



Harold E. "Doc" Edgerton SM '27

photo courtesy MIT Museum

Edgerton, inventor, professor, dies at 86

By Katherine Shim

Harold E. "Doc" Edgerton SM '27, Institute professor emeritus of electrical engineering, whose work with stroboscopic light redefined photography, died on Thursday after suffering a heart attack at the MIT Faculty Club where he was having lunch. He was 86 years old.

Edgerton, who spent 60 years at the Institute both as a student and a professor, worked in the development of advanced sonar equipment and participated in various oceanographic expeditions. But he was foremost a pioneer in stroboscopic photography, which employs a repeatable short-duration flash. His work has been most practically applied in the modern electronic flash, now an everyday camera accessory.

He was popularly known for his stop-action photographs, such as his 1964 photograph of a bullet ripping through a playing card, and many of his photographs have been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Boston Museum of Science. His photographs are notable in that each is a unique mixture of science and artistic beauty.

Work in stroboscopic photography

Edgerton first became interested in the use of the flash as a scientific tool while working on his doctoral thesis. Before this time, the flash picture had been regarded more as an object of curiosity than as a tool for capturing motion. Edgerton soon perfected the flash to make it more brilliant, faster, reliable, and practical for use.

Perhaps Edgerton's most notable contribution to high-speed motion picture photography was his development of the photographic technique in which an action is photographed at a rate of many flashes per second with an open shutter. Using this technique, exposures are made by strobe flashes on a continuously moving film.

During World War II, Edgerton served as technical representative for the Army Air Forces and devised a strobe system for nighttime aerial photography of ground targets and operations. Planes equipped with his apparatus photographed the coast of Normandy immediately before D-Day and were also used in Italy and the Far East.

After the war, Edgerton assumed major responsibilities in atomic bomb testing and worked to find greater commercial applications of stroboscopic photography. With two former students, Kenneth J. Germeshausen '31 and Herbert E. Grier '33, Edgerton formed EG&G Inc. in 1947 to carry out this aim. The company devised applications ranging from flashing lights for airplanes and lighthouses to strobe lights for copy machines.

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FAC takes input on presidential search

By Marie E. V. Coppola
and Reuven M. Lerner

The Faculty Advisory Committee to the MIT Corporation on the presidential search expects to take well into the first few months of 1990 to make its recommendation of a candidate, said Professor Eugene B. Skolnikoff '49, a member of the committee, at an open forum in 10-250 on Dec. 20.

In his opening remarks, Skolnikoff described the forum as a way to find out from the MIT community which issues are important in the selection of the new president. The Corporation is expected to announce the new president at its March meeting.

Approximately 30-40 faculty members and administrators and 10-12 students attended the forum. The low student turnout was likely due to the forum's timing — in the middle of finals week. In response, the committee suggested the possibility of a public forum during Independent Activities Period.

Skolnikoff first summarized the desired characteristics of the new president, and listed issues he or she is likely to face. Issues internal to MIT included the role of humanities subjects in the undergraduate engineering curric-

ulum and the changing demographics of faculty and students, with an emphasis on recruitment of women and minorities. External issues were the availability of government funding for research, MIT's relations with government and industry, and the conflict between the national and international roles of MIT.

Selection process debated

Many students and faculty were critical of the selection process, citing the lack of student representation on the selection committees. Steven D. Penn '83 said that all members of the community — students, faculty, and staff — should have a voice in the selection process, since they all would be affected. He asked for student representation on the faculty committee. He also asked about the candidates' positions on the Industrial Liaison Program, military involvement in research, and on which corporate boards candidates sat.

Penn wondered if any women or non-whites were under consideration. One committee member noted that the FAC has "made a strong effort to identify women and minority candidates."

Professor Jonathan King called on the committee to include students, staff, and post-doctoral

students, and said that the president will need the trust of faculty and students, and will need to be sensitive to the needs of women and minorities.

Participants also requested that the committee publicize a short list of candidates, in order to facilitate debate in the community. Tim Hsu '90 wondered if there was any way for the committee to distribute information about the candidates.

In addition, some participants wondered how seriously the Cor-

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Alice Wolf elected Cambridge mayor

By Reuven M. Lerner

Alice Wolf, a 19-year veteran of Cambridge politics, was elected mayor of Cambridge on Jan. 1 by a 6-3 vote of the city council.

Wolf is the 25th mayor, and the second woman, to be chosen under the city's Plan E charter. Under that charter, the mayor serves in a largely ceremonial capacity, while a hired city administrator wields most of the power. The mayor's job includes assigning committee posts and chairing city council meetings. The city council chooses a mayor and vice mayor from among its members.

In a telephone interview on Monday, Wolf said that she wants to "advance an agenda that will look at the issues people think are important," including "funding schools, public safety," and "dealing with affordable housing." Wolf also said that she would like to "make the government more responsive" to public wishes.

Wolf has been involved in Cambridge politics since 1971. She served four terms on the school board, including one as chairperson and another as vice chairperson. She also was vice mayor under former Mayor Alfred E. Vellucci.

One of the top issues on Wolf's agenda is rent control. She believes that it "is very important," and promised to "keep it a strong system." Wolf said that she hopes the city "won't have a decrease in affordable housing," and called attention to the opening of three affordable housing units in Cambridge.

Wolf noted, however, that MIT itself must look into the issue of low-cost housing for students. She said that she "met with MIT students at least four years ago, about concerns related to hous-

ing," which she called "an ongoing problem that MIT has to relate to."

"MIT has land to put housing on," she added. Wolf noted that she would not oppose the construction of new housing if it would not interfere with other Cambridge residents.

Another important issue to Wolf is that of the poor and homeless. She said that she "personally has done a lot of work in the area of children and families." Wolf pledged to "develop a city-wide policy" for prenatal and child care.

Wolf is backed by the Cambridge Civic Association, a liberal group which secured its first city council majority since 1972 in November's election. In her inaugural speech, Wolf stressed affordable housing, assistance for the homeless and the elderly, child care, and an end to racial bias.

The three votes against Wolf came from independent council-

ors Sheila Russell, Walter J. Sullivan, and Timothy Toomey, all of whom backed Sullivan for the position. Another councilor, William Walsh, had originally planned to vote for Sullivan, but changed his vote when Wolf's election seemed likely.



photo by Joan Albert
Mayor Alice Wolf

Deutch in running for Johns Hopkