

Lisette W. M. Lambregts/The Tech

Ground-breaking ceremony initiates construction of a new graduate dormitory which will be completed by 1990.

Construction begins on grad dorm

By Annabelle Boyd

On Wednesday, a ground-breaking ceremony officially kicked off construction on the new MIT graduate student dormitory at 143 Albany St., adjacent to the Necco factory. Full-swing construction will begin on January 2, 1989, and the building is scheduled to be completed a year later, on January 5, 1990.

According to Scott Peng, Graduate Student Council President, the new dormitory is a positive sign of MIT's commitment to graduate student housing.

But much more still needs to be accomplished, as a significant number of graduate students who desire on-campus housing are turned away every year and will continue to be turned away even after the new dormitory is opened for occupancy, he said at the ceremony.

An old MIT property holding, the two buildings at 143 Albany St. have served in the past as a masonry manufacturing complex as well as headquarters for the

Otis Clapp Corporation.

The 1.16 acre complex is being remodeled into 87 units with an estimated total capacity of 190 beds by the Columbia Construction Company of North Reading, Massachusetts.

The funds necessary to finance the project will be borrowed from MIT during the term of construction, then paid back with interest through the operating revenues of the building, as well as through a special fund MIT created to expand graduate housing, according to Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56.

The architecture firm of Rojas Vogt Associates, Inc. of Cambridge designed the renovation plans which include new partitions; ceilings; energy efficient windows, roofs and entryways; and new mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems including air-conditioning of individual units.

According to Kenneth L. Thompson, MIT projects coordi-

nator, Columbia started the environmentally motivated construction work on the buildings in June by removing all the asbestos from the complex, as well as digging up an oil tank.

Other preliminary jobs which will be accomplished before full construction begins in January include all interior demolition as well as the cleansing of the outside of the complex, Paul F. Barrett, director of MIT Physical Plant, said.

2.70 has new teacher, new strategies

Feature

By Paul McKenzie

The annual 2.70 Introduction to Design contest was held last Monday and Tuesday in front of a capacity crowd in room 26-100. However, the competition which is in its eighteenth year, was much more extravagant this time and marked by a number of changes.

Assistant Professor Harry West taught the course this year for the first time, replacing Professor Woodie Flowers who had taught the course for the past 16 years.

West wanted the contest to be different this year. The introduction of three-way competition was the major change that separated this year's contest from past competitions which had been two-way battles. As Professor West said "it added a new element of possible cooperation among students." But West also noted that very few students actually did cooperate.

Another difference was the media attention the contest received. Although the "Discover" crew that has covered the past two contests was absent, this year the contest will receive international exposure in Japan on an evening news show.

The Japanese company TV Asahi, working out of New York, taped the contest to be broadcast this week in Japan. Director Jun-ichi Kitasei stated that the four to five minute segment will be viewed by about 20 million peo-

ple in Japan. Kitasei stated that MIT is well known and respected in Japan and this exposure would "introduce the Japanese to the creativity of students at MIT."

The contest was also covered (Please turn to page 2)



Michael Franklin/The Tech

Professor West teaches 2.70 for the first time.

Study: MIT rejects some top academic achievers

By Darrel Tarasewicz

A recent study conducted by MIT physics professor Anthony P. French indicates that fewer of the "top academic achievers" in the country, as judged by the standard aptitude and achievement tests, are being accepted by and enrolling at MIT. The study revealed that this progressive decrease has been going on for the past 20 years.

The study showed that in 1968, 65 percent of the students who were offered MIT admission had scored between 750 and 800 on the math SAT. By 1987, this number had fallen to 38 percent.

The study made it clear that these findings were not the result of fewer applicants in the 750-800 range. In 1968, there were 1532 applicants that had a SAT math of 750 or higher. In 1988 this number had risen to 2094. However in 1968, 617 of these applicants were offered admission, while in 1988, only 373 were offered spots in the freshman class.

According to his introduction, French undertook the study in an attempt to obtain objective support for impressions expressed by a number of MIT faculty that there has been a progressive decline in the quality of the performance by students as compared with classes of earlier years. French declined to comment yesterday on the content of the

study.

Faculty members in the math and physics departments have been seeing a "substantive decline" in the core courses like 18.02 and 8.01, said Michael Behnke, director of admissions. The difficulty of tests has not changed over the years and the faculty attribute lower test scores to a decline in performance, he added.

Behnke is uncertain of the cause of the lower freshman performance. "I do not know if it is a problem of motivation or ability," he said.

Similar downward trends in core courses have not been reported from the chemistry or humanities departments, Behnke said. Furthermore, in surveying different majors, there has been no apparent decline in the performance of upperclassmen, he added.

But French's study also noted a decline in the verbal SAT score and in the achievement tests. In 1968, 18.3 percent of the enrolled freshman class had scored between 750 and 800 on the verbal portion. By 1987, this group accounted for only 2.2 percent of the enrolled class.

As for the chemistry achievement test, in 1968, 55 percent of those offered admission had a 750 or above on the chemistry (Please turn to page 13)

Defense communications discussed

By Andrew L. Fish

Advances in defense communication technology have increased stability in the nuclear age, said Walter E. Morrow Jr. '49, director of the Lincoln Laboratory. Morrow was speaking at a seminar on "Defense Communications: The Future Directions" sponsored by the MIT Communications Forum.

US defense communications have evolved from a "fragile sys-

tem" in the 1950s and 1960s to "tightened control today," Morrow said. The improved communications network increases stability both by increasing the deterrent threat of a retaliatory nuclear strike and by reducing the likelihood of a mistaken launch of nuclear weapons. "The investment the country has made in this has been very worthwhile," Morrow said.

In his Pulitzer Prize-winning series in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Tim Weiner alleged that many of new communications systems, notably the Milstar satellite system (which Lincoln Labs has worked on), were intended to fight "World War IV" — another war after an initial six-month nuclear conflict.

But Morrow said the "hardening" of satellite network against nuclear attack was important "in the early phase of anything," and was not designed with the intention of fighting an extended nuclear war. "The main purpose is to prevent nuclear forces from being used," he said.

Robert P. Rafuse '57, senior staff at Lincoln Laboratory, pointed out that if a system was vulnerable to "electromagnetic pulse" it would be knocked out by a single nuclear blast — even an accidental one. "The genie is out of the bottle," he declared. With more nations gaining nuclear capabilities, the possibility of an accident increases. "For that reason you want effective communications control," he said. Without control, the military would have to "launch on warning" for fear of having its network knocked out by an initial strike.

Submarine communications have difficulties

Rafuse discussed the requirements of surface communications, and demonstrated their

limits in the case of submarines. He noted that such communications must be physically secure, resistant to jamming, highly reliable, covert, invulnerable to weapon effects, and reasonably cheap.

Rafuse also said there should be multiple forms of communications systems to increase reliability while keeping costs down.

There are two separate problems in surface communications. The first is "getting the word out," which can be done through telephone cables, fiber optics, microwave, or "free air" broadcasts. A more difficult problem is "repeat back" from airplanes of submarines, Rafuse said. Efficient transmitter antennas are needed and these vehicles cannot have large transmitters. For this reason, report back often uses different frequencies and technologies.

Submarines, for example, want to stay deep in the ocean and avoid detection. Only very low frequencies can penetrate water to these depths — such signals require giant antennas which are the size of a state. Receiving signals at higher frequencies re-

(Please turn to page 2)

inside

Alone on the Pacific falls flat. Page 6.

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Tequila Sunrise is a disappointing movie. Page 7.

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Naked Gun is comedy at its best. Page 9.

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Defense communications reviewed

(Continued from page 1)
quires a sub to go to shallow depth or tow a large antenna. And repeat back is impossible without going to periscope depth. There is an "urgent need" for better peacetime, pre-attack, trans-attack, post-attack submarine communications, Rafuse said. One possibility is the use of blue-green lasers, which can penetrate the ocean, he said.

Rafuse said improved technology has helped improve signal processing as well as allowed for autonomous and long-lived relay points. In the future, the military

will likely retain parallel systems while improving stability in the systems, he said.

Satellite communications have better coverage

David R. McElroy Jr., a group leader at Lincoln Labs, explained that satellite communications offer the advantage of greater coverage around the globe. But such networks face the danger of jamming, a nuclear disturbed path, disruptions from rain, and the threat of detection by enemies. Communications will be improved in the future by limiting

the dangers of interference and detection, creating autonomous control, making inter-satellite links, and designing smaller, cheaper satellites.

For example, antenna directivity will offer increased capacity, smaller terminal size, and improved protection from interference/detectability protection. Better signal processing will also offer increased capacity, while autonomous control would speed up communications.

In response to a question, Morrow said the requirements of strategic and tactical satellite communications were not that different, so systems devoted to strategic purposes could conceivably be used for dual purposes.

2.70 contest attracts many students this year

(Continued from page 1)
by MIT Student Cable Television. They covered all of Tuesday night's competition, and made a tape of the contest that will be available for students to purchase at a cost of \$25.

This year's contest involved the largest 2.70 class ever. Two hundred-thirty seven students took the course. The contest, which was five months in the planning, involved 14 MIT faculty members, two teaching assistants and the support of 30 companies. The elaborate electronic set-up alone cost thousands of dollars.

"What makes 2.70 unique is the individual attention students get," West affirmed. "There is one professor for every 14-15 students."

The students themselves came from a wide range of majors this year. About 25 percent of the students were from majors outside the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

This year's contest was called the Cuckoo's Nest and the three-way competition was exciting to watch as the machine scrambled to pick up five plastic eggs and bring them to a circle in the center of a round table. The winner was the person with the most eggs in the center or the egg closest to the center of the table.

Most of the contests ended in a battle of strength with two or three machines trying to push each other out of the center and claim victory. At the end of Monday's competition about half the contestants moved on to second-round competition. On Tuesday night the battles were more intense as previous winners came up against each other during the five rounds leading to the final.

However, judging by audience reaction, some of the highlights of the contest were provided by the placebo displays that took place between rounds. The placebos are built by former 2.70 students. Professor West noted that there has been a tradition of building more creative and elaborate placebos.

"I was very impressed with people's designs" and the fact that "almost everybody had a machine that worked," West said.

2.70 will be offered next spring for the first time as the department has made a move to make it a sophomore "introduction to mechanical engineering" course. However, the contest will probably still draw the attention of the many people who come to watch MIT students display their skill and creativity.

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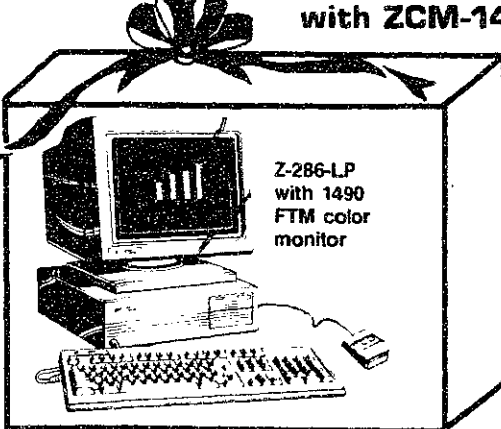


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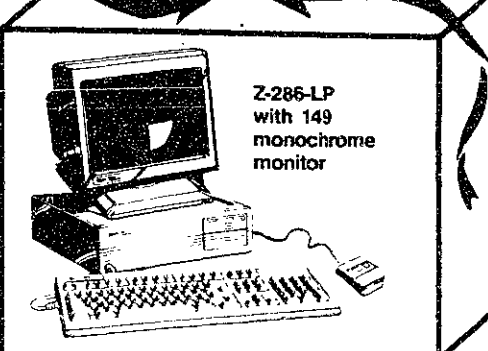
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news roundup

from the associated press wire

World

Refuseniks gain permission to leave

At least 42 refuseniks were notified yesterday by Soviet authorities that after years of waiting they will be allowed to emigrate. The humanitarian gesture, affecting Jews who had been denied exit permits on grounds of state secrecy, followed by one day the ending of Soviet jamming of American-financed Russian language broadcasts.

Bhutto named prime minister

Democracy came full circle in Pakistan yesterday when Benazir Bhutto was named prime minister. She becomes the first woman to lead a Moslem country and becomes the first freely elected prime minister in Pakistan since her father was overthrown in a military coup ten years ago.

Possible AIDS treatment announced in Britain

British researchers announced that they have developed a treatment for AIDS that apparently kills the virus without side effects. They said it requires victims of AIDS to have monthly transfusions of blood plasma from otherwise healthy carriers of the virus. A researcher said the plasma is treated to remove viruses, but contains high levels of the antibodies that can kill the viruses. He cautioned however that the treatment does not eliminate the AIDS victims viruses entirely.

Palestinian children return to school in the West Bank

Palestinian children returned to school yesterday in Israel's West Bank. Thousands of Arab children streamed into school buildings left vacant for most of the last ten months because an Israeli army order. No violence was reported at the schools, but elsewhere, hospital officials said 15 Palestinians were wounded when Israeli troops opened fire on stone-throwing demonstrators.

Local

FBI stakeout leads to mistaken arrest

An FBI stakeout in downtown Boston for a potential bank robbery this morning resulted in at least one mistaken arrest. And, an elderly couple from Connecticut say they were pounced on by FBI agents and their son was roughly handled. FBI spokesman Jack Cloherty said the department was tipped off that there might be a hold-up at a Bank of Boston branch near Beacon Hill. Cloherty said a couple of people who fit the description of people who robbed banks in the past were questioned, but then released. During the surveillance operation, 59-year-old Helen Mirez of Windsor, Connecticut; her nearly blind husband, 68-year-old Frances, and their 28-year-old son, Brian arrived in the area where the husband had an eye doctor appointment. The family said they were dragged from their car and abused by a group of FBI agents before they were released 20 minutes later. An FBI spokesman said later the couple was owned an apology if they were upset by the incident.

Rubes® By Leigh Rubin



American peacekeepers told to leave southern Lebanon

President Reagan ordered yesterday that American military officers assigned to United Nations peacekeeping duties in the Middle East to leave their units in southern Lebanon. Nine and a half months ago, Marine Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, who was on patrol, was abducted while on duty from that area.

Nation

NASA tries launch again

NASA will try again today to launch the space shuttle *Atlantis* on a secret military mission. Officials however were not optimistic yesterday. Although the frontal system that forced the scrubbing of yesterday's launch has passed, it is expected to still be generating strong winds near the launch pad.

November sales figures are down

November sales figures from the nation's retailers show consumers were cautious buyers last month. One industry analyst said that pre-Christmas sales were "nothing great." However there was an upsurge late in the month, and other experts expect a moderately-strong Christmas season for retailers.

Other economic indicators suggested the economy is not slowing down. The index of leading indicators edged up one-tenth of one percent in October. Experts say that the index has been underestimating future economic growth. Some slowing is welcomed by analysts who fear rapid growth could trigger inflation.

FBI breaks up drug ring

The FBI broke up yesterday what it called the "Buffalo-Sicilian connection." In a joint US-Italian operation, more than 200 people have been charged in an international drug ring that dealt in cocaine and heroin. FBI Director William Sessions said among those charged are some of the top leaders of organized crime. The probe grew out of separate investigations in New York, Philadelphia, and Buffalo.

Reagan rules out pre-trial pardon

President Reagan appeared to rule out a pre-trial pardon for Oliver North, saying such a move would leave his former aide under a "shadow of guilt." At the same time though, the White House defended a move to block the release of some classified documents that North says are crucial to his defense.

Bush ends goodwill tour

President-elect Bush will cap a week of goodwill gesturing today by playing host to his former presidential rival, Michael Dukakis. The two will meet at the vice-President's residence in Washington, a day after Bush met with newly-elected Senate majority leader, George Mitchell. Earlier in the week, Bush extended the olive branch to Jesse Jackson and Senate minority leader, Bob Dole.

Post office hopes for a "Miracle on 34th St."

The US Post Office on 34th Street in New York is hoping for another "Miracle on 34th Street" that will be more than just a movie title. The post office gets lots of letters to Santa from less-fortunate kids. And, instead of leaving them in the dead letter unit, it lets volunteers pick letters and play Santa. The post office expects to receive 18 thousand letters and officials are hoping for a lot of happy endings.

High school students remain misinformed about AIDS

A survey conducted by the National Center for Disease Control found that many high school students are misinformed about AIDS, and more than a few are at risk of contracting the disease. The NCDC said that a majority of those surveyed knew they could get the disease through sexual intercourse or sharing drug needles. But many had the misconception they could contract AIDS from giving blood, mosquito bites and toilet seats.

Mexicans demonstrate during inauguration

There were protests in the streets of Mexico City during yesterday's inauguration of President Carlos Salinas De Gortari. Members of the opposition party contend that the 40 year-old economist won the July election fraudulently. Police used tear gas to disperse the angry crowds. Salinas is pledging to work for political reform.

First AIDS day draws big crowds

The first AIDS day was marked in different ways around the world yesterday. Free condoms were distributed at London's Gatwick Airport, people marched through the streets in Zimbabwe and in New York, messages about AIDS prevention flashed in Times Square. The event sponsored by the World Health Organization, was aimed at fostering discussion about the deadly disease.

NBC wins television rights to 1992 summer Olympics

NBC won the US television rights to the 1992 summer games in Barcelona, Spain yesterday. Their bid of \$401 million was a record. CBS already owns the rights to the 1992 winter games in Albertville, France.

Bush crowns national Christmas tree

Barbara Bush took her annual ride yesterday aboard a hydraulic boom to place the crowning ornament atop the national Christmas tree. After performing the task for eight consecutive years, she has no plans to relinquish her role once she becomes first lady. She told guests that it is the only thing she has done more than anyone else, and would be "offended" if someone else did it.

Euthanasia suspect acquitted

A Florida doctor has been acquitted of murder charges by a St. Petersburg jury. Dr. Peter Rosier admitted trying to kill his wife, who was suffering from terminal cancer, by administering an overdose of sedatives. But the woman's father, who had been granted immunity, testified it was he who finished the job by smothering her with a pillow when the drugs failed to kill her.

Weather

December Almanac

As the sun makes its annual trek toward the Tropic of Capricorn, the temperatures in the northern hemisphere drop sharply. December is the month for many messy weather situations to overspread the country. The winter solstice is on December 22 at 4:46 pm, EST. This produces the shortest day of the year for North America; nine hours and five minutes of daylight here in Boston. The average high temperature is 39.3°F and the average low is 26.6°F giving a mean of 33°F. Normal precipitation for the month is 4.5 inches with an average of 11 days of measurable precipitation.

While the stormier pattern anticipated for this week has failed to materialize, the cooler temperatures have. A weak disturbance will pass to our north today triggering flurries in New Hampshire and Maine. A more important low will follow a similar track but pass closer to our region late Saturday. This will increase our chances of light snow or flurries. However, it appears our northern neighbors will pick up most of whatever snow develops.

Today: Partly sunny, and cooler. Winds northwest 10-15 mph. High 40°F.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Winds northwest 5-10 mph. Low 30°F.

Saturday: Sunny and a bit milder. Clouds arriving at night. Light snow developing to the north. Winds west-southwest 5 mph. High 45-48°F. Low 38°F.

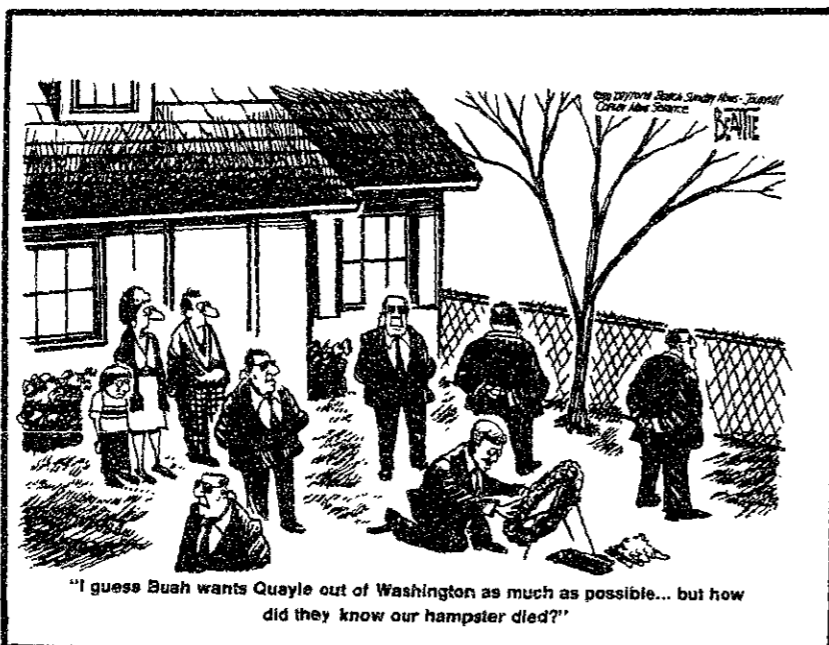
Sunday: Clearing, breezy, and cooler. High 40-44°F. Low around 27°F.

Forecast by Michael C. Morgan
Almanac prepared by Ed Nelson

Compiled by Annabelle Boyd
and Darrel Tarasewicz

opinion

feedback

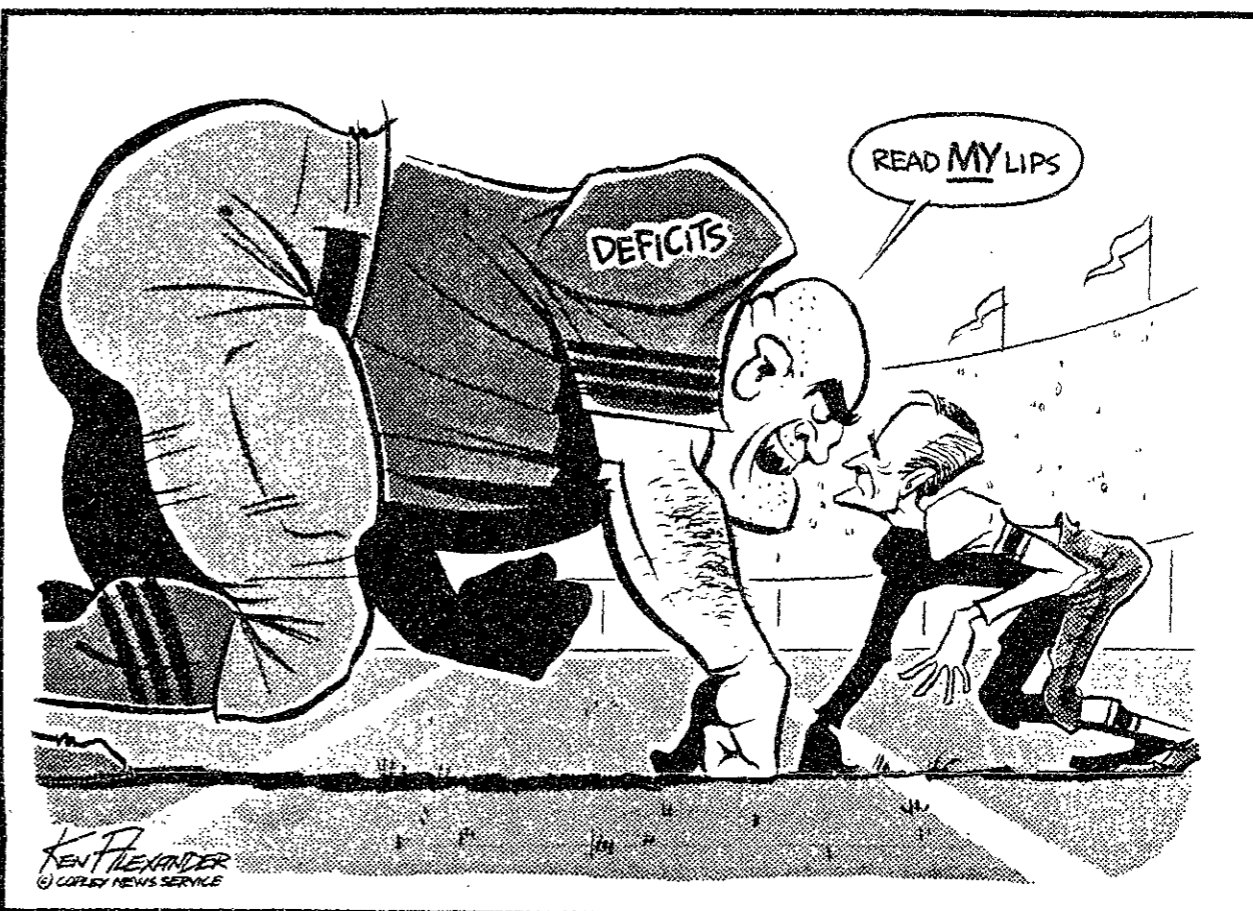


Vigil remembers the missing

To the Editor:
On behalf of the Blue Eagles Drill Team and the Arnold Air Society of Air Force ROTC we would like to thank *The Tech* for their support of the POW/MIA Vigil which we held on Nov. 9-10. The photo essay printed in the Nov. 15 issue helped us to further a cause which we feel is something that should be considered a public issue, not a military one. We sponsor the Vigil to increase public awareness of the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action issue. In doing this, we do

not intend to make any political statements or show approval or disapproval for the Vietnam conflict; we seek to increase awareness of the POW/MIA issue at MIT and in the surrounding community. Through this effort we hope to answer the question which has been troubling many American families for about 20 years — where are these missing soldiers?
We agree that there were many tragic deaths on both sides during the Vietnam conflict, but that is not what we wish to address

with our Vigil. We seek to find out what happened to those 2420 missing American men and women. Over the years we have begun to answer some of those questions. Today, there are identifiable remains of Americans returning home, ending the doubt for some families. We hope in the future more families will have their doubts removed.
Bryan C. Kitchenka '90
Arnold Air Society Commander
Scott J. Stevens '90
Blue Eagles Drill Team Commander



The Tech

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ROTC program maintains peace

To the Editor:
David Silverberg, in his letter ["Minds of ROTC cadets are most visible POWs," Nov. 22] suggests that perhaps it was the "naivete" of those Americans who served in Vietnam that led to their deaths. He also suggests that the MIT campus is "no place" for the misguided young men and women who have decided to serve their country as officers in the US armed forces. It is obvious that Silverberg feels that there is no useful role for the US military in today's world. In accordance with such a view, he feels that the military does not need nor deserves talented men and women such as those which graduate from MIT. As much as I wish that his assessment were correct, I cannot accept it as anything but an unrealistic fantasy. I agree that the grave errors in foreign policy made by our government during the Vietnam War should be remembered as wasteful of both American and Vietnamese lives. At the same time, I feel that Veteran's Day vigils at MIT and around the country are useful because they help remind us that unnecessary combat leads to drastic results for all those involved. Any member in our armed services today will tell you that he does not live to die for an unjust cause.

Our service members know, however, that the time may come when they may have to pay the ultimate price for peace and freedom. They know that the reality of the current world is such that even when our leaders do everything within their power to avoid combat, it may become necessary for our forces to engage opposing forces. Such a situation may

not be easily imaginable by some, but it is a possible one. Since it is possible, service members around the country and overseas have contributed to preparing the forces for every possible engagement to minimize the loss of American lives in the preservation of peace and freedom. This is the nature of one of the missions of our armed forces. Many people outside the military view this mission as the primary mission of our armed forces. Those MIT graduates which have become officers in our armed forces and their fellow service members, however, will tell you that their most important mission is to maintain peace. Because someone prepares for combat does not mean that he or she desires to go to combat. As Douglas MacArthur stated so eloquently, "On the contrary, the soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds

and scars of war." So as we all pray for peace, some must serve to uphold it.

Keeping the peace in this age of complex computer viruses and constant turmoil around the world is not a simple task. It requires intelligent and dedicated people within our armed services and within our government. This means that ROTC does have a place on the respected campuses of our nation, including the illustrious MIT campus. Peace and prosperity must be achieved together. Without peace, it is difficult to achieve prosperity.

These men and women who have chosen to apply their talents to the preservation of peace are neither "deluded" nor "instrument[s] of America's imperialist military industrial complex" as declared by Silverberg. Rather, they see a challenge which they feel must be met for the good of all Americans.

Daniel Rodriguez G

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.

opinion

feedback

Professor upset by student hack

To the Editor:

As a representative for the one group actually inconvenienced by the hack pulled off in 10-250 last weekend, presumably for a front-page *Tech* photo op, I want to express the annoyance of the stu-

dents in "Major Film Directors" who were denied access to the 10-250 screening facilities which have been reserved for classroom use. Speaking for myself, I am bemused anew by the absolute strangeness of the institution.

Putting an object that demonstrates a principle of physics on display in a classroom. . . Where else but MIT could this be considered a wild practical joke?

William Paul
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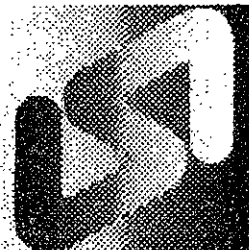
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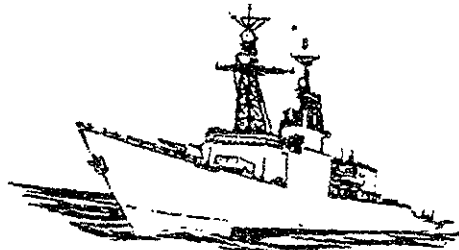
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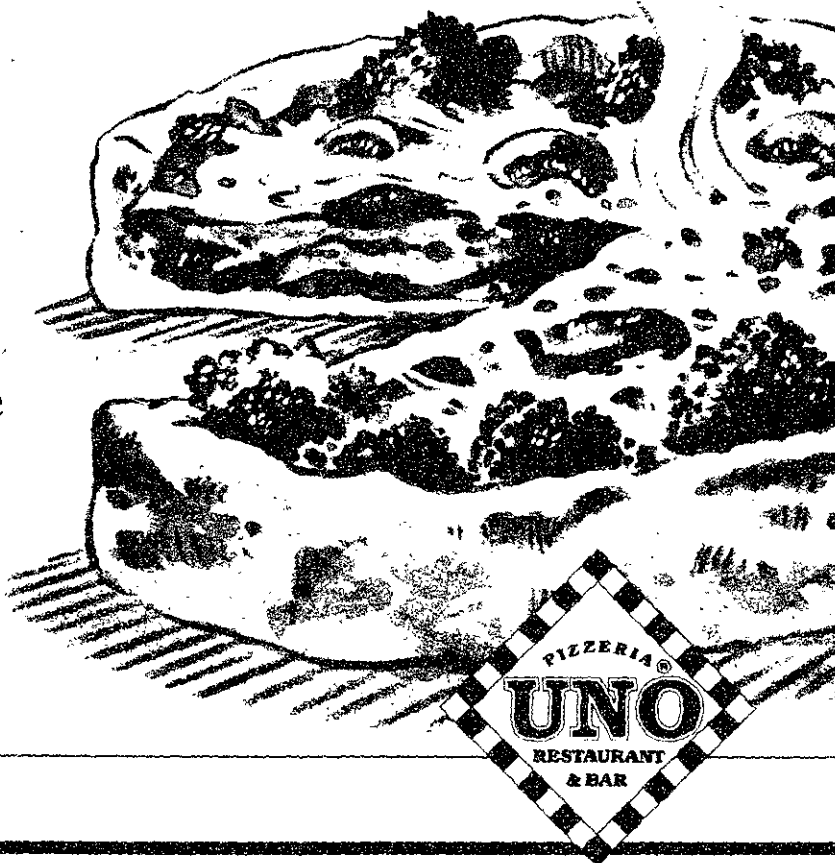
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Solo sea-going Japanese youth thinks differently from his peers

TAIHEIYO HITORIBOTCHI
[ALONE ON THE PACIFIC]

Directed by Kon Ichikawa.

Starring Yujiro Ishihara, Masayuki Mori,
and Kinuyyo Tanaka.

Plays tonight, 5:30 pm at the Museum of
Fine Arts.

way he does is the real story behind the voyage, and when the film occasionally does look at this issue, it is at its best.

The actual voyage is shown in a straightforward and conventional manner, complete with all the logistical problems (such

as bags of water going bad) and bold imagery (a small boat valiantly battling against the angry sea) one would expect in a film with a title that translates to "Alone on the Pacific." (It was also known as "My Enemy, the Sea.")

In Japanese film circles, Ichikawa has a reputation for inconsistency — and this film confirms it. It's by no means a bad film or a disaster, but it cannot hope to match the imagination and artistry Ichikawa demonstrated in his other works.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

A YOUNG MAN DECIDES TO SAIL across the Pacific Ocean in a 19 foot sailboat — alone. He plans his journey for months in advance, saving every last bit of his earnings. His family strongly opposes his efforts, so much so that his father threatens to disown him if he goes. ("I can't help that" is the terse reply.) The man sneaks out of harbor in early morning twilight. The trip itself is a hairy 90-day endurance test against fierce sea storms and mind-numbing boredom, not to mention rapidly dwindling supplies. To top it all off, the young man has to worry about not having a passport when he finally does arrive at his foreign destination.

This is stuff legends are made of — but not, apparently, in Kon Ichikawa's eyes. The events listed above did in fact happen, but are depicted with little grandeur. A man named Kenichi Horie sailed alone from Osaka to San Francisco in 1962 on a sailboat. Ichikawa's 1963 film recreation, however, is a surprisingly flat record of the incident. *Taiheiyō Hitoribotchi* ("Alone on the Pacific") displays little of the humble heroism that Ichikawa so memorably brought to life just two years later in his magnificent *Tokyo Olympiad*.

That 1965 film went well beyond the conventional sports documentary to look at the human side of athletic achievements. *Taiheiyō Hitoribotchi*, to the other hand, only begins to explore Horie's motivations for wanting to spend months alone on a boat in the Pacific. Indeed, the flashback sequences where Horie (Yujiro Ishihara) clashes with his parents make it plain that Horie does not think like most Japanese his age. Why Horie thinks the



Kenichi Horie arrives in San Francisco after a three-month voyage from Japan in *Alone on the Pacific*.

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ARTS

Four famous actors don't plug up this sinking holiday release



Kurt Russel, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Mel Gibson star in *Tequila Sunrise*

TEQUILA SUNRISE

Written and directed by Robert Towne. Starring Mel Gibson, Michelle Pfeiffer, Kurt Russell, and Raul Julia. Opens today at the Nickelodeon and Harvard Square Theaters.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF FOUR famous stars, this film just barely manages to avoid degenerating into a total mess. The plot is supposed to be about the love triangle that develops when Los Angeles narcotics cop Nick Frescia (Kurt Russell) pretends to fall for an icy restaurant owner named Jo Ann Vallenari (Michelle Pfeiffer), who is also being courted by Nick's longtime buddy and cocaine middleman Dale McKussic (Mel Gibson). Dale wants out of the drug racket, but he's a contact for a Mexican drug kingpin named Carlos (Raul Julia), and Nick wants to use Jo Ann to get to Dale to nail Carlos.

It sounds like a ridiculously stupid melodrama, but the film doesn't even manage to reach that level. The first hour of the film gives away all plot details (such as who is informing on Dale) that might generate suspense, and the second half is so incoherent that the no one — not even the actors — seems to have any idea what is going on.

And as for romance, this has to be the most unconvincing love story to come along this year. After playing an ice-cool

woman who talks without blinking her eyes or mincing her words, no one can seriously believe Pfeiffer when she cries to Gibson that "I love you." Even worse is Gibson's response: "Shut up, or I'll smack you one." Needless to say, the actors' performances aren't nearly as good as they could be.

But the real culprit behind this fiasco is writer-director Robert Towne. The press materials quote him at length as explaining that he directed the film because the screenplay "wouldn't necessarily translate very well in just anybody's hands." In his own hands, Towne's film does much worse than not "translate very well" — and he can't claim any excuses. One can only wonder what happened to the Towne who won an Oscar for writing Roman Polanski's classic *Chinatown*. And from watching Towne's mishandling of Pfeiffer's character, one would never guess that Towne made the 1982 film *Personal Best*, which was acclaimed for its portrayal of two female athletes who were also lovers.

About the only memorable thing in this film is Kurt Russell's performance as Nick. He constantly clashes with the Drug Enforcement Agency agent Hal Maguire (J. T. Walsh) and spouts lines like "This is my backyard. I don't grow weeds in my backyard so I can pull 'em" with an appealing bravado. Other than that, *Tequila Sunrise* is easily the worst major Hollywood release of this year's holiday season.

JET

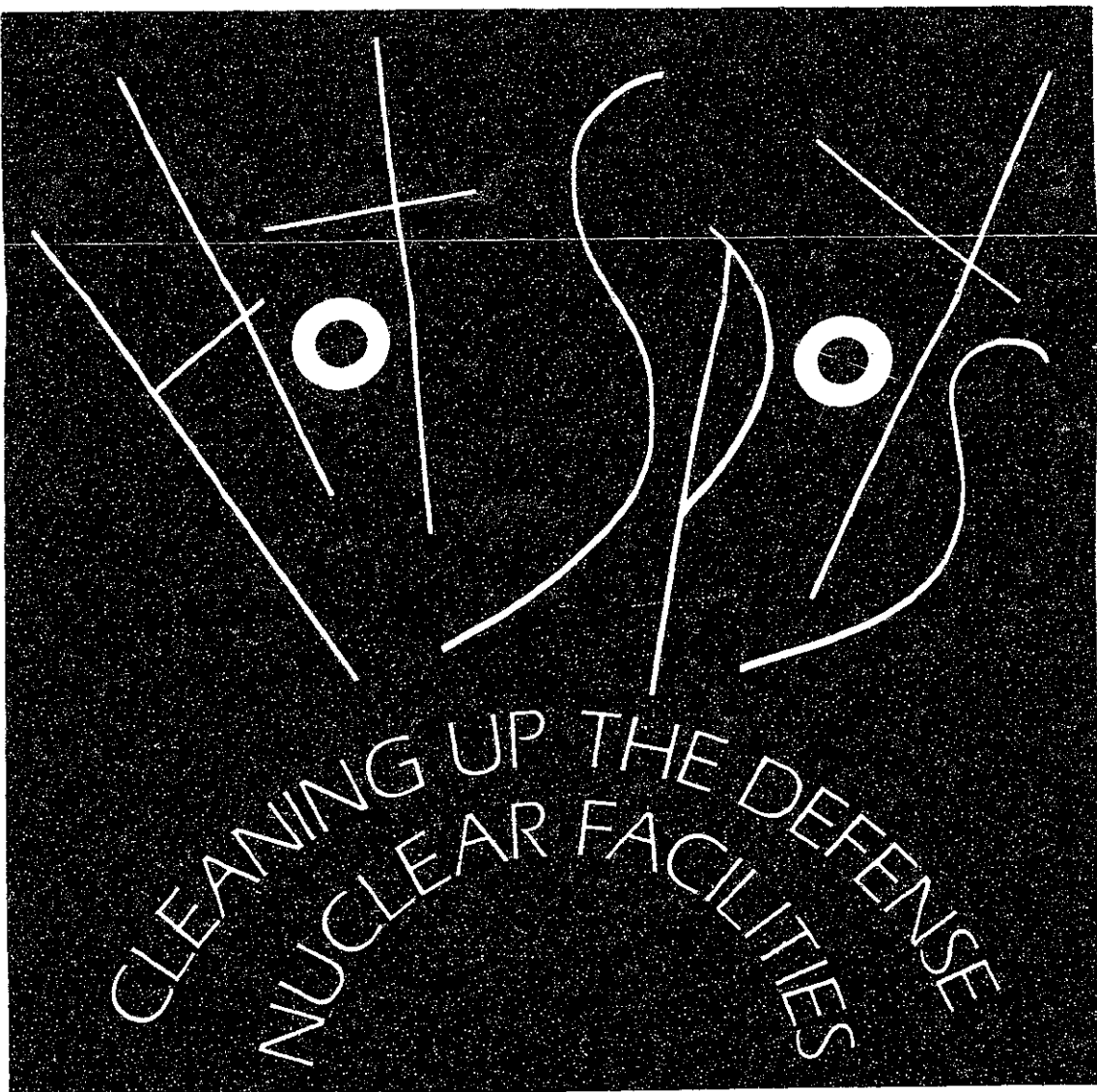
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ARTS

Women's role in Lebanon shown without guidance for the future**LEILA OF THE WOLVES**

Written and directed by Heiny Srour.
Starring Nabila Zeitouni and Rafic Ali Ahmed.
Sponsored by the Program in Women's Studies.
Plays tonight at 7 pm, Bartos Theater, Wiesner Building.
Free admission.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

ANY FILMMAKER WITH AN AGENDA walks a fine line between artistry and activism, and there will doubtless be some who fail to strike a balance. Writer-director Heiny Srour, unfortunately, is one who tried but failed in her 1984 film *Leila and the Wolves*. Her effort to re-examine the role of Lebanese women in the history of Palestinian struggle is a pastiche of feminist

ideas, symbolic motifs, factual recreations, and polemical bombasts. While one might think that such a wide range would set the stage for a significant cinematic and feminist statement, all that emerges is a few interesting facts about how Palestinian women smuggled arms and ammunition and, in some cases, engaged opposing soldiers directly. The film soon loses focus and becomes so heavy-handed by the end that it collapses under its own weight.

In terms of production values, though, the film is solid and often top-notch. Srour's camera technique shows influence from the works of Robert Altman, and in particular, Srour's slow lateral camera movements directly evoke Altman's famous pans in his 1975 classic *Nashville*. Srour's manipulation of editing and sound is also effective at several moments in the film. In terms of structure, the film is complex. It constantly moves back and

forth in time, with segments sometimes lasting less than a minute.

The film is held together by the musings of Leila (Nabila Zeitouni). When she helps put up a photography exhibit of Palestinian protesters, she realizes that not one of the pictures show women. The male photographer (Rafic Ali Ahmed) smugly proclaims to her that "In those days, women had nothing to do with politics." Leila then becomes a narrator of sorts who flashes back through time to focus on the role of women in historical events as well as day-to-day life. The film mixes archival newsreel footage with dramatized recreations of events ranging from the British occupation of Palestine in the 1920s to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

These flashbacks do convey facts of historical interest. For instance, the first one shows how Palestinian women fought British soldiers by pelting them with heavy

flower pots and pouring boiling water on them from a second story window. Another flashback shows how women would scrape bullets on grinding stones for an hour or more to make them small enough to fit in gun barrels. In voice-over, Leila asks the photographer, "Do you know how women survived" in those days? The flashbacks are her answer; they demonstrate quite forcefully that Palestinian women did much to resist the "wolves" who invaded their land.

But the film has trouble making any other points. Setting the historical record straight does have an undeniable value: it corrects the mistaken impressions created by myopic male historians. But Srour's historical exercise offers little or no insight on how to deal with the problems and issues facing Palestinian women today. The greatest strength of *The Passion of Re-*

(Please turn to page 10)

MIT Chamber Chorus performances were rewarding**MIT CHAMBER CHORUS**

Conducted by John Oliver.
Bill Cutter Assistant Director and keyboards.
Killian Hall, December 1

By JONATHAN RICHMOND

THE RESOURCEFUL JOHN OLIVER always has remedies on hand when replacements are needed for incapacitated singers. Introducing the second half of last night's program, he announced that (former bass) Mike Pritchett "is now a tenor. That's why the intermission was so long."

In the MIT Chamber Chorus' performance of songs by Berlioz, Pritchett valiantly sang lines for which he had been given next to no time to prepare. The only strong solo performance during the Berlioz works, however, was by tenor Thomas Lee, who sang *Chant Sacré* dreamily and with an understanding of the form of the

music and the meaning of the words which the other soloists lacked. The Chorus itself sang the songs with much energy and, despite some shrillness, did at times show the ability to sing with sensitivity; the soprano work in *La Mort d'Ophelie* was particularly notable in this regard.

The concert had begun with a series of English madrigals, several of which were nicely done. The opener, "Come Away, Sweet Love," by Thomas Greaves was delivered with great enthusiasm, even if the dynamics did seem a bit restricted. The rendition of "Come, Sable Night," conveyed the nocturnal anticipation of twilight hours with a sense of yearning and understated melancholy.

Thomas Lee once more put in the strongest performance in Bach's *Cantata No. 106*, "Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit;" his singing was both fluent and feeling. Mike Pritchard — still a bass at this point — had a tough job to complete, singing his own parts as well as those of an indis-

posed singer. Despite a tendency at times to harshness, his singing was clear and his heart was in the right place. He deserved the extra applause he won at the work's conclusion.

The chorus did show some uncertainty, and wasn't quite together all the time. But there were moments of expressiveness that more than compensated for the deficiencies.

The orchestral accompaniment sounded thin, and was not as good as the Chamber Chorus has had in the past. There were some pleasing passages, though, from the gambas of Jane Hershey and Sarah Mead; I particularly liked James McLaren's cello continuo.

The concert ended with Fine's *The Hour-Glass*. Anne Law, Giselle Hamad and Deborah Kreuse blended most effectively in some of the best solo singing of the evening. The chorus showed a good sense of balance, punched out some meaty harmonies, and ended on a gentle note

that indicated thoughtfulness.

This was a tough program to take on. The results may not all have been picture-perfect; but they were rewarding to the audience as well as to the performers.

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Naked Gun is an hysterical law enforcement comedy after Police Squad

NAKED GUN

Directed by David Zucker.
Written by Jerry Zucker, Jim Abrahams,
David Zucker, and Pat Proft.
Starring Leslie Nielsen, Priscilla Presley,
and Ricardo Montalban.
Opens today at Cinema 57 and Harvard
Square Theatres.

By ROB MARTELLO

FINALLY, DIE-HARD FANS of the *Airplane* movie series and of the *Police Squad* television series can reactivate their interest in the entertainment industry. The same creative team for both of these unique projects is back, with their new film *Naked Gun*. With an all-star cast headed by Leslie Nielsen (the co-star of *Airplane* and *Airplane 2*), Priscilla Presley (of *Dallas* T.V. me), and Ricardo Montalban (best known as Mr. Roarke in *Fantasy Island*), *Naked Gun* is a continuation of *Police Squad*, and takes the concept of fast-paced comedy to the limit, surpassing even *Airplane* in its constant level of successful comedy.

Robert K. Weiss, *Naked Gun's* producer, said that *Police Squad* was cancelled after six episodes because it required too much attention to fully appreciate, and most television watchers wanted to relax. This "flaw" increases its cinematic value, and the audience is forced to constantly keep up with the endless gimmicks, back-and-forth comic action, and subtle clues revealing the next surprise. The rapid bombardment of hysterical situations also

(Please turn to page 11)



Ricardo Montalban plays a wealthy and respected LA businessman in *Naked Gun*. His hobbies include killing people for hire and being mean.

Captain Beefheart fans get an album of cover remakes — a rare treat

FAST 'N' BULBOUS

Various Artists.
Fantastic Records and CDs.

By BILL CODERRE

LET ME BE THE FIRST TO call 1988 the "Year of the Cover." Just about every major group has remixed, remade, resampled, or recycled materials past. The Ramones, New Order, Phil Collins, and Michael Jackson brought back old favorites in new "1988 mixes." Depeche Mode brought that euro flavor to old rock standby "Route 66," making it different enough to score a novelty hit. And That Petrol Emotion took off the mantle of self-conscious digit-pop for a while to turn in astonishing covers of some of Pere Ubu and Neil Young's best work: "Non-Alignment Pact" and "Cinnamon Girl."

I needn't even mention REM's numerous live covers (which I have seen in several bootleg packages as well as on the official *Dead Letter Office*), or the flagrant left-by-sampling permeating rap (and believe-it-or-don't *Robert Plant* of all people, stealing his own riffs). And if I see no more repackaging of "Pump Up the Volume," I swear I will go on a killing rampage right there in the middle of the record store.

1988 has also seen a spate of Various Artists rereading old standards, case in point being the Disney-controlled, Newsweek-noted thriller *Stay Awake*, which certain less charitable colleagues of mine have called *Go To Sleep*. It's a not-altogether-justified appellation considering the, shall we say, restrained nature of the compilation — even The Replacements just don't seem to get out of second gear with their otherwise fine rendition of "Cruella de Ville."

One of the compilations you might not see in Newsweek is the topic of today's main rant. *Fast 'N' Bulbous* is a collection of a dozen or so remakes of the world's most obscure musical genius, Captain Beefheart, featuring XTC, Sonic Youth, That Petrol Emotion, and The Primevals. The import-only CD version has 15 songs. Now, the short-form review for those familiar with the Captain's astonishing career, is "buy it, but don't expect miracles."

Now, for those of you that are still reading this review, perhaps a few words of introduction are necessary. Who is this dude named after a variety of Burpee tomato? And why does every kool band on earth claim insight and inspiration from this god-like being that you've never even heard on WFNX?

Well, a long time ago, a guy by the name of Don Van Vliet, childhood friend of Frank Zappa, started to make his own variety of music based on Delta Bayou Blues and Texas Barbecue Boogie, with liberal dashes of sixties pure pop and the same general flavor of space music that Zappa had turned into a trademark. Under the name of Captain Beefheart, and with a voice that is shockingly similar to Howlin' Wolf's bandsaw gutterances, he sung love songs with such appealing titles as "Making Love to a Vampire with a Monkey on My Knee" and "My Head is My Only House Unless It Rains." He also sings about his piggy bank, and a whole lot of stuff much weirder than just about anything before or since. (Incidentally, anyone who has any clue as to what "Bat Chain Puller" is actually about may write to me at this paper; we can trade lyrics sheets or something.)

His masterpiece, (the Zappa-produced) second album *Trout Mask Replica* is an album so radical, so intense, and so complete that virtually all his later material seems to stem directly from it. (Indeed, many of the riffs reemerge as entire songs on later albums.) He wrote the entire two record set in a little over 48 hours, found and taught the Magic Band, and spent about a year putting the whole record together. *Trout Mask* truly is all of Beefheart in a single package, and it is still in print. (I regret that the space of this review does not afford me the chance for a complete discography; for full details, *Goldmine* magazine has admirable coverage in an article a few years back.)

The Captain's one shot at fame came when he released perhaps the best cover ever of "Too Much Time," which was racing up the soul charts until it was pulled from airplay because it was discovered that he was not black.

The career of Captain Beefheart continued in this unlikely fashion, with record companies refusing to release completed albums because they simply would not sell (they didn't), and producers urging him to make insipid pop albums that also didn't sell (*Unconditionally Guaranteed* and *Bluejeans and Moonbeams* are the low points of his career). The Magic Band finally deserted him, and although some of his best work comes from their reunion record *Ice Cream for Crow* (which I would personally recommend over *Trout Mask* as an introduction to Beefheart), it didn't sell either. Finally, a New York art dealer took a fancy to Van Vliet's drawings and paintings which adorn several of the records, and now the Captain is a noted Primitivist, still living (quite comfortably) in a mobile home somewhere in the Mojave

desert.

It's important to consider this perspective as we review the target of today's rant, *Fast 'N' Bulbous*. What we have here is a dozen remakes of Beefheart's more rock-oriented tunes by a variety of artists. This is not a case of tossing out "Louie Louie" or even another "(Question of) Temperature." Most Beefheart songs were never intended as rock tunes, and although this collection is slanted towards the up-tempo, it's not exactly a dance mix. The songs do span a number of albums and various points in Beefheart's career, but still are not exactly a representative retrospective.

Still and all, the somewhat esoteric nature of the material does force some intellectualism on the project. And although many of the versions here present new insights into the material, it might be best intended for the Beefheart fan who has everything, as opposed to the casual thrill-seeker or even the XTC fanatic in quest of new material.

Be that as it may, let's first turn the "technical exercises" of cover compilations. XTC provides a note-for-note cover of *Trout Mask's* "Ella Guru." It is less of a disappointment than a surprise that this song sounds nothing like typical XTC and almost exactly like the original. Indeed, comparing the versions side-by-side is almost as entertaining as the song itself is. The Beat Poets provide the obligatory instrumental with a tasty rendition of "Sun Zoom Spark." The twangy steel guitars change the original shuffle to a mild country feel. And Good and Gone provide a nice update to "Harry Irene," with a few topical lyric changes and an extra sound-effect or two. The substitution of violin

solo near the end is quite welcome, even though the Magic Band never had a fiddler. *Fast 'N' Bulbous* also scores high marks for good production values and an uniformly tasty mix.

But perhaps the more interesting part of the compilation lies in the "artistic interpretation" of the material. Hard as it seems, several of the bands have provided entirely new insights on the material, starting right off the mark with The Dog Faced Hermans remaking "Zig Zag Wanderer" as a hardcore tune, and The Screaming Dizbustlers punking up "Frying Pan," with what is best described as a chainsaw-strummed electric guitar. And The Primevals totally recast "China Pig" from a guitar-and-howl delta bayou blues piece into a genuinely shaking rockabilly tune.

But the "Best of Show" clearly leaps into the hands of Sonic Youth, who bring their samplerized theremin and vocals-via-bullhorn to *Safe as Milk's* masterpiece "Electricity." And even though this is the treatment they bring to tired and pointless rants about devils and politicians, in this circumstance their treatment is applied unusually intelligently to create a sense of mayhem without pandering to the level of intercut-pornography-and-surgical-procedures grossout that plagues the so-called industrial scene. (Hell, I may even have to take them seriously now.)

Fast 'N' Bulbous is not an album that will appeal to the masses. It is filled with obscure material treated almost reverently. It is short a little of the gung-ho spirit that makes covers fun. But for the Beefheart fans among us, it is a rare treat full of surprises.

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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.

Women's role in Lebanon shown without guidance for the future

(Continued from page 8)

membrane, shown two weeks ago in this same series, was that it explored the role of black women in the 1960s civil rights struggle and then followed up by extending those concerns to the 1980s and beyond. *Leila and the Wolves* does precious little of that updating. And when the film depicts relatively recent events from the 1970s and early 1980s, the most it can do is identify the societal hurdles facing women who want to join the military.

Indeed, Srour seems to measure the success of the women's movement in the Middle East by the ability of women to play a role in combat. While advocating equality in the military is certainly a worthy goal, Srour goes out of her way to glorify the efforts of women who fought in Palestinian uprisings. This thread appears early on and becomes palpable when Srour recreates a massacre in Deir Yassin in 1948. As soldiers round up women and children in a village, one woman shouts out, "Fight them! Don't die like sheep!" The woman proceeds to wrestle a gun from a nearby soldier and is about to shoot him when she herself is shot. The other women begin agitating and fighting, and the soldiers gun them down as well in a furious montage of violence. Then the film cuts to a close-up of the dead women lying in a heap — not, it seems, to deplore their loss of life as tragic and senseless but to make martyrs out of the dead women for heroically giving their lives against the enemy.

This glorification of war-zone sacrifices only gets worse as the film proceeds to events of the 1970s and early 1980s. In one battle scene, for example, a woman named Randa and several men are shown returning gunfire from behind a bunker. Randa tries to stand up to return fire and is repeatedly pulled down by the man next to her. When the gunfire temporarily ceases, the men ignore her as they congratulate themselves for their efforts. Randa then decides to advance down the street alone

with her gun. She ignores the men's shouted warnings that snipers lie ahead and is soon shot. The camera then cuts to a close-up of her bloodied body lying in the street.

This scene is rife with possibilities. For example, the film could have explored Randa's motivations for brashly running out into the street. One possible reason is that she felt she had to prove that she was as capable a fighter as the men, who were ignoring her efforts. This may not be the only reason, but it at least raises intriguing questions. But Srour does not even begin to approach these questions. The way she shoots the scene, it seems she simply wants to goad the audience into recognizing and applauding the fact that Randa did her duty by dying in armed struggle.

It could be argued that Srour's film is a morale-raising effort to assure women that

they will in fact be remembered as martyrs if they happen to die in battle. But if this is the case, then the film cannot claim to be anything more than a propaganda mouthpiece. One-dimensional praise of female martyrdom is as empty of substantive content as most revolutionary rhetoric, and it certainly is no substitute for alternative perspectives or even expressions of pent-up rage about the repeated silencing of women in Arab cultures.

Srour told an interviewer from *Spare Rib* that "My film is precisely about silent unglamorous sacrifices of the women in Lebanon" and that "I want women to invade men's empire . . . and say to hell with your rules [and] games." These are admirable sentiments to be sure, but it does not seem to have occurred to Srour that glamorizing women's military sacrifices is in fact equivalent to looking at

warfare from the same stereotypically "male" perspectives that Srour deplors so strongly. Certainly, if men can glamorize, then women should be able to do so as well. But that is hardly the same as saying to hell with men's rules.

Anticipating these criticisms, Srour told the *Spare Rib* interviewer that Western feminists "are rarely prepared to . . . understand my special condition in my society and my right to struggle for women's liberation in my society the way I want to." Although this is an eminently valid point, one can only lament that even those willing to give Srour leeway will find it difficult to accept her film's contention that advancing the cause of feminism in the Middle East consists primarily of glorifying a woman's equal right to enjoy martyrdom after dying a violent death.



Lebanese women argue about their role in Lebanese life in *Leila and the Wolves*.

Conference of Liberal/Progressive Jewish Intellectuals

December 18-20 New York City The Penta Hotel

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I. Reviving the Progressive Tradition

The strong left tradition that characterized American Jewish intellectual life in earlier decades of this century receded in the 1950s, 60s and 70s—a victim not only of the Cold War and McCarthyism, but also of a sometimes justified perception that the liberal/left was uninterested in and at times even hostile to the historical experiences and legitimate concerns of the Jewish people.

In the 1980s many Jewish intellectuals are unwilling to allow conservatives to speak for the Jews—or to cede all that is valuable in our cultural legacy to the conformists and materialists who often dominate the "organized Jewish community."

While drawing upon the richness of the Jewish heritage, our concerns are not limited to what the conservatives have narrowly defined as "Jewish issues." Both in *TIKKUN* magazine, which has become the central expression of the reviving progressive Jewish tradition, and at our conference, we address the central intellectual, political and cultural issues of our time.

Speakers include:

Michael Lerner, Irving Howe, Grace Paley, Alfred Kazin, Victor Navasky, Marge Piercy, Todd Gitlin, Heather Booth, Arthur Waskow, Ellen Willis, Robert Jay Lifton, Jessica Benjamin, Congressman Barney Frank, Jesse Lemisch, Russell Jacoby, Peter Gabel, Judy Chicago, Michael Klare, David Gordon, Herb Gintis, Evelyn Tort Beck, Michael Walzer, Joanne Landy, Paul Berman, Ruth Messinger and many more.

II. After the Dukakis Fiasco—Strategies

Four more years? Oy. It's going to be depressing. We need to figure out what went wrong and strategize about what to do. For example, the left—from Democratic Party centrists to social change activists—share a common failure in ignoring the psychological, spiritual, and ethical needs of the American people. The right has simplistic and reactionary solutions. But its code words like "family" and "values" communicate that it knows that the problems facing Americans cannot be solved solely by a college loan program, mortgage assistance, more health care or even an end to discrimination at home and intervention abroad. The pains of daily life, the powerlessness and humiliation at work, the difficulties in sustaining friendships, committed relationships and families, the sense of isolation and meaninglessness in daily life—these are the forms of alienation which a progressive politics must address. Both in *TIKKUN* and at this conference we shall address the crisis in meaning and values—and consider what changes are needed

in liberal and progressive culture and politics.

III. Israel and the Palestinians

The Israeli elections and the Nov. meeting of the PNC create a new situation for those of us who support the creation of a demilitarized Palestinian state that would live in peace with Israel. What should our role be? the role of the American government? the role of peace forces in Israel? In *TIKKUN* and at the conference we address these issues.

IV. Special Student Focus

For the special low price of \$35 students can attend the regular conference sessions. Also a network of liberal and progressive Jewish students will be formed at the conference to discuss common problems, such as how to deal with

tensions between blacks and Jews; how to distinguish between legitimate criticism of Israel and criticism that delegitimizes the Jewish national liberation struggle and expresses anti-Semitic feelings; how to handle the insensitivity of the left toward Jewish issues; how to challenge Jewish institutions that are self-centered and morally insensitive; and how to counter the "JAP joke" attack on Jewish women. Forming an ongoing network will allow students to continue these discussions after the conference. If you can't come, please subscribe to *TIKKUN*—for the student discount price of \$15/year.

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A Strategy for the Bush Years; Israel and the Palestinians; Responding to Bennett and Bloom; The Cold War; Modernism and Post-modernism; American Jewish literature; Women and Judaism; Why have Left Movements Failed?; Anti-Semitism in the Left; Blacks and Jews; Religion and Radical Politics; Rethinking Zionism; plus music, poetry and much more.

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A R T S

Naked Gun is an hysterical law enforcement comedy after Police Squad

(Continued from page 9)

builds suspense whenever the plot gets serious for extended periods (which is anything over two minutes), because it is certain that a major twist is forthcoming.

The production techniques which create this high energy comical chaos are superb. The camerawork is very creative, especially during the opening credits, and employs unusual angles and occasional high speed tracking of the central action to give the viewer an atypical perspective. The special effects are also unlike the usual high-tech perfection, almost a satire of other movies' effects, and are very laughable in themselves. The supporting cast (both genuine and simulated) is drawn from all walks of life, including John Houseman, "Weird Al" Yankovic, and Idi Amin to name a few. And the ongoing plot developments include world-shattering alliances of evil, a music video, baseball, and all of the standard elements of a police drama viewed in a non-standard way.

Naked Gun redefines the police comedy and easily decimates the competition such as *Sledge Hammer*, *Dragnet*, and *Police Academy*. It definitely requires "active" viewing to absorb everything that happens on screen, but the originality of the humor certainly makes the effort worthwhile.



Leslie Nielsen is featured in one of *Naked Gun's* many shoot-outs. That's Priscilla Presley on his arm.

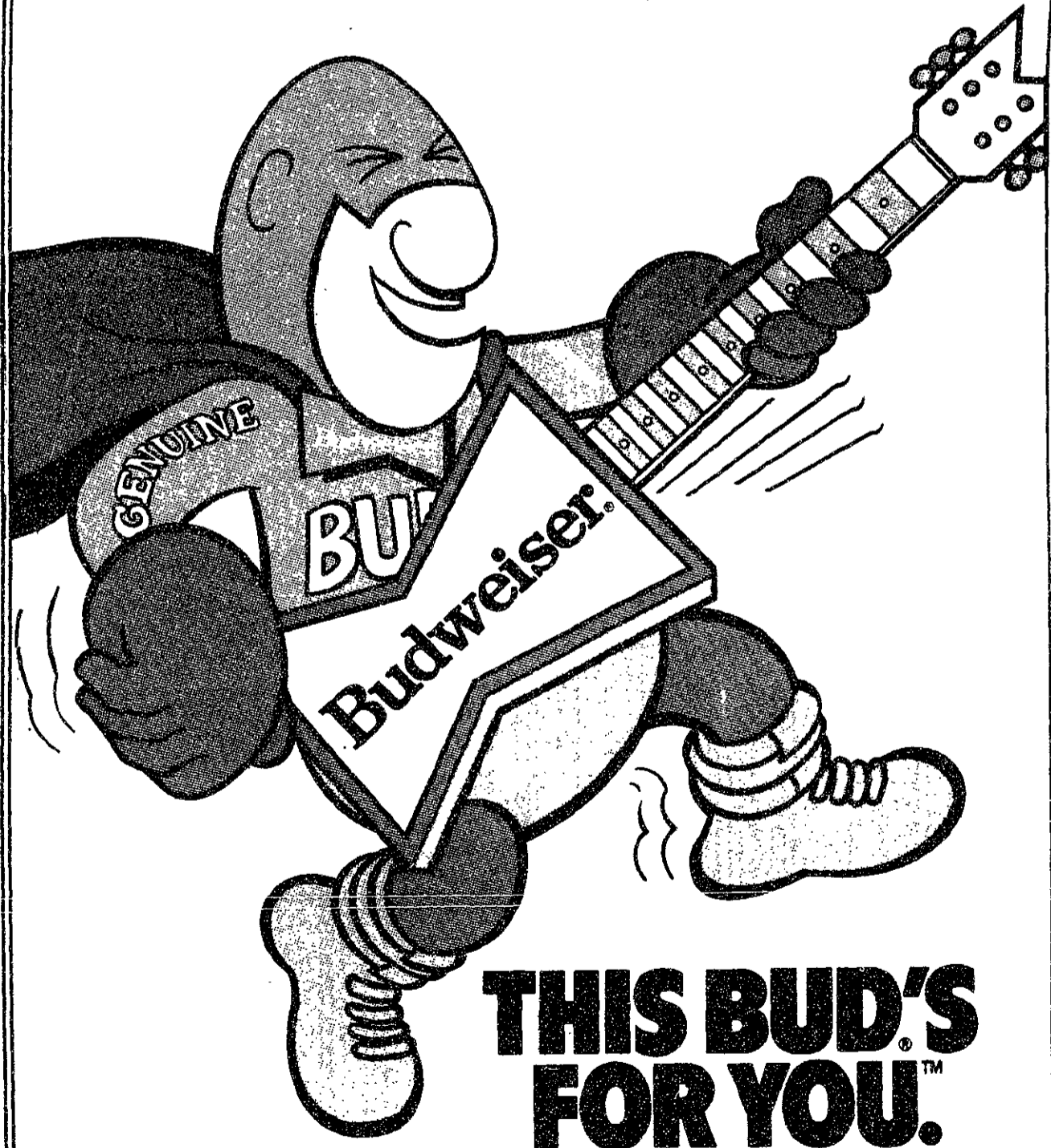
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**Murray B. Low, Winner
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NCR is proud to salute the first prize winner, Murray B. Low of The Wharton School, The University of Pennsylvania; and the second prize winner, Ron Gilbert of The University of Iowa. NCR also congratulates the 98 national and state award winners, as well as their schools. Their names are listed below.

Our sincere thanks to all who entered the competition. Their ideas promise a bright future—for themselves, and for business the world over.

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NCR's Mission: Create Value for Our Stakeholders

Study finds MIT rejects "top academic achievers"

(Continued from page 1)
achievement test. By 1988 this number had fallen to 23 percent. What the study also found was that as the number of accepted applicants in the 750-800 range fell, the number of accepted applicants in the "less than 700" range increased sharply. In the chemistry achievement test, 23 percent of applicants offered admission had scores with a 700 or lower in 1968. By 1988 this number had risen to 55 percent.

scholarly kid will not fall through the cracks," Behnke stressed.

Part of the reason for the faculty reaction to the French report has been due to a nostalgia for the students of the late 1960s, Behnke said. These years were the culmination of an era that stressed pure science, and that developed students who had a passion for learning, he said.

Seeking applicants with high scores will not necessarily bring such students back, Behnke stressed.

Role of SAT, achievement tests will be examined

Another factor that emerges from this study is the role that entrance examinations should play in the admissions process, Behnke said. He believed that test scores, and particularly the

results of the achievement tests can give some indication of success in introductory college classes.

But Behnke stressed that the results cannot be taken as absolutes. For instance, "differences of less than 75 points on the SAT math are statistically insignificant," Behnke said.

Over the years, the college entrance exam has turned into a heated national debate with some

colleges no longer requiring the SAT, Behnke said. What this means for MIT, is that in light of French's study, the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid will invite experts to examine the real meaning of test scores.

"Hopefully we will be also able to get more faculty involved in the process of how admissions are made," Behnke said.

Results surprise many faculty

The results of this study surprised many faculty members, Behnke said. Many professors come to MIT because they can teach the "best," he noted. They become quite concerned when they get the impression that MIT is not attracting that group anymore, Behnke added.

As the admissions office and its criteria has become more visible over the past three years, there was a concern among faculty that "the narrowly minded, but brilliant student was being passed up in the admissions process," Behnke said. He stressed, though, that such a student does not have to be defined with a 750 test score.

Behnke felt very strongly that MIT was still attracting the best students in the country. "Just looking at scores, MIT's ranking has not changed," he said. The only school with a higher SAT math average is the California Institute of Technology and with the combined verbal and math score, MIT is still ranked third or fourth, Behnke added.

With the new "R-1 rating," which takes factors like participation in the Westinghouse competition and other co-curricular activities into consideration, "the



Sunset over Lake Waban.

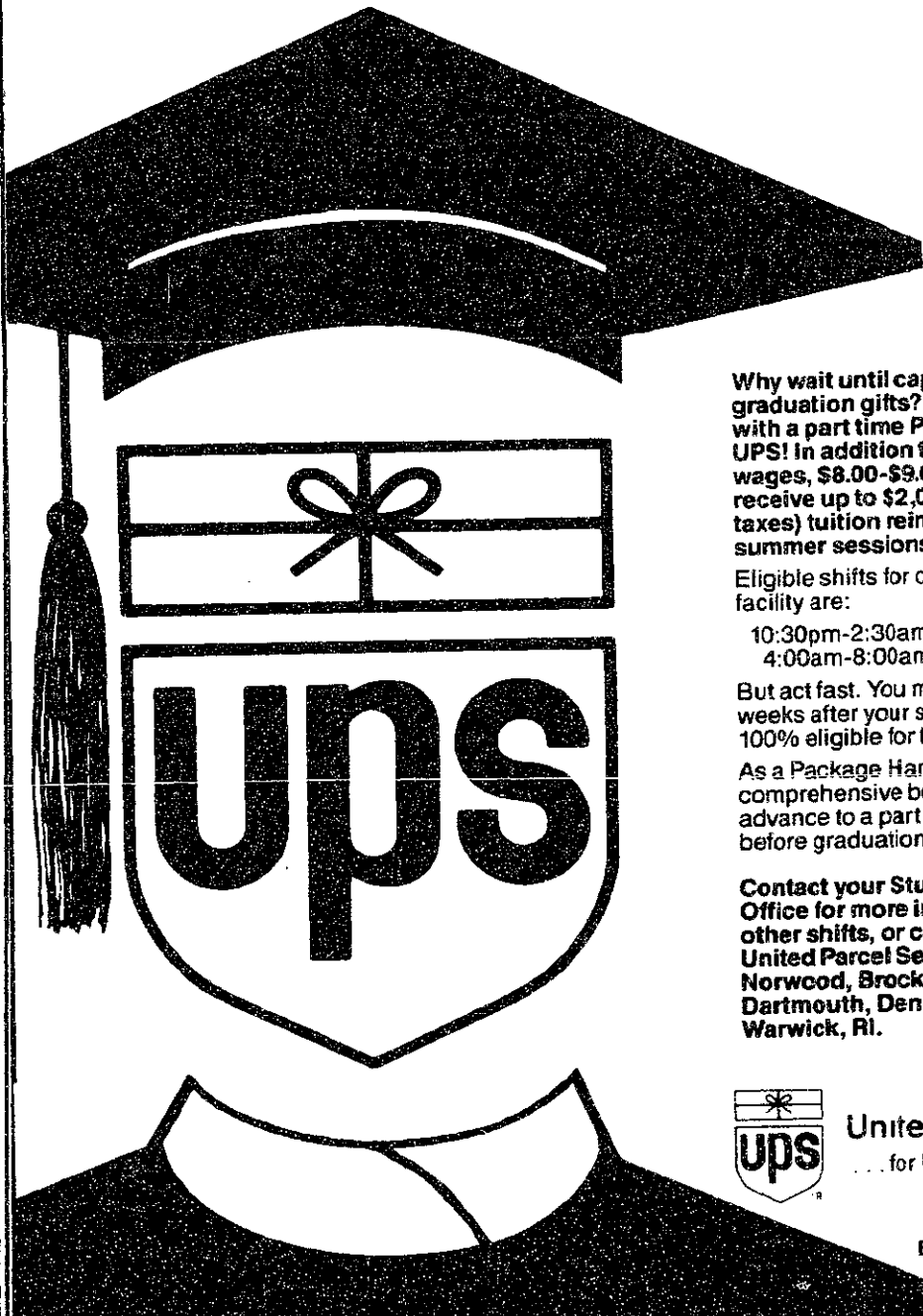
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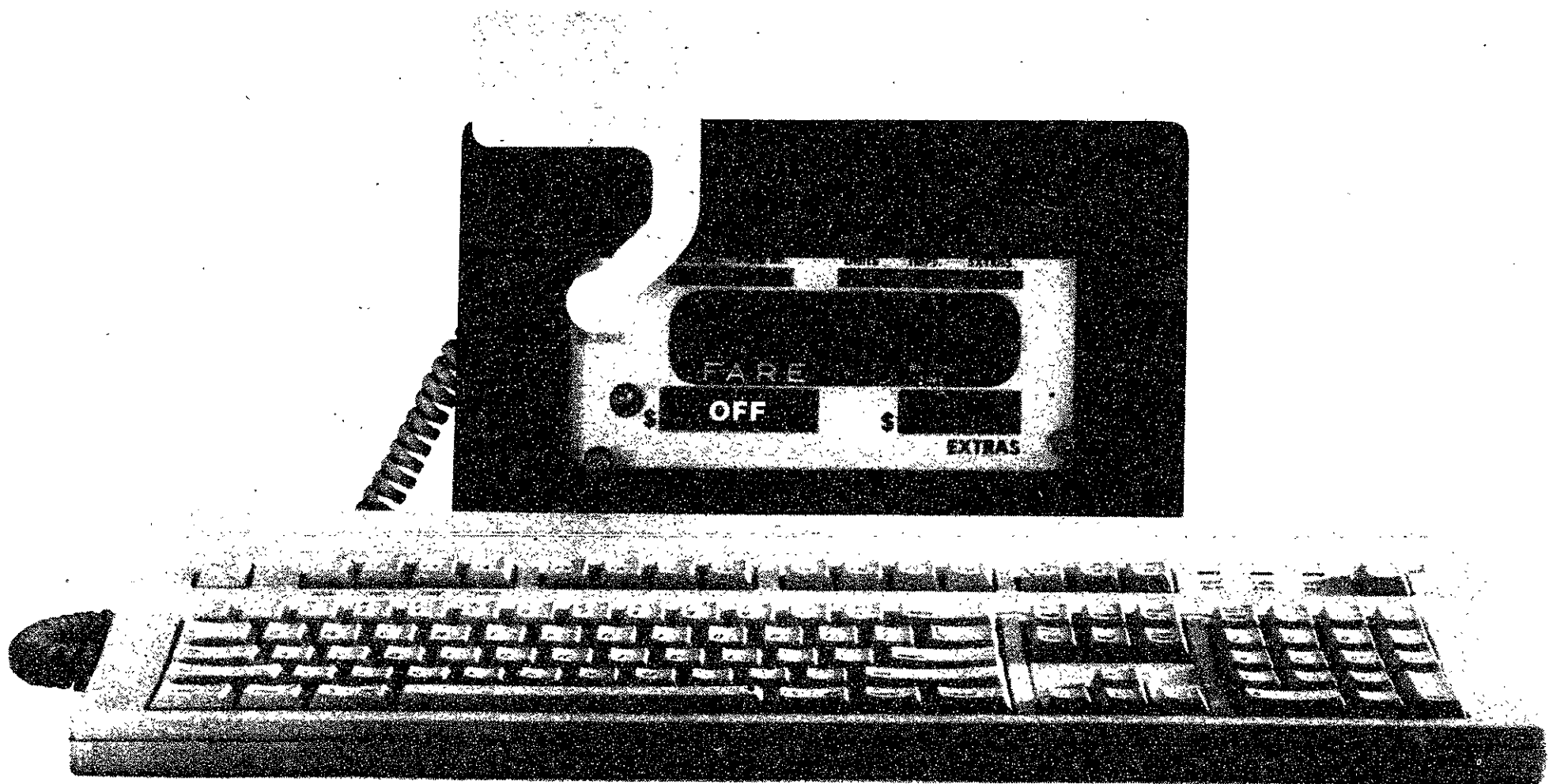
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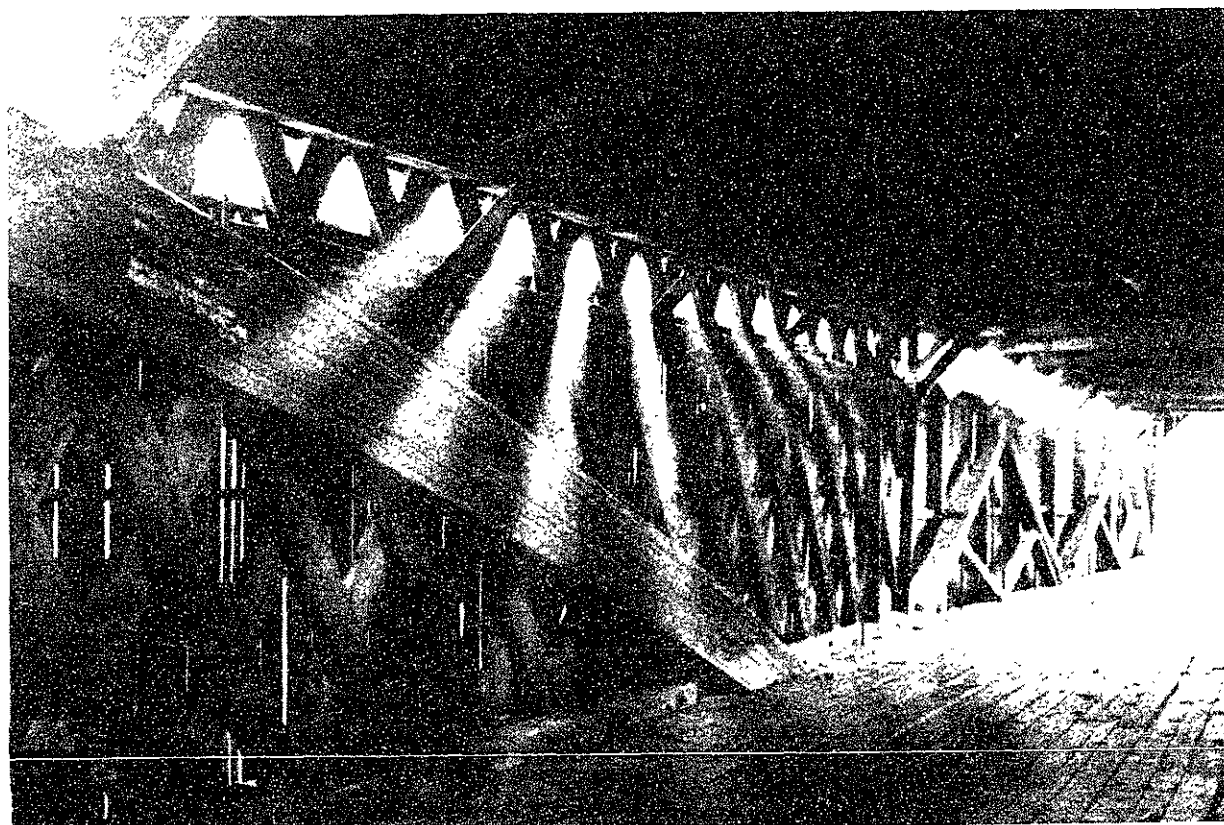
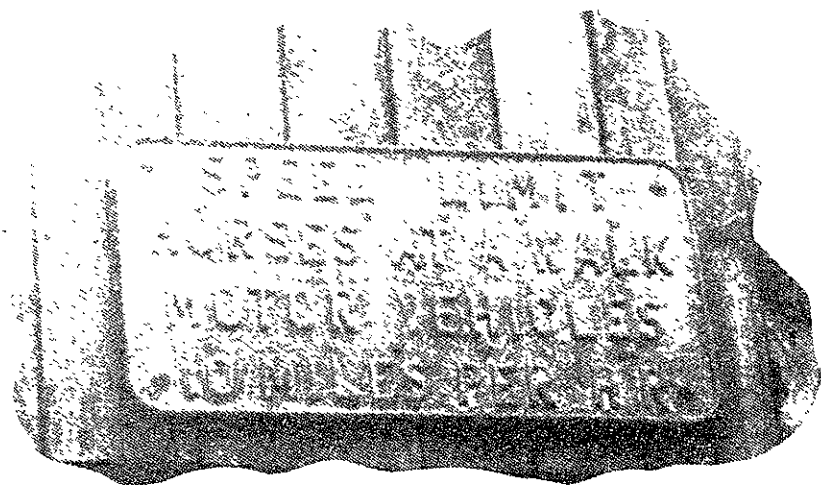
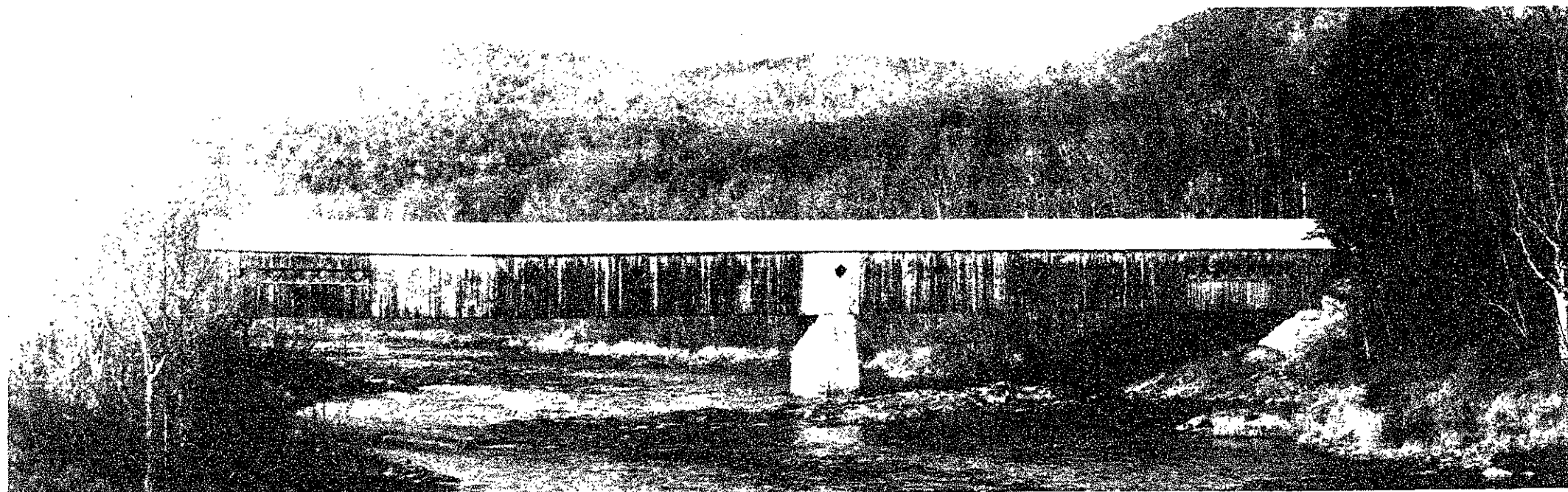
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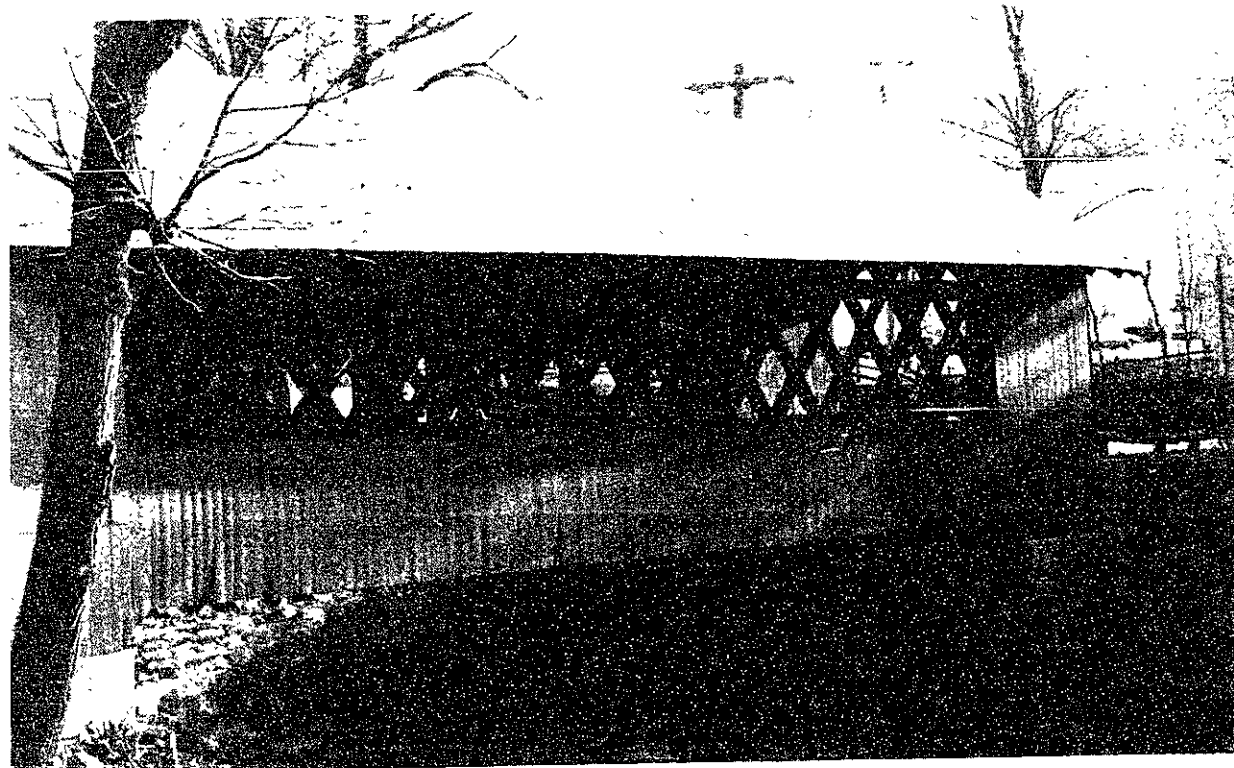
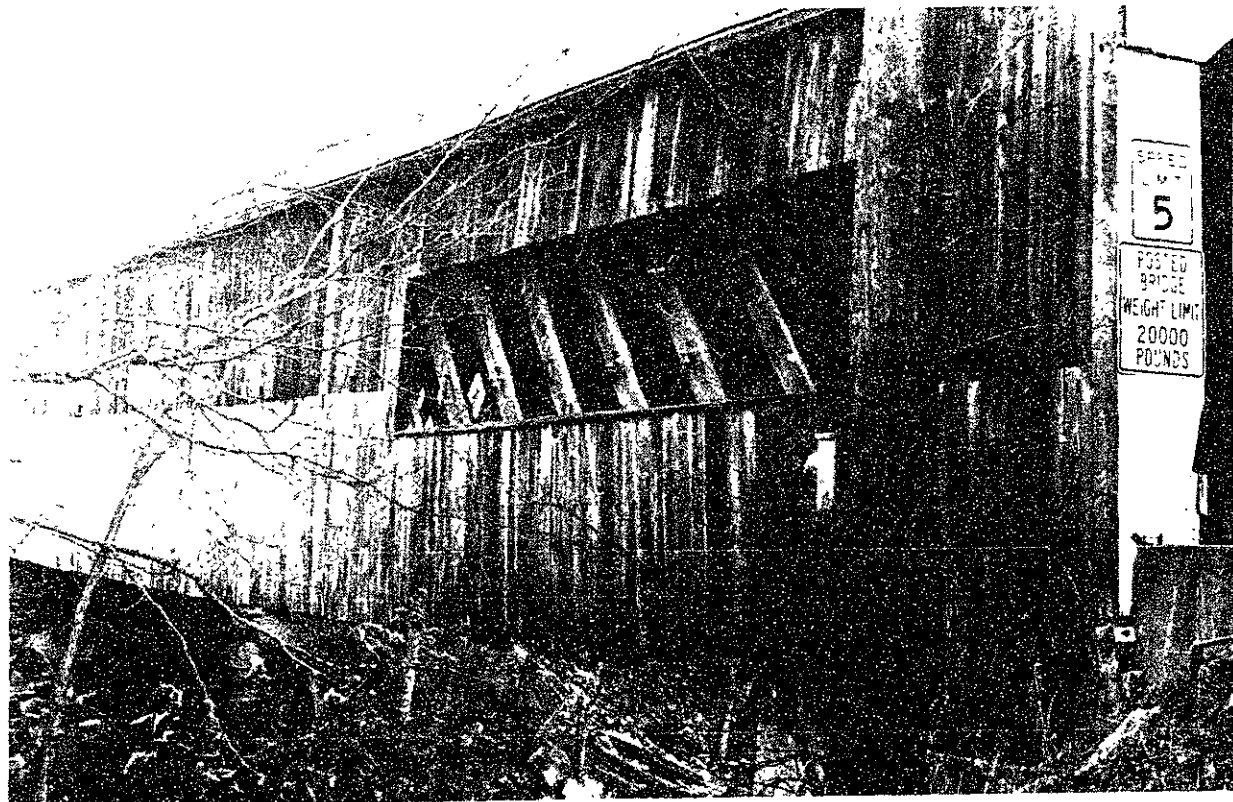
The Covered Bridges of Vermont



Vermont is a gold mine if you are interested in covered bridges. The tiny state contains over 140 of them, some public and some private. Covered bridges were covered to keep the wooden trusses from rotting and also to calm horses who didn't like streams. In the 1800's snow was shoveled inside for horse drawn sleighs to travel on. Today, some are paved but most still contain wooden planks.

The bridges pictured in this photo essay are all located in southeastern Vermont. For those interested in finding them, the Vermont department of tourism provides free maps listing the bridges. The information center just across the Massachusetts border on Interstate 91 has copies.

Photos by Kyle G. Peltonen



sports

Strong defense helps men's hockey in close 4-3 loss to WPI Short-handed goal proves to be MIT's undoing



By Peter Dunn

If nothing else, the Engineers proved themselves: facing desperate odds, they stuck to their guns and their own defensive style. And so, the MIT men's hockey team gained no immeasurable amount of self-esteem in losing a close 4-3 battle against a larger (both in size and number) Worcester Polytechnic Institute squad last Wednesday.

Neither team could get on the board in the first period, although WPI clearly dominated offensively. The visitors took advantage of sloppy MIT passing, dumping the puck and forechecking deep. Once WPI gained control in the MIT zone, they would flood the slot in hopes of screening the goalie or pouncing on a rebound.

The Engineers, however, kept their cool under this strong pressure. Of particular note was MIT netminder Dave Shea G, whose numerous pad saves in heavy

traffic continually denied WPI. But despite emotional defense, the MIT team could garner no offense, accumulating only two shots-on-goal during the first period, one of those a desperation blast from behind the blue line.

This lack of firepower quickly changed after the first intermission as the Engineers pushed their strong defense out of their own zone. With better man-to-man coverage and deeper forechecking, the Engineers developed more scoring opportunities when WPI relinquished the puck in their own zone.

Joe Jones '89 scored MIT's first goal at 2:21 on just such an opportunity, wresting the puck from a crowd behind the WPI net and sliding it between the pads of goaltender John Kurdsolex. Kurdsolex was particularly weak in blocking low shots, and this proved to be WPI's undoing in MIT's two other goals.

The lead was short-lived as WPI forward Jim Dellagatta one-timed a feed from the right boards past Shea's glove side at 4:07. The next ten minutes proved a tug of war as both teams showed strong defense, slowing each other down in the neutral zone.

The Engineers once again took the lead at 15:33 on a low, slow slapshot from the point by Brian Luschwitz '89. The puck took a few hops and deflected off a WPI defender to elude the WPI goalie.

With a one goal lead, the second intermission looming near, and a power-play advantage on a crosschecking call with three minutes to play, the Engineers seemed content to take it easy. Unfortunately, MIT took it a little too easy, got caught pressuring too deep in the WPI zone, and allowed Tom McMorrow to score a short-handed goal on a 3-on-1 break to even the score at 2-2.

While MIT continued to play strong defense in the third period, the tying goal seemed to reinvigorate WPI. MIT's offense controlled the opening minutes, pressuring deep and passing well, but got unlucky with scoring chances at the WPI goal mouth. On the other hand, the tired MIT defense could no longer slow the WPI forwards in the neutral zone, allowing them strong drives up the ice.

WPI took advantage of this fatigue to take the lead and extend it to 4-2. Forward Mike Solomita drove up unhindered from center ice, cut to the left corner and left a drop pass for Kevin O'Connell to give WPI the 3-2 lead at 4:22. Mark Macaulen further extended the lead on the powerplay at 8:59, passing from the right point



Kyle G. Peltonen/The Tech

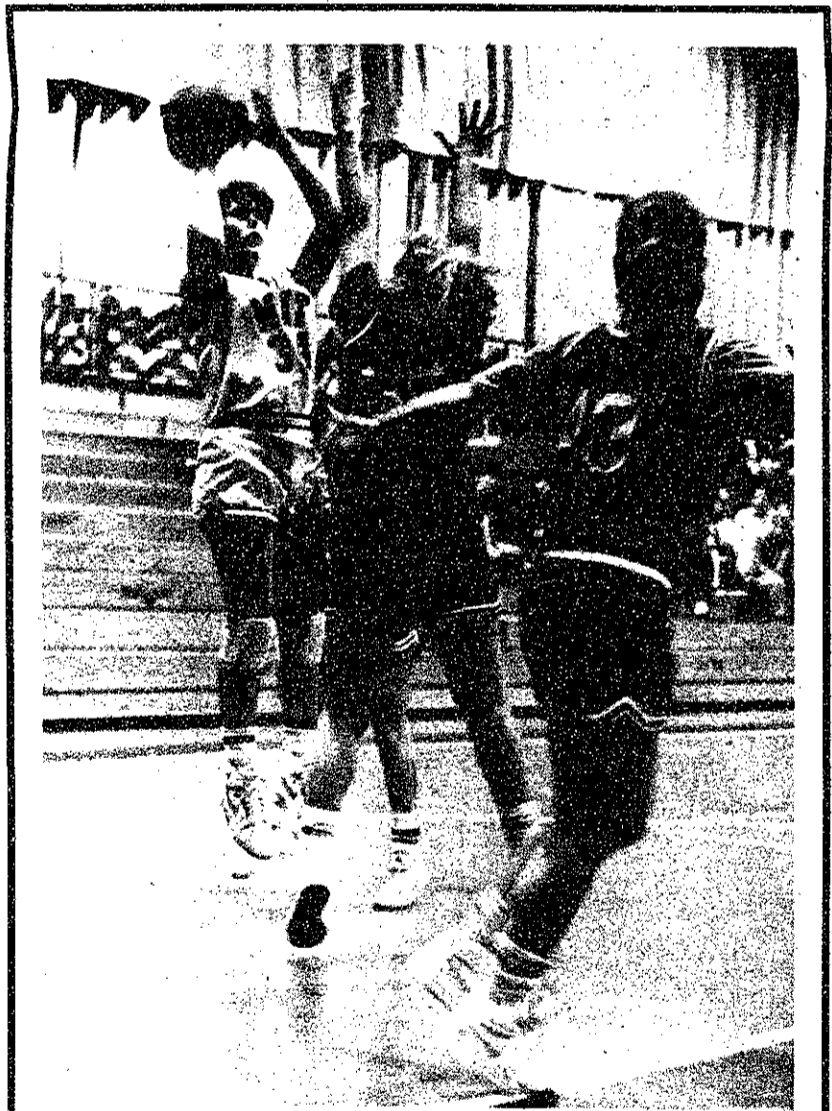
Brian Luschwitz '89 fights for the puck during Wednesday's game against WPI.

to Jim O'Shaughnessey at the right circle and cutting to the net past the MIT defender to easily take the centering pass for a quick wrister.

Luschwitz cut the margin with two minutes left on a low slapper from the right point after Jeff Bates '90 had won the faceoff in the WPI zone. This set up a frantic last two minutes of play, but the Engineers got few real opportunities to send the game into

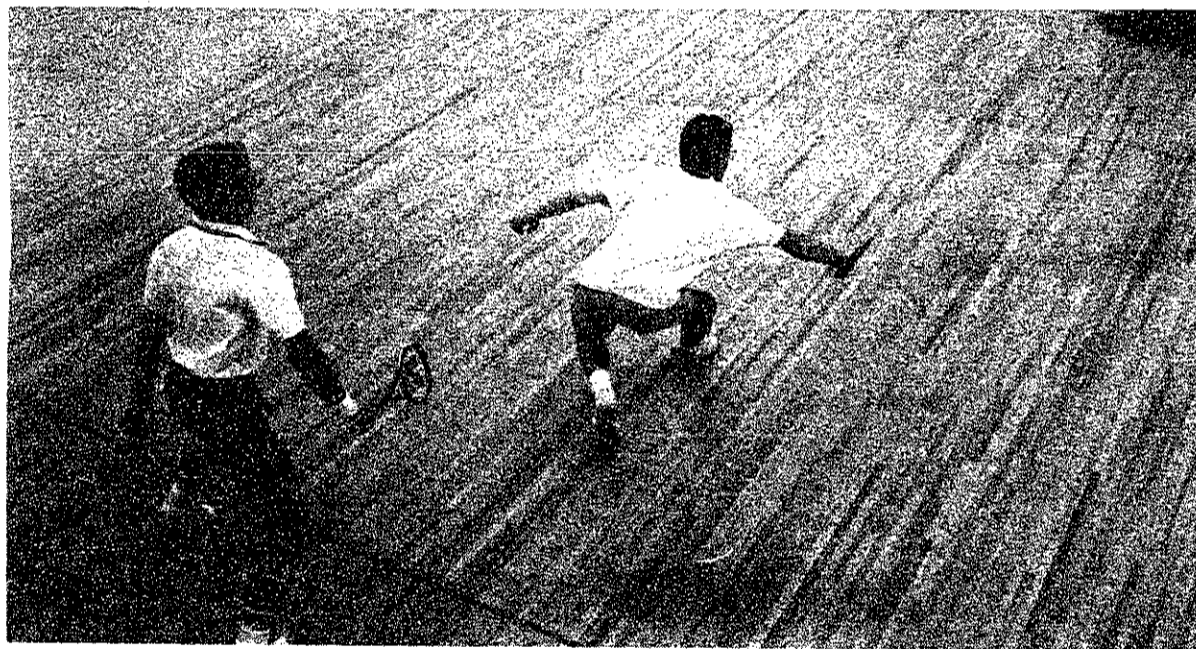
overtime — the inexcusable short-handed goal at the end the second period proved to be their undoing.

Although the Engineers faced a disheartening loss, they proved that their defensive style of play could hold the fort against a stronger offensive team. With more practice time to work on their power play, the MIT men's hockey team should gain the edge in future close games.



Kristine AuYeung/The Tech

Maureen Fahey '90 shoots over her Simmons opponent during Wednesday's game. MIT won 59-28.



Michael Franklin/The Tech

Alec Litowitz '89 competes with a Navy player in last night's match. Litowitz lost this contest.

Sports Update

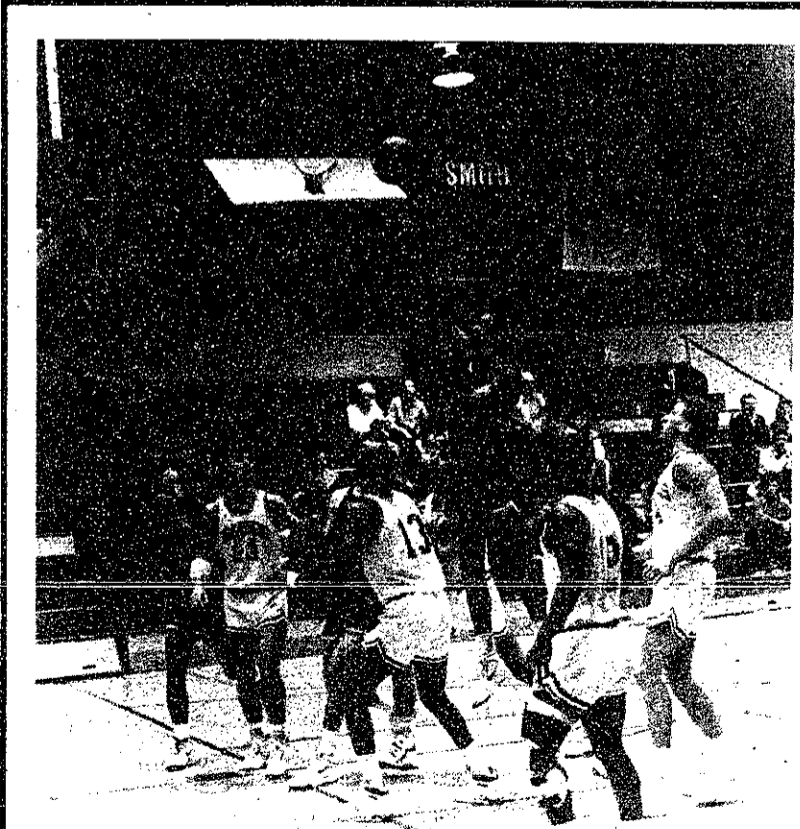
The women's fencing team battled their way to victory this Saturday, defeating Wellesley College 11-5, McGill University 13-3, and Tufts University 13-3. Leading the day was Alice Chang '90, who was undefeated for the entire day.

Michele Sequeira '89 had a good day as well, dropping only one bout out of 12 (to Wellesley). Laura Armstrong '90 also fenced strongly, finishing the day with a 9-3 record. Captain Angela Putney '90 was able to compete only in the match against Wellesley due to injuries, but nevertheless helped the team with two wins. Fencing in Putney's absence against McGill and Tufts were junior varsity fencers Sandra Terauds '90 and Felice Swapp '92. Swapp had an excellent first day of competition, winning three of four bouts.

The team travels to Vassar College in two weeks for meets against Vassar and Stanford University.

Tennis coach second in RI tournament

MIT men's tennis and squash coach Jeff Hamilton finished as runner-up in the Junior Veteran's Tennis Tournament held last weekend at Rally Point Racquet



Michael Franklin/The Tech

Doug Cornwall '89 rises above the crowd in Wednesday's game vs. Brandeis. The Engineers lost, 61-59, bringing their record to 1-3. They are traveling to St. Louis this weekend for a tournament.

Club in Greenfield, RI. Hamilton defeated Bruce Wershadio of Cranston, RI, 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals before dropping the

finals to Brian Marsden of Hingham, MA, 6-4, 6-2.

Compiled by Michele Sequeira and the Sports Information Office

Upcoming Home Events

Saturday, December 3

- 2:00 Women's Basketball v. New England
- 1:00 Indoor Track v. WPI & SMU
- 1:00 Wrestling v. Wesleyan & Bowdoin

Tuesday, December 6

- 4:00 Squash v. Harvard University