. Gold '89 about the chanting by anti-Reserve Officers' Training Corps demonstrators outside Room 10-250 on March 3 ["Protesters are singled out for their views, not their actions," March 13].

The writers are under the false impression that the cheering inside was for the protesters. I was in that lecture and the cheering

was not for the protesters. We began to cheer when the two ROTC men left to stop their chanting. If the protesters had remained outside the lecture hall a few minutes longer, they would have heard us cheer the young men when they returned.

I am also offended by the writers' lack of respect for fellow MIT students. This class was 18.02 lecture, a required course and one which is rather noisy when given any reason. We lost

more than just "forty seconds of MIT education." The time lost was closer to five minutes.

This time is worth quite a bit to many students when they have a test in this class at the end of the week on which they want to do well. More importantly, regardless of the class, the protesters were trying to force their opinion of ROTC "down our throats" by rudely interrupting our lecture.

Sandra M. Schlipf '90

Seniors should fund activities of their choice, instead of Gift

To the Editor:

The Senior Class never once voted on the Senior Gift. "You are here" signs, at a cost of \$5000 for one, were chosen by a small committee to be gifts from the entire Class of 1987. Since no democratic vote was taken, actions seniors take about their class gift can prove to be the real vote.

Seniors are not obliged to donate or pledge money for \$5000 signs. Money can be earmarked for a specific campus activity, for example.

My money will be going to the MIT Endowment Fund for Divestment which is "a charitable trust that will accept alumni contributions to MIT, but withhold them from the Institute until the MIT portfolio is free of South Africa-related investments. Upon divestiture, these contributions will go to MIT. If MIT does not divest by 1994, the contributions will go instead to Amnesty International and the United Negro College Fund."

I urge other seniors to think about what message they want their gift to give (if they decide to give a gift). Instead of a gift with the message, "You are here," why not consider a gift that asks, "Why are you here?" You can make a difference if you want to.

Lori Locascio '87

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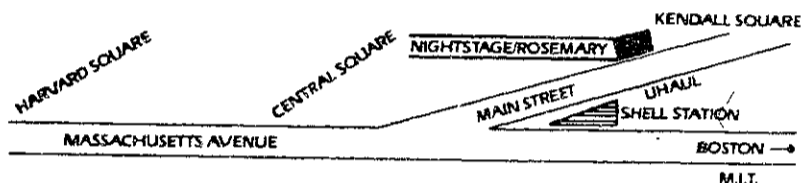
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opinion

Keyser details views on R/O

To the Editor:

The March 10 article, "Keyser: R/O Neglects Learning," by Eric L. Chang '90 does an excellent job of presenting my point of view concerning the problems with Residence/Orientation Week.

There are, however, two points which I would like to clarify. The article suggests that I have proposed to extend R/O by a week to ten days to allow more time for academic orientation. This is, in fact, not the case. I have made no proposal as yet and would much rather wait for the report of the Committee on Academic and Residence Orientation before I make my proposal.

Secondly, the article quotes me as having said that the Inter-

Fraternity Conference is not a good body to deal with long term issues relating to R/O, such as the effect that the changing demographics of MIT will have on the residence system.

I would like to expand on this. As presently constituted, the IFC changes annually. This means that there is very little institutional memory built into that organization. More importantly, the concerns of the IFC are predominantly local and male-oriented.

However, in the next few years, something like 40 percent of the student body will be female and the effect that this will have on the residence system will be profound. For one thing, it will mean that the fraternities will

have to put even greater effort into rush since the pool from which they will have to draw will be diminished.

Indeed, this situation will be exacerbated by the admissions policy aimed at keeping the size of the freshman class under 1000 in order to avoid overcrowding in the dormitories.

The IFC should certainly be a part of policy development when taking these changing demographics into account, but it seems for the reasons stated above that it cannot deal with these problems on its own and will have to be part of a still larger group which, as far as I can tell, does not yet exist.

Samuel Jay Keyser
Associate Provost

ROTC students are targets of leftist campus disinformation campaign

(Continued from page 4)

of their error." An audacious and rather authoritarian gesture, if nothing else. I feel confident that he would feel "harassed" if uniformed members of ROTC created a policy of confronting him with his errors, at their own convenience, or whenever he entered Lobby 7.

US college campuses are correctly identified with concentrations of socialist and communist opinions, disinformation, and apologists, as well as other idealistic notions (indeed, one would have to be quite an idealist at this point to continue espousing some of these ideas), and so it isn't difficult to find "mitigating circumstances" for Tauber's egotistical

and idealistic fervor.

It is an unfortunate truism that the atmosphere of academia breeds a contempt for democracy (or whatever close approximation we try to achieve), because "intelligent" people seem to assume they can govern better or more effectively than the common citizen. History seems to prove otherwise, though it has yet to be shown that the common citizen can govern himself either.

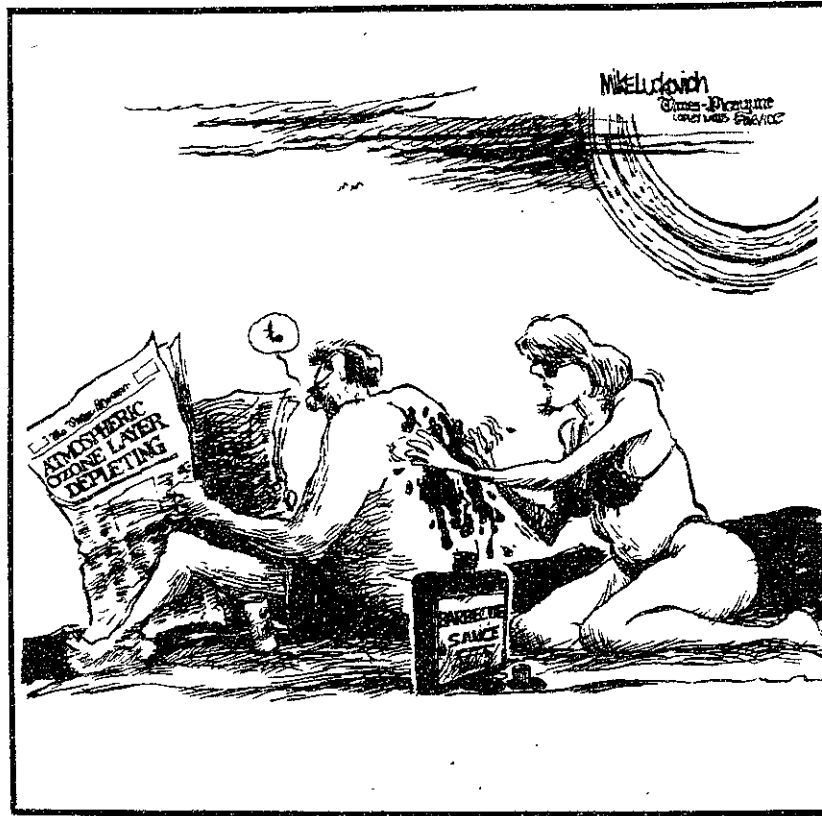
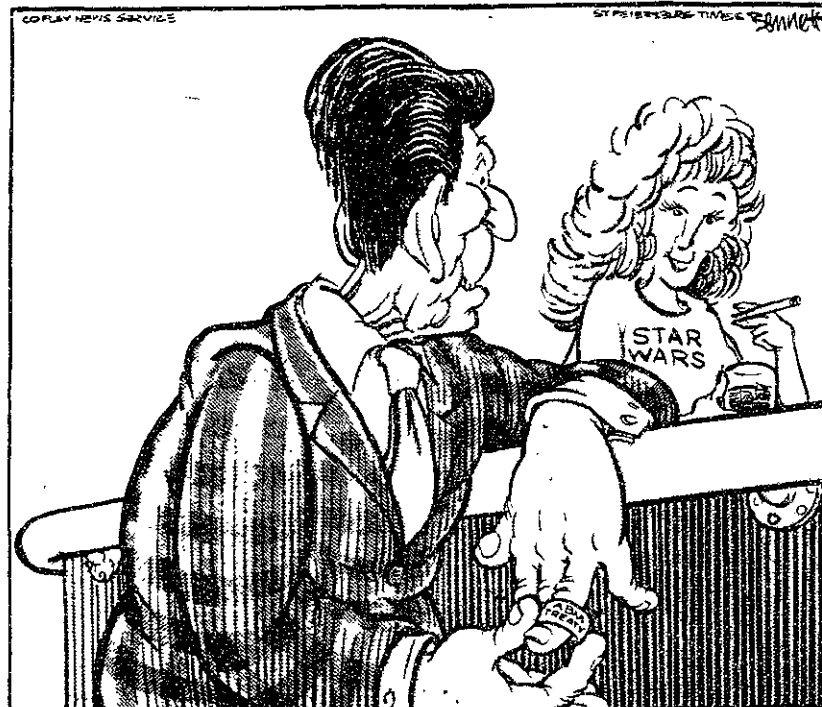
The point is that we should all be cautious about leaping upon issues in the heat of youthful idealism, leaving our common sense and historical perspectives behind.

The last point I wish to make

concerns freedom of choice. Tauber obviously wishes to demand ROTC out of MIT. Who comes next upon this hit list depends upon who the Marxists next target. Censorship in any form is despicable, whether it originates from the extreme right or the extreme left. Fortunately for all of us he has only the right to speak his demand, and none to enforce it.

While I'm not sure everyone is glad Tauber doesn't have to join ROTC, it is certainly illuminating that someone who so vehemently attacks Western-supported authoritarian regimes is so quick to demand totalitarian powers over your choices and mine.

James H. Ferguson G



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"Radio Interference"
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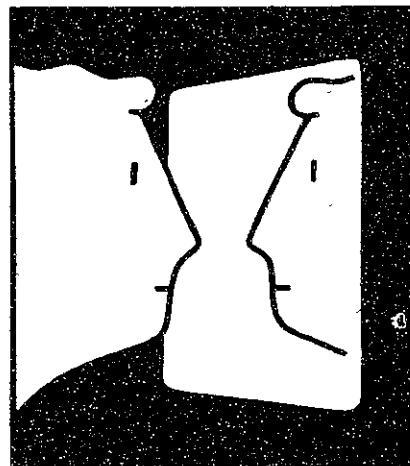


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In audience participation theatre, the media are the messages

RADIO INTERFERENCE

Written and directed by Chris Hardman.
MIT collaboration directed by Richard Leacock and Glorianna Davenport.

By BARBARA MASI

TO INAUGURATE its amazing theater space, The Cube, the MIT media lab has created its own media event. Lab director, Professor Richard Leacock, in collaboration with "Antenna," an avant-garde theater company from Sausalito, are currently presenting "Radio Interference," a truly high-tech theater happening.

Chris Hardman, the founder and director of "Antenna," is the inventor of a theater form: "Walkmanology." It is an innovative approach to the old idea of removing the theater's fourth wall.

Each audience member is outfitted with a walkman upon entering the theater. As the tape plays, a theatrical scene — a mood — is set. And, most importantly, the person wearing the walkman is told what character he will play in this scene. The "audient," a word coined by Hardman, is the performer making a reality of Andy Warhol's prediction, "In the future, everyone will be famous for 15 minutes."

In "Radio," Hardman and Leacock explored how media manipulate people and people manipulate media. Hardman's work makes up the majority of the evening's performance.

So what is "Radio?" It is a media mad spree, a carnival, an exploratorium with plenty to look at and things to do. The event is composed of 13 vignettes, each with their own stage set, appropriately costumed attendants to guide you through, and sometimes costumes for each audient to wear. Like a carnival, the audient can go to any of vignettes in any order.

Consider the piece which greets you when you walk through the door, "War of the Worlds," one of the most successful vignettes. Walkmaned audients step up onto a miniature dancefloor. The tape guides and the attendants strongly encourage us to dance; it is the thirties and we are infatuated with our new technology. And we do. We waltz. Then the tape tells us we are scared, we are being invaded, we have to run, literally, in circles, screaming. Silly us, we find out it was Orson Welles.

The tape, then, hazily, moves us through the 1950's; TV comes in 30-minute bites and, what do you know, it's the 80's and we are safe with our good and safe technology. If this vignette is successful, if you have entered into the spirit, and have worked up your adrenalin running in circles, you do get a little scared when the voice on the tape suddenly breaks off: the missiles are on their way.

People taking part in "War" were having a wildly good time. They laughed and screamed as if they were riding on a roller coaster. It was eerie, though, if you were

only watching silently from the outside.

The success of "War of the Worlds" was based on several points. They picked a historical event people were familiar with, drew interesting parallels between the past and present role of media in society. In "War," as we would find as we wandered from ride to ride, the medium, so to speak, was the message.

But, some vignettes drove home the message at several pictures per second. These were the carnival rides to be avoided such as "Inside My TV," playing on the visual image explosion of television, or "Media Muse," where the audient is told to sing along with the commercials. In both, images and TV icons flash across the screen with the speed of subliminal commercials while catchy tunes play on your walkman. The effect is audient headache.

"Eternal Fame" was merely kiddie dress-up. A large film screen was placed above a mirror and make-up table. The film told the audient the step-by-step secret of looking and acting just like Andy Warhol, the artworld icon who was clearly the god of "Radio." For the rest of the evening, Warhol look-alikes strolled about the room.

Several scenes are based on serious ideas about human communication, though the thoughts are not always clearly articulated. In "Singing Wires," the audient is told he's part of a military cavalry in the 1870's, predating telephones. The idea for the scene is quite good: with no communication established between civilization and the frontier, people reverted to a more primitive way of life.

The goal of "Antenna" is to create a

perfectly interactive theater experience. To do so, the group was hoping that the MIT contingent would help them solve the problem of synchronizing the timing of tapes so that each audient within a scene would hear different instructions and be given different information to react to. As it is now, every audient in the scene begins to play the same character since they all hear the same tape.

"Newsroom" was driven by technology to a greater extent than other vignettes, which only comment upon it. Several audients are given instructions to be a TV newscaster team, one for sports, one for news. They sit at the news desk and watch their media effectiveness on monitors. But, even here the synchronization did not quite work and everyone did everything. At the ugly close of the scene, the audients are told to commit suicide on television.

People love to watch themselves on TV, however, making "Newsroom" the most popular vignette. One audient, a Warhol look-alike, brought crowds of people round to watch him perform as newscaster. For an instant, he was famous.

Unfortunately, a vignette's effectiveness was mostly a function of the audients' mood and how hard the attendants worked at achieving audient participation. It is not usually clear what we are meant to be doing.

But, watching people go from event to event, they were clearly on sensory overload. And loving it. They all had these funny little smiles on their faces. There appeared to be a critical time limit at "Radio." Once you stay beyond that time

you can't act crazy enough, although earlier you were too embarrassed to do anything.

Though the event is billed as tying theater to tools created by technology in new ways, such ties were not apparent. In fact, "Antenna" spent more time commenting on technology than using it. "Radio's" more technically exciting effects were those created by Glorianna Davenport of the Media Lab. In "Talkshow," a camera focused on an audience member and a video film are superimposed. The result, seen on a nearby TV, is that you appear as if you were walking through a waterfall. Or, given a giant toothbrush, you look like a little tiny man brushing the teeth of the giant standing next to you.

"Antenna" is the first fully developed project of the Visiting Artist Program, initiated by the MIT Council for the Arts. "Radio Interference" was to be a collaboration in the fullest sense between MIT and the theater group. With this in mind, Leacock led an IAP activity to give students a chance to contribute to the upcoming production, the goal being to develop the Media Lab's technical tools for use in theatrical performance. Although MIT students' contribution for "Radio" is barely visible this time around, plans are to continue such collaborations with student contribution expanding and growing in sophistication.

In the case of "Radio Interference," unless you arrive in an exceptionally receptive state of mind, you will not be quite sure what you're doing there, but you will have a good time.



Movies on the town



★★★ **Angel Heart** — Alan Parker's occult thriller, with Mickey Rourke as the gunshoe hired by a sinister looking Robert De Niro to find a missing Big Band crooner, is high on symbolism, visuals, and sex, but ends up as a hollow, artficial "Friday the 13th." Lisa Bonet also stars in a role that will make you look at "The Cosby Show" in a completely different light. At the Charles and Somerville at Assembly Square.

★★★ **Betty Blue** — Jean-Jacques Beineix, of "Diva" fame, directs this French film that chronicles a searing tale of obsessive love and tormented anguish. The film stylistically follows the moods of Betty (Béatrice Dalle), alternately dark, angry, and hateful, then tender, apologetic, and beautiful. As with Beineix' earlier work, "Betty Blue" is gorgeously photographed in startling colors. Nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. At the Nickelodeon and Harvard Square.

★★ **Black Widow** — A psychological thriller starring Debra Winger and Theresa Russell, this film doesn't quite address all the issues it raises. Largely about the fascination of the hunter (Winger as Justice

Department agent Alex Barnes) with the hunted (Russell as a murderess of rich husbands) who is also a hunter, "Widow" never fully develops or investigates the sexual attraction between the two. At the Cheri and Somerville at Assembly Square.

★★★★ **The Good Father** — Anthony Hopkins stars in this wonderful, mesmerizing film about a separated husband's hatred towards women, his confusion about his own hatred, and his eventual coming to terms with his own inadequacies. At Copley Place.

★ **Lethal Weapon** — Mel Gibson is the "Lethal Weapon" and Danny Glover is his sidekick in this overly violent tough-cop movie which features helicopters, heroin-smugglers, head-butts, and three different types of martial arts. At the Cinema 57, the Circle, and Somerville at Assembly Square.

★★★★ **Platoon** — Oliver Stone's film depicting an infantryman's view of the Vietnam war is harrowing and spellbinding but depicts the war as a whole more honestly than it does its individual characters. Nominated for eight Oscars including Best Picture, Best Director (Oliver Stone), and

two Best Supporting Actors (Tom Berenger and Willem Dafoe). At the Paris, Harvard Square, and Cleveland Circle.

★★★ **Radio Days** — Woody Allen's latest entry again takes us to a recent bygone era in America but the many humorous episodes lack Allen's typical love/sex conundrum themes and so leave the viewer only partially satisfied. At the Nickelodeon and Harvard Square.

★★★ **Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home** — All your favorite space voyagers return, all with gray hairs, a few more pounds around the waist, and many years the wiser. Not all of the magic of the television series is there, but, unlike the three previous movies, this film takes a much lighter approach to the subject matter. At Beacon Hill and Somerville Assembly Square.

★★ **Working Girls** — Lizzie Borden's film tries to explain the motivations and realities of prostitution but, despite being an interesting concept, falls short of providing any true insight. At the Nickelodeon.

Compiled by Peter Dunn from Tech reviews

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ARTS

Good pickings to be had for Oscars night this year

THE ACADEMY AWARDS

By PETER DUNN
and JULIAN WEST

SO, JULIAN, REMIND ME OF WHAT'S been nominated for Best Film. All that I remember are "Hannah and her Sisters," "Room with a View," and "Platoon."

The other ones are probably the dark horses: "Children of a Lesser God," and "The Mission," both very fine films. I am thrilled with the nominations; I have been annoyed with the Academy for years, and they picked some winners for a change.

Rubbish — they've been picking winners, just not the ones you like. I personally haven't been unhappy with the Oscar nominations for Best Picture in previous years, though I've sometimes been disappointed with the other categories. But instead of playing Siskel and Ebert, why don't we decide who should and who will win the Best Film Oscar.



Best Actor nominee, Dexter Gordon, from "Round Midnight."

I know that your pick is "Room With a View" but it seems to me you're biased. Answer me two questions: (1) what do you have to say in favor of "Room" besides the undeniable attractiveness of Helena Bonham-Carter? (2) Do you think that the Academy will give the award to "Room" or do you simply believe it deserves the Oscar?

No, I just think it deserves it, and for a lot of reasons. It's a terrific story, and all the performances are great, including Bonham-Carter, but also including Daniel Day Lewis, Denholm Elliott, and Maggie Smith as well. Also, the cinematography is extremely attractive. And it isn't beyond British films to win the Best Picture award, although "Room" will presumably split the artsy vote with "The Mission." As for which film I think is likely to win, that's easy. "Platoon," hands down.

Sorry, Julian, but I've got to disagree on both counts. Woody Allen's "Hannah" is definitely my favorite to win. As with "Room" it has great ensemble acting and although the cinematography is perhaps not as attractive, Allen's use of camera work and *mise-en-scène* to evoke mood — e.g. the wonderful circular track when the sisters meet for brunch — is just as powerful as ever.

I must admit however that I may be just as biased by my infatuation with Allen as you are with Bonham-Carter. I think "Hannah" will win; as you are well aware, the Academy is more easily swayed by sentimental favorites (Henry Fonda) and oddities (Linda Hunt, playing a man) than by good filmmaking. Allen has made sev-



Best Supporting Actor nominee, Tom Berenger, from "Platoon."

eral exceptional films since "Annie Hall" won Best Picture in 1977, and I think that the Academy will reward him for these.

I hope you are right, because I really enjoyed "Hannah" too, whereas I didn't see anything special about "Platoon." It was supposed to be a new look at Vietnam, and all we got was more of the same stuff we've heard for a decade. The war was a bad trip, the United States did some bad things, and so forth. But "Platoon" seems to be Hollywood's darling right now. It also came out in December, while "Hannah" came out a year ago. Anyway, if the Academy wants to reward Allen in particular, it can always give him the Best Director award.

Now you've broached a touchy topic: how much credit goes to the film as a whole and how much to the director? It's a pretty fine line. This year I'm a bit disappointed by the omissions in the nominations, first since "Color of Money," "Round Midnight," and "She's Gotta Have 'It" were not nominated for Best Film, but especially since Martin Scorsese was not nominated for Best Director for "Money." His jumpy/fluid-camera style complemented the mood of the film perfectly. I still think "Hannah" should get Best Picture because Allen took a back seat both directorially and as an actor.

For Best Director, in my mind it's a toss-up. I think the award will go either to David Lynch for "Blue Velvet" or to Roland Joffe for "The Mission" because the Academy has a tendency to give the Best Director award to the more abstract, stylized, easy-to-see-the-influence-of-the-director films. But I would rather see the award go to any of the other three nominees.

Well, I'd like to see it go to James Ivory, because while "A Room with a View" is much the best work he has ever done, Woody Allen has made other great films, and Oliver Stone ("Platoon") will make more in the future.

But most people go to the movies not for the directors but to watch the stars. I really don't have a Best Actor pick, because I haven't seen all the movies. I adore William Hurt, but I don't believe he can win twice in a row. And while Dexter Gordon was good in "Round Midnight," he was by and large just playing Dexter Gordon.

As for Best Actress, this is my most confident pick: Marlee Matlin, Hurt's costar in "Children of a Lesser God." She was terrific, and the voters know that a deaf actress is not going to get another role that good for years. It's now or never. The rest of the Best Actress field is not strong — they are all women we have seen in other films, and they have all done much better work before.

I am in just the opposite position as you — I've seen the Best Actor nominees but only Kathleen Turner ("Peggy Sue Got Married") in the Best Actress category.

On Dexter Gordon I agree with you to a point. True, he was only playing Dexter Gordon but he was more than just good, he was fabulous. Moreover, it is hard to level against an actor that he is only playing himself since oftentimes that is the most difficult role to play. But the Academy is bound to choose either Bob Hoskins ("Mona Lisa") or Paul Newman ("Color of Money").

On one hand, critics have been charmed by the meteoric rise of the most unlikely of stars: roly-polly, balding, thuggish Hoskins. He was perfectly cast in "Mona Lisa" and the Academy might want to award an Oscar before he fades back into minor roles.

On the other hand, Newman is getting on in age — this is his seventh nomination, and he has only collected one honorary statuette. It's the Henry Fonda syndrome, but what's different is that Newman deserves the award. He once again proved his mettle as one of the great actors of our time in "Money."

As for Best Actress I can only choose on word of mouth. I've heard nothing but terrible things about the Academy for nominating Jane Fonda ("The Morning After") and Sigourney Weaver ("Aliens") and only mediocre praise for Sissy Spacek ("Crimes of the Heart") and Turner. It looks like Matlin is the shoe-in.

I'm glad we agree on something, even if you haven't seen the films in question. As for Sigourney Weaver, in "Aliens" she had to cover a lot of ground, most of it in raw emotion, but with a nice human angle.



Mia Farrow and Michael Caine in a scene from "Hannah and her Sisters," Woody Allen's film which is nominated for an Oscar for Best Picture.

However, I was astonished by her nomination. I don't think it means anything, other than to say that space epics have joined the mainstream.

My other theory is that the Academy felt that their nominations were too sensible this year, so they nominated "Aliens" for seven Oscars just to add a silly touch. And of course, it is going to win some, such as Best Visual Effects, and Best Sound Effects.

We should discuss the Supporting Actors and Actresses. With all of the so-called major characters in "Hannah," "Platoon," and "Room," who gets nominated for Best Actor/Actress and who gets relegated to Best Supporting Actor/Actress? Is it determined by number of spoken lines, number of minutes on screen, or star billing in ads? Or, as with 12-meter yachting, is it some esoteric combination of all of these?



Best Actor nominee, Paul Newman, from "The Color of Money."

Anyway, my pick for Best Supporting Actor is Willem Dafoe in "Platoon." True, Dafoe's co-star Tom Berenger was also very good, but in my mind this seemed a great deal to have to do with the makeup work as well as the acting. Despite Dafoe's sensationalized death scene, his performance in the rest of the film was a fine example of compassionate, earthy wisdom.

Michael Caine deserves to be in the Best Actor category for his performance as the infatuated husband in "Hannah," but his performance was too subdued to beat out Berenger or Dafoe.

I like Denholm Elliott immensely, but his character in "Room" is not so different from a dozen other characters he has played. It would almost be a career award. Caine, again, has had many other fine performances. I think Tom Berenger will get the nod because he was so much better in "Platoon" than he has been, and this may spur him on to higher things. I am not so sure that he doesn't deserve it, as well.

Like the field for Supporting Actor, the nominees for Supporting Actress are very strong — they are much better actresses, overall, than those nominated for Best Actress. Their roles were not glamorous or flashy, but each — except Piper Laurie in "Children" — added something to her film. My pick here is Dianne Wiest for "Hannah and her Sisters." She didn't really stand out in an ensemble piece, but her portrayal of the socially graceless, lonely younger sister was very true-to-life.

I really agree with you on this one — although fine performances were put in by the other nominees, Wiest really stands out in my mind. The only actress I can see giving her a run for her money is Mary

Elizabeth Mastrantonio from "Color of Money." Her subdued, pantherlike sexiness was very engrossing.

As for the other awards, I pick the French-Canadian "Decline of the American Empire" over Jean-Jacques Beineix's stylish "Betty Blue" if only because it was so intelligent. Best Original Screenplay is again a toss-up. Of those I have seen, I'd have to pick "Hannah" over "Crocodile Dundee" and "Platoon" simply because the script is so much wittier.

I'm with you on "Le Declin." But as for Original Screenplay, I favor Hanif Kureishi's "My Beautiful Laundrette," because it is such a strong script, and the film has not been nominated for anything else. It would be just one more award for "Hannah," which also has a fine script, but one which is really only shown off by Allen's freewheeling direction.

It should be no surprise that I think "A Room with a View" was the best adaptation, and I also pick "Room" for Best Costume Design.

I'm surprised you have no view on Best Score, because I think Herbie Hancock for "Round Midnight" is the clear choice. The Best Song must be from "Little Shop of Horrors," but I am surprised by the song they chose, "Mean Green Mother from Outer Space."

I guess that the score for "Round Midnight" is a good choice, but listening to the soundtrack while watching a film is one of the least of my worries. What's more, I'm a little biased by my love for jazz. Although you put forth a good argument for "Laundrette," I think it hardly a good reason to vote for it because it "has not been nominated for anything else." How about we sum up our choices.

Okay, for Best Picture you liked "Hannah and her Sisters," and I liked "A Room with a View," and those prejudices tended to spill over to other categories, like Best Director. But if people are betting money, we advise them to go with "Platoon." For Best Actress, we both think Matlin can win it, while you preferred Dexter Gordon as Actor, and I lean to William Hurt. We think the smart money is on Paul Newman, sentimental favorite.

Dianne Wiest will take Best Supporting Actress, while Best Supporting Actor will go to either Tom Berenger or Willem Dafoe for "Platoon." I fear that Oscar night on Tuesday will turn into a minor romp for "Platoon," which neither of us liked all that much, but you think there will be more diversity, with the five Best Picture nominees having a total of 34 nominations between them.



Best Supporting Actor nominee, Willem Dafoe, from "Platoon."

Nimoy tells of "Trek" history

(Continued from page 1)

omy of natures produces an "internal struggle," Nimoy said, which "we all recognize and identify with."

Nimoy recounted — to the delight of the audience — an internal discussion he once had with Spock about who was truly the one to whom the fans were responding. Nimoy denied, both in the lecture and in the interview, that he was tired of the role. He blames rumors to that effect on an irresponsible press.

While the development of the characters and the situations may have appealed to Nimoy and Roddenberry, the networks thought the first pilot "Star Trek" episode was "too cerebral," he said. It was not until a second pilot was produced that NBC picked up the show, which went into production in the summer of 1966.

The show, Nimoy said, had "the best of writers," and was dealing "with topics which would have something to say about our times." The network, however, had a different "Star Trek" in mind. Nimoy described a scene from an early episode which was more to NBC's liking — Spock, lying on a cot in sick bay, with green blood dripping from his forehead, saying "the monster attacked me, Captain." It was not, he pointed out, "too cerebral."

NBC cancelled "Star Trek" after its second season, resurrected it for a third season in a far less favorable time slot after fans mounted a massive letter campaign, and then allowed the show to "limp to a close," he said.

Nimoy continued his acting career after the cancellation and published two books of poetry, *You and I* (1973) and *Will I Think of You* (1974).

Nimoy had received considerable attention while the show was in its first run. Fans followed him home, deluged him with mail which he soon gave up trying to answer personally, telephoned him at home when he naively left his phone number listed, and dubbed him a sex symbol, though he said this last did not disturb him greatly.

Shortly after "Star Trek" began syndication, however, there was a "new hunger" for the show. NASA's lunar launch had lent "Star Trek," if not an air of reality, at least an air of possibility. Perhaps, Nimoy said, "we had been a bit ahead of our time."

In the middle of the re-awakened interest, in 1975, Nimoy published *I am Not Spock*. Fans of "Star Trek" began to believe Nimoy hated the role. Rumors began to spread that he was refusing to play Spock in the future and thereby preventing a revival of the show. Then, in 1977, according to Nimoy, "George Lucas did [him] a big favor."

Nimoy, who was appearing in "Equus" at the time "Star Wars" was released, told of sitting in a theater watching the movie and thinking, "I'm going to be getting a phonecall..." He did, and in 1979 the first "Star Trek" movie was released.

Nimoy was not entirely pleased with the movie. While the television show had preferred character development, during the filming of the movie, Nimoy said, the actors spent hours staring at a blank screen which would later be filled with special effects.

Nimoy's first indication of the plans for the second movie came when he was asked if he would like to "do a great death scene." His second came when he found himself staring at a picture of himself in the Asian edition of *The Wall Street Journal* (he was working abroad at the time). News of Spock's impending death had leaked out, and fans had published a protest in two Hollywood trade publications asking

why Paramount would want to lose \$18 million in future movie revenues.

Nimoy himself had misgivings about Spock's death. In his lecture, he described watching the finished "Star Trek II" for the first time, and wanting to walk out of the screening room because he "didn't want to watch Spock die." But, he said, he could imagine the rumors such an act would start. At the end of the movie, he saw an unexpected scene — the camera panning down to the surface of the Genesis Planet, to reveal Spock's undamaged burial tube. Once again, Nimoy said, he thought "I'm going to be getting a phone call..."

Nimoy not only appeared in the third and fourth "Star Trek" movies — he directed them. He was allowed to do so, however, only after convincing the president of Paramount, Michael Eisener, that he didn't really hate the Spock role and "Star Trek."

According to Nimoy, Eisener still believed the rumors.

While neither "Star Trek II" nor "Star Trek III" was as successful as "Star Trek I", "Star Trek IV" has already done at least as well. Nimoy said he wanted to create a movie which was "lighter in tone," a picture "with a romp feel to it." He didn't want "heavies" like Khan.

