

## UA, faculty examine HASS-D changes

### Students fear haste in amendment process

By Niraj Desai

The faculty may be pushed into an irreversible step on the humanities, arts and social sciences distribution proposal because of the momentum the present proposal has acquired, Joseph J. Romm G said at an open forum yesterday. "The people behind it . . . [think of the measure] like their babies," he said.

The forum, sponsored by the School of Humanities and Social Science, drew approximately twenty students and ten faculty. Dean for Undergraduate Education Margaret L. A. MacVicar '65 urged students and faculty to make their opinions about the proposed requirement known soon.

The Committee on the Undergraduate Program has set up an *Ad Hoc* HASS Committee to study criticism of the proposal and to recommend amendments, MacVicar reported. The committee, chaired by Philip S. Khoury, professor of history, will report on its initial findings to the CUP on Monday.

On May 11, the two committees will meet again to discuss the reaction to those findings. Nine days later, the faculty will vote on the proposed HASS distribution requirement. That vote had originally been scheduled for April 15, but was postponed until May 20 to allow for more debate.

Romm, a former student representative on the Committee on Educational Policy (the CUP's predecessor), questioned the timing of the vote and the process by which it was being conducted.

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David M. Watson/The Tech

The UA Council discusses a student report on HASS reform last night. A final vote on the report will be taken next Thursday.

### Student group releases report on HASS-D plan

By Michael Gojer

A group of students, coordinated by the Student Committee on Educational Policy, has prepared a report suggesting that "there should be no numerical limit on the number of courses that receive HASS-D status."

The suggestion is one of several in a 21-page draft written by approximately 15 students, according to Jonathan Katz '90, chairman of SCEP. The report, which was "provisionally endorsed" by the Undergraduate Association Council last night, critiques the current HASS-D proposal before the faculty, considers several alternatives to the proposal, and discusses the role of the students in the curriculum reform process.

Katz stressed that the report does not recommend a specific proposal to the faculty but, rather, presents a collection of ideas that merit consideration.

One recommendation in the report is that special student/faculty committees could screen courses for distribution status.

The committees would be charged with approving new subjects for distribution status as well as upholding the standards of courses already granted distribution status, the report recommends. All courses would be required to reapply for distribution status periodically, perhaps every three years. To avoid falling under the sway of departmental politics, the committees would be organized on levels slightly higher than departmental boundaries.

Furthermore, "courses should not be excluded from HASS-D

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## Professors write new HASS-D plan

By Katie Schwarz

A group of nine faculty members has proposed a humanities, arts and social sciences distribution requirement with no limit on the number of distribution subjects. They plan to work toward a compromise with the Committee on the Undergraduate Program, according to group member Claire J. Kramsch, head of the foreign languages and literature faculty.

The CUP called for a maximum of about 10 HASS-D subjects in each of five interdisciplin-

ary categories in its proposal made in March. A student would be required to take HASS-D courses in any three of the five categories.

The alternate proposal would require one distribution subject in Humanities, one in Social Sciences, and a third in any HASS program or section except the ones where the other two distribution subjects were taken.

See text of alternate proposal, page 15.

The group's chief objections to

the CUP plan concern the five categories and the cap on subjects, its alternate proposal indicates. The CUP's category system would not ensure breadth because the categories are vague and students need sample only three of the five, bypassing the others, the alternate proposal contends.

Many students and faculty have attacked the cap on distribution subjects. Foreign language faculty have said the cap would unfairly treat the five languages they teach as a unit, sharply restricting the number of HASS-D's they could offer. Twenty for-

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## UA formulates student activities fee

By Joel H. Friedman

The Undergraduate Association is developing a plan for an undergraduate activities fee, according to UA President Manuel Rodriguez '89. The fee would appear on all undergraduates' bills and would go directly to the UA for distribution to various student groups, he explained.

Presently, funding for activities comes from an allocation by the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs. The \$56,300 allocated for the current academic year comes to only about \$13 out of each student's tuition, Rodriguez said. The budget during the 1960s was around \$60,000 per year, which is equivalent to \$250,000 today, he said.

The UA Finance Board is responsible for answering requests from student groups for funding. Requests for the past year totaled \$148,000, said Dean S. Ebesu '89, chairman of Finance Board. Only \$70,000 was granted, and the total grants this year dipped into the UA's invested reserves, Ebesu said.

Many reasonable applications had to be refused, and some of the initial appropriations were subsequently reduced, he added.

The UA elections in March included a referendum question about funding for activities. Of the 1492 students responding, 86 percent felt that the Institute should investigate ways to increase funds for activities.

When the UA formulates a specific plan for an activities fee, it will hold another referendum, Rodriguez said. After receiving approval from undergraduates and the ODSA, a proposal would still need the approval of the MIT Corporation, he said.

The alternative to the fee is to request an increased allocation from the ODSA, Ebesu said. The UA is presently pursuing this course to increase its budget, Rodriguez said. But this step is merely a temporary solution while the fee is being considered, Rodriguez said.

An increase in the ODSA allocation would ease the pressure on student activities to seek alternate sources of funding, Ebesu said. However, the activities fee would "give the students autonomy because we will be entirely self-funded," he added.

Rodriguez said that since the activities funding will come directly from the students, instead of the ODSA, "student representatives will be more accountable to the student body."

### Activities fee first proposed in 1983

The student activities fee was discussed in 1983 following a recommendation by the MIT Corporation Visiting Committee, which felt that that involvement in student activities could be increased through more funding.

"While there is no panacea for the allocation of resources to student activities, we suggest that students and ODSA explore the appropriateness of an activities fee at MIT," the Visiting Committee's report stated.

The need for a larger UA budget was discussed in detail at a forum during the Student Life At MIT week in February, according to Ebesu. Students discussed the initiation of a student activities fee.

Rodriguez explained that

SLaM itself was an example of an activity affected by the low budget. As one of the organizers, he had to go from office to office trying to raise the necessary money. The time spent fund-raising for an activity could better be spent on organizing it, he said.

Additional funding of activities could increase community spirit at MIT, Rodriguez said. "It's very good that living groups are very active inside, but I think that there is a need also to have a lot more going on campus-wide."

While Rodriguez would like to see the fee implemented by the 1988-89 academic year, he cautioned, "It's something that the undergrads have to like." The UA has to explain the benefits to students in order to generate support for the fee, Rodriguez said.

## Teach-in criticizes US policy in Central America

By Jai Young Kim

Speakers at the April 21 teach-in on Central America and South Africa encouraged MIT community members to go to Washington for the Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and South Africa rally which was held last Saturday in Washington.

The teach-in, sponsored by the MIT Political Science Committee on Central America and CASA, included Martin Diskin, professor of anthropology; Wayne O'Neil, professor of linguistics; Roxana Pastor, founder of the Honduras Information Center; and Fahamisha Brown, director of the Free South Africa Movement in Boston.

The teach-in's main purpose, according to Diskin, was to educate the people in preparation for last Saturday's march. About 50 people attended the teach-in, which was held in 26-100.

Diskin, who worked with the Peace and Justice Movement in Central America, criticized US foreign policy in Central America



Kyle G. Peltonen/The Tech

The ARCO Solar Car is MIT's entry into the international solar car race, Tour de Sol '87, a six-day, 400 km race across Switzerland. The MIT entry, designed by James D. Worden '89, is only the second US entry ever. The first, which raced in Tour de Sol '86, was also designed by Worden. The car is powered by a 480-watt solar panel and 4800 watt-hours of battery power. It will be capable of speeds up to 165 km/h.

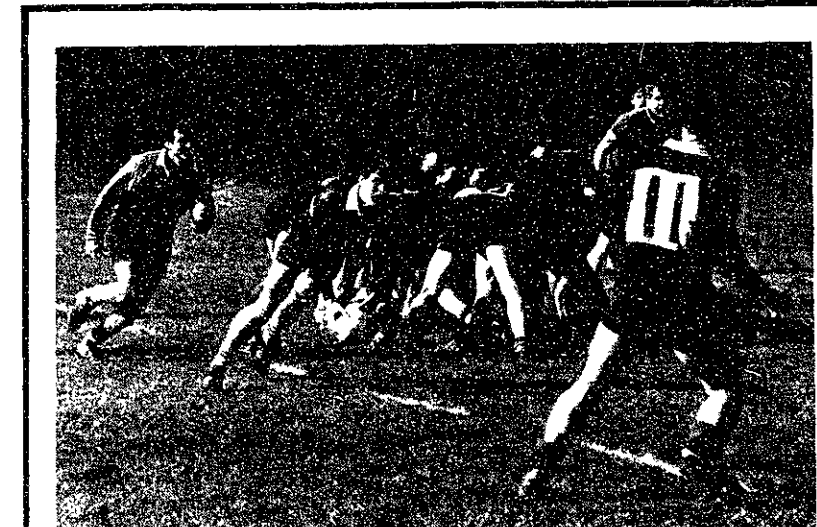
## Teach-in criticizes US policy in Central America

under the Reagan Administration. If the Reagan Doctrine were really the "impulse of American democracy in Central America" as the Administration tries to portray it, the civilians in El Salvador would have greater control

of American aid, Diskin argued.

Diskin noted that Reagan's policy has resulted in a poor image of the United States in Central America. "The political vision that's being projected into

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Mark D. Virtue/The Tech

Damian M. Saccocio G dive-passes the ball to Shawn A. Routhier '83 during Saturday's final vs. Babson in the Babson Rugby Tournament. MIT won the game 29-3 as well as the tournament.

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# With or without you, to Washington I go

## Reporter's Notebook

By Thomas T. Huang

WASHINGTON — With or without you, to Washington I go. This is what I say, in the dark hours, thinking about you. But awaking from fragmentary, misspent dreams to the smell of bus exhaust and sleeping bodies, to the thumping beat of the rap music played on a portable radio by a young man in the back, I shove my belongings into my backpack and pull out my notebook.

It is Saturday morning, April 25.

My pen tries to shape the events, to make a sense of things. But at this moment I am convinced (as Joan Didion was in the late 1960s) that all things fall apart — political systems, presidential administrations, relationships, what have you — and that protests are merely a sideshow to this disintegration. As the poet W. B. Yeats once wrote:

*Turning and turning in the widening gyre  
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;  
Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,  
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.*



The road is long for the reporter. But the times move the spirit. For it is on this day that an estimated 100,000 demonstrators are converging upon DC to protest American policy in Central America and South Africa. The march is also a prelude to Monday, on which one thousand people will take part in civil disobedience action outside the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Langley, VA.

A short, stocky man in the next seat sips white wine from a canteen hung around his neck to cool himself from the heat of the bus, a heat that lingers and clings to you like cigarette smoke to cloth. A little black boy plays with the reading lights above his seat, turning them on and off, on and off, and squirms to hide when he spots someone observing him. The man from the Union of School Bus Drivers is still asleep.

It's been nine hours since we left from the dark paths and trees and statues of Boston Common. At 7 am, we arrive at the parking lot of the Robert F. Kennedy Stadium. One train and about 20 busloads of people have come from Boston.

We are invaders, really, crossing the border into DC. In this city of political dreams and impoverished reality, of broad avenues lined with soon-to-be-blooming cherry blossom trees and Greco-Roman architecture, and pothole-scarred playgrounds dwarfed by debilitated public housing, men and women work hard to run this country, while others die in back alleys for mere pocket change.

Men and women and children have come from across the country, from Massachusetts and New York and Connecticut and Indiana and Ohio and California and elsewhere, to march the rainy streets of Washington in an action called "The National Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa."

The march includes many members of the churches and organized labor, the two factions that initiated the protest. Back in September, 1986, Owen Bieber, president of the United Automobile Workers, and 23 other national labor leaders and 55 religious community leaders had met to coordinate their Congressional activity.

But there's also been opposition. Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO, has tried to get the unions to boycott the rally, maintaining that some groups backing the demonstration supported Communist elements in Central America.

The protest plows ahead anyway. Middle-aged men and women in suits-and-ties and plain dresses, from the Northeast and the Midwest,

awkwardly converse with young, muscular white-and black-skinned blue-collar workers in t-shirts and blue jeans.

There are also a good number of college students, professors, punk rockers, hippies. With such a melange, the gathering of the crowd at the Ellipse, a park right across the street from the White House, takes on a carnival-like atmosphere, as gray-haired ex-hippies and young women of the Socialist worker's movement hawk paper-and-plastic activism by way of newspapers, buttons, posters, and t-shirts.

"Hey, that's cute," says one young girl dressed in leather to her friend as they peruse the political jewelry. The rain is falling, and the park is marred by large expanses of mud. A black funk group is jamming from a speaker's platform set up on the east side, through the loudspeakers — the global beat. Some college students are dancing in a circle as a man in an Uncle Sam costume, standing on stilts, waves at them with his toy submachine gun.

On a sloping green-grass hill, at the end of Pennsylvania Avenue, set against the gray-stone pallor of the sky, stands the white-domed building whose spire supports the statue of an Indian woman, representing freedom. It is to this building, the Capitol Building, that the demonstrators march. Scaffolding seven-stories-high criss-cross the columns of its face. Two gigantic unmanned cranes stand motionless to either side.

Before a sea of people, the Rev. Jesse Jackson stands, the keynote speaker and man of the hour, exhorting them to action with the husky, angry voice of a preacher, the rhythmic lyricism of a Ten-Commandment politician.

*When we fight for jobs, we are right.*

*When we fight for justice, we are right.*

*When we fight for women, we are right.*

*When we fight for children, we are right.*

*When we fight for the handicapped, we are right.*

*When we fight for the removal of the CIA from Central America, we are right.*

*When we fight for the abolition of apartheid in South Africa, we are right.*

He is the unannounced candidate for the presidency of the United States. He is the black man who has set his sights on the White House. He says that President Reagan and his administration are responsible for a "scandal in the Middle East, sabotage in Central America and an unholy alliance with South Africa."

All we need is "new policy, new leadership — a new course. We must march, pray, coalesce and vote together. We can end the war in Central America if we have alert, awake leadership. We can sit down at the table and talk with Daniel Ortega. We must use the strength of mind and character to fight for peace. . . ."

"This is a critical time in the history of this nation and the world," says Jackson. "It is a time of guided missiles and misguided leadership, a leadership that acts within a moral vacuum."

Eleanor Smeal, the president of National Organization for Women and the woman of the hour, tells the crowd: "The two coordinators of this event are women. Yet we tend to be overlooked and placed in the back seat. Congress keeps ignoring us, instead giving its attention to the generals."

Congress should attend to issues of child care, health care and the growing feminization of poverty, rather than giving the military "nothing but the best for destruction. . . . The world won't put up with our ignorance for much longer.

"We've got to turn things around. We've got to demand information, and throw [the government officials] out if criminality is found. It doesn't matter what Reagan knew; he's endorsed a bankrupt foreign policy."

Earlier, I had snuck past a barrier to an area where the main speakers congregated, off-limits to the press. It turned out that Smeal's son goes to MIT, a senior majoring in biology. It turned out that he lives in the same dormitory I lived in as an undergraduate. She and her husband, a consultant working in DC, were like any set of MIT parents you'd run into. They complained about tuition.



Photos courtesy Peter Defazio

I asked her what she thought about the multi-facetedness of this protest. After all, the posters had mentioned a slew of important, but diverse issues, such as apartheid, Central American policy, racism, sexism, the Strategic Defense Initiative, the plight of the homeless, world hunger.

"It definitely makes it harder for the speakers," she said, laughing. "It's harder to focus on certain issues. But it is very important that we see how all these issues become intertwined with each other."

Asked what NOW was doing here, she said, "It is important to show that there is a gender gap when it comes to political issues."

Then a staff person discovered me and politely escorted me off the premises.

Witnessing the march on Washington, I have come to recognize two extremes in social thought. One is that "all things fall apart." The other is that "everything is okay." Both accept a comfortable *laissez-faire* attitude.

To say that "all things fall apart" is to give up before you've tried, to partake in a form of adolescent punk-rock nihilism. I saw a lot of people trying, in their limited capacities, to do good. They were not giving up.

On the other hand, it is indicative of modern-day material interests that we find people who say, "The less government, the better." What they don't understand is, there might be less government when it comes to regulating the



private sector, but there certainly won't be less government when it comes to American influence and intervention abroad.

As John Stuart Mill wrote in his *Representative Government*: "Leaving things to the Government, like leaving them to Providence, is synonymous with caring nothing about them, accepting their results, when disagreeable, as visitations of Nature. . . . The intelligence and sentiments of a whole people are given up to the material interests, and, when these are provided for, to the ornamentation, of private life."

*Love life enough to struggle.*

These are the words displayed on the t-shirt of a soft-spoken, bearded young man whose long brown hair cascades down from a purple bandanna.

On Sunday, in a quiet United Methodist church on the corner of First and Maryland, across the street from the Supreme Court, a few hundred people gather, to take part not in religious services, but in a civil disobedience training.

The young man is leading the training. "There will be about 700 people risking arrest tomorrow," he says. "We're addressing the pervasiveness of the CIA's role in many of the issues concerning Central America and South Africa. Our representatives in Congress aren't listening to us. So we've decided to become more direct."

He is talking about Monday, about staging a sit-down blockade of the CIA and preparing for the ensuing arrests. The idea is to come into contact with CIA employees and to make them think, to ask them to question their bosses on the CIA's actions in foreign lands. The idea, also, is to attract the public's attention to covert operations that the CIA has undertaken, actions for which it has not been held accountable.

"But all of this must be done with an open spirit, with non-violence," the young man says. "It is a statement against those who use violence and terror."

It is Monday morning, April 27. It is still dark as we drive to the headquarters of the CIA in Langley, VA.

With or without you, to Langley I go. This is what I say, in the dark hours, thinking about you, hoping that together we can make some sense out of our lives, knowing that alone we will fall apart, we will fragment, we will curl up and withdraw into a political and moral isolation.

# news roundup

from the associated press wire

## World

### Contras claim Sandinistas responsible for American's death

The largest US-supported *contra* rebel group is blaming Nicaragua for Tuesday's death of an American engineer while working on a power project in the country. In a statement released in Honduras, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force says the American was caught in a firefight between its forces and Sandinista troops in northern Nicaragua. The group says Nicaragua's leftist government is responsible because it allowed him to enter a civil war zone. The American has been identified as 27-year-old Benjamin Linder of Portland, Oregon. The FDN says Linder was one of the few international volunteers helping the Sandinista government. And it says he knew perfectly the risks he ran by being in a war zone accompanied by Sandinista soldiers.

### Nakasone and Reagan meet as House passes strict trade bill

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone met with President Reagan yesterday, having arrived in Washington Wednesday night. Nakasone has said he'd use the trip to tell President Reagan that his country is complying with an agreement to halt semiconductor dumping. He is expected to urge Reagan to repeal US sanctions. But a White House official said the United States needs proof that Tokyo is in fact complying before the tariffs will be withdrawn.

As Nakasone and Reagan met, the House passed a sweeping trade bill which would try to force Japan and other US trading partners to reduce their trade surpluses or risk retaliation. The Senate is expected to change the measure drastically.

## Sports

### Isles force seventh-game showdown; Quebec ties series with Montreal

Mike Bossy and Bryan Trottier kept the New York Islanders' Stanley Cup hopes alive last night at the Coliseum, defeating the Philadelphia Flyers 4-2 last night and tying their series at 3-3. Bossy and Trottier each had a goal and an assist; Ken Leiter and Bob Bassen put in the other two for New York. Tim Kerr, the Flyers' leading scorer, left the game in the third period with a shoulder injury. The Islanders have now won two straight, and will seek a third Saturday night in Philadelphia.

Normand Rochfort's goal with 4:30 left to play lifted the Quebec Nordiques over the Montreal Canadiens, 3-2 — and into a deciding seventh game of their Adams Division playoff series.

The Nordiques trailed 2-0 until Michael Goulet scored early in the third period. John Ogradnick tied the game with 6:30 remaining. The series shifts to the Forum in Montreal for the deciding game Saturday night. The winner of this series will face off against the winner of the Islander-Flyer match.

### Rockets sweep series

The Houston Rockets have moved into the second round of the NBA playoffs with a 113-101 win over the Portland Trailblazers last night. The Rockets next face the winner of the Seattle-Dallas showdown. Akem Olajuwon led Houston with 27 points and keyed a 20-4 third-period run that put the Rockets in command.

### Pope defends beatification of Jewish-born nun

Pope John Paul II arrived in West Germany yesterday hoping to ease tension between Roman Catholics and Jews caused by the Catholic Church's plan to beatify Edith Stein, a nun murdered in a Nazi concentration camp. Many Jews contend that Stein, who was born Jewish, died because of her Jewish background, and should not be honored as a Christian martyr. Speaking in Cologne, the Pope said the Nazis killed the nun both because she was born a Jew and to send a warning to the Catholic Church.

Jews had earlier protested a Catholic plan to establish a convent on the grounds of the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland. Rome withdrew the idea in response to criticism.

## Nation

### Iran-*contra* figure admits committing crime

A conservative fundraiser has pleaded guilty to the first criminal charges filed in the Iran-*contra* scandal. Carl Channell told a federal judge in Washington that he conspired with former White House aide Oliver North to defraud the government of taxes on money donated to buy weapons for the Nicaraguan rebels. He also named Richard Miller, a public relations executive.

Channell had raised more than \$2 million to aid the Nicaraguan rebels. The charge of defrauding the treasury was based on efforts to claim tax deductions for contributions to Channell's national endowment for the preservation of liberty. Since the money was used for military aid, rather than humanitarian purposes, it would not be tax deductible.

At the request of prosecutors working with independent counsel Lawrence Walsh, the federal judge has delayed sentencing: Channell could face up to five years in prison and a fine of up to a \$250,000. He has agreed to cooperate with Walsh's investigation.

The chairman of the Senate committee investigating the Iran affair said retired Air Force General Richard Secord has agreed to testify without immunity. Secord will be the first witness at next week's congressional hearings on the scandal.

### Senate passes \$1 trillion budget

The Senate Wednesday gave tentative approval to an over \$1 trillion budget that would raise taxes next year, cut Pentagon spending, and hold the line on most domestic programs. The plan was drafted by Florida Democrat Lawton Chiles and the narrow vote in favor of it was split largely along party lines. Republicans are drafting an alternative plan with lower taxes and more money for defense.

### AIDS linked to rise in TB cases

AIDS might be partly responsible for a rise in tuberculosis cases in the United States, according to federal officials. The Centers for Disease Control announced yesterday that the number of new TB cases has risen significantly for the first time in the more than 30 years that records have been kept. The CDC speculated that the increase might be due to AIDS since AIDS makes its victims more susceptible to various diseases, including TB.

### Gorbachev's power could be challenged, CIA agent says

A top CIA analyst in a rare public appearance says Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev could face a challenge to his power before a Communist Party conference he wants next year. Marc Zlotnik told a Washington seminar that Gorbachev is walking a dangerous tightrope, and knows it. The CIA analyst says opposition to Gorbachev's reforms is coming from several groups, including regional party leaders and government bureaucrats.

### Violin fetches \$726,000

A rare Stradivarius violin sold at auction Wednesday in London won't just be sitting around in some collector's display case. An Italian concert violinist sought the instrument for a record \$726,000, and adds that he would have been willing to go higher. His first public performance using a 271-year-old "Strad" is set for June 3rd in Geneva.

### TV preacher's mistress suffers pains

Jessica Hahn is resting at home in West Babylon, NY after being rushed to the hospital Wednesday night with chest and stomach pains. A friend said Hahn got very sick from what people have been saying about her affair with TV evangelist Jim Bakker. Her friend said "it's with the grace of God that she's held up so long." Hahn had been scheduled to appear on ABC's "Nightline" last night, but had to cancel.

### Sponges may protect against sexually transmitted diseases

A new study suggests that a contraceptive sponge might be effective against a sexually transmitted disease, chlamydia. Researchers call it a dangerous disease that afflicts about four million women each year. A report in today's edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* finds women who used sponges were 33 percent less likely to become infected with the disease.

## Weather

### Cloudiness ahead

Our weather for the next two days will be influenced by a weak frontal disturbance now positioned to our northwest. This front will pass through our region late today and early tonight. It looks like it will become quasi-stationary just to our south. Our weather for tomorrow will largely depend upon how far south the front goes before it becomes stationary.

**Today:** We can expect a sunny start, but clouds will be on the increase later in the day. High temperatures will be in the low 60s (16-18°C) and it will be breezy with southwesterly winds at 10-15 mph (16-24 kph).

**Tonight:** Skies will be mostly cloudy with low temperatures 45-50 (7-10°C). Southwesterly winds will continue at 5-10 mph (8-16 mph).

**Saturday:** Partial clearing with a high near 60 (15°C).

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny with highs in the 60s (16-20°C).

Forecast by Robert Black

Compiled by Niraj Desai  
Harold A. Stern  
Jai Young Kim

## M.I.T. Community Summer Softball

Organizational Meeting Wed May 6

Umpire Meeting Wed May 13

5:30 PM

Mezzanine Lounge, Student Center

For more information, contact:

Marino D. Tavarez, MITCSS Coordinator  
MIT Rm. 20B-131, Messages: 782-2073

## "NEW REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES: SOME SCIENTIFIC & RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES"

Prof. David Housman  
Rev. Bernard Campbell  
Rabbi Daniel R. Shevitz

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1987

7:30 p.m.

77 Mass. Ave., M.I.T. Room 8-105

Sponsored by M.I.T. Hillel & Tech Catholic Community  
For information call 253-2982.

# opinion



## feedback

### West Campus needs more security

(Editor's note: The Tech received a copy of this letter addressed to Chief of Campus Police James Olivieri.)

Chief Olivieri:  
In the past semester, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of criminal incidents around campus: a rumored rape in Westgate parking lot, an assault on a student between 500 Memorial Drive and New House, and another assault on a student on the Harvard Bridge.

These incidents are a direct result of problems in the attitudes and in the manner in which the Campus Police patrol MIT, in particular the West Campus dormitory areas. According to one officer, the Campus Police have two officers patrolling the West Campus areas at night: one on foot and one in a car. This area covers all of Amherst Alley and Westgate parking lot. But, as the

youths who attacked a graduate student realized ["Youths attack dormitory tutor," April 28], this is where a large number of students are at night.

Campus Police officers seem more concerned with questioning the MIT students than insuring their safety. On two occasions, I observed officers question MIT students about the serving of alcohol to non-MIT students. Both times, the officers expressed skepticism when the students claimed that the outsiders were not being admitted to the party.

Westgate parking lot poses a serious problem for students. At night, the lot is poorly lit, and it is almost impossible to see if anyone is hiding among the cars. Last fall, I met with a member of the Campus Police to see if better lighting could be installed in the lot.

He assured me that such lighting was planned and would be installed soon. When we asked about lighting earlier this semester, we were again told that better lighting would be installed, a

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### Put AIDS booklets next to condom dispensers

To the Editor:

The MIT Medical Department, with the support of the administration, recently decided to install condom dispensers in the Institute dormitories ["Condoms to be sold in dorms," April 24].

Initially, I had some uneasy feelings about the entire proposal. Condoms are already readily available to those who wish to use them. They are sold by the Medical Department, at the Tech Coop, and at local drug stores. There is no need to make them any more accessible to the students.

Second, people who are responsible enough to have sex should be responsible enough to obtain condoms for themselves. I sincerely doubt that someone, in the middle of a passionate moment, will actually stop to go downstairs to buy one.

Third, I feel that those who are truly concerned about contracting Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome will have a supply of condoms, and those who are not probably will not stop to buy one from the bathroom anyway.

Having dispensers in the dor-

mitory could promote more sex, swaying those who are not already sexually active into believing that sex is so widespread in the dormitory that students need a condom dispenser nearby.

Abstaining from sex is the best known method of avoiding AIDS. Students need to be educated about AIDS. We need to know how AIDS is transmitted, to understand how one may be a potential carrier of the disease, and how we can take measures to avoid contracting the disease.

My greatest concern is that the Medical Department will not sufficiently emphasize the issue of AIDS. The dispensers will not necessarily convey the problem of AIDS to students, parents, and especially incoming freshmen. As people become more accustomed to the idea of having the dispensers nearby, they will forget the real reason they are there.

Pamphlets addressing the seriousness of AIDS should be placed alongside the dispensers, not only distributed to residents in their mailboxes. People would then understand the reason for having dispensers there.

Livia Zien '88

## feedback

### Chastity is best way to avoid AIDS

To the Editor:

I would like to say a word about abstinence in connection to your article ["Condoms to be sold in dorms," April 24].

It is a good time to reflect upon the current sexual mores. Perhaps the sexual revolution is the revolution that failed. Sexual "freedom" quickly turned into obligatory sex — until the advent of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome virus.

But now this healthy hesitation towards sex is being threatened by the proliferation of condoms. Condoms tend to sustain the onus of obligatory sex between dating men and women.

It is important to offer students protection from AIDS, but why should MIT blanket the entire campus with condoms? It is unfortunate that we must trivialize sex.

An example of this trivialization lies can be found in John H. Olsen's proposal that condoms be made "available for sale in the candy machine, right next to the Butterfingers." Olsen backs up this ludicrous idea with the notion that, confronted with condoms, people will know that condoms are being used. MIT students would have to be blind, deaf, and dumb to not realize that condoms are used.

Let us hear a few words about the virtues of chastity instead — at least as an afterthought to the distribution of condoms. Maybe then students across the country (note the high incidence of on-campus rapes) will cease to regard themselves and others as bedroom entertainment during study breaks.

It is also interesting to note that much more attention is di-

rected towards the problem of AIDS, wherein men predominate as victims, than is directed to the problem of rape, wherein women predominate as victims. According to the Bureau of Justice, the estimated number of rapes in the US in 1986 was 153,640, while the number of AIDS cases reported for that year is 13,487. Men constitute 96 percent of AIDS victims.

It is true that AIDS ends in death and that the number of cases is growing exponentially. Nevertheless, compared to the attention given to AIDS, the attention accorded to the life-shattering rape crisis in this country is negligible.

Tina Smith '87

### LUChA was oversensitive to poster

To the Editor:

I read with disbelief the complaints of the Mexican-American community about the Zeta Beta Tau "South of the Border" party poster ["ZBT posters offensive to Mexicans," April 28]. The League of United Chicanos at MIT's response is oversensitive to the issue at hand.

As the brothers of ZBT stated, there was no malicious intent in the theme nor the poster. I also found no malice in the theme or poster. The theme of the party does not insult Mexicans, and the character depicted on the poster, "Speedy Gonzalez," is merely a well-known and well-loved cartoon character. LUChA's outrage and surprise at the idea of "a rat dressed as a Mexican," is pretentious and overstated.

LUChA's other allegations are less than compelling and seem rather contrived. The line at the bottom of the poster ("Open Bar w/ Green Card") was consistent with the theme of the party, and hardly "made a joke at people who must carry a Green Card."

This reference makes no implications that Mexicans who live in the US "must always prove their status as legal residents," and to say that it suggests that "Americans of Mexican descent 'are perceived as illegal aliens,'" is to read something into the poster that simply is not there.

The US Green Card policy is a reasonable solution to the problem of illegal aliens in America and applies to all aliens, regardless of race.

The complaint about the use of the name "Pablo" making "a mockery of Spanish names," is preposterous. It seems that the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs' response to the situation is entirely appropriate.

I certainly do not encourage irresponsibility in dealing with is-

### Poster was offensive; LUChA was irrational

To the Editor:

The League of United Chicanos at MIT's letter to *The Tech* ["ZBT posters offensive to Mexicans," April 28] opens MIT's Mexican-American community and other cultural groups to ridicule, and sets back the fight against racism on campus to a considerable degree.

LUChA did have a valid argument in protesting the Zeta Beta Tau poster. The inclusion of the line "Open Bar w/ Green Card" on ZBT's poster for its "South of the Border" party is understandably offensive to Mexican-Americans.

A Green Card is an identification card for all resident aliens and should not be associated with Mexicans in particular. Association between the two is especially sensitive in the light of current events. Tougher immigration laws have resulted in increased tension between Mexican-Americans and employers; increased Mexican immigration over the past several years has also put the immigration system

and Mexican-Americans into the national spotlight. Associating Mexicans with the status of being illegal aliens is, to say the very least, not helpful to the situation of any Mexican-American.

LUChA's letter should have informed the MIT community along those lines. It should have let people know that what is just a story in the news or a harmless phrase to some people may have deeper meaning to others. It might have done so in a calm, logical and sensible manner that would impress the members of the community and cause them to reflect upon what was said.

Instead, LUChA's letter projected an image of irrational anger. While it might have used the opportunity to confront the problem of racism in a meaningful way, the longest part of the letter was devoted to pointing out other parts of the poster it regarded as being "intentionally racist" while labelling the offenders as both racist and ignorant.

This is not to say that groups

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# The Tech

Volume 107, Number 22

Friday, May 1, 1987

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# opinion

## feedback

### Boycott of Japanese goods hurts US

To the Editor:

Michael J. Hostetler '87 pointed out in a letter to the editor ["Japan has too much influence in US," April 24] the growing influence of Japan in the United States, and proposed a boycott of Japanese products in order to curtail the Japanese invasion in the form of direct investment in US real estate.

Hostetler's argument misses the most important issue involved in this "Japan problem," and, as a result, his proposal, which may buy a lot of votes, will not help the United States regain its power as an economic giant. Instead, his proposal will prolong the hardship that the American people will endure in the decades to come.

First, the massive capital inflow Hostetler is worried about is a direct consequence of the trade imbalance between the two countries. Since the United States does not sell as much to Japan as it buys, the Japanese are extending credit to Americans. The Japanese have bought a sizable amount of US government

bonds, but they have also invested in non-monetary assets such as US firms and real estate.

Hostetler's anger is irrational, if understandable, since the important fact is that this country is suffering from a huge debt. This means big trouble, whether the debt is in the form of government bonds or foreign ownership of the Empire State Building.

To call Japanese investment activities "arrogance" just because the Japanese own American land is totally without reason, which makes me feel angry and sense racism in his mentality.

(Incidentally, the quotation cited by Hostetler of a bank general manager that Americans will be paying higher rates on their mortgage as a result of Japanese purchase of US banks is unjustifiable. US interest rates are, if anything, lower precisely because capital inflow from Japan increases the availability of funds which otherwise might have flown out of the US and have raised interest rates.)

Hostetler is correct in pointing out the necessity of reversing the

trend of US trade deficits. The demand side is rather simple; Americans, both the public and private sectors, consume a lot, while Japanese are more prone to save.

It is a well-known fact that the US government is running a huge deficit. Less known is the relationship between this deficit and the trade deficit. Higher government purchasing is partly met by increased domestic production, but the rest has to be supported

(Please turn to page 6)



## feedback

### US must learn from its competitors

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Michael J. Hostetler's letter ["Japan has too much influence in US," April 24].

His letter expressed the two following points: (1) Americans should be alarmed by and react to Japanese influence in the US, and (2) the reaction should be a boycott of Japanese products. While I agree with the former, I strongly disagree with the latter.

America's response to foreign excellence should not be a humiliating boycott — a dreadful testimony to a weak America — but rather a willingness to learn from others. If you are strong, a willingness to learn is not demeaning; rather, it is a vivid display of your own confidence.

Hostetler appeals to American pride when he asks, "Are you a consumer first, or an American?" This appeal assumes that Americans have something to be proud of, and indeed they do, but somehow the foundations of this pride have been shaken lately.

Americans believe in hard work and creativity as "universal" principles of success applicable anywhere in the world. A boycott of Japanese goods admits that these principles serve Americans well as long as they do not infringe on American prosperity? Closing the doors to the hard-working people of Japan will not solve the problem of current American industrial sluggishness.

What are the reasons for America's past successes? Some of the reasons include: hard work and creativity, the richness of the land, and the willingness to accept other people's ideas.

The Japanese have a great disadvantage with regard to land. The island on which the Japanese are crowded together has very few natural resources. Driven by this circumstance, the Japanese also emphasize hard work, creativity and willingness to learn

from others.

America is comparatively rich in natural resources. Hard work and creativity are valued and rewarded, but nowadays Americans have lost their willingness to learn from others.

In the past, ideas often arrived in America through new immigrants. While Americans were open to new ideas, they never sought new ideas abroad.

If the world has anything to offer worth knowing, it will fight its way to freedom in America. Is it a matter of course that Ameri-

cans will end up being the sole beneficiaries of positive currents elsewhere in the world?

Americans should not be too proud to learn from others. However this might be achieved, it cannot be done by admitting to the world one's inability to compete — and a boycott is nothing other than that. By learning from others, America will re-assume its position as a world leader, and will learn a tool that will serve its people forever.

Peter A. Schindler '87

### Pursuit of "Star Wars" escalates the arms race

To the Editor:

Holly Ferguson G criticizes Provost John M. Deutch '61 for suggesting that the Strategic Defense Initiative is designed to abolish deterrence and make nuclear weapons obsolete ["Deutch's view of SDI flawed," April 17].

In fact, it is not clear what else Ferguson could mean by the statement: "A more tenable definition of the basic goals of SDI research is the development of the measure to protect the United States and its allies from nuclear aggression."

She also says that strategic defense supports deterrence because "offensive weapons are of little use if they are destroyed before they can be used," seemingly unaware that it is harder to block a first strike than a second because the former involves more missiles and comes at a time chosen by the attacker. This instability is particularly serious for satellite defenses since they are themselves vulnerable.

This argument is not "analogous to saying that fighters and bombers cannot survive because of the increasing sophistication of anti-aircraft weapons." On the

contrary, just as some aircraft will get through, so will some missiles, however elaborate SDI becomes. I agree with Ferguson that one should not reject "a particular technology just because it will become outdated at some point," but that is not the issue.

SDI should be rejected because the technology will almost certainly be outdated by the time it exists, and because anything resembling success would be dangerous. Unlike the bombing of Hiroshima, the goal of "Star Wars" is unlimited and its pursuit can only escalate the arms race.

The Soviet Union's SDI program is cause for concern, but the correct reaction is to reach agreements preventing either side from deploying destabilizing systems. The only sane course is to negotiate verifiable accords with the understanding that each side's compliance is conditional on the other's.

