

City council to vote on Simplex re-zoning plan

By Katie Schwarz
and Seth Gordon

The Cambridge City Council has advanced a re-zoning proposal for MIT's Simplex property to the final stage. A vote is set for Monday, with some councillors saying they may introduce last-minute amendments to cut the amount of development on the site.

Approval would pave the way for MIT's \$250-million "University Park." This mixed-use proposal is the most successful of many attempts in the past 20 years to rezone the former factory site.

MIT supports the re-zoning package — a compromise worked out between two different arms of the city government — but will object, as the landowner, to any further restrictions on development, stated a letter to the City Council from Walter L. Milne, assistant to the chairman of the MIT Corporation.

The Institute has filed an objection as a "hedge" against any "strange occurrences" at the last minute, but will withdraw it if the package remains as is, Milne explained in an interview.

MIT's potential objection complicates the negotiations among the councillors. Under state law, zoning changes need six votes (two-thirds of the City Council) to pass, and seven (three-quarters) if the principal landowner objects. Meanwhile, some councillors said they may refuse to vote for the plan if their concerns

about traffic congestion and housing are not met.

Councillor Alice Wolf, who voted against sending the bill to a final vote, denied that she was procrastinating. "This is the most complicated zoning and related package in city history," she observed. Part of the plan for the Simplex site would involve altering nearby streets; Wolf expects 1200 cars to arrive at the site every day after it is built. As of yesterday afternoon, she reported, she did not have an estimate of how much those alterations would cost or who would pay for them.

Councillor Sandra Graham, according to the *Cambridge Chronicle*, thought that 100 housing units on the site should be exclusively for families making half the Boston area median income, and believed the traffic guidelines of the re-zoning package were too vague. Councillor Alfred Vellucci was quoted there as saying, "If I can't get answers [about housing and traffic], then I see trouble ahead."

On the other hand, the *Chronicle* reported that Mayor Walter

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Perlman named new writing director

By Raymie Stata

Leslie Perlman, the new coordinator of the Institute Writing Requirement, said he will oversee a shift in responsibility for evaluating Phase II papers from the writing requirement staff to the



Mark D. Virtue/The Tech
Alice Wolf, member of the Cambridge City Council.

individual academic departments.

This change was originally urged by the Committee on the Writing Requirement in the spring of 1986.

Perlman replaced Bonnie J. Walters as coordinator of the writing requirement program in December. Walters became an assistant dean in the Undergraduate Academic Support Office.

Although Perlman does not plan to alter the current structure of the writing requirement, he is

"Tent City" homeless find temporary shelter

By Katie Schwarz

Nine of the "Tent City" homeless have moved into apartments provided temporarily by landlord Alex Steinbergh. The group now wants MIT "to admit some responsibility" and provide permanent housing, said Stewart Guernsey, an advocate for the homeless.

"I think everyone is well pleased with it as a temporary arrangement, but they're very well aware that it's only temporary," Guernsey said.

The Church of the Covenant is sponsoring the group under an arrangement with Steinbergh and the city, said Tent City supporter Steven D. Penn G.

Last month Walter L. Milne, assistant to the chairman of the MIT Corporation, suggested that MIT would pay the utility bills for temporary housing for Tent City. However, MIT's role in the new arrangement has not been worked out, he said last week.

The homeless group, which camped for a month on MIT's Simplex property until it was evicted by MIT police Nov. 20, wants the Institute to contribute a piece of property for congre-

gate homeless housing, Guernsey explained. The homeless refuse accommodation in shelters for the homeless, claiming they need a more independent environment. During the encampment, they issued a proposal to MIT asking it to donate three vacant houses on Blanche Street, next to their camp, for them to rehabilitate.

Since MIT would not change its development plans for the Simplex site, the group is now "willing to talk about any parcel" that MIT owns, Guernsey said.

The group and its supporters had asked MIT for a list of properties it owns that are vacant as possible winter housing options, but Milne told them there were none, Guernsey said.

Landowner Steinbergh offered two apartments, a one-bedroom and a two-bedroom unit, to the homeless group rent-free until Mar. 30. Guernsey would not say where the apartments are. Steinbergh and city officials also refused to tell the *Cambridge Chronicle* where the apartments are.

The church, Tent City, and Steinbergh all felt that the location of the apartments should not become known to avoid various possible problems, Penn said. Steinbergh intends to rent the units on the market after March 30, he said.

Steinbergh had originally offered a building at 245 River Street, which could have housed about 15 of the homeless, but the plan fell through shortly before Christmas when city inspectors found the building was unfit for habitation.

Frustrated Tent City residents and supporters confronted the City Council at that point, on

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Student plants explosive device in MacGregor House

A resident of MacGregor House has been charged with planting an explosive device designed to create noise and smoke in the dormitory just before finals week. Had the device malfunctioned, it might have caused serious fire damage to the house, according to MIT Police Chief Anne P. Glavin.

The Committee on Discipline is currently reviewing the accusations against the student, who has not been identified. When the COD will complete its investigation is uncertain.

COD Chairman Paul C. Joss was unavailable for comment. Associate Dean for Student Affairs James R. Tewhey refused to speculate on what action the COD might take against the student. But criminal proceedings are unlikely, he said.

The device was discovered in a mailbox by students on Dec. 8. The student continues to live in MacGregor while the COD reviews his case, Tewhey said.

Forrester model predicts economic downturn

Feature

By Kenyon D. Potter

The United States may be at the onset of a major economic downturn, according to Professor of Management Jay W. Forrester '45, the winner of the 1987-88 James R. Killian, Jr. Faculty Achievement Award. Forrester said his work in system dynamics suggests that the nation may be headed for a severe recession.

Forrester and his colleagues at the Sloan School of Management have been pioneers in the field of system dynamics for the past 30 years. System dynamics is a method of developing models to describe how the parts of a system — social, biological, or physical — interact with the rules that govern that system in order to produce some observed behavior.

For example, a bicycle and its cyclist, including the mechanical parts and rules of operation, comprise a relatively simple system. In the same way, system

dynamics can be applied to "complex socioeconomic systems," Forrester said.

The Sloan School's System Dynamics Group has been developing a dynamic model of the national economy, according to Associate Professor John D. Sterman PhD '82, a member of the group. The System Dynamics

National Model contains "over 1000 economic and decision-theory rules."

Economic indicators such as growth, unemployment, and inflation, are the so-called "parts" of the national model, Forrester said. The group uses computer models to simulate the complex behavior of socioeconomic

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Tech file photo
Professor of Management Jay W. Forrester '45, winner of the 1987-88 James R. Killian Jr. Faculty Award.

planning two important changes that will take effect next fall.

Perlman believes that discourse is "not universal, but particular to each subject." In keeping with this philosophy, the writing requirement office will shift the administration of Phase II to the departmental level, "where it should be."

As part of this shift, Phase II papers will no longer be evaluated by the writing requirement

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Wellesley cross-registration declines

By Sally S. Vanerian

The number of MIT students participating in the MIT-Wellesley cross-registration program has fallen significantly, according to Mary Z. Enterline, director of the Wellesley exchange.

One hundred and seventy MIT students took 180 Wellesley courses this fall, but only 40 of

those students took those classes on the Wellesley campus, Enterline said. This is a large drop in comparison with the fall term of 1986 when 75 MIT students took classes at Wellesley.

Also, only about 10 percent of MIT students taking classes at Wellesley are women, though the number of MIT women taking Wellesley classes at MIT is closer to 25 percent, Enterline said.

The number of students participating in the residence exchange program is also low. In fall 1987, 3 male MIT students lived at Wellesley and 6 Wellesley students lived at MIT, Enterline said.

Part of the decrease in MIT student participation is attributable to the program's poor publicity in the last two years, according to Professor Robert L. Jaffe, co-chairman of the Wellesley exchange. Wellesley could generate interest in its classes, such as the many art history and studio art courses, by advertising these classes near registration time, Jaffe said.

One of the best ways in the past of attracting MIT students to Wellesley courses was to grant those classes humanities distribution status, Jaffe said.

However, the recent HASS-D changes have decreased the number of distribution subjects, and forced their content to be broader. As a result, Wellesley courses were not — at first — granted HASS-D status, Jaffe said. But Wellesley has shown

sufficient willingness to revise its classes to fit the new requirements, he added.

The number of Wellesley students taking classes at MIT has also decreased. One hundred and ten Wellesley students registered for 190 MIT courses in fall 1987, while 155 students were registered for 200 MIT courses in fall 1986, according to Enterline. This decrease may have been due to competition from the junior year abroad program at Wellesley, she added.

The MIT-Wellesley cross-registration program started in 1968-1969 with the hope that the exchange would get women interested in engineering. At the time, Wellesley students mostly took humanities and social science courses at MIT. But in the last few years, there has been a marked increase in the number of Wellesley students taking engineering, management and science courses at MIT, Enterline said.

MIT students primarily take

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inside

Grand dames of film uplift flawed *Whales of August*. Page 8.
Chinny Yue and Kenneth Goodson give delightful performances at the MIT Chamber Chorus debut. Page 9.

Simplex zoning plan nears vote

(Continued from page 1)
Sullivan and Councillors Sheila Russell and William Walsh will support the package unamended.

Obstacles to the re-zoning package arose last month when the city's Planning Board came into conflict with the Community Development Department, which drafted the package in cooperation with Forest City, MIT's developer for the site. The Planning Board called for a 25 percent lower ceiling on development, claiming the project would bring traffic congestion and pollution; a compromise was reached and sent to the council in mid-December.

In the last week of December, two councillors said the revisions were too complex and the petition should be refiled, which would delay it up to three months. But on Dec. 28 the council voted 6-1, with two ab-

"Tent City" homeless find temporary shelter

(Continued from page 1)
Dec. 21. Amidst the threat of an overnight sit-in at City Hall, City Manager Robert Healy signed an agreement guaranteeing them free temporary housing by Christmas Eve.

245 River Street had wiring, plumbing and structural problems and the cellar was flooded, Healy said.

Estimators sent by MIT said it would cost \$30,000 to bring the building up to habitable standards, according to Milne. It would be unreasonable to spend so much on a building that is scheduled to be demolished in three months, Milne said, and so the focus shifted to the two other apartments.

The problems with 245 River Street were serious, Penn acknowledged, although he said the \$30,000 estimate was much too high and the city manager had made a lower one.

The former Tent City residents are living under a set of agreements with the church including

MIT-Wellesley exchange faces declines

(Continued from page 1)
humanities, social science and language courses at Wellesley, she continued. Independent Activities Period is a favorite time for MIT students to take language classes at Wellesley; approximately 50 are doing so this IAP.

There are no restrictions on the types of courses that can be taken in the cross-registration program with Wellesley, Enterline said, except that courses taken to satisfy Institute requirements need special approval and that different departments have different restrictions as to the number of Wellesley courses a student may take.

stentions, to send it to a "second reading," i.e. a final vote, at its next meeting.

Turning point in 20-year saga

This vote is one of the last steps in the breaking of a long stalemate over the development of the 27-acre area. MIT has owned the Simplex site since 1969, but did not name a developer until 1983. The re-zoning proposal is the concrete outcome of a Blue Ribbon Committee report to the council a year ago, which outlined recommendations for the entire Cambridgeport Industrial District, including Simplex.

Neighborhood activists have fought MIT for two decades, claiming that too many new high-tech professional jobs would drive rents up and disrupt the adjacent blue-collar community. Over the years, MIT has agreed

provisions similar to their own self-made rules in Tent City, such as no violence, no drugs and no alcohol, Penn said.

Under the agreements, there will be a supporter on hand 24 hours to deal with emergencies, he said.

to include housing on the site, with some reserved for low- and moderate-income tenants.

MIT plans to build a \$250 million "University Park" including commercial space, research and development, light industry and housing on the site of the old wire and cable factory, which is now zoned for industry only. The re-zoning would create a new zone allowing mixed use, with a maximum set on development.

The proposed zoning ordinance specifies:

- 2.4 million square feet of development which must include at least 400,000 square feet of housing and at most 2 million square feet of commercial development.

- A minimum of 400 units of housing of which 100 must be for low-income families and 50 for moderate-income families.

- A maximum of 1700 vehicle trips to and from the development per day.

- 100,000 feet of open public space.

- The project will be reviewed at two intermediate stages of development, and must have certain numbers of housing units at these reviews.

- The Planning Board is empowered to block building permits if traffic and housing requirements are not being met.



A FEW QUIT TIPS

Hide all ashtrays, matches, etc.

Lay in a supply of sugarless gum, carrot sticks, etc.

Drink lots of liquids, but pass up coffee & alcohol.

Tell everyone you're quitting for the day.

When the urge to smoke hits, take a deep breath, hold it for 10 seconds, & release it slowly.

Exercise to relieve the tension.

Try the "buddy system," and ask a friend to quit too.



**Hush little baby
don't you cry.
If someone doesn't
do something,
you'll just die.**

Be a Peace Corps
volunteer **Peace
Corps**

This space donated by The Tech



\$ 1200

Wrap up the semester before it begins.

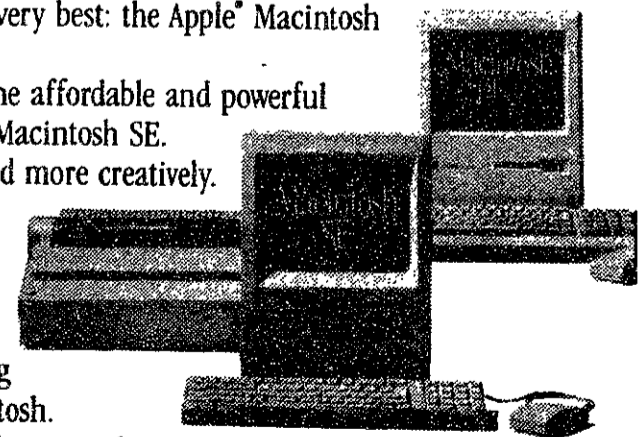
Your mom and dad *already* think you have brilliant "potential." And of course, you'd hardly disagree.

But you may still want to tell them about the one college learning tool that can bring out even more of your very best: the Apple® Macintosh computer.

You have two to choose from. The affordable and powerful Macintosh® Plus. And the expandable Macintosh SE. Both let you work faster, smarter—and more creatively. Then, add the ImageWriter® II printer, and you'll produce crisp, impressive copies to prove it.

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Then let the bragging begin.



MIT Microcomputer Center Room 11-209
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**March of
Dimes**
Preventing
Birth Defects

news roundup

from the associated press wire

World

US joins in anti-Israel vote

For the first time since 1981, the United States has joined with the other 14 members of the UN Security Council in a vote against Israel. The Security Council last night unanimously asked Israel not to deport Palestinians from the occupied territories. In recent weeks, the Reagan Administration has been voicing its unhappiness with Israel's handling of the riots in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. At least 24 Palestinians have been killed.

In 1981, the United States voted to condemn Israel's bombing attack on an Iraqi nuclear power plant and for imposing Israeli law on the Golan Heights.

Riots in occupied territories continue

The Israeli army said soldiers shot one Palestinian to death and wounded seven others on the Gaza Strip yesterday. The army also said five soldiers were injured in stone-throwing incidents. Israeli troops have killed 24 Arabs in the wave of violence that began in the occupied territories on Dec. 8.

Hijackers admit guilt

Five Palestinians who are on trial in Pakistan have admitted taking over a Pan American jetliner. Their admission came in a statement read by a lawyer at their trial yesterday. Four of the five are accused in the takeover itself; one is accused of masterminding it. The statement said they diverted an American-owned airliner to Pakistan to draw attention to Palestinian demands. But the Palestinians blamed Pakistani commandos for the deaths.

Commission reviews Central American peace plan

An international commission arrived in Costa Rica Monday to begin checking whether a Central American peace plan is living up to expectations. Costa Rica is the only one of the five nations the 15-member commission is due to visit that is fully at peace. The commission will visit Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras before reporting back to the presidents that signed the Central American peace accord last summer.

Crew of ill-fated ship too frightened to fight fire

One of two crewmen who survived the ship collision near the Philippines said yesterday he and his shipmates were too terrified to fight the fire that followed the crash. He told a marine board of inquiry there was firefighting equipment aboard the tanker, but little effort was made to use it as crew members fled for their lives. More than 1600 people were killed in the disaster.

Accused terrorist appeals for hostage release

An Arab on trial in a kidnapping case appealed yesterday for the release of a West German who is held hostage in Beirut. In a statement read by his lawyer during the opening of his trial in West Germany, Abbas Ali Hamadi also denied any role in the kidnapping of that hostage or another German who was later freed. Hamadi is accused of seizing the hostages in Beirut as ransom for his brother, Mohammad Ali Hamadi, who faces a charge of hijacking a TWA jetliner in 1985.

USSR likely will not boycott Seoul Olympics

It is becoming more and more likely there will be no Soviet-led boycott of the 1988 Summer Olympics scheduled for Seoul, South Korea. Although a final decision will not be made until next week, Marat Gramov, the top Soviet sports official and head of their Olympic committee, emphasized on Monday that the Soviets were planning on attending both the summer games and the upcoming Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada.

Soviets move against unfair psychiatric confinement

The Soviet news agency Tass reported Monday that the Soviet government is making it a crime to commit a healthy person to a mental hospital. New measures set up specific guidelines for psychiatric confinement. The report made no mention of complaints that the government has used such confinement against political dissidents.

Carlucci tours Gulf

Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci began his first tour of the Persian Gulf on Monday. Arab leaders reportedly will ask Carlucci for more US help in ending the Iran-Iraq war. Carlucci has started his visit in Kuwait. He'll also go to Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Oman as well as visit ships in the US naval force in the Persian Gulf.

West German employee killed in Paris

A West German embassy employee was shot to death on a Paris sidewalk early Monday. There have been claims and denials that a Kurdish extremist group was responsible. Police said an envelope in the embassy employee's pocket contained a tract in the name of the Kurdish National Liberation Front, an exile group that has protested West German treatment of Kurdish refugees.

Nation

Candidates receive federal funds

Monday was pay day for a dozen presidential candidates. The US treasury doled out \$25 million in federal matching funds to the candidates. Vice President George Bush received the largest check — \$4.8 million. Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis lead the Democratic candidates with \$2.4 million.

Republican Pat Robertson said it was with reluctance that he accepted more than \$4 million in federal campaign money. He said he's still opposed to federal matching funds — but decided to take the money just in case he needs it to stay competitive.

Oil spill threatens water supplies

Utility workers are trying to patch together systems that will restore water to Pittsburgh suburbs. A diesel fuel spill over the weekend has contaminated the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers. Some residents of communities which draw drinking water from those rivers have to use bottled water. In Wheeling, WV, which draws from the Ohio, officials are getting ready for a possible shutoff.

Test problems force shuttle delay

National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials said Monday that the failure of a rocket nozzle component during a test last month likely will force a delay of six-to-ten weeks in the first post-Challenger space shuttle mission. That could push the resumption of flights to mid-August.

Government beefs up AIDS budget

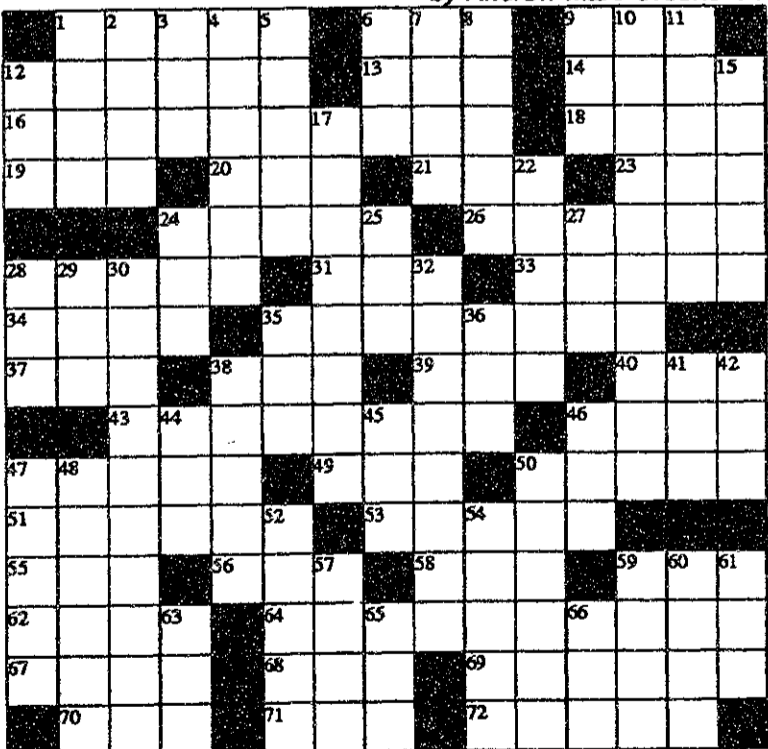
Health and Human Services officials will not disclose how much money they are requesting for AIDS research and education in the 1989 budget. But *The New York Times* reported yesterday that HHS Secretary Otis Bowen has requested \$1.1 billion, a twenty percent increase from what is in this year's budget.

Frontiers of dentistry: dissolving cavities

There is a new technique in dentistry that patients seem to like but dentists may be slow to accept — dissolving cavities. A study has found that patients would rather have their cavities dissolved by the new drug Caridex rather than have them drilled. But the study says dentists haven't taken to Caridex because drilling is part of their professional identity.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

by Andrew Marc Greene '91



6-Jan-88

ACROSS

- 1 Follicle outgrowths
- 6 Mal de
- 9 760 mmHg
- 12 Portion of
- 13 Much About Nothing
- 14 Anti-fly team?
- 16 Part of M.I.T.
- 18 "I don't think we're in Kansas anymore"
- 19 Draft org.
- 20 Compass dir.
- 21 NCC-1701-D crewmember
- 23 Tasha
- 24 Dine
- 26 Bloodsucker
- 26 Strata
- 28 "... him now or wait 'til you get home"—Bugs Bunny
- 31 Golf item
- 33 Jones' locker
- 34 First video game
- 35 Massachusetts
- 37 Ripen
- 38 Preposition
- 39 B' way abbr.
- 40 Type of gate
- 43 Kind of hash
- 46 Po follower
- 47 Gewitter, (Movement from Beethoven's sixth symphony)
- 49 Red or Black, e.g.
- 50 Sanctuaries
- 51 Wrote
- 53 Dynasty star
- 55 Finish
- 56 Coke cops
- 58 British record co.
- 59 Bee chaser
- 62 Cheers cheer
- 64 M.I.T. sports, e.g.
- 67 Scott case

- 68 Teleflora competitor
- 69 Falcons
- 70 "Star Wars"
- 71 Affirmative
- 72 Hamlet word

DOWN

- 1 Shades
- 2 Fundamentals
- 3 Man from Tel Aviv
- 4 Stomach lining
- 5 British weight
- 6 Chinese ruler
- 7 Nervous
- 8 Kingly
- 9 Computer supply co.
- 10 Contest on Nov. 24, 1987
- 11 Ripen
- 12 Pt. of Course XXI
- 15 Turvy's partner
- 17 LSC events
- 22 No soap
- 24 Journal
- 25 Pronoun
- 27 Gab
- 28 Health resort
- 29 Swine
- 30 Integer often following 26
- 32 One who captures and sells people
- 35 Mazel
- 36 Be nosy
- 38 Well-known
- 41 OPEC concern
- 42 Co. between NBC and GE
- 44 Bird
- 45 Born as
- 46 Curve on a road
- 47 Use money
- 48 Some Logarithms
- 50 Beast
- 52 Worship as a god
- 54 Collect
- 57 Poker start
- 59 Indian tribe
- 60 Wyatt
- 61 Subways that aren't subways
- 63 MMMII halved
- 65 6 pts. in football
- 66 Fiddle's cousin

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

BAR LAVA PLAQUE
 ASA ENOS RECURS
 APPROACH I STAND
 PINTA ASTIR
 QUOTA TRIM TAD
 ETRE SIAM IRENE
 DAT NOON DOURER
 COUNTDOWN
 ROSIER JOTA HAT
 TRIAL INGS SORE
 SEX LOGE MALTA
 TRAIN AHOLD
 STEELE FRONTIER
 TREPAN IEEB NAY
 RINSES EDDY GRE

Local

Legislature ends session without gay rights action

The Massachusetts legislature has wound up its 1987 session on the fifth day of 1988. The session ended at midnight last night. Among the bills that have to be refiled at the start of the next session is the controversial gay rights bill.

Flynn starts second term

Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn was sworn in for a second term of office on Monday. He called for greater attention to neighborhood programs and affordable housing in his inaugural address. Flynn also cited a need for increased linkage programs, in which developers set aside money for neighborhood projects. He detailed a plan to offer jobs for Boston high school graduates.

Weather

Brrrr. . .

Today: Windy and very cold with bright sun. Highs 15-20°F (-9°C to -6°C). West wind 25 to 35 mph.
Tonight: Clear and still very cold. Low 0-10°F (-20°C to -12°C).
Thursday: Sunny, but continued very cold. Highs 15-20°F (-9°C to -6°C).
Friday through Sunday: A chance of snow by late Friday and on Saturday. Fair and cold Sunday. Highs between 20-30°F (-6°C to -1°C) on Friday and Saturday. In the teens (-12°C to -6°C) Sunday. Lows generally between 0-15°F (-20°C to -9°C).

Compiled by Niraj S. Desai

opinion

Column/Simson L. Garfinkel

Serving exile in the Big Apple

NEW YORK —By the waters of the Hudson I laid down and wept. I remembered Cambridge.

For the past four months, I have been living in exile in the Big Apple. I didn't choose to live in New York; I chose to go to graduate school at Columbia University. I knew the city would be bad. I didn't know it would be hell.

I didn't get university housing. Priority in the Columbia graduate housing system is based on how far you live from New York when you apply — the farther you live, the higher your priority. Boston just doesn't cut it. I have friends from Colorado who didn't get housing.

My first month, I lived in the sublet den of a 42-year old cocaine dealer at 96th and West End Avenue. She had dropped out of college in the 1960s to explore the world. She had since been divorced four times. The woman charged me \$550 a month rent for the room. There was another student whom she charged the same.

She didn't need to work, since she only paid \$300 a month for

her 6-room, rent-controlled apartment. New York is like that.

I didn't have a lease. When I told her I was moving out, she had her lawyer call me up and threaten a lawsuit. New York is like that too. I'm told that such landlord-tenant relations are typical in the city.

On my way home each night, three or four people would ask me for money. New York has nearly 100,000 homeless people and nearly an equal number of vacant apartments owned by the city. New York has always been a city of excess.

When a slum lord fails to pay taxes and the city takes possession of an apartment building, it bricks up the windows, tears out the plumbing and the electrical system and does its best to make the building uninhabitable. Ostensibly, the practice keeps drug addicts from using the building. It also keeps the homeless from squatting.

Can't have the homeless living in abandoned apartments when the city is spending millions of dollars on shelters.

This in a city that gives hun-

dreds of millions of dollars in tax credits to builders of office buildings and luxury condominiums.

A friend was looking for a two-bedroom apartment in Brooklyn, so I moved in with her. The apartment is in Prospect Heights, a community in the process of gentrification — meaning that the poor people are getting pushed out for the rich professionals, of which I am considered one.

A block east, the rent on my apartment would be \$1500 a month. A block west, ghetto children smoke crack in abandoned lots and on the steps of broken-

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Editorials, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the publisher, editor in chief, managing editor, news editors and opinion editors.

Dissents, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the opinions of the undersigned members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the Editor are welcome. They must be typed double spaced and addressed to The Tech, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge MA 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483.

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

feedback

Take police powers away from MIT

(Editor's note: The Tech received a copy of this letter addressed to the Cambridge City Council.)

To the Honorable Council:

I've been reading with interest accounts of the latest MIT police action against non-violent protesters at the recent "Tent City" roundup. Once again MIT has demonstrated that it does not have the institutional maturity to properly be entrusted with broad police powers.

Only last year, in the spring of 1986, MIT arrested eight students in another unannounced early morning raid — this time on a South African divestment shantytown protest. Those arrests came suddenly, without proximate provocation, and in the context of MIT's refusal to negotiate with the protesters. Given MIT's lack of good faith in that episode (which was roundly criticized by a faculty resolution), the current fiasco should not come as too much of a surprise.

While MIT claims that the people arrested at Tent City had urged the residents to stay, this claim is contradicted by all the testimony of those arrested, who indicated a desire to help the homeless leave peaceably. It is also contradicted by the Chief of the Cambridge police, Anthony G. Paolillo. Paolillo is quoted in *The New York Times* as stating that "[The residents] indicated to

me that they'd walk if asked" and also that when he arrived at the site Friday morning, "people were packing and at some point the MIT police decided to make arrests — I have no idea why."

This is at least the second time in two years that MIT has misused its police powers and embarrassed itself (not to mention the Cambridge police force which is inevitably dragged into MIT's blunders).

MIT derives its police powers from a special legislative edict

and I think it's high time that the scope of that edict be reconsidered. In particular, it has become clear that MIT does not know how to deal with non-violent political protests (much less what to make of them) and its power to arrest in such situations should be removed. As a former victim of those powers (arrested taking pictures at the shantytown, acquitted after trial), I urge you to take action in this direction.

Larry Kolodney '85

Contras have not yet shown independence from US support

To the Editor:

Jeff Meredith G should be applauded for his effort to bring "balance" to *The Tech's* coverage of Nicaraguan issues ["Nicaragua's 'reporter's notebook' series biased," Dec. 1]. I also applaud *The Tech* for its continuing efforts to bring such important issues to the attention of the MIT community. Unfortunately, Meredith is right to say that such efforts are often marked by a certain bias.

However, I must take issue with Meredith over the subject of US sponsorship of the *contras*. Meredith states that all guerrilla armies have benefitted crucially

from significant external support, and that the *contras* are in no way exceptional. He specifically cites the Vietnamese, Cuban, Chinese, and Afghan guerrillas.

A little history is in order here. The Cuban revolution of 1959 was conducted with no outside aid whatsoever.

The Communist Chinese victory of 1949 was won not with a guerrilla war, but with conventional tactics, and with very little in the way of Soviet help. Earlier, Mao had indeed waged a guerrilla struggle against the Japanese occupation of 1937-45; he relied entirely on captured Japanese

(Please turn to page 7)

The Tech

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opinion

feedback

Pornography is exploitation

To the Editor:

I have followed the case of Adam L. Dershowitz '89 with great interest. Unhappy with the ruling, I am especially dismayed by the letter from Harvey A. Silvergate of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts ["CLUM applauds Dershowitz ruling," Dec. 4]. It is naive for Silvergate to assume that any group in power is going to change its pursuits of pleasure by "encouraging free and vigorous debate on the subject within the MIT community."

All of our individual rights are balanced against the needs and desires of other individuals. Those who are in power set the standards. Men have been setting

the criteria for "acceptable" activities for many generations and then protecting those activities, such as pornography, with ideas such as "right to free speech" or "freedom from censorship."

It is time to remind some of these people that they are wielding their power at the expense and exploitation of other people. It is a sick mind — or one interested in flexing its muscles — that challenges a policy by exploiting other people.

Discussion about pornography has too long been couched in the terms of "freedom of expression." But pornography is exploitation and abuse, in its production, sale, rental, and viewing. Its discussion must take place in the

context of discussions about justice and power and how no person should be held up as an object of exploitation and abuse.

Pornography should not be tolerated with rationalizations such as "oh, boys will be boys" or "you don't have to watch if you don't want to" or "they're only having a good time." No one has the right to the exploitation of others. I hope that out of this "free and vigorous debate" will come a policy that will hold up under the scrutiny of lawyers and will help students and the rest of the community proud to be a member of the MIT community.

Barbara A. Peterson
Student Programs Coordinator,
Alumni Association

Wall Street draws too much talent

To the Editor:

According to Director of Career Services Robert K. Weatherall ["Career office changes student interview policy, Dec. 4], the "changing ambitions of MIT students" are leading them in mounting numbers to the doors of Wall Street financial and management consulting firms.

Here at MIT, we have a student population unsurpassed in quantitative ability and scientific training, abandoning Introduction to Design (2.70) and Project Daedalus to go push keys and redivide the slices of a finite financial pie.

Meanwhile, the rest of the developed world goes right on bolstering its technology, rendering our industries obsolete, and methodically acquiring our capital. Then there is the less-developed world, which seems intent upon repeating all our social and environmental mistakes in order to attain our standard of living.

Stymied by the stodginess of manufacturing firms, our budding brokers and financiers speak of "a sense of urgency and importance" and "an opportunity to use more of their skills." I wonder if these people have noticed:

- That America's industrial and transportation infrastructure is crumbling all around them; that air traffic is dangerously overcrowded while trucks pound roads to pieces and railroad rights-of-way rust;

- That there are millions of undereducated people in this nation, from the inner city to the rural backcountry, and that the scientific literacy of the United States as a whole seems to be dropping faster than the Dow Jones;

- That the AIDS epidemic is straining our resources on all

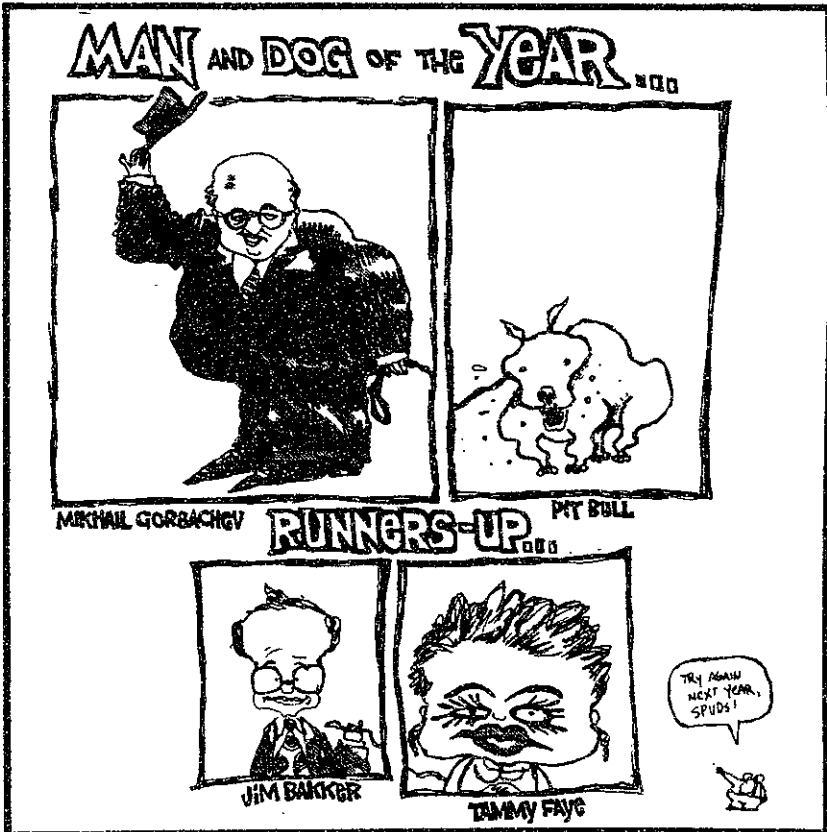
sorts of levels: biomedical, legal, sociocultural;

- That the industrialized nations are still totally dependent on energy derived from fossil fuels, despite mounting environmental and political consequences, and that our flirtation with nuclear energy is going to leave us with a real mess to clean up at every stage of the nuclear fuel cycle;

- That the civilian space program in this country is in disarray; and so on.

Oh, well. Maybe it isn't fair to fault MIT students simply because they find themselves as much in demand on Wall Street as in Detroit or Pittsburgh. I only hope everyone enjoys the champagne brunch on the upper deck of the Titanic.

Steve Semken G



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An Economics' Curve: by Arnold F. Oatley



Only a few weeks prior to the October 87,500 point drop at the New York Stock Exchange, thirty-two of the leading U.S. economists proclaimed explicitly: "Our economy is moving upward prosperously at a slow rate of increase on the GNP chart." Chanting the ritual of high employment, low inflation and increasing GNP punctuated only by lordly announcements from the White House every month specifying, "We have progressed to the 55th consecutive month of economic prosperity."

Today we witness the beginning of the end of the prosperous U.S. economy as it lies shattered into chaos upon the reefs of uncertainty by crushing waves of stock selling throughout the world's stock exchanges. How could this happen? What is wrong with the U.S. economic system to provoke another financial disaster similar to the 1929 Crash along with a subsequent reduction in the market value of securities down to a 10 percent level?

The national press and the U.S. business community are claiming national and international deficits are to blame.

They are right, but only to a certain degree.

The main reason is the loss of international and national markets, which are now being serviced by overseas owned factors of production, without recapture of those markets when the U.S. Dollar drops in value against the value of those overseas producers' currencies. And since those competitors now have up-to-date state-of-the-art production facilities, American production for world markets, along with a percent of domestic production, is unlikely to maintain previous levels.

And after the distribution of world output is taken over by third world lesser developed industrial countries plus countries with centrally planned economies, America will produce only the remaining percent of consumption for its population growth which is not supplied through imports from overseas producers.

As for current analysis of the U.S. economy, we will witness combinations of unavoidable national restrictive fiscal and monetary policies which will ultimately checkmate the economy into recession along with orchestrated world protectionism. Concluding with the collapse of the international banking system. All of the above conceived by the international weakening of western world aggregate demand.

The question is asked where in the collective national conscience do we conjure this hideous impulse to dissuade our yearnings for morality enough to say, "Let this be lesson enough. Let us do what needs to be done. Let us understand and be intimately aware of what it means to a man or woman enticed from the farm, the small city, the urban areas to work in large commercial areas or production plants. Who go on to raise a family, build a house, feel financially secure, and then one day have to find the gate of the plant close behind him or her for the last time as the industry is rendered bankrupt by world competition. To be laid-off with only hope that somehow the nightmare will go away."

In the end we must regroup the economy with realistic economic policies allowing for continuity of imports and efficient production which will provide for the national welfare as we put our economic base in order.

Here we must consider the use of Leontief's Input-Output Economic Analysis as a model for the U.S. Economy. This economic model is a reliable efficient alternative to the current U.S. free enterprise system.

The U.S. Government could maintain a reserve economic schedule that we could revert to in a period of indefinite financial crisis to gain a position of economic certainty which could later be implemented as national economic policy.

We would currently have the benefit of expertise from the two leading socialist countries in the world: Russia and China. These two countries provide for one billion two hundred eighty million people through economic planning.

A similar economic model for the U.S. appears in the following chart:

Table 3-2 Input-output of the U.S. economy for the year 1958 reduced to 8 from 57 producing sectors.^a

Column row	Industry	Food and Drugs (1)	Textiles (2)	Machinery (3)	Chemicals (4)	Metals (5)	Energy (6)	Final Demand (7)	Gross Domestic Output (8)
1	Food and Drugs	15,202	547	151	353	513	165	218	386
2	Textiles, clothing, and furnishings	112,658	298	111	460	113	620	120	258
3	Machinery	347	12,915	92	821	761	177	63	21,289
4	Transportation equipment and consumer appliances	430	215	2,221	2,061	1,327	819	496	13,383
5	Metals	229	155	691	11,560	1753	1013	299	15,010
6	Energy	1158	218	115	308	48	284	541	65,117
7	Chemicals	253	118	24	159	91	131	579	18,826
8	Final Demand	1,033	475	3,073	6,038	6,488	7,958	388	479
9	Energy	144	271	2,511	14,518	12,856	7,325	110	688
10	Chemicals	1,138	652	371	865	2,774	1,704	6,888	1,127
11	Final Demand	1,856	1,030	301	475	1,218	856	1,127	17,702
12	Final Demand	1,056	218	117	115	437	285	576	2,351
13	Value added	53,825	20,390	14,083	31,260	54,208	18,112	29,330	6,884
14	Total	62,252	112,844	110,254	129,677	126,937	110,509	113,127	6,874
15	Total	78,272	36,500	21,283	59,912	68,291	28,158	40,230	11,770
16	Total	8,182	3,929	1,820	3,891	5,581	7,967	1,755	571
17	Total	(2,202)	(2,808)	(1,307)	(2,467)	(4,847)	(1,155)	(1,003)	(403)

^a Derived from the 83-sector table published in "Transaction Table of the 1958 Input-Output Study and Revised Direct Requirements Table," Survey of Current Business 45 (9), September 1969. Each of the 9 sectors of the 83-sector table retained in this reduced table represents an aggregate of the following industries identified by the numbers they carry in the original 83-sector table: (1) Food and drugs; (2) textiles, clothing, furnishings; (3) machinery (only final); (4) transportation equipment and consumer appliances; (5) metals; (6) energy; (7) chemicals; (8) final demand (only final). (9) Final demand; (10) energy; (11) metals; (12) chemicals; (13) final demand (only final). Corresponding entries in the unreduced 83-sector table appear in parentheses. The units are in million-years in the labor row and millions of dollars in all other rows.

Current theory and ideas also provide great latitude for using the profit criteria for improving the efficiency of medium industry light industry, wholesale and retail systems.

If America can put a man on the planet moon or a space station in orbit, it surely can guarantee a man or woman equal wages, continuous employment and mental comfort from the ravages of economic chaos produced through world economic forces. America must surely contain a human desire to foster a covenant of economic justice ensuring man and woman genuine economic freedom instead of slavery by malicious industrial economic greed of the present U.S. economic system. A greed which promotes the wage earners possible ultimate destruction while a small group of economic elite flourish unperturbed on the surplus of wealth produced by wage earners of the U.S. Economy.

Arnold F. Oatley
B.S. in Economics

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opinion

Fear and rent in New York

(Continued from page 4)
down brownstones. Brownstones that the city bricked up to keep out the drug addicts.

I feel safe at night, behind my double-locked front doors. A month ago, an off-duty police officer was shot while buying drugs, but that happened four blocks away. A block is a long distance in this city where the very rich live next to the very poor. There is no crime on my block.

Each day, I leave for school on a 7 am subway. The ride takes about 45 minutes. To save time, I eat at school. If I took the extra 15 minutes to break my fast at home, the subway ride would take an hour, perhaps more. The subway slows down as the morning rush hour progresses. The press of bodies doesn't let up until 10 am.

I'm lucky; other students in my class have a 90-minute commute from Staten Island. My advisor comes from New Jersey — it takes him nearly two hours some days. Nor is he untypical: Manhattan is to New Jersey what Boston is to Somerville. Daily commutes from Connecticut or northern Pennsylvania are common.

New York is not "my kind of town." It smells. The city cleans the streets three times a week and they overflow with trash and grime. Delivery trucks block

three lanes of traffic and hold up busses because service alleys are non-existent.

Four years ago, a friend and I drove from MIT to the city. Thirty miles out, I asked him about the dome of red haze that seemed to blanket the skyscrapers. "That's from the cars," he said. "You mean we're going to be breathing that?" I asked.

I've developed a cough from the dirt and chemicals in the air. A month ago, the EPA announced that it was rolling back the deadline for New York (and several other cities) to comply with the Clean Air Act. But cars are only part of the problem. This is a city where nearly everybody smokes. Sometimes the smoke is as bad on the streets as it is indoors. And then there are the special New York hazards. I spent an afternoon talking to a subway cop: he said the metal dust in the air from the trains turns his snot black.

Perhaps New York has more subway problems than most other cities because New York has the largest city subway system. The New York subways represent 10 percent of the world subway market. Nothing else even comes close.

Everything in New York costs money except the subway maps, but booths are always out of them. Get caught in traffic, some-

body is sure to spray dirty water on your windshield and make you pay to have him clean it off. Telephone calls cost a quarter, bus and subway a dollar. Unlike the MBTA, New York's MTA (Mass Transit Authority) doesn't offer any discount programs or monthly passes. I once asked an MTA employee why. "People would use them too much," he said.

Drugs are everywhere. Crack is the city's number one problem. A police officer told me that 70 percent of the city's crime is directly traceable to drugs.

This week my roommate told me she's moving back to Seattle. "Brooklyn reminds me of everything about my parents that I hate," she said. Now I am faced with the dilemma of finding another roommate in a city of strangers or carrying rent for the two-bedroom on my own.

I want to come home. I want to come back to Cambridge.

Oh Cambridge, if I forget thee, may my eyes go blind, may my right hand turn black and fall off. Oh Cambridge, I didn't realize that you were heaven-on-earth until I spent a year living in New York.

Simson L. Garfinkel '87 is studying at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. He is a former contributing editor of The Tech.

What if *contras* lose US support?

(Continued from page 4)
arms.

Similarly, the guerrilla phase of the Vietnamese war of independence against France (1946-54) was fought largely, but not completely, without external help. This was even more true of the Viet Cong insurgency of South Vietnam until 1968; only after the Tet offensive of that year did the North Vietnamese army shoulder a major burden of the war against the United States and South Vietnam.

Finally, it took years for the United States to put together a significant weapons pipeline to the Afghan *mujahedin*, during which time they more than held their own against the Soviets. Furthermore, the pipeline reaches only guerrillas based in Pakistan. Even to this day, the brunt of the resistance is borne by guerrillas based inside Afghanistan and not in a position to benefit greatly from the Pentagon's much vaunted Stinger missiles.

Each of these guerrilla movements was indigenous in origin, organization, and membership. While most subsequently received at least some external support, they retained their indigenous character and were in no way

"sponsored" by their respective benefactors. They can be contrasted sharply with the *contras* forces, which were originally organized and are still funded by the United States. The *contras* have been so dependent on US aid for their continuing viability that "sponsorship" might not be an inaccurate term.

One should be careful when making sweeping generalizations about guerrilla movements. The *mujahedin* and the *contras* are clearly different. I suggest that

one major difference is that the Afghans have proven that they can fight and even flourish against overwhelming odds, and that they can do it alone. Perhaps we should subject the *contras* to the same test.

Alan Kuo G



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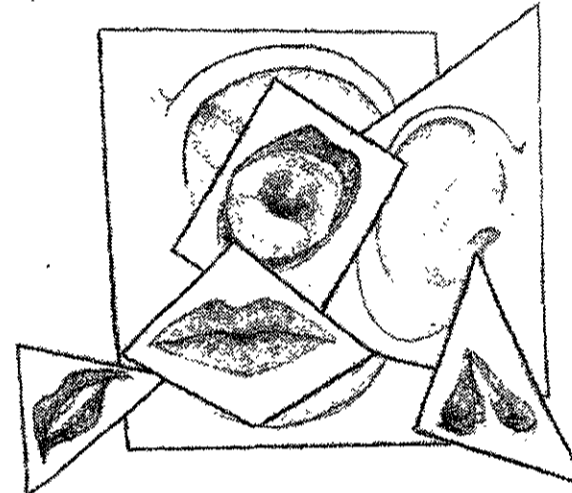
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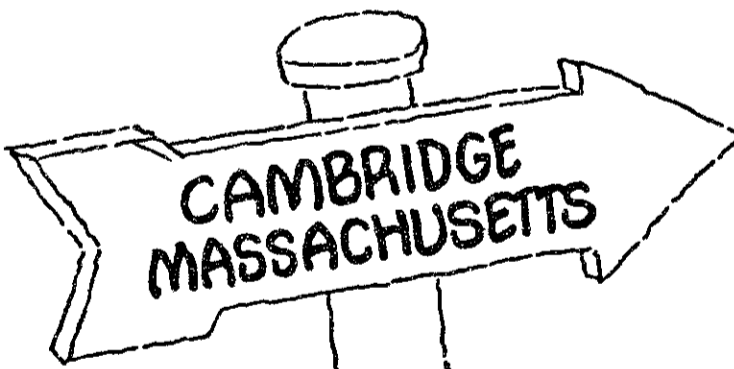
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Narrative faults saved by joy of Lillian Gish and Bette Davis reunion

THE WHALES OF AUGUST

Directed by Lindsay Anderson.
Starring Bette Davis, Lillian Gish,
Vincent Price, and Ann Sothorn.
At the Nickelodeon Theater.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

WHEN TWO SCREEN LEGENDS like Lillian Gish and Bette Davis appear together in a film like *The Whales of August*, it is virtually impossible not to take notice. The problem when stars of this caliber collaborate together is, of course, that respect and admiration can easily degenerate into heroine worship. While it is necessary to retain a healthy awareness and appreciation of the past, each individual performance and film should be evaluated on its own merits.

Even accepting that premise, however, it is difficult to criticize *The Whales of August* without appearing heartless or insensitive. Given all the odds and barriers against such a film being made in the first place, the fact that *The Whales of August* was completed is a minor miracle in its own right. And yet, it must be acknowledged that such a feat by itself isn't necessarily enough. This film is more of a coda or a recapitulation of the careers of Gish and Davis, rather than a crowning artistic triumph of the skills of two remarkable actresses. While it is a sheer joy to see Gish and Davis back on the screen, their return is less than satisfactory due to failures in the narrative vehicle.

The film continuously develops its premise and introduces its characters, with dramatic conflict arising only in its final third. The script, adapted by David Berry from his own stage play, concerns Sarah (Lillian Gish) and Libby (Bette Davis), two elderly sisters who have, without fail, spent the past 60 summers together in the same house on an island near the coast of Maine. Their favorite pastime since childhood has been to watch for whales that appear each year late in the summer. Their husbands have both died, and their chil-



Lillian Gish and Bette Davis in *The Whales of August*.

dren have grown and established themselves elsewhere, leaving Sarah and Libby to themselves. Libby has become blind, and her health is rapidly failing, forcing her to rely on Sarah's attention.

Interestingly, the character of each sister parallels to a striking degree the respective personalities of Gish and Davis. Just as

Davis has fought tooth and nail much of her way through Hollywood, and Gish has always been soothing and forgiving, so too is the appropriately named Libby Strong an acerbic, independent, and abrasive companion to the kindly Sarah Webber, whose happy spirits are rarely perturbed.

After Sarah and Libby are first seen, the

supporting characters are introduced and developed one by one. All of them fit into the elderly stereotype of enjoying a quiet and passive existence without much direction or interest in life. With a plethora of scenes describing their day to day activities the filmmakers' introduction of the supporting cast into the flow of the film creates an intelligent and three-dimensional depiction of the relatively isolated lives Sarah and Libby lead together on the island.

Gish and Davis both shine in their roles during these parts, their contrasting personalities complement each other quite well. Their chemistry with the other actors is somewhat staid at a few points in the film, but it is always believable and in several moments quite touching. When Sarah cautiously leans over to pick up an item that has fallen to the floor, it is almost heartbreaking to realize just how old and frail she really is and the toll caring for her sister must have taken. Similarly, when Libby is first seen, she almost looks like a ghost with her long flowing white hair and dark beady eyes. But instead of appearing frightening or startling, Davis makes Libby endearing and strangely sympathetic, even as she macabrely brushes her cheek with a lock of her long-deceased husband's hair.

However, instead of simply letting this sensitive portrayal speak for itself, the filmmakers decide to uproot the most fascinating aspects of their character study. They make the all-too-typical mistake of trying to inject drama and plot into the course of events. Libby keeps insisting to Sarah that their lives are over, although, ironically, the very vehemence with which she makes this proclamation belies her fatalism and shows the life remaining behind those unseeing eyes. Sarah, to the other hand, must decide whether she will reaffirm her commitment to care for her sister or whether she will leave Libby in the unwilling care of her rich daughter. This conflict is, however, a wholly transparent one

(Please turn to page 11)

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By JONATHAN RICHMOND

JOHN OLIVER KNOWS how to work wonders with the human voice. Hot on the successful Killian Hall debut of his MIT Chamber Chorus, two of his choristers — Chinny Yue G (who is also in the Tanglewood Festival Chorus) and Kenneth Goodson '89 gave a delightful recital, accompanied by An-Na Liu at the piano.

Yue's supple soprano shone out during the afternoon's opener, Purcell's *Sound the Trumpet*. Coloratura was rendered with an appreciation of the music's intricacy and beauty and with grace. Goodson, meanwhile, contributed a firm baritone: the two went well together.

Purcell's *Lost is My Quiet* was sensitively sung, with an intimate sense of pathos.

Goodson followed with selections from Schubert's *Die Winterreise*, Op. 89. He demonstrated an affinity for the words of the text, pronouncing the German with clarity and an understanding of its meaning.

Goodson has a voice that can wax lyrical to illuminate the beauty of each word. At the same time, he understands the importance of discipline, and has the control to generate suspense. The feeling of desperation, the urgency generated in *Erstarrung*, was particularly notable.

Chinny Yue sang *Voi, che sapete* from *Le Nozze di Figaro* prettily, but blandly. There was none of the electric boyish eroticism, none of the panting of a cherub sighing for the impossible love of a Countess. But in *La Spectra de la Rosa* from *Les Nuits d'Ete* by Berlioz, Yue came into her



GOD CREATING THE UNIVERSE

own, showing surprising maturity in an involved and beautiful performance. There were fine shades of coloration, too, in *Faites-lui mes aveaux* from Gounod's

Faust, underlining the meaning of the text with a glowing expressiveness.

The official ending of the concert came with *La ci darem la mano*, a seduction scene from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. It was nicely sung, but rather too cutely. Goodson acted the diffident youth, rather than the experienced lecher. Vocally he seemed to be more of a Schubertian dreamer than a Mozartian womanizer.

Up to this point An-Na Liu had been providing a close and attractive accompaniment. For the encore, *Summertime*, by Gershwin, Goodson took the pianistic driving seat, propelling Yue into a radiant rendition of this much-loved work. Her singing was full of suggestion; she provided a tour of the piece, providing views from many angles and leaving everyone feeling warm about John Oliver's two talented students.

LARRY HILL'S PRO ARTE CHAMBER Orchestra is one of Boston's musical treasures, so it is tough to have to report that their final concert of 1987 was a disappointment.

Perhaps part of the problem was that the work on offer, Haydn's *The Creation*, had been given the ultimate euphoric treatment during the Boston Early Music Festival the previous summer, and Hill's presentation, though good, simply paled in comparison. The fact is, though, that I left Sanders Theatre unmoved, struck with the overall flatness of the performance.

Jayne West had put in some lovely lines, but the other soloists, Frank Kelley and John Osborn, seemed unable to enter into the spirit of the piece. And there was little sense of interaction between Osborn's Adam and West's Eve.

The Back Bay Chorale appeared to be on good technical form, but uninspired: they read the notes, but not between the lines. The orchestra played well, too, with some moments of delight, particularly from the woodwinds. The ensemble was, nonetheless, too subdued for the most part, unwilling or unable to enter into the effervescent world of Haydn's jubilant music.

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A R T S

Spielberg's Empire of the Sun fails to live up to its powerful potential

EMPIRE OF THE SUN
 Directed by Steven Spielberg.
 Starring John Malkovich and Christian Bale.
 At the Harvard Square and the Cheri.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

EMPIRE OF THE SUN, Steven Spielberg's newest film, has a fascinating main title design: the words "EMPIRE OF THE SUN" slowly fade in to splash themselves across the screen as the Welsh folk song "Suo Gan" plays on the soundtrack while a bright red-orange sun rises from the bottom of the screen to gleamingly illuminate the right-most letters of the title. This tantalizing glimpse turns out to be an empty promise, however, as the film fails to reach the same level until near its end.

The film is about the trials and tribulations of surviving the aftermath of the Japanese invasion of Shanghai on the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The film is seen through the eyes of 11-year-old Jim Graham (Christian Bale), who lives in a posh section of the city with his parents and fellow Britons. Jim finds himself separated from his parents early on and is forced to learn all the things he has neglected or been sheltered from as he weathers life in a prison camp.

But Spielberg reduces the powerful potential of such material to an insulting and uninteresting level. Apart from some well-shot scenes of Shanghai in turmoil, Spielberg completely neglects to mention the difficulties the native Chinese face. They are depicted as a monolithic and alien mass of bodies who frighten Jim for no reason at all, other than his basic fear of the unknown. Spielberg wants to create "a personal, human-interest story woven within an epic tapestry," but this forces him to ask audiences to sympathize with Jim's plight when Jim's suffering seems almost inconsequential to that of the Chinese around him.

Aside from being insulting to the Chinese themselves, Spielberg's trademark,

starry-eyed, romantic perspective also fails to create an interesting narrative: it focuses exclusively on the coming of age of an extremely naive and uninformed child who is distracted by the slightest hint of airplanes and bombers. Any willingness to indulge such naivete quickly turns to dismay as Spielberg constantly overplays and thereby cheapens the sentimentality that could have helped to humanize young Jim. For example, the separation of a child from his mother is usually considered a terrifying ordeal; but the scenes and reactions Spielberg presents just before and after Jim's separation from his parents render the maternal/filial histrionics empty of any real emotion.

Worse yet, Jim finds that his home has been impounded by authorities and has fallen into a state of disrepair. At first, shots of the broken-down house seem to constitute a savage satire against the opulent lifestyle led by the British aristocrats. But then it quickly becomes apparent that Spielberg's efforts are actually directed towards generating excessively large amounts of sympathy: even the footprints in talcum powder that Jim finds on the floor of one room begin to blow away in a sudden gust of wind that appears from nowhere. The film settles into similar acts of vacuous melodrama for quite some time, during which Jim is forced to go outside again after he eats all the food remaining in the house.

In the outside, he meets a low-life American who sells anything he can get his hands on, appropriately named Basie (John Malkovich). Drawn by Jim's promises of a virtual booty of furniture and personal effects in the British houses, Basie and his partner find themselves caught and sent to a prison camp along with Jim. During these prison camp scenes, Jim finds himself emulating Basie in order to learn how to survive. Gradually, Jim begins to develop his own personality after being forced to mature by his exploits in the camp.

And Spielberg begins to engage the au-



Jim Graham (Christian Bale) crawls outside the prison camp searching for a Thanksgiving pheasant in Steven Spielberg's *Empire of The Sun*.

dience with some powerful filmmaking, especially when he allows the audience to experience for itself the growth Jim undergoes, instead of barraging the viewer with patently obvious scenes of Jim's ordeal. When Jim suddenly realizes that he can't remember what the faces of his parents look like, the viewer too realizes that the long absence of the parents from the screen has dulled the memory of their faces. And when Jim is finally reunited with his parents, his unresponsive face demonstrates just how large a gulf the camp has created between them. It is not until moments like these that Spielberg fulfills the tantalizing expectations created by the title design.

The payoff comes much too late to save the film though, as Spielberg repeatedly seems to be unable to distinguish the childlike from the childish. This failure is all the more remarkable as this film repre-

sents a quantum leap in the ambitions Spielberg hopes to fulfill. He employed over 15,000 extras and his large technical crew shot the film simultaneously in three countries. The opportunity afforded by the first Western filming in Shanghai allowed by the Chinese government in 40 years is squandered and rendered impotent by Spielberg's missteps elsewhere in the film.

J.G. Ballard, author of the autobiographical novel that the film is based on, is reportedly satisfied with the film. He says it took him 40 years to write the novel — 20 years to forget and 20 to remember. Unfortunately, for those not personally intimate with the harrowing trauma of Ballard's experiences, Spielberg's adaptation will do little to engage the imagination. Spielberg may yet prove himself to be a serious and dedicated filmmaker, but *Empire of the Sun* does little or nothing to move his reputation in that direction.

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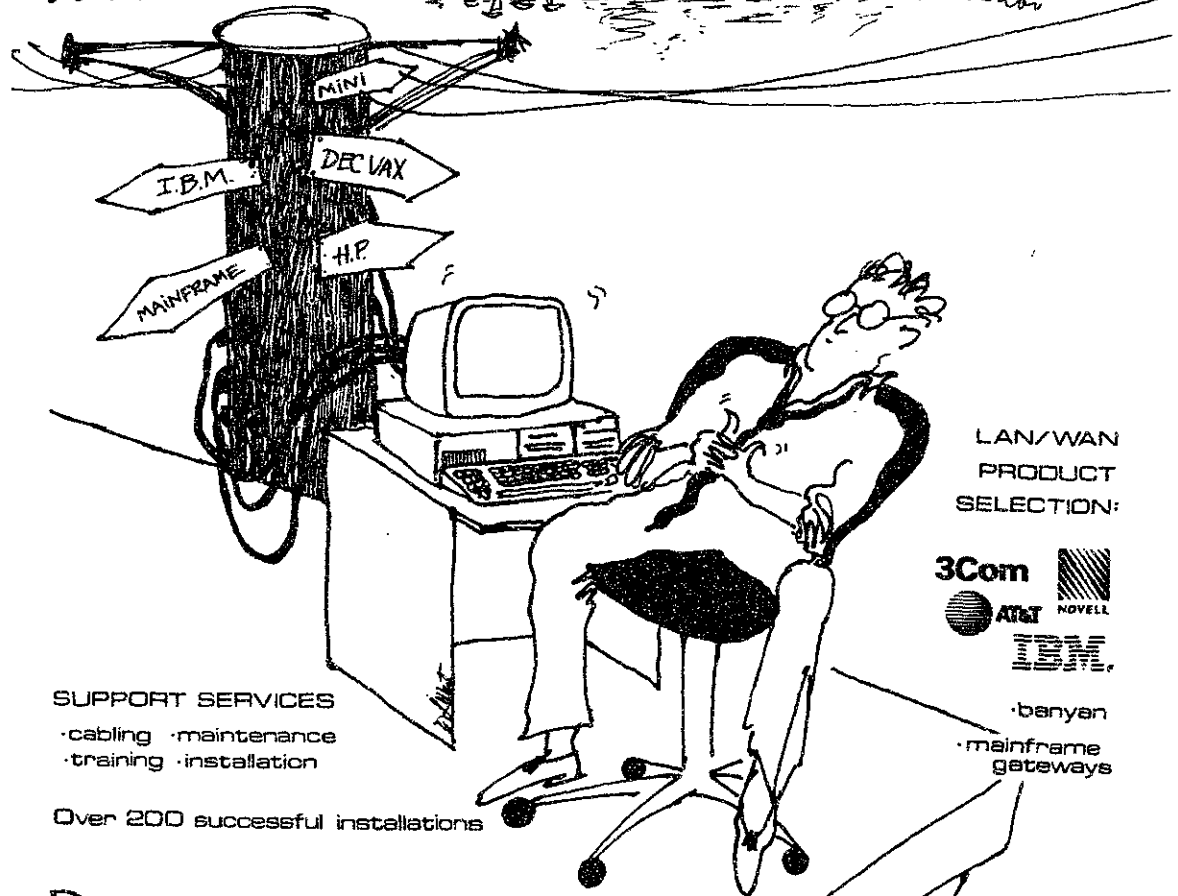
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A R T S

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The Tech Performing Arts Series, a service for the entire MIT community, from The Tech, MIT's student newspaper, in conjunction with the Technology Community Association, MIT's student community service organization.

Muted but surprisingly effective film style from director of Whales

(Continued from page 8)
because both the filmmakers and the audience know that Sarah realizes what her only acceptable choice is. Thus, efforts to create suspense and drama simply unravel and fall flat.

The filmmakers' failure in this approach is all the more striking since they separate the essential question facing Sarah and Libby completely from the other characters. It is Libby, and not Sarah or any other character, who allows the conflict to be smoothly resolved. This virtual irrelevance of the supporting characters to the drama reduces the conflict to a hackneyed, obligatory, and insulting level, especially considering how roundly all of the characters are portrayed. Director Lindsay Anderson and Berry would have accomplished a great deal more if they had submerged the film's conflict into the character portrayal rather than bringing it to the forefront so clumsily.

On a technical level, the film does have a few minor errors. For instance, the lighting scheme is inconsistent from one shot to the next, and, in at least two instances, the technical trickery used to overcome visual or acting defects is apparent. But these are relatively minor flaws, and the joy of seeing Gish and Davis back at work overcomes blemishes that do appear.

More worthy of comment is the filmic style of the director. Anderson is aware that the emphasis of this film is properly on the actors, and he accordingly tones down the cinematic devices. The result is quite conventional but surprisingly effective. Particularly representative of this is the film's pre-credit sequence in black and white. It depicts Sarah, Libby, and Tisha

in their childhood, waiting and watching for whales on the same island. The film then dissolves from a black and white image of a bell-ringing buoy in the harbor to a full-color image of the same bell more than half a century later. This is a rather obvious technique, but it manages to convey at once both the passage of time as well as the stability and calm of the island's unchanging features. The rest of the film is photographed in the same restrained yet skillful style. Anderson deserves credit for maintaining his sensitivity here, something that could have easily been overlooked by another director. Also noteworthy in the face of the creeping influence of video is his use of the entire 1.85 frame to full effect.

What Anderson deserves the most credit for, however, is the reunion of audiences with Gish and Davis. Directing is hardly ever an easy task, and Anderson's courage at agreeing to direct a film fraught with so many possibilities for mishap must be recognized. His film does offer many memorable pleasures, which fans of these two legendary actresses will no doubt appreciate. Gish and Davis are two of the few remaining stars who warrant enough respect to enable audiences to indulge the glaring narrative faults of the film's script. Still, it is unfortunate that these two luminaries of the silver screen are forced to rely on their capital already deposited with audiences, rather than demonstrating their considerable talents to a new generation of viewers. It is only fair that Anderson and Berry bear the bulk of the responsibility for that failure as well as the lion's share of accolades for returning Gish and Davis to their fans.

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Perlman accepts writing post

(Continued from page 1)
staff. Instead, each department will be responsible for evaluating the papers of its own students.

Secondly, Perlman is working with departments to revise the courses in which sophomores and juniors fulfill Phase II of the writing requirement. Currently, classes which satisfy the Phase II requirement only teach the content of Phase II papers. In the future, these labs will also provide instruction on how to effectively present that content in prose.

Although Perlman intends to do everything in his power to help seniors pass the requirement, he is adamant that seniors who do not finish the requirement on time will not graduate. A few seniors last year who did not meet the established deadlines for turning in papers were allowed to "squeak by," according to Perlman.

This year, the deadlines will be rigorously enforced, Perlman said.

Perlman has noted that, as a general trend, each entering class is fulfilling the writing require-

ment earlier than its predecessors, which indicates to him that the writing requirement "is becoming a reality."

Has background in technical writing

Perlman has a significant background in both freshman writing and in technical writing.

He comes to MIT from Tulane University, where he was director of freshman English. During Perlman's stay at Tulane, his wife, Elizabeth Garrels, accepted a faculty position in MIT's humanities department.

"A strange desire to live with my wife caused me to seek a job here at MIT," Perlman said. Garrels is now an associate professor of foreign languages and literature at MIT.

Perlman had previously worked at Wang Laboratories, where he noticed that a great many "bits and bytes geniuses" had problems writing design specifications. He also noticed that only those engineers who could write effective prose and make convincing oral presentations would advance within the

technical departments or move into management.

A native of Los Angeles, Perlman was educated at the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He did his postdoctoral work at the University of Southern California. While at USC, Perlman headed the grading of freshman essay exams and developed writing courses to be taught in tandem with other subjects.

Perlman's current research interests focus on the differences between the writing styles of managers and engineers. This research is part of a wider interest in "how writing reflects people's more specific institutional roles."

As part of his research, Perlman has studied the memos of the engineers at the Morton Thiokol Company regarding the safety of the O-ring seal on the space shuttle. According to Perlman, the engineers clearly knew that the seal was unsafe, but they were unable to convince management of the danger.

Forrester predicts recession in US

(Continued from page 1)
systems.

The group's work on the national model has led the researchers to hypothesize the existence of an economic "long wave," also known as the Kondratieff cycle. The long wave represents a periodic rise and fall in economic activity, with crests and troughs separated by some 45-60 years, Forrester said.

Economic cycles emerge in the model according to the innate rules of the physical relationships in the national economy as well as the mental reactions of the American people, according to Sterman. For example, the relationship between the interest rate and unemployment is included in the model, as is a consumer's decision whether or not to purchase a new house.

By contrast, most standard econometric models use statistical approaches, producing cycles according to historical data, Sterman said.

Sterman has developed a simplified version of the national model in the form of a computer game. An economic long wave emerges in the game despite the player's concerted effort at rational decision making. Nearly the same result was observed in fifty cases, whether the player was an economics expert or not, Sterman said.

The object of the game is quite simple: to maintain a balance between capital production and consumer demand. Consisting of about twenty rules, the game accounts for such factors as depreciation (10 percent per year) and production time-lag (2 years). It requires the player to increase or decrease orders for new capital each simulated year in accordance with expected consumer demand.

At the start of the game, the player is informed that consumer demand varies randomly. Yet, in truth, the demand level increases only once to initiate a small imbalance. Soon after, the player finds himself incapable of ever maintaining a balance. Instead, the imbalance swings back and forth from underproduction to overproduction.

At the end, about 60 simulated years later, the game reports the player's score and a graph of the capital imbalances, displaying two prominent crests of large overproduction about fifty years apart and a trough of severe shortage in between — in essence, one cycle of the long wave.

"The long wave is a process in which the capital goods sectors grow to a size that cannot be sustained and then collapse," Forrester stated in *Fortune* magazine. Further, the national model constitutes the first well-defined theory of the economic long wave, he asserted.

The economic downturn of the 45-60 year cycle lasts about ten years and the following recessed period another ten years. Then, the economy gradually grows for about 20-30 years, eventually reaching its crest where it remains for ten years of prosperity. Today, the US may just have passed the crest, Sterman said.

Questions about long wave remain

Current economic imbalances arise out of the economic long wave, Forrester said. These imbalances, evidenced by the \$2.4 trillion US national debt, create instability and will almost certainly result in severe corrections in the next decade, he warned.

In a historical comparison, the troughs of the long wave fit the depressions of the 1830s, 1890s, and 1930s and subsequent periods of economic instability. In addition, the economic upturns of the long wave closely match past periods of expansion. On account of these and other correlations, the long wave is considered by some to be the cause of the major upturns, downturns, booms, and busts in our economy, Forrester said.

But so far, few economists support this long wave theory. Economist Lester C. Thurow, dean of the Sloan School, rejects the long wave notion that recession and stagnation are an automatic and regular trait of a national economy.

"The long wave was not considered realistic by economists until the last five years," Sterman

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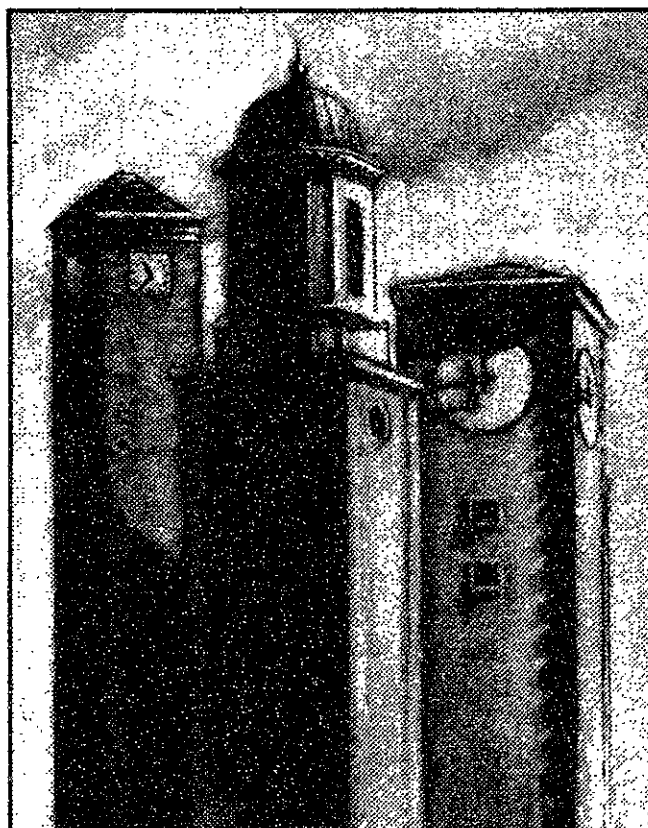
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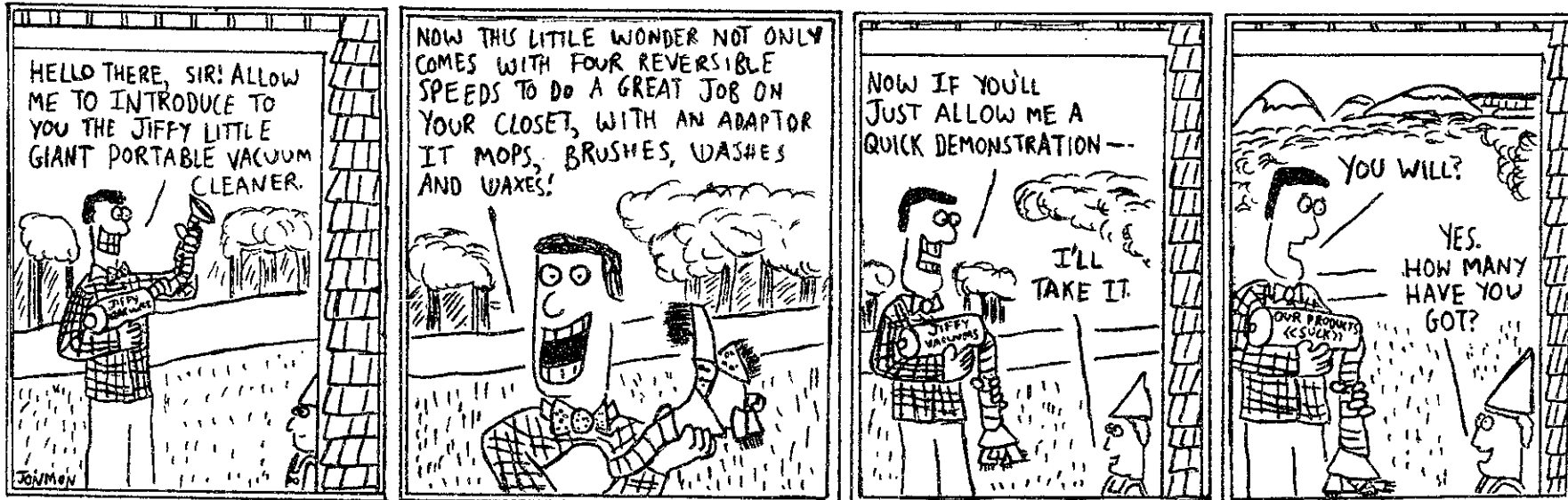


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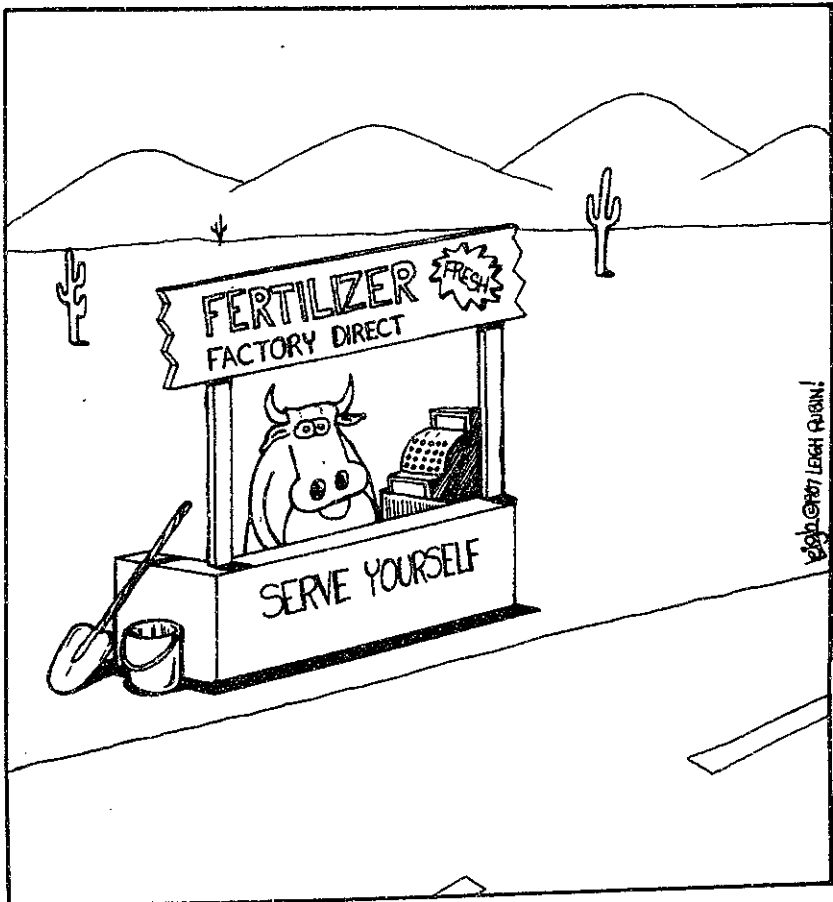
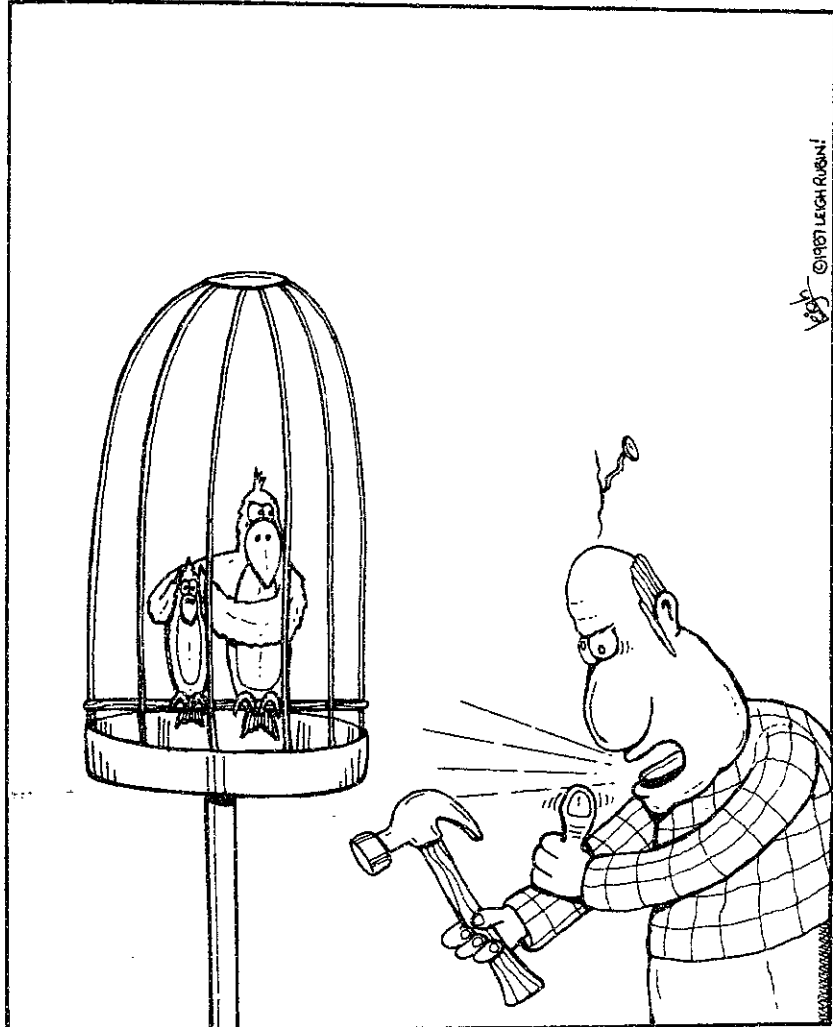
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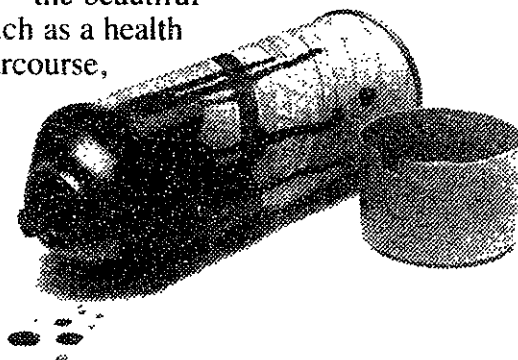
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sports

Tufts deals Engineers 7-1 loss

By Peter Dunn

The MIT men's hockey team finished the 1987 year on a disappointing note, losing its last game to Tufts on Thursday, Dec. 10. The only uplifting note was that MIT lost the contest not because of a lack of effort but because of sheer bad luck.

The Engineers left behind the lethargy they had shown against Southern Maine in their previous home game, and the final tally of the 7-1 loss hardly reflected the gusto and perseverance with which they played.

Although the MIT players started the game slowly, they kept Tufts from running away with the game in the early going. Tufts had the upper hand but MIT rendered their opponents' dump-and-chase strategy ineffective with rough and tumble play along the boards. The only goal of the first period resulted from the Engineers being caught too far up the ice on transition, and Tufts converting on the resulting two-on-one break.

Despite MIT's tight playing, the game got out of hand in the second period, both in terms of goals and penalties: Tufts scored three unanswered goals and six penalties were awarded in the last five minutes of play.

All of Tufts' three goals came from loose pucks near the front of the MIT net, pointing to an area the MIT defense needs to work on. But the real heartbreak came at the other end of the rink: the Engineers' hunger for a goal was evident from their energetic play (sometimes a little too energetic as they were caught too far up the ice), but naught resulted

from this except unlucky break after unlucky break. A stiff south wind must have been blowing from the Tufts' goal as one sure goal after another never seemed to find its mark.

The Engineers again played hard during the third period, the highlight being MIT's only goal as Alec Jessiman '88 tipped in a shot by Jeff Bates '90 during a power play; but again the breaks would never go in MIT's favor. Tufts scored its goals on quick drives up the wings as the now frustrated Engineers had a little trouble keeping pace, and the MIT squad could not convert on

several other power play opportunities.

Perhaps the MIT squad lacks manpower (certainly for the meager two lines of defense which does triple time moonlighting on power plays and penalty killing), but continued hard work — such as that shown in their last game of the first term — and a few breaks falling MIT's way, will inevitably lead to victories against tough teams such as Tufts. The frustrating 7-1 loss to Tufts was less than — a frustrating loss — than a brief look at some good things yet developing.

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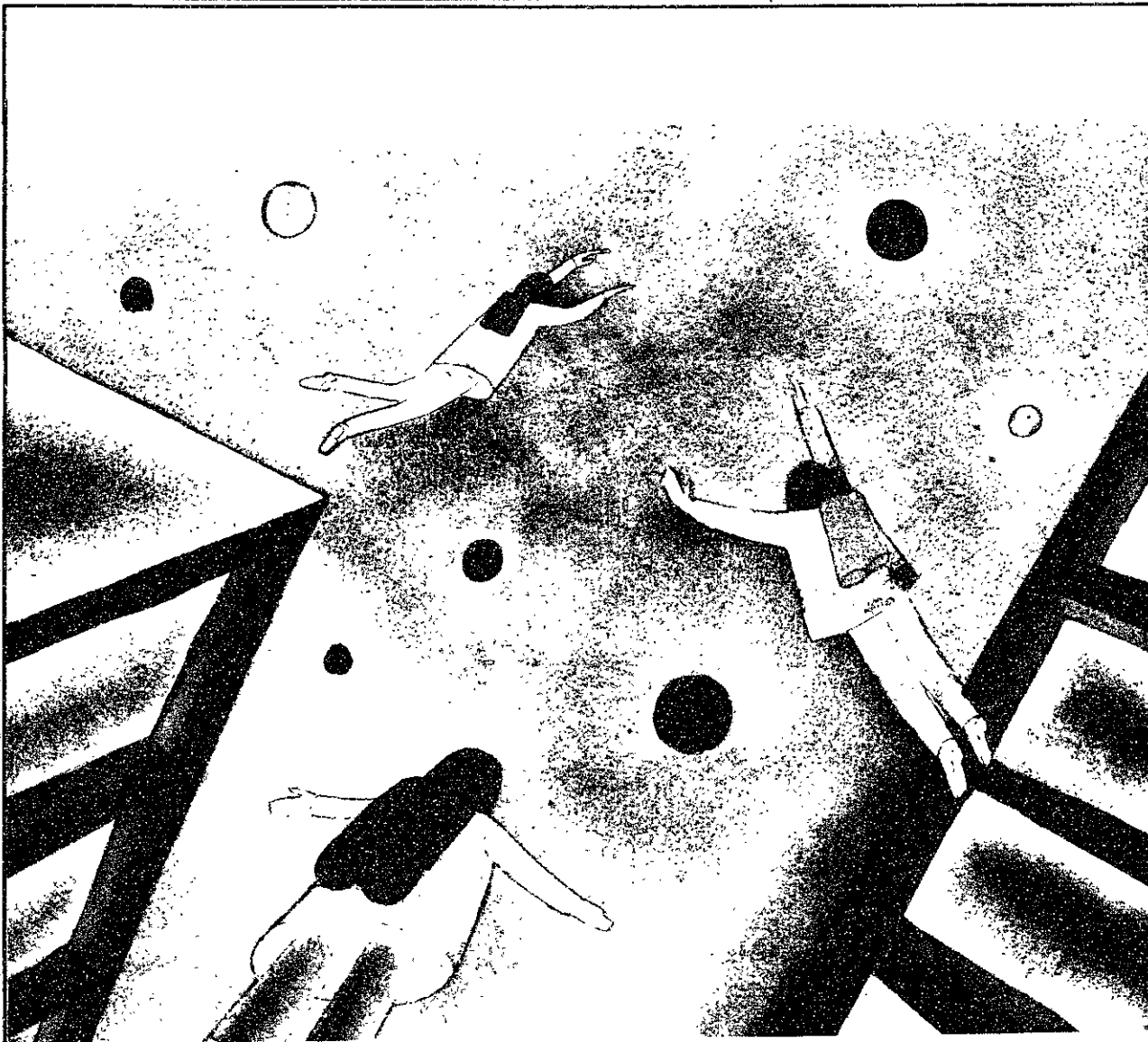
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1988 INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES PERIOD
 January 11-15, 1988
 1:00 - 4:00pm
 M.I.T. Room 9-150

MANAGEMENT OF THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY COMPANY

BARRY UNGER, COURSE DIRECTOR
 BARBARA A. PLANTHOLT AND PAUL M. KELLEY, CO-DIRECTORS

A series of seminars featuring individuals experienced in starting and managing high-technology companies. These sessions will cover business planning and practical strategy, marketing and sales, finance, the management team and other aspects of the technology-based business. "War stories" and a live case analysis of a new company's business proposal will be used to illustrate points about the entrepreneurial process.

- Dr. Unger '69 is Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Datacube, Inc., a digital signal processing systems company. He is also co-founder and vice-chairman of the M.I.T. Enterprise Forum and has been a founder/officer of several technology-based companies.
- Ms. Plantholt GM '71 is a Senior Investment Analyst at Massachusetts Technology Development Corporation.
- Mr. Kelley is Managing Partner of Zero Stage Capital Equity Fund of Cambridge.

Monday, January 11 Room 9-150

STARTING AND RUNNING A COMPANY: THE INSIDER'S VIEW
 1:00pm -C. Wayne Griffith, Chairman, College Counsel, Inc., and former President of Xylogics Corp.
 2:30pm -Frank Manning '70, President and Founder, Zoom Telephonics, Inc.

Tuesday, January 12 Room 9-150

PLANNING AND FINANCING THE BUSINESS
 1:00pm *Venture Capital and Other Financing Alternatives for the Startup Company*
 -Michael E. A. O'Malley, Investment Analyst, Massachusetts Technology Development Corporation and Paul M. Kelley
 2:30pm *Creating the Business Plan*
 -Barbara A. Plantholt

Wednesday, January 13 Room 9-150

MARKETING AND SALES FOR TECHNOLOGY BASED PRODUCTS
 1:00pm *Principles and Practical Approaches*
 -James H. Geismann, President, Market Share Inc.
 2:00pm *Sales Lessons They Never Taught Me in Business School*
 -Kenneth P. Morse '68, President, KPM Enterprises
 3:00pm *Becton Dickenson Medical Systems: A Marketing Turnaround Case Study*
 -Ralph E. Grabowski '63, Marketing Consultant

Thursday, January 14 Room 9-150

JOINT VENTURES BETWEEN SMALL AND LARGE COMPANIES
 1:00pm -Richard C. Lufkin '68, Executive Vice President, Medical Market Specialties and former Manager of Business Development, Johnson and Johnson Co.
*RESOURCES FOR THE ENTREPRENEUR:
 FINDING GOOD PEOPLE AND ADVICE*
 2:00pm *Building Your Management Team: Finding and Motivating Business Partners and Employees*
 -Glenn J. Walters, President and Founder of A. D. TECH, Inc.
 2:45pm *Creating and Effectively Utilizing a Board of Directors*
 -Dr. Judith H. Obermayer, Director, MOLECULON Inc.
 3:30pm *Formal and Informal Resources within the MIT Community*
 -Paul E. Johnson, National Director, MIT Enterprise Forum

Friday January 15 Room 9-150

1:00pm *PROTECTING YOUR TECHNOLOGY: Patents, Trade Secrets, Relationships with Previous Employers, and Other Issues Concerning Intellectual Property*
 -Barry D. Rein '60, Partner, Pennie & Edmonds
 2:00pm

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**MIT ENTERPRISE FORUM
 NEW BUSINESS PRESENTATION**

Moderator: Robert J. Crowley, Vice President, Massachusetts Technology Development Corporation and Chairman, MIT Enterprise Forum

Panel: Barry Unger, Paul M. Kelley, and Betty F. Kadis, President, JL Clark Associates and Co-founder and former President of Wakefield Software Systems, Inc.

For further information, contact the MIT
 Enterprise Forum at W59-220 or call 253-8240.

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