He did, however, want to make use of the concept of time travel. He also wanted the movie as authentic as possible. Among other experts Nimoy consulted were a brain surgeon, for a scene where McCoy must heal an injured Checkov, and Institute Professor Philip Morrison. Nimoy decided the movie should concern extinction after reading a book which warned of the problem of endangered species. He chose whales to be that species, he said in the interview, "because they are majestic, grand, mysterious, benign, threatened, and because they sing."

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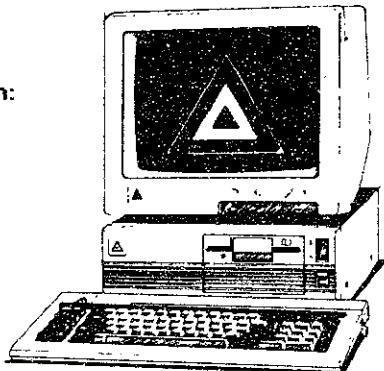
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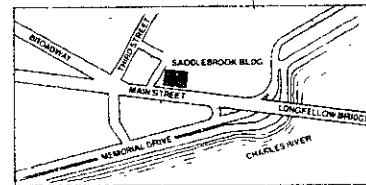
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GSC surveys academic issues

(Continued from page 1)
 atmospheric, and planetary sciences scored highly in all academic categories.

The department of electrical engineering and computer science found "no surprises or incidents of extreme dissatisfaction," said Professor Arthur C. Smith, graduate officer of the department. Students in EECS were "reasonably satisfied" with the department, he noted.

● **Teaching:** Students generally rated teaching highly, averaging .75 on the survey's scale.

An exception was the department of brain and cognitive sciences, in which students gave the department's teaching low ratings. "The former department of psychology has been merged into the larger department of cognitive and brain sciences," commented Professor Emilio Bizzi, head of the department. The survey reflects the teaching in the department before the merger, Bizzi explained. "New faculty in the areas of neuroscience and applied biology have been added and teaching reorganized to reflect the new department," he added.

● **Funding:** Overall, students found funding to be satisfactory, according to the survey.

● **Grievances:** "A majority of students appear to be unconcerned about repercussions or reprisals when seeking help within their department," the report said. Students were less satisfied with recourses for grievances, which scored only 0.18. Graduate administrators in some departments said they were surprised that students in their department felt uninformed about recourses for grievances.

The department of civil engineering will be holding an orientation next year to inform students about faculty who are available to discuss grievances, said Professor Ole S. Madsen ScD '70, graduate officer in the department.

● **Grading and evaluation:** Forty-five percent of the students said that their departments did not provide them with "grading and student evaluation procedures," the report stated.

● **Work unrelated to thesis:** When questioned whether they were asked to do work unrelated to their theses, two-thirds of the graduate students split their responses between "sometimes" and "never," while only 8 percent answered "yes."

● **Professional recognition for research:** On the subject of credit for research, such as articles in journals, 26 percent said they received credit "often" and 16 percent replied "sometimes," while only 6 percent said "never." Almost half of the students, though, responded that the question was irrelevant.

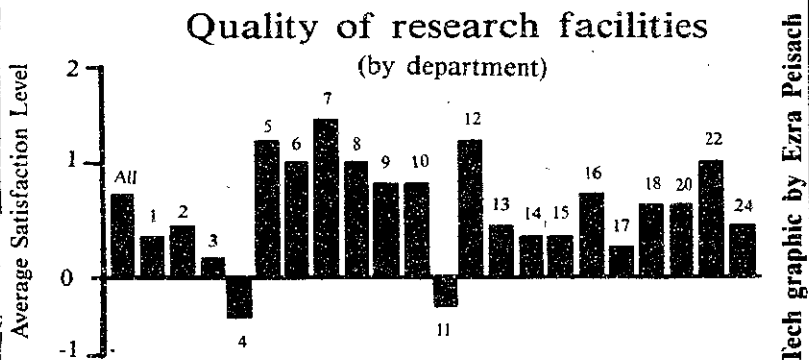
● **Adequate guidelines:** Seventy-five percent of the students surveyed believed that the departments adequately informed them of degree requirements. Thus, a quarter of the graduate students do not have satisfactory course guidelines, the GSC extrapolated in its report.

The department of civil engineering is expanding its booklet containing course requirements and information on RA/TA performance evaluations, Madsen commented.

The survey covered numerous other categories: research facilities; office space; course load; research guidance; and RA/TA workloads. All met with moderate satisfaction among respondents.

"The survey will enable the graduate departments to see whether they are providing the kind of education and training worthy of MIT," said Jong-on Hahn G, chairman of the GSC's Academic Projects and Policies Committee.

Graduate students' views on academic quality of MIT



In the spring of 1986, the Graduate Student Council surveyed 1600 graduate students on a variety of academic and social issues. Students were asked to rate their satisfaction with their department's funding support, quality of research facilities, and quality of teaching. Respondents answered on a scale from -2 (very dissatisfied) to 2 (very satisfied). The above graphs separate average responses by department.

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sports

Sports Update

Swimmers continue to set records

MIT women swimmers continued their season-long solid performances at the NCAA Division III Championships held in Canton, Ohio, last weekend. Yvonne Grierson '90 was named All-America following her second place finishes in both the 100 and 200 yard butterfly events. Grierson clocked a 0:57.11 in the 100, and a 2:07.17 in the 200.

The 200 yard medley relay team of Grierson, Laura Carter '89, Cheryl Sampson '88, and Anglea Polen '90 placed 16th in the Nationals. The relay team is the first in the history of women's swimming at MIT to place in any relay event at the Nationals, and Grierson's combined performance was also an Institute best for an individual swimmer.

Track member places in NCAA Division III Championships

MIT indoor track 35 lbs. weight man Scott Deering '89 placed fourth in the NCAA Division III National Championships held at the University of Chicago last weekend. Deering threw a personal best 53'4" to earn All-America honors. Wisconsin-La-Crosse's Terry Strouf's winning throw of 60'9" broke the NCAA Division III Indoor Championship Meet record previously held by MIT's Pat Parris '85. Paul Gaffney of Worcester State took second in the event (55'2 1/4").

Ex-coach nominated to Track & Field Hall of Fame

Former Boston University (1917-1921) and MIT (1923-1958) track coach Oscar Hedlund is being nominated for induction into the Track & Field Hall of Fame by MIT alumnus Alvin Gutttag

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'40. Hedlund twice held the indoor record for the mile in the years prior to World War I, ran in the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, was a co-founder and past president of the Massachusetts Track and Field Officials Association, and president of the Intercollegiate Track Coaches Association.

Spring athletic season starts

The MIT Spring, 1987, intercollegiate athletic seasons kick off Wednesday, March 18, at 3 as the Engineer men's lacrosse team hosts Massachusetts Maritime Academy on the Institute's new Omnitrurf field. This will be the first official intercollegiate contest played on the new surface.

MIT bball guard plays in NE All-Star Game

MIT basketball guard Martha Beverage '87 completed in last weekend's New England Women's Basketball Association Senior All-Star Game at WPI. Beverage did not score, but had four assists, three rebounds, and two steals.

MIT teams travel the continent over break

MIT athletic teams will span the continent over the course of their upcoming spring recess. Men's lacrosse and men's volleyball travel to California, men's track and baseball will be in Florida, men's golf will practice and play in South Carolina, and men's tennis will take a southern swing through the Washington DC, Virginia, and Maryland area.



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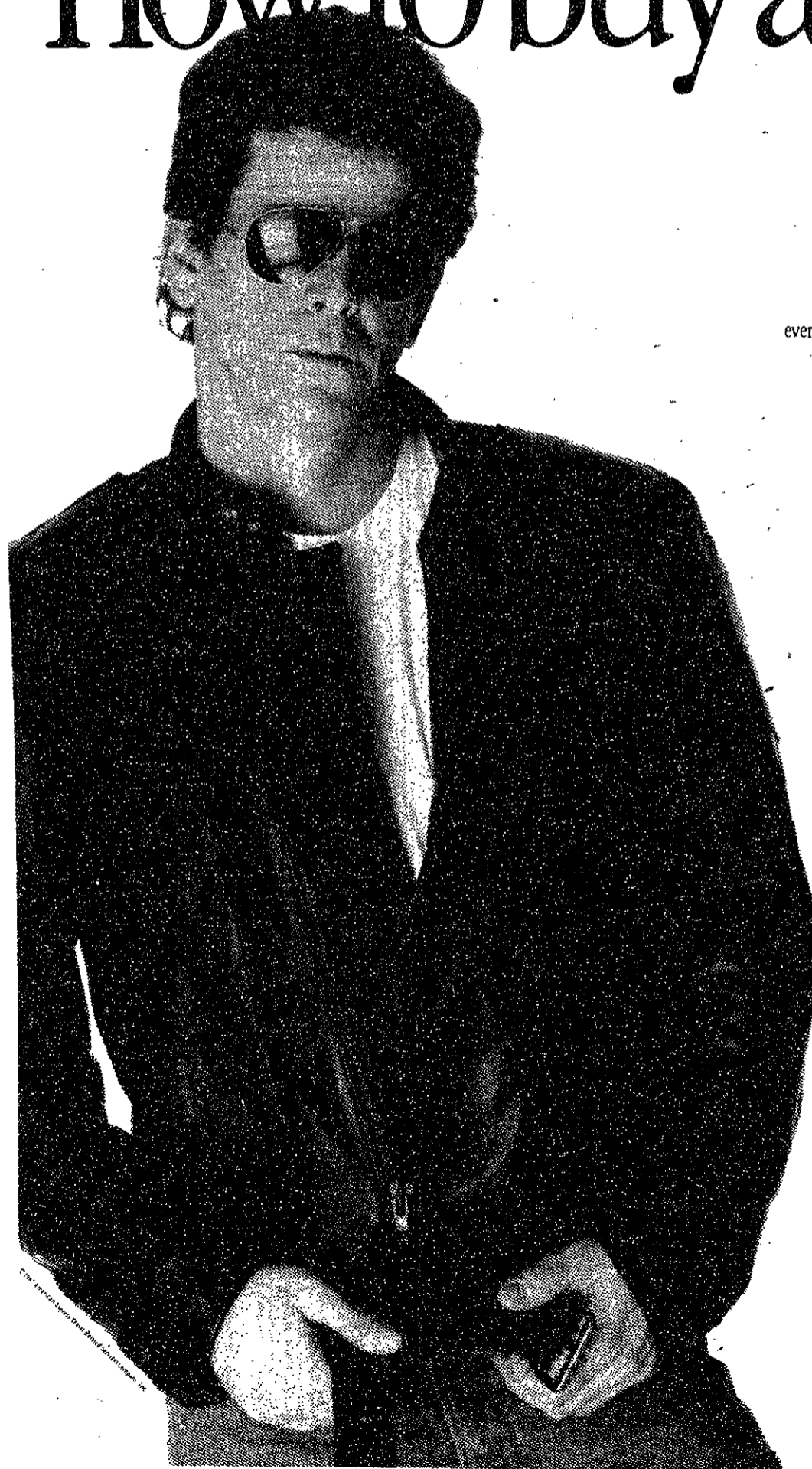
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