The ability to stop a small number of missiles launched by accidents or terrorists is attractive and worth considering. However, this is not the advertised aim of SDI and must be explored carefully.

Jorgen E. Harmse G

### Display unfairly portrays the North Vietnamese

To the Editor:

I would like to make a few points concerning the display in the Infinite Corridor on post-war Vietnam.

The display attempts to show the North Vietnamese victory as causing tremendous suffering for the Vietnamese population. By historical standards, however, the Communist victors were remarkably free from vengeance exactations.

Re-education camps in post-war Vietnam contained thousands of drug-addicts, prostitutes, collaborators, and other human debris created and deserted by the US occupation. They were also quite tame in comparison to the post-World War II Allies in their treatment of prisoners of war and collaborators.

The 400,000 POW's in Great Britain and the 372,000 in the US were used as forced labor until the summer of 1948 — more than three years after the end of the war. In France, conservative esti-

mates state that, at a minimum, 30,000-40,000 collaborators with Nazi rule were executed after the Liberation.

In looking at these facts, we must keep in mind that the war in Vietnam was far more brutal, destructive and intense than anything the Western nations have gone through. It is quite fortunate that the North Vietnamese victors did not live up to Western standards.

The North Vietnamese diverted resources such as gasoline for private automobiles from the North to Saigon for almost three years in order to allow the Saigonese to continue their living standards which had been artificially inflated by the US dollars during the war.

The facts show that the North Vietnamese victors behaved with remarkable generosity, although massive propaganda campaigns have been launched to tell us otherwise.

Erik Mar '88

### Students have right to interview with the CIA

To the Editor:

F. Sal Vafaei wrote a letter last week ["CIA should be barred from campus," April 24] arguing that the Central Intelligence Agency should not be able to recruit at MIT because it has broken laws and conducted wars. Vafaei illustrates the "immoral" acts of the CIA, but he fails to justify banning recruitment.

The CIA is an agency of the US government, under the control of the president. For the most part, the CIA carries out the policies of the administration. If a citizen does not like the policies of an administration, he or she can make use of an electoral process to change them.

Vote for the congressman, senator, and president who most represent your views. Write to these officials. Publicly protest. Change will come, even if it takes some time.

Do not, however, take away a student's opportunity to interview

with the CIA just because you believe the CIA is immoral. Not everyone at MIT agrees that the CIA is immoral, and these people may find that the CIA can offer them a rewarding career. Some people may even want to work for the CIA so that he or she can try to change the CIA from the inside. If the CIA was banned from recruiting at MIT, these people might lose their chance at these opportunities.

I do not necessarily like all of the CIA's operations. But I would not stand in the way of someone who wanted to interview with the CIA.

If you feel that you have to protest the CIA, then do so. But do not try to prevent others from seeking employment from the organization of their choice. After all, isn't freedom of choice a principle that this country stands for?

Ed Love G



# opinion

## feedback

### LUCa's letter was not educational

(Continued from page 4)

which have been discriminated against do not have a legitimate right to be angry. Nobody can deny that they have that right. But such groups must be careful not to let anger cloud their reasoning and actions. If their main intent is to alleviate the problems of racism, they should not allow their image as a group to be dominated by an image of anger and irrationality.

Is LUCa a cultural group? Most cultural groups exist to preserve a specific culture: to do this, they will seek to introduce the culture to others, to educate

others, and to dispel misperceptions about it. By doing this, they can improve intercultural relationships and help dispel some of the forces behind racism.

I did not get the impression that LUCa wanted to educate the community about Mexican-American culture. One member of LUCa denied that he had any responsibility to meet with ZBT to inform the fraternity what was offensive about the poster.

If LUCa wants to represent the interests of Mexican-Americans, it should realize that representation of a group involves more responsibility than merely

denouncing attacks against it.

There are many cultural groups at MIT, and most are doing their best to achieve legitimate goals. For all I know, LUCa is also doing a good job. But LUCa's statements gave me an impression of being belligerent, self-righteous, and reactionary.

If LUCa expects people to think of the consequences of their actions on others, it should start by looking at itself and the image it has given to the Mexican-American and other cultural communities at MIT.

Eric J. Swenson '88

### Boycott of Japanese products would hurt the US

(Continued from page 5)

(directly or indirectly) by higher imports. At the same time, Americans did not decrease, but rather increased, their consumption level, thereby aggravating the situation.

It makes sense for Hostetler to call for reduced consumption. Americans need to reduce overall consumption, not just the consumption of Japanese products.

Businessmen tend to turn to government for protection from competition. They prefer the easy life to tough competition, and I can also understand that the US government, or the American people as a whole, may want to protect such important industries as chip production and super-computers.

But there is always a risk in protectionism. Protectionism creates inefficiency. It is easy and politically convenient, in the short run, to create a scapegoat, but it may turn out to be costly to Americans in the long run.

Finally, consider the reason why Americans cannot sell as much as they buy from Japan. Here again, Japan is often criticized for protectionism. I agree that there still remains a sizable amount of protectionism in Japan to which I oppose. But the standard press description of Japan as a monster of protectionism is grossly exaggerated.

Tradewise, Japan is one of the most open countries in the world. Japan is certainly more open than the United States, which looks like an exhibition of protectionist measures these days.

Some Americans argue that Japan has intangible barriers that prevent foreign firms from selling products in Japan.

I cite the recent study conducted by Federal Reserve Bank of New York ("Quarterly Review," Winter 1985-86), which concludes that, although the long-term gains of the United States from the removal of Japanese non-tariff barriers are not inconsequential, "they are too small to suggest that intangible barriers are

the primary or even a major source of Japan's external trade surpluses."

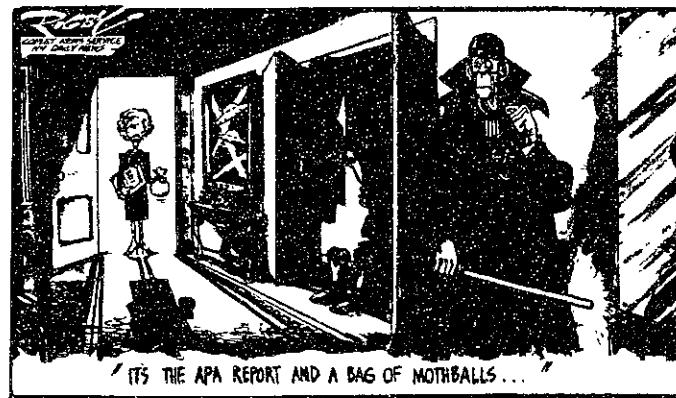
Also, let me point out that these intangible barriers are far from impenetrable, since dozens of US and other foreign firms such as IBM, McDonald's, and Coca-Cola are quite successful in Japan.

The purpose of this letter is not to justify Japan's trade surplus. As I stated above, Japan is now a reasonably open country, but it owes this achievement to the external pressure from the United States and other foreign countries. A slap in the face, like

the recent tariff imposition, forces it to make a painful change, which I believe contributes to the improvement of Japan's productivity and economic welfare in the long run.

What worries me more is the future of the United States. As long as this country tries to seek a villain outside of itself, as Hostetler does, the serious effort to make a necessary change will not be undertaken. As one economist at MIT once put it, the "level" playing field the US firms are demanding is the field in which they can win for sure.

Masahiki Takeda G



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— Vincent Canby, NEW YORK TIMES

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# opinion

## feedback

### TCA upset at persons who tore CARE posters

To the Editor:

During the past week the Technology Community Association has been selling Mother's Day cards for the benefit of CARE, a large international charity organization that aids needy Third World communities.

We have advertised this fund drive on public bulletin boards, including the board allocated to TCA. These advertisements were supplied by CARE and were not intended to offend anyone. Shortly after some of the posters were hung, several had been torn off the boards and thrown on the floor.

Later in the week, an unidentified person came to our Lobby 10 booth. He claimed to have torn down the posters and made vague but critical remarks about CARE

and our fund raising drive. He left before we could find out who he was.

We do not expect unanimous support from the MIT community for all of our projects. Nevertheless, we do expect that our First Amendment rights to petition in public places will be respected.

We are disgusted by the immaturity of these actions. They are inappropriate in a university environment. Our general meetings are open forums during which anyone may bring up objections to our projects. We hope that in the future, more civilized methods of debate are used.

Scott Silverman '88

TCA President

Ira Haimowitz '88

TCA CARE Co-ordinator

### West Campus needs more CP foot patrols

(Continued from page 4)

promise that has yet to be fulfilled. Westgate parking lot may attract outsiders who cause trouble for the MIT community. Many times, I have seen people drinking next to their cars late at night — I doubt if they are from MIT.

To improve safety on the West Campus, MIT should do the following:

- Establish more Campus Police foot patrols on West Campus. At least three officers should be on foot patrol at all times at night. Car patrols seem to miss much of what goes on around campus and in Westgate Parking lot.

- Reorient officers to respect and cooperate with MIT students. After all, their primary job is to protect MIT community

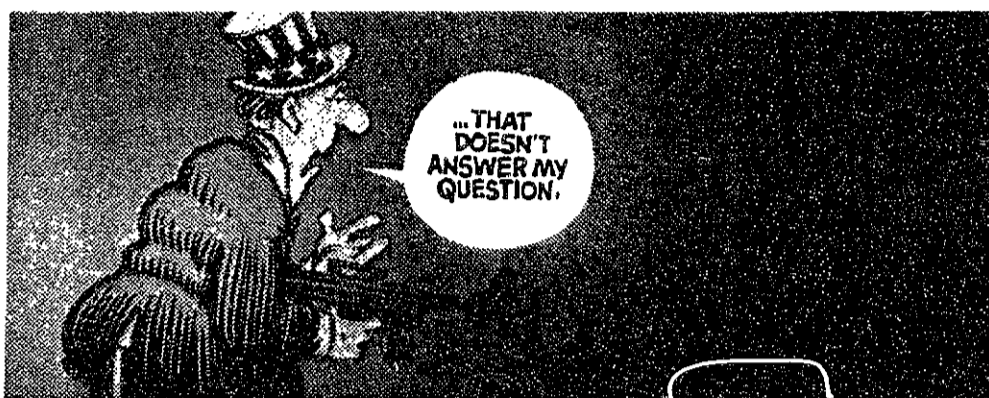
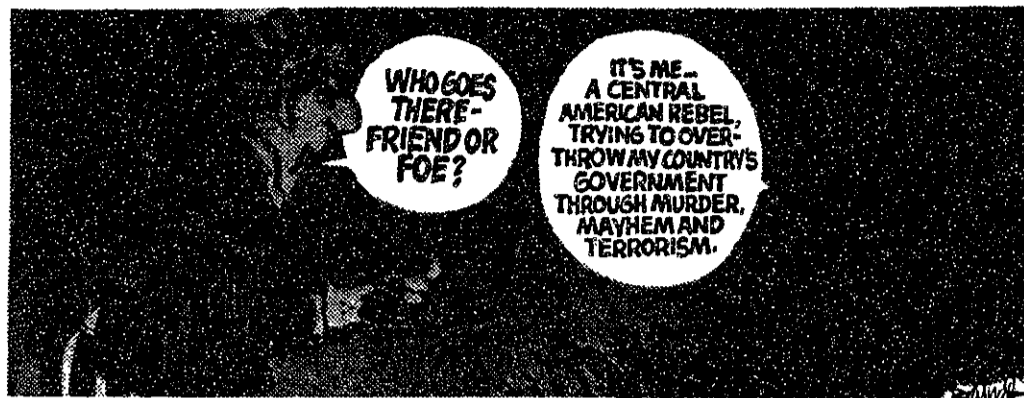
members, not to police them.

- Install flood lights in Westgate parking lot and in other areas of West Campus which are inadequately lit, such as the walkway between New House and 500 Memorial Drive.

- Install emergency "blue light" phones and alarms tied directly to Campus Police in Westgate Parking lot and along Amherst Alley.

One of MIT's excuses to avoid implementing these suggestions will be a lack of funding. Considering the importance of the issue involved and MIT's huge expenditures in other areas, such a response would be unacceptable. The administration must find the money to hire more Campus Police officers and improve the safety of MIT.

Michael J. Tarr G  
Graduate Resident, New House



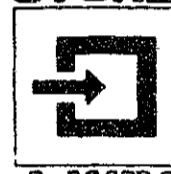
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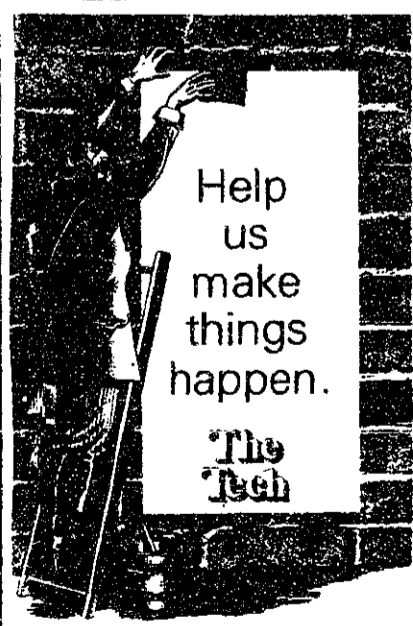
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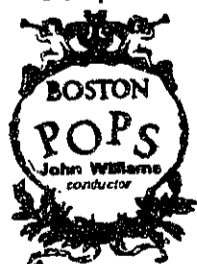
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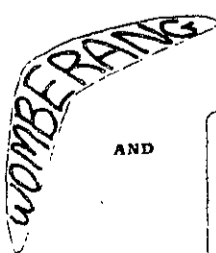
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By JULIAN WEST

**S**UE TOWNSEND, BY NOW NOTORIOUS in Britain as the creator of the pubescent poet Adrian Mole, is also an capable playwright. Her plays have gone unnoticed on this side of the Atlantic, in part because they are quintessentially British. They are filled with characters who are recognizable without being clichéd, situations of contemporary relevance, and British turns of phrase.

Yet they play just fine on the North American stage, as Dramashop has discovered by presenting two one-acts, both North American premieres. The audience, characteristically small for opening night, was nevertheless wildly appreciative of the fastpaced humor. And as well as being hysterically funny, each play packs its share of character and political sting.

The curtain-raiser, "Womberang," is the earlier of the two, and reads a bit like a textbook on feminist theory which has somehow been staged in the waiting room of the male medical establishment. But, miraculously, it does not come across that way on stage, being rather fastpaced and entertaining.

Susan Dwyer G is outstanding as Rita, a feminist activist whose refusal to conform catalyses a mini-revolution in the waiting room. Her timing and delivery are spot on. Some of the lines she is given ("not your husband's name, *your* name") could be real clunkers, but Dwyer rescues them and gives all her speeches a natural air.

Jeannie Chilton W'88, is particularly good as the Jehovah's witness who briefly becomes a born-again feminist before lib-

erating her husband in the changing cubicle. Her "nervous disposition" bubbles out in a convincing fit of the giggles. Her husband, Peter Parnassa '90, seems perpetually on the edge of erupting, but keeps himself nicely under control.

Lee Higgins W'87, not only sounds like a pensioner from Sheffield, she looks like one too, doddering about the stage in a print floral and hideous corsets. The other older woman, Angela Daddabbo W'89, has less success with her lines and with her accent, but has a very expressive face and seems as baffled as anyone by her own absurd non-sequiters.

Nicola Morris W'87 is a fine upper-middle-class liberal carrying a pregnancy with transcendent calm. (Why is it that all pregnant women are perpetually tranquil and radiant on stage?) But she is just as believable when she goes literally into hysterics as her waters break.

After dispensing with the National Health Service, Townsend turns to attack the Ministry of Education, responsible for the sorry state of the government schools. If "Womberang" is good by the standards of college theater, the second offering, "Groping for Words," would play creditably at a professional theater.

It centers on a middle-class woman who has tired of simply voting Labour and decides to make a contribution by teaching illiterate adults how to read.

Charlotte Peed is impeccable as Joyce, the terribly proper middle-aged teacher. Her characterization is painstaking and flawless: she plays Joyce as a school-marm with a BBC accent, a woman punctilious about her own mannerisms but unflappably forgiving of those of others. She has the manner of a Victorian explorer as she braves the wilds of Clapham.

G. Albert Ruesga G deservedly earns most of the laughs as Kevin, a street-cred Cockney tough who was so alienated by his white, middle-class reader that he never learned to read. Like the other characters, he has learned to cope with his illiteracy by lying a lot, and manages to hold down the job of caretaker at the school.

Ruesga has his cockney mannerisms down, together with most of the attri-



Angela Daddabbo W'89, Susan Dwyer G, Peter Parnassa '90, and Jeannie Chilton W'88 in Sue Townsend's "Womberang."

butes: a rough physicality, a quick wit and a devil-may-care attitude that has seen him through school but will soon land him in trouble. If he could throw darts better he could live in Lambeth. His comic timing and delivery of a barrage of hilarious lines makes him a treat to watch, but he is at his best during the occasional scuffles. Julie Theriot '88, as a dyslexic school leaver whose aerobic yuppiness is affected and whose Kensington address comes only from being in service, is likewise entertaining. She has a lot to learn, about a lot of things, and has no inclination to learn them. Theriot's competing looks of ignorance and petulance makes her seem to fit the undersized desks like a fractious six-year-old, and she would be as difficult to teach.

The fourth member of the cast, Brian Pierce, plays a 57-year-old illiterate with a soft spot for Joyce. He picks his way

through the piece gamely enough, and has a few touching moments. For instance, his manner is pathetic when his homelessness is most apparent as he prepares to bed down in a child's Wendy House. But in other places some of the emotion is lost, and he has an indistinct, unplaceable accent which could be halfway to Wales.

The rest of the accents are clear, and they were brave enough to do the pieces in accent at all. The performers have rightly gone after particular regional accents — uniform BBC drones with rising intonation would have fallen flat. And, by and large, they stick to them — though a few British idioms are out of key ("I have a chest," for instance).

The sets and properties deserve a mention, being at least as accurately pinpointed as the accents. The doctor's waiting room looks realistic, if a little dated, with

(Please turn to page 11)

## Ayckbourn's Norman is a "Garden" of Lyric delights

### ROUND & ROUND THE GARDEN

With "Table Manners" and "Living Together" forms the trilogy of plays entitled "The Norman Conquests."

Directed by Polly Hogan.

Starring Ron Ritchell, Kate Moynihan, James L. Walker, Renee Miller, Arthur Barlas, and Sheila Ferrini.

At the Lyric Stage Theater until June 14.

By BARBARA MASI

**A**RE YOU TIRED? Is another problem set getting you down? Are you wondering where all the fun in your life has gone? Are you looking for the perfect two hour frustration outlet? May I suggest "The Norman Conquests." And, in place of the usual story which the combination of words "Norman" and "conquest" might bring to mind, think of the Lyric Stage's current production.

Playwright Alan Ayckbourn has rewritten history in his interpretation. As far as Ayckbourn is concerned, Norman (Ron Ritchell) is a middle-aged librarian living somewhere in the suburbs of deepest England in the mid-20th century. His conquests? Women. Sounds callous and sexist, but "Conquest" is anything but that. You just have to meet Norman. Envision a frumpy, bearded man who could easily pass for Yogi Bear both in appearance and personality. Ayckbourn must have liked Norman as much as you will because he shaped "Conquests" as a trilogy of three plays for Norman and his friends to frolic about in. Taking place in the family home of Norman's wife, Ruth (Sheila Ferrini), Ayckbourn twists his characters round one another in ever sillier, ever more complex situations of misunderstandings and lack of satisfaction. Luckily, Ayckbourn's humor is wild and original enough to sustain three plays worth of Norman.

I had the pleasure of seeing "Round and Round the Garden" which opened at the Lyric Stage Theater on Wednesday night. At the play's beginning, we find Annie (Kate Moynihan) working in the garden of the family home where she still lives taking

care of her sick, demanding mother. Annie appears before us as a sad but independent woman, never having a reason to change from her old, torn garden clothes. Especially not for veterinarian Tom (James L. Walker '79), who hangs around the house so much that Annie considers him her cat's personal physician. Unfortunately, Tom, who has so far missed all of

Annie's blatant hints of passion, has the sensitivity of a horse, an animal he often wishes he was when faced with human complexity.

So where is Norman? He is the man in the trenchcoat sneaking into the garden with his suitcase containing new leopard pajamas. Norman is on the verge (always on the verge) of going off for a weekend

with Ruth's sister, Annie. Annie, in her frustration with Tom, has agreed. But in walks Annie's bizarrely British brother, Reg (Arthur Barlas), and his tight-lipped, prissy wife, Sarah (Renee Miller). They were supposed to arrive to take care of Mother while Annie goes off on her clandestine weekend. Annie, kind, honest soul that she is, breaks down and tells Sarah the truth. Sarah, of course, calls Ruth, who arrives. And now, "Round and Round" truly begins.

"Round and Round the Garden" is pure British comedy: dry, nasty humor and absurd situations such as oblivious Reg talking away about his car while Norman and Annie roll around the garden in a mad embrace. The Lyric Stage's production, in director Polly Hogan's hands, was so finely tuned, the comic timing so deftly controlled, that the evening sped away. And then there was the superb ensemble acting by the cast of "Garden," although Ritchell's Norman clearly carried the play. Rich in detailed characterization, Norman whimpered, wooed, and slobbered all over everyone. Ritchell's Norman was the fool that everyone loved.

The other actors, playing off his huge energy, gave strong performances. Barlas' stereotypically British Reg was wonderful, stiff upper lip and all. His scenes with Ritchell, playing up their personality contrasts, with great success. Walker excelled as a man who has absolutely no ability to express his emotions, or perhaps has no emotions to express. Miller played Sarah with biting wit, a woman who is very matter of fact — and very forgiving — in dealing with her philandering husband.

Like many of Lyric Stage's productions, the set has a feeling of meeting small budget requirements and nothing more. Which is unfortunate considering the store of directing and acting talents of the group and the huge wasted budget of the repertory group across the river.

So, are you ready? Don't you have your coat on yet? Don't go to the movies *again*. Go see the Lyric Stage's "Conquest" — any one of this wonderful, ridiculous trilogy will do. Just go.



Sarah (Renee Miller) and Reg (Arthur Barlas) in "The Norman Conquests."

## ARTS

## Spring Weekend Concerts at Wellesley. . .

## VEGA



**SUZANNE VEGA**  
At Wellesley College, Alumnae Hall.  
Sunday, April 26.

By SIDHU BANERJEE

**S**UZANNE VEGA, WITH A NEW album and tour, brought her unique brand of music to Wellesley's Spring Weekend last Sunday. She achieved an intimacy and friendship in her show, which was marked by fluid, image-filled and gritty up-tempo songs. She developed a friendly rapport with the audience, in no small part from her experience in the intimate Greenwich Village coffee-house performances that launched her career.

Her critically acclaimed 1985 first album, "Suzanne Vega," established her as a 1980s folk singer. Alternating between introspective images of love and sensuality and a matter-of-fact account of the funny and gritty side of New York, her songs are rich with eloquent imagery. Whether about "Neighborhood Girls" or hurt love in "Knight Moves," every song had emotional impact. The new album "Solitude Standing" is a natural continuation of her first. Although some songs are freshly written, several date from the same time period of the first album.

Vega's love songs, especially "Knight Moves" and "Small Blue Thing," were delivered with an intensity and intimacy that belied the large size of Alumnae Hall. In "Small Blue Thing" she sings:

*Today I am a small blue thing  
Like a marble or an eye  
With my knees against my mouth  
I am perfectly round  
I am watching you  
I am cold against your skin  
You are perfectly reflected  
I am lost inside your pocket  
I am lost against your fingers.*

She describes the eloquence of unstated love in "Language:"

*If language were liquid  
It would be rushing in  
Instead here we are  
In a silence more elegant  
Than any word could be.*

The band provided strong backing on the more aggressive numbers, but there seemed to be a tension that prevented the members from letting loose and jamming. They finally did let loose, on a raucous and enjoyable version of "Neighborhood Girls." Stephen Ferrera on percussion lent a gritty edge to the song with complicated rhythms and fresh sounds. All the musicians gave this and other songs a jazzy beat.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the show, however, was not the music but the casual, friendly rapport that developed between Vega and the audience. The crowd, in large part not far removed in age or background from Vega, quickly made her feel comfortable on stage. Vega, for her part, was at ease and open, explaining the inspiration for many of her songs with interesting and humorous anecdotes. As a teenage camp counselor, she fell for a British anarchist who counseled at a nearby camp, and as a gift wrote "Gypsy," a delicate and passionate love song for him. "I wrote him this song as a gift," she said, "and he in return gave me his bandana." The crowd laughed appreciatively.

Commenting on the lack of the word "love" in her love songs, she mused, "Today I am a small blue thing. If you were to say that to your boyfriend, he might be a bit confused."

After several encores and when the concert ended, the audience left, feeling that they had met a good friend. Suzanne Vega is a talented all-around performer with songs that are uplifting and exciting. The concert was a big success.

## . . .and at Brandeis

**HOWARD JONES**

In concert at Brandeis University.  
Saturday, April 25.

By JULIAN WEST

**M**Y FRIEND PAUL, who worries about these things, once asked me to name a singer who exemplified the 1980s style. I suggested Howard Jones, the young technopop wizard whose witty, socially relevant lyrics are backed with a dance beat. The combination of show and substance places his messages firmly atop the charts.

Whatever else he did at Brandeis on Saturday, including pleasing his old fans and winning not a few new ones, he certainly proved he has style. What else can one say about a clean cut young family man who sings anti-drug and pro-people songs, and tours with his brother Roy, a mime, and three vegetarian caterers?

The concert began in silence under the glow of an ultraviolet light. Jones and mime Jed Hoile circled each other in front of the synthesizers, dressed in Samurai costumes with enormous masks which suggested futuristic chess pieces. The audience squealed as Jones stripped off his costume and launched into "Don't Want to Fight Any More," one of the catchiest of his new songs, and one which exemplifies Jones' work. The message is simple, and we have heard it before, but rarely this eloquently.

Occasionally, Jones took the stage to himself for a solo and he was always the focus of attention. But he had solid support from his entire company. A female trio, Afrodiziak, provided an interesting harmony with Jones' own expressive voice. Jingles Jhingoree, the bassist, had some splendid solos, such as on "Look Mama." Brother Roy Jones played keyboards when Howard didn't.

The drummer, Trevor Morais, had a nifty set of hexagonal electronic drums and cymbals, evidently the state of the art in pop technology. And he could put them through their paces, as well — on "The Balance of Love," for instance, he played the guitar chords on the drums, while on "Step Into These Shoes" he beat out a rapid tap-dance rhythm while Hoile mimed the dance.

Morais took a break on "No One Is To

Blame," as Jones played a new version, neither the original from the "Dream Into Action" album nor the more upbeat percussion version mixed by Phil Collins. This version relied, rather, on some beautiful tinselly keyboards and harmonic vocals.

In addition to playing nearly every track off the new "One To One" album, Jones played many old hits, and it was these which drew the largest response from the crowd of 2,000 college students.

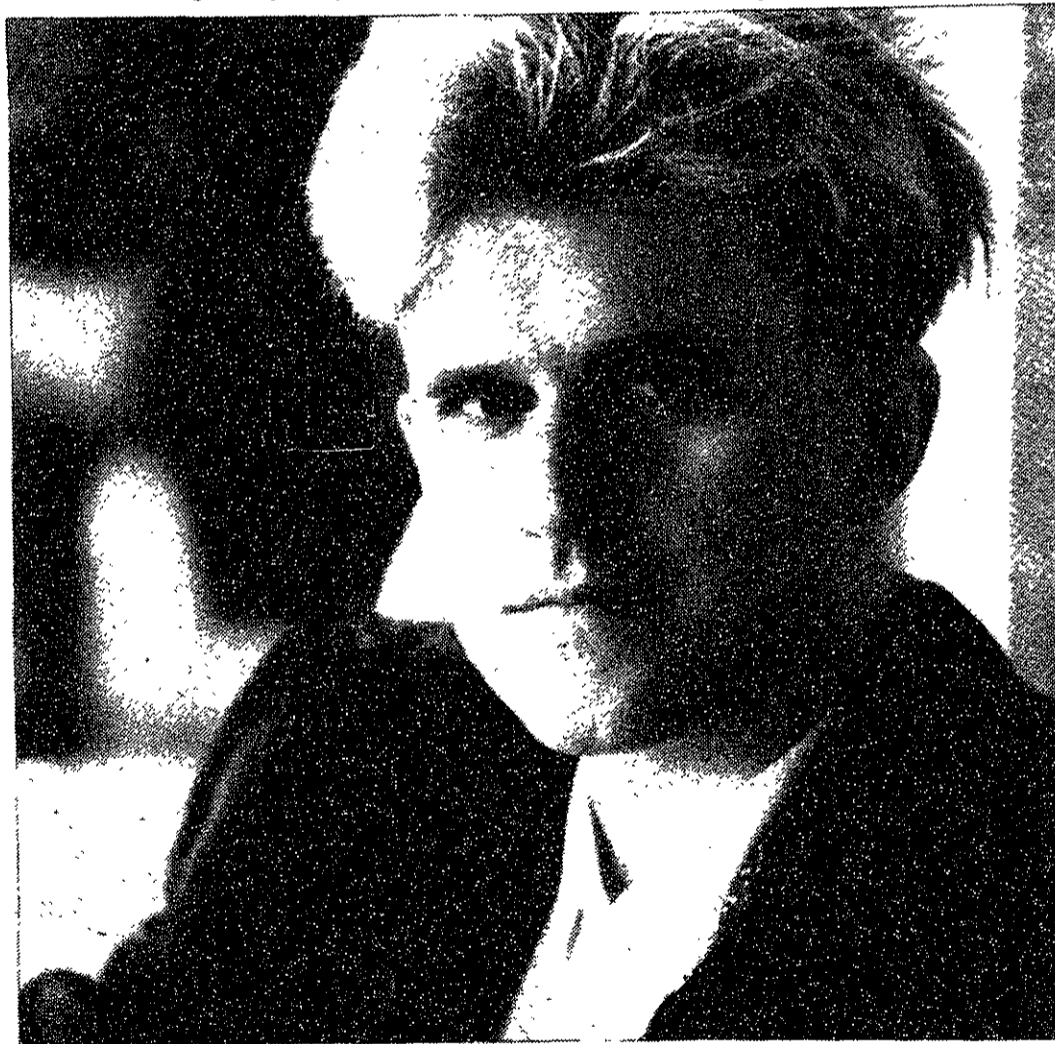
Rock audiences are often reduced to humming through the verses and chanting out the choruses. At least the standees crowding the stage, however, were able to follow every word of such favorites as "No One Is To Blame." The *a cappella* version of "Life In One Day," introduced in the comic relief show last April, was sung in harmony by Jones, Afrodiziak, the band, and the audience. Jones was happy to play to the crowd, letting them take over the vocal line at times, and this added to the rapport he had immediately developed.

The obvious implication is that in a Howard Jones song the lyrics matter, to the audience as well as to the singer. The fans are taking in the messages behind "What Is Love?" or "Conditioning," and possibly taking them to heart.

To Jones, no message matters more than the one expressed in "Assault and Battery," a song about the wholesale slaughter and consumption of animals. After announcing "it's time we stopped killing our friends," Jones launched into a feeling rendition of the song, accompanied by a starkly effective piece of mime. Hoile, his silhouette backprojected onto an enormous screen, went through the disgusting motions of eating until, overcome by his actions, he clapped his hands to his ears and repented.

The two covers Jones chose to perform, Lennon and McCartney's "A Day in the Life" and Donald Fagan's "I.G.Y.," were well chosen and popular.

The openers, an all-boy sextet from Toronto called Frozen Ghost, were pleasant enough. A sax solo in song two of the set sounded promising, but it soon gave way to the same old guitars, and the songs started to sound the same. Their hit, "Should I See," which closed the set, sounds much better on the radio than it did in concert, so perhaps there is some future for the band in a studio.



Howard Jones and entourage:  
Jingles Jhingoree (bass and guitar), Roy Jones (keyboards),  
Jed Hoile (mime), Trevor Morais (drums), and Afrodiziak.

## Another tale of doomed love in "Prick Up Your Ears"

### PRICK UP YOUR EARS

Directed by Stephen Frears.

Screenplay by Alan Bennett.

Starring Gary Oldman, Alfred Molina, and Vanessa Redgrave.

Opening today at the Nickelodeon.

By PETER DUNN

**J**OE ORTON (*née* John Kingsley Orton) wrote, among other plays, "The Ruffian On The Stair," "Entertaining Mr. Sloane," and "Loot." The last of these was named Best Play of 1966 by the London Evening Standard. Kenneth Halliwell. . . Well, Kenneth Halliwell never really amounted to much. But the two were lovers, living together for 16 years. On Aug. 9, 1967, Halliwell bludgeoned Orton to death with a hammer and took his own life with an overdose of sleeping pills.

"Prick Up Your Ears" tells the story of Orton (Gary Oldman) and Halliwell (Alfred Molina) — how they met, what they did together, how one rose to fame while the other did not — all told through

flashbacks as biographer John Lahr (Wallace Shawn) delves into Orton's life. His research reveals a sordid tale of jealousy, sexual promiscuity, and desperation.

"Prick Up Your Ears" reveals how Joe and Ken first meet, how Ken awakens both Joe's literary mind and his homosexuality, how Joe's homosexual promiscuity quickly runs rampant, how without Ken's help Joe begins to rapidly rise to fame as a playwright (he was at one point commissioned to write a screenplay for a Beatles film), and how Ken's jealousy eventually brings the downfall of the two. The story is not a pretty one.

It is interesting that Oldman plays the main character in "Prick Up Your Ears" since he also played the principal role in another very similar film, last year's odd, touching, and nightmarish tale of punk romance from Alex Cox, "Sid & Nancy." Both films are structurally, thematically, and cinematically very similar.

As with "Sid & Nancy," this new film both begins and ends with the climactic death scene. But where "Sid & Nancy" was essentially one long flashback, pro-

gressing in linear fashion from when Sid Vicious first met Nancy Spungen to their ultimate demise, "Prick Up Your Ears" instead jumps back and forth in time around the deaths of Joe and Ken. From the "future" we are shown Lahr interviewing various acquaintances of the two lovers, then we jump to the "past" we are lent privy to the private lives of the two. To further disrupt the linearity of the story, even the tale of Joe and Ken's lives together is presented in chaotic fashion: their time together is not shown sequentially from when they first meet to when they die but is instead presented as jumps throughout incidents in their lives.

The effect of this structure is twofold. First, it fully embraces the chaotic and unsteady nature of the relationship between Joe and Ken. But more importantly it places death in its proper place in this film — at its very center. While the linearity of "Sid & Nancy" displayed the inexorable fate of Vicious and Spungen's quickly dying flames, their death as the only possible conclusion to their love affair, "Prick Up Your Ears" presents death not as a culmination but as the center, the ultimate representation, of Joe and Ken's relationship.

The mood of the film is a tense and claustrophobic one. The scenes are cluttered and dark, often shot in small rooms indoors, and even the outdoor scenes seem always to be overcast. The actors' movements seem always to be restricted: they are hardly ever in motion, only standing or sitting, always confined by their surroundings. The most unnerving aspect of the film, however, is the way the camera slowly circles and moves in from medium shots to loose closeups as characters talk amongst one another. This movement, repeated time and time again, reinforces the claustrophobia of the film.

The acting is uniformly excellent, but it is not the overall performances which make the characters memorable but the tiny, added touches: the way Joe's cocky demeanor is always exemplified with an



Gary Oldman in "Prick Up Your Ears."

uplifted chin; Ken's slow progression from tall, dominating behemoth to sullen, down-headed, lump of flesh; the way Joe's agent, Peggy Ramsay (Vanessa Redgrave), always strokes her legs, forever bordering on flirtation with her clients.

Finally, "Prick Up Your Ears" ends as a harrowing, gripping tale of a doomed love affair, best synopsised by the first and final death scenes. In the beginning of the film, we are disoriented as we see the deaths from the closeup perspective of an insider — the audience has a vague idea of what is going on but loses its bearings because everything is as yet unexplained. But after the story has fully unfurled before us, we are again shown the death scene but now viewed at a distance, like outsiders. The film begins as it should end and ends as it should begin. In turning things topsy-turvy, "Prick Up Your Ears" presents a subtle nightmare where death, at its center, is the solution to, instead of the culmination of, a doomed love affair.



Alfred Molina as Kenneth Halliwell in "Prick Up Your Ears."

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## ARTS

## Films

★★ **Angel Heart** — Alan Parker's occult thriller, with Mickey Rourke as the gumshoe 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 Copley Place.

★★ **The Assault** — Winner of the 1986 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, this movie never fully develops the suspense of its mystery — how the assault on a Nazi collaborator and the ensuing ramifications forever affect the life of an innocent 12-year-old — and the film ultimately falls flat. At Copley Place and the Nickelodeon.

★★★ **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. At Copley Place cinema.

★★ **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 fasci-

nation of the hunter (Winger as Justice Department agent Alex Barnes) with the hunted (Russell as a murderess of rich husbands — also a hunter), "Widow" never fully develops or investigates the sexual tension between the two. At Copley Place.

★★★ **Children of a Lesser God** — A beautiful, moving love story between pupil (Marlee Matlin) and teacher (William Hurt) with fabulous acting performances by the principals. Winner of an Oscar for Best Actress, Marlee Matlin. At Copley Place and Somerville (Assembly Square).

★★★ **The Color of Money** — Scorsese directs and Paul Newman and Tom Cruise star in this excellent sequel to the 1961 "Hustler." Cruise is a hotshot pool shark being stakehorsed by Newman, but the film is less about pool than it is about deception and personal redemption. Newman won the 1986 Oscar for Best Actor. At the Somerville (Assembly Square).

★★ **Crocodile Dundee** — Paul Hogan is likeable as the Australian from the Northern Territories who is invited by a beautiful female reporter to visit the big city. The scenes in the outback are gorgeous but the story bogs down once it moves to New York. At Copley Place.

★★★ **Evil Dead, Part 2** — So it isn't high art. So what? This is a roller coaster ride of thrills and chills that never runs out of steam. If not guaranteed to scare the living daylights out of you, then it will at

the very least have you rolling in the aisles. At Cinema 57 and the Somerville (Assembly Square) theaters.

★ **Gothic** — Director Ken Russell is up to his old tricks, piling shocking image upon shocking image, but all with little substance. The tale is based on the evening when Lord Byron and Percy Shelley gathered in June 1816 for ghost stories with a small group of friends, the same night which spawned "Frankenstein" and "Vampire." Unfortunately this film spawns nothing but a bad mix of sex, drugs, and monsters. At the Nickelodeon.

★ **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 Charles, Cleveland Circle, and Somerville (Assembly Square) theaters.

★★★ **Making Mr. Right** — Susan Seidelman scores another hit with John Malkovich as both the egomaniacal/insecure scientist and as his naive/childlike android creation. Ann Magnuson stars as the public-image maker who educates the android about social conduct and also comes to realize her own shortcomings. At the Copley Place and Harvard 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. Winner of four Oscars including Best Picture and Best Director. At the Paris, Harvard Square, Somerville (Assembly Square), and Cleveland Circle theaters.

★★★ **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 Harvard Square theater.

★★★ **Raising Arizona** — H.I. "Hi" McDonnough is a career criminal. Edwina (Ed) is a police booking officer. They meet and fall in love at a police lineup. But of this unlikely romance is born no child, so they steal one instead, one of the "Arizona quintuplets." A clever plot, plenty of straight comedy, and a sizeable amount of sensitivity add up to a winning combination. At the Cheri and Harvard Square.

★★★★ **A Room With a View** — Outstanding adaptation of E. M. Forster's novel, with a sterling performance by Helena Bonham Carter as a youth on the brink of womanhood in Victorian England. Strong support from Daniel Day Lewis and Denholm Elliott. One of the year's ten best, this film won three Academy Awards. At Copley Place.

★★★★ **Tin Men** — Barry Levinson continues in the same vein as his previous film, "Diner," now focusing on the aluminum siding salesman/commen of Baltimore 1963. Richard Dreyfuss and Danny DeVito are the "tin men" of the title, caught in a feud of mutual car mutilation and one-upmanship after an initial collision of Cadillacs. Barbara Hershey makes a smashing appearance as the innocent housewife caught in the middle. At the Cheri, the Janus, Harvard Square, and Somerville (Assembly Square) theaters.

★ **Walk Like a Man** — Howie Mandel's comic talents are wasted in this story of a boy lost in the wild who returns to claim a huge inheritance, but must both learn the ways of civilization while fending off his greedy relatives. At the Beacon Hill, the Cleveland Circle, and Somerville (Assembly Square) theaters.

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

Compiled by Peter Dunn from Tech reviews

## "Womberang" and "Groping For Words" at Kresge

(Continued from page 8)

plenty of posters warning about pregnancy but none about AIDS. Between the two plays, the properties crew have dredged up not only the posters but copies of *The Sun*, children's paintings, and a live goldfish.

The set for "Groping for Words," evokes an ugly institution, brightened up by the Wendy House. It makes use of a clever split-level effect which gives both halves of the set a full stage and makes the Little Theatre look positively cavernous.

Last year's spring production, Dario Fo's "We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!" may have started a tradition of staging revolutionary plays for May Day — revolutionary in their attitude to what is still laughingly called the working class. Townsend's plays, as visiting director Graham Watkins sees it, celebrate the British working class without being "pretentious or patronizing."

When Joyce pronounces the now accepted truism that "this country needs an intelligent, well-educated work force," Kevin sagely answers "then why ain't it got one?" They have put their finger on the cause of so many of Britain's current woes.



Brian Pierce and Julie Theriot '88 in Dramashop's "Groping For Words."

ART

The Tech proudly presents. . .

### The Tech Performing Arts Series

A service for the entire MIT community from *The Tech*, in conjunction with the MIT Technology Community Association.

Special reduced-price tickets now available for the following events:

#### Porgy and Bess

The Boston Opera Association presents George and Ira Gershwin's American opera classic "Porgy and Bess," April 30 to May 3 at the Wang Center for the Performing Arts. From the primitive, tightly knit society of "Catfish Row" to the tantalizing presence of the city with its lure of sin, "Porgy and Bess" in its broadest sense affirms man's capacity to pursue his dreams. *MIT price: \$8.*

#### SinfoNova Chamber Orchestra

Aram Gharabekian and the SinfoNova Chamber Orchestra will present the first complete performance in Boston of Rodion Shchedrin's electrifying "Carmen Suite," today at 8 pm in Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory in Boston. *MIT price: \$5.*

#### Woody Herman Orchestra and Richard Stoltzman

The legendary Woody Herman and his orchestra team up with Grammy award-winning clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, for a program of jazz greats, Big Band standards, and original music written especially for them, May 2 at 8 pm in Symphony Hall. *MIT price: \$5.*

#### Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra

The critically acclaimed St. Louis Symphony, Leonard Slatkin, conducting, will play works by Haydn and Shostakovich as well as the Boston premiere of a new work by American composer Joan Tower on May 3 at 3 pm in Symphony Hall, as a presented by Walter Pierce in the Wang Celebrity Series. *MIT price: \$5.*

Tickets will be sold by the Technology Community Association, W20-450 in the Student Center.

## Students warn against rash action

(Continued from page 1)

"There is this mad rush — in one of the worst possible times [of the year] — to amend this thing."

Comparing the pressure to act on the measure to the pressure to launch the ill-fated space shuttle *Challenger*, Romm warned that a disaster could occur if MIT did not deliberate carefully enough. Students might become alienated, he warned.

### Cap of 50 too restrictive

The proposed measure would cap the number of distribution subjects at 50 — far less than the present 156. Proponents of the new requirement argue that the present system forces HASS faculty to compete for students. As a result, they claim, some distribution subjects have light workloads. The cap of 50 classes has drawn considerable criticism.

Kenneth L. Simons '90 criticized the arbitrariness of limiting distribution subjects to 50, saying that in its current form the measure gives "a blank check" to those who would decide what subjects qualified for HASS-D status.

Richard Cowan G felt the wrong criteria are being used to determine what classes deserve HASS-D status. The administration is using quantitative methods to measure qualitative classes, he argued.

Jill Wohl '88 worried that the small number of distribution offerings would limit the choice afforded to students, who already have to handle difficult schedules. A student may be forced to take

a particular HASS-D subject simply because it's the only one that fits into his schedule, she said.

Ann F. Friedlaender PhD '64, dean of the School of HASS, countered that HASS classes shouldn't always be scheduled last, that they deserved equal consideration. "Why is it that the humanities are always the residual?" she asked.

### Achieving breadth

Friedlaender did not think the present distribution requirement was doing what a distribution requirement should. "We have a meaningful depth requirement in the concentration," Friedlaender said, "but the breadth requirement is essentially meaningless."

Seth A. Gordon '90 argued that no requirement would assure breadth in the liberal arts. Only by majoring in the liberal arts could one achieve that. "Let's not talk about breadth . . . breadth with only three classes is bull," he claimed.

Romm suggested doing away with categories altogether. Rather a faculty committee should be set up, he argued, to evaluate the breadth in each student's choice of distribution subjects. Romm doubted that more than a tenth of each class would have trouble meeting such an evaluation.

### Effect on quality

"Some people want MIT to look like Harvard," Victor Shteynbok '87 charged, saying that MIT's desire to have a more diverse student body and curriculum was reducing its quality.

The admissions process is one area in which the drive for diversity has harmed quality, Shteynbok said. The new admissions criteria allow students with weak academic backgrounds to be admitted, he charged. As a result, more than "one-third of the class is struggling."

MacVicar rebutted Shteynbok's argument, claiming that this year's freshman class has outperformed the previous four classes. If one-third are struggling, than one-third probably were struggling in previous years. If there is difficulty, "it's not because of a problem in admissions."

A number of students at the forum complained that the new requirement would make HASS subjects too much like science and engineering classes. "[A HASS class] is like an escape from science and engineering . . . from our majors," Angela J. Babineau '90 explained.

MacVicar saw, in students' need to "escape" from their technical classes, a problem — not with HASS — but with science and engineering education at MIT. "What is broken is engineering education at MIT, and some of the science departments," she claimed.

Rather than expecting HASS classes to be the enjoyable part of their education, students should "challenge the science and engineering faculty" to address the problem, MacVicar said. She asked students to remember HASS reform is only part of a general movement toward educational reform at MIT.

## Speaker criticizes Reagan Doctrine

(Continued from page 1)

Central America in the image of Reagan is far more nefarious . . . than the bumbling Reagan we love so well from his press conferences."

Though he acknowledged that liberal politicians are quite willing to condemn Reagan's policy in Central America, Diskin said that they are not willing to advocate the "alternative vision." This "alternative vision" would be a policy that would bring an end to all the bloodshed.

Diskin urged people to march in Washington. "Hopefully, the 25th of April will be lesson one in educating the Reagan Administration."

O'Neil, a member of Linguists in Nicaragua, talked about the Indians living in the Atlantic coastal region of Central America, with whom he worked on bilingual education. "There was a great deal of oppression in Nicaragua against the Mosquito Indians, as well as in Honduras," he said.

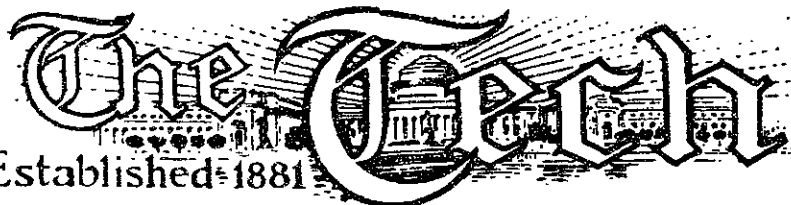
Pastor, a native Honduran, spoke on the "war" in Honduras. There are between 12,000 and 16,000 displaced refugees in

Honduras, she said. "When you have that number of displaced people in a country of 4 million people, there is a war." The war is not a military one; it is an economic one. Honduras has a 39 percent unemployment rate, and people die of hunger every day, Pastor noted.

Pastor doubted that the damage to Reagan's credibility from the Iran-*contra* scandal would end the war in Central America.

The liberals in Congress now have something concrete that allows them to cut direct US aid to the *contras*, but there is no reason to believe that aid will not go to the *contras* secretly, she said. "Reagan is not going to give up."

Brown discussed the last 10 months of events in South Africa, presenting recent US legislative proposals and economic facts, including late-breaking anti-apartheid divestment news.



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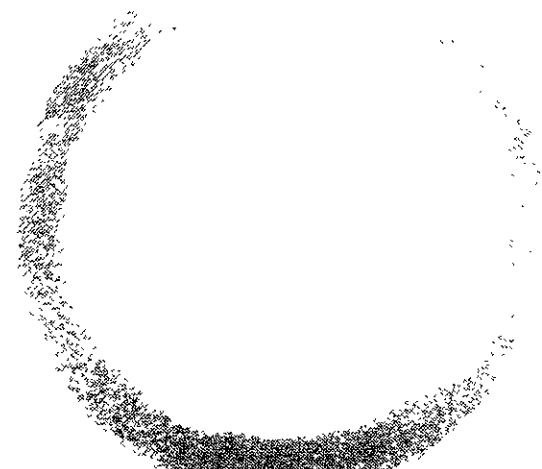
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# Report recommends no cap on subjects

(Continued from page 1)

status on the basis of frequency of offering or enrollment," the report says, arguing that intellectual value is not a function of frequency of offering, and that small classes can be educationally rewarding.

The student report was initiated in response to the proposal currently before the faculty for a restructuring of the HASS distribution requirement. The vote on the faculty proposal, introduced in March by the Committee on the Undergraduate Program, was to take place at the April meeting, but was delayed to May in response to a petition signed by nearly 1500 students to table the motion until more discussion and debate of the issue occurred.

## Suggests alternate distribution categories

The present HASS-D proposal would scrap the 22-discipline distribution system and require students from the Class of 1992 and on to choose three distribution subjects from one of the following five categories: Literary and Textual Studies; Cultures and Societies; Historical Studies; the Arts; and Mind, Thought, and Value. The faculty proposal would also result in the reduction of the number of courses with distribution status from the present 108 to 50.

The student report questions the five-category system in the faculty proposal. Discussion has "become overly focused on the number of categories and [has] overlooked the fact that in order for the system to work in reducing overlap, the categories must be *distinct*." It is quite possible to have a fairly large number of categories that are intellectually distinct, the report argues.

The report also suggests that categories for distribution be organized around specific disciplines, since their intellectual tradition is more clearly defined than the five categories proposed by the faculty.

The report asserts that the "fuzziness" of the proposed categories, though cited by some faculty as an advantage that will inspire new, interdisciplinary subjects, will not help reduce the problem of overlap between distribution subjects that is a concern in the reform process.

The report identifies two types of possible overlap: disciplinary and thematic. One measure suggested in the draft is a system that would prevent students from satisfying the distribution requirement with, for example, two history courses (disciplinary overlap), or two subjects on Latin America (thematic overlap).

One idea is to establish the three distribution categories of humanities, arts, and the social sciences. Such divisions are clear and recognized outside MIT, the report claims. Such a system could not be adopted, however, until the arts program at MIT increases in size, the report points out.

The report also suggests that students who have sufficient background in a particular subject area be allowed advanced placement so that they can take a distribution subject at a more advanced level.

## Student input: "Something is wrong with the process"

The report criticizes the reform process, saying, "the very fact that a petition drive had to be held — and that it struck such a responsive chord in the student body — is in a certain way indicative of a failure of process."

"Almost every action taken by the faculty to involve students in the current curriculum reform have been in response to student demands instead of faculty outreach," the report states. "We are singularly distressed."

The report suggest various remedies to this problem. It recommends that:

- the existing rules and regulations of the faculty be amended so that student representation is provided for on all committees, including standing and *ad hoc* committees (that are excluded from present regulations), and
- that every committee should consist of at least twenty percent students and in no case less than two students, and
- that a member of the Student

Committee on Educational Policy should have an *ex officio* position on the Committee on the Undergraduate Program.

The report also recommends methods of periodic survey of the student body and structures that would coordinate the work of various student groups working on reform issues.

## "HASS beyond the distribution"

The report claims that "many of the difficulties in HASS reform stem from the lack of historical consistency in the attitude of the Institute toward the department."

The School of Humanities and Social Science should be an intrinsic part of an MIT education, and the purpose of the school is larger than that of a service department to the engineering and science schools, the report asserts.

The report suggests expanded humanities advising roles, the use of undergraduate teaching assistants to break down class size in humanities subjects, and the promotion of Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program projects in humanities fields. These changes could all help to increase the stature of the school.

The report acknowledges that such programs would require increased funding for HASS pro-

grams, but cautions that "real HASS reform will not happen without money. The Institute must demonstrate that it is serious about HASS reform."

Reform in the humanities must be accompanied by reform in engineering and science curricula, the report emphasizes. The engineering and science schools should look at ways to reduce academic pressure.

Among the options suggested are: the removal of professional accreditation, the reduction of courseload or thesis requirements, and a lighter workload.

An undergraduate major should be considered a focus and

point of view for undergraduate studies, and not a program designed to meet the comprehensive requirements of a professional curriculum, the report states. Such a freeing-up of MIT's undergraduate requirements would, in many ways, encourage a broader attitude at MIT, the report says.

The report will be completed and considered for full endorsement at the UA Council's special meeting on May 7. But the Council's action last night permits the draft to be immediately made available to the Committee on the Undergraduate Program, said Michael Colao '87, UA Council Floor Leader.



David M. Watson/The Tech  
Jonathan Katz '90 (center), chairman of SCEP, presents a draft of the student report on the HASS distribution requirement.

## Committee on the Undergraduate Program Institute-wide Meeting

### Undergraduate Education — The MIT Agenda

Moderated by Professor Margaret MacVicar  
Chairman, Committee on the Undergraduate Program

2:00 The Provost's View

Professor John M. Deutch

2:30 The Academic Program

Dean Gene Brown, School of Science

Dean Ann F. Friedlaender, School of Humanities and Social Science

Professor Jack Kerrebrock, Associate Dean, School of Engineering

3:15 The Academic Experience

Mr. Michael Behnke, Director of Admissions

Professor S. Jay Keyser, Associate Provost

Professor Kenneth Manning, Chairman of CUAFA

Dr. David Wiley, Head of UASO

Tuesday, May 5, 1987 from 2:00 to 4:00

Room E15-070

(the Bartos Theatre in the Wiesner Building)

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## Alternative HASS distribution system proposed by group of nine faculty

The HASS component of the general Institute requirements shall consist of eight HASS subjects to include:

**1. Distribution:** Three subjects selected from a list of distribution subjects divided into three categories: Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts. One of the three will be chosen from the Humanities category, one from the Social Science category, and one from either the Humanities, the Social Sciences, or the Arts category. No more than one subject for distribution may be chosen from the same department, section or program.

**2. Concentration:** A three or four subject sequence in a discipline (or special interdisciplinary field), including no more than one subject also being used to satisfy distribution).

### Discussion:

**1. Number and Nature of Categories:** The proposal currently before the faculty aims to ensure (a) that no student take more than one subject from any discipline in satisfaction of the distribution requirement, and (b) that a student's choices recognize the distinction between the Humanities and the Social Sciences. Nonetheless, it subverts this aim by offering a system of five categories in which (a) subjects from one department, section or program can easily appear under more than one category, and (b) the student is required to choose subjects from three out of the five categories, thus making it possible for students to take all their subjects in one department and to avoid either the Humanities or the Social Sciences altogether.

To correct this, the amendment offers a system of three categories, in which nearly every subject offered in the School of Humanities and Social Science can be simply classified by virtue of its departmental affiliation, and the student is explicitly required to meet the distinction between Humanities and Social Science.

Since, as in the present proposal, students are not absolutely required to select a subject from the Arts category, the injunction has been added that students cannot take more than one subject from any department, section or program in satisfaction of the requirement for distribution.

**2. Number and Nature of Subjects:** This amendment to the proposal addresses the proliferation of categories as simply as possible. It does not include a cap on the number of subjects. Further, this amendment does not speak to the need in the distribution group for interdisciplinary subjects and subjects of especial generality.

An assumption of this amendment is that the variety of subjects and the generality of their contents are two distinct issues and that attempts to resolve both at once place them at odds with each other, with generality usually the loser. The intention of the amendment is (a) that its implementation will focus discussion within the School upon the general criteria distinguishing distribution from elective subjects, once the question of distribution categories has been settled, and (b) that the manner of limiting the number of subjects should depend upon the outcome of these discussions, not upon a scheme intended to limit the proliferation of categories.

## Alternate plan places no cap on subjects

(Continued from page 1)

eight language and literature subjects lost HUM-D status for next fall in an interim measure planned by Dean of Humanities and Social Science Ann F. Friedlaender PhD '64, who supports the CUP proposal.

The group of nine includes members from the schools of Engineering, Science, Management, and Humanities and Social Sciences. A CUP member, Associate Chairman of the Faculty J. Kim Vandiver PhD '75, is part of the group of nine as an individual, not a CUP representative, Kramsch said.

Also in the group are Louis Menand III and John Hildebidle, the two dissenting members of the Committee on the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, whose report recommended a system similar to the CUP's proposal.

The group will meet today with the CUP's Ad Hoc HASS Committee, which will report to the CUP next week on possible amendments or changes to the current proposal, Kramsch said.

The group of nine formed through informal discussions around the time of the April faculty meeting, said Professor of Literature Travis R. Merritt, another member. The other members are Alvin C. Kibel, head of the literature faculty; David Thorburn, professor of literature; Anthony P. French, professor of physics; and Jeffrey A. Meldman '65, senior lecturer in management and associate dean of student affairs.

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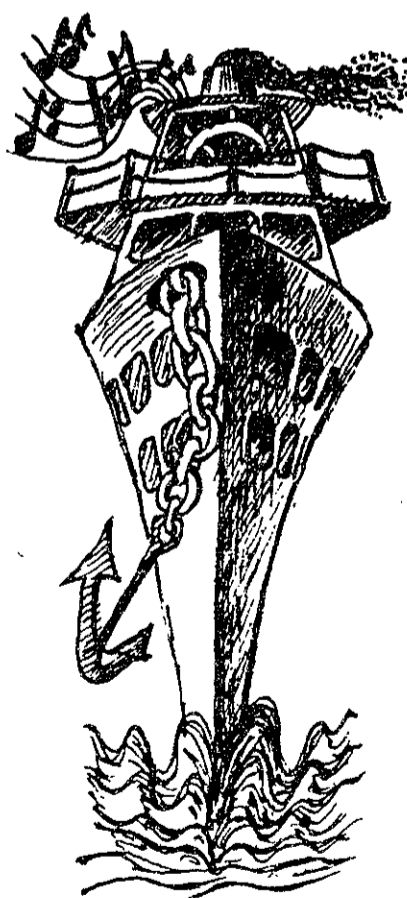
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# sports

## MIT water polo breaks even, 2-2

By Buzzy Sawyer

The MIT women's water polo team earned a 2-2 tournament record at the Eastern Championships at Bucknell University last weekend. The team now holds an 8-3 season record.

Competition among the 12 East Coast teams was unpredictable and exciting as many of the teams had not previously played one another.

The Saturday morning opener saw MIT swimming smoothly and confidently, handing the Annapolis women a tidy 11-5 defeat. The Tech women drove, shot, and scored four quick goals in the first quarter. Second and third quarter play was steady and strong enough to defend against a determined Annapolis attack. MIT clinched the game several goals later, posting an important first round victory.

MIT returned to the pool to continue its winning ways, defeating a team from Mechanicsburg, PA, 9-5. While the Mechanicsburg team swam with speed and skill, holding MIT to a 5-4 halftime score, the Tech women returned after halftime with all the right moves. During the second half, MIT's defense prevailed, shutting down a speedy Mechanicsburg attack. The offense then ripped four goals in to capture a second MIT victory and advance to the tournament semi-finals.

The third match of the day for MIT was against a fiery Chicago squad whose aggressive offense stunned the Tech women. Chicago swam to an early first-half lead, and despite Tech's powerful rebound throughout the second half, the MIT women could not

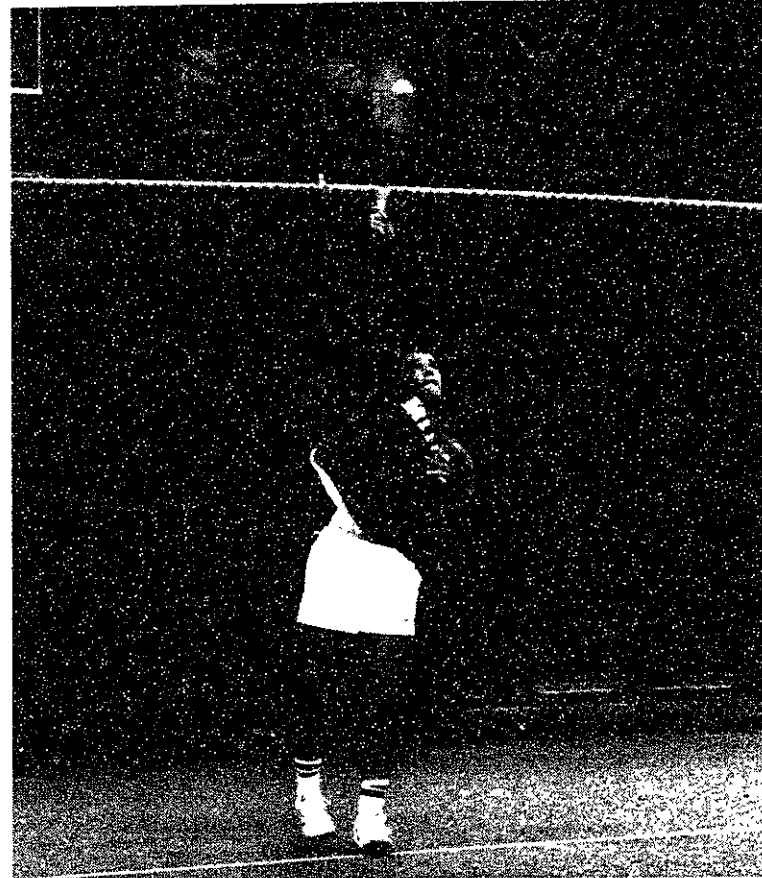
overcome the earlier deficit. MIT lost, 4-9.

In its final round of competition, MIT met the top-seeded team from Slippery Rock. The first quarter left MIT trailing 0-5. The Tech women could only counter with a second quarter freeze, unable to overcome the Slippery Rock defense; it was only late in the fourth quarter that MIT's hole player hurled the first, and soon after, a second and final MIT goal into the Slippery Rock net, leaving the final tally at 2-10.

The Eastern Championship tournament concluded Sunday afternoon. Slippery Rock swam away with the title, followed by outstanding performances by Bucknell University, Queens College, and University of Chicago, respectively.

This weekend, the Tech women will host a tournament at the Alumni Pool. MIT will play Harvard "B" at 5:30 pm on Friday, University of Massachusetts at Amherst at 10 am on Saturday, Harvard "A" at 2 pm, and Brown at 5 pm.

(Editor's Note: Buzzy Sawyer G is a coaching assistant for the women's water polo club.)



Ken Church/The Tech

Number two singles player Brian Brown '89 concentrates on his serve during Wednesday's match vs. Amherst. MIT won 5-4, after beating Bates College 7-2 on Tuesday.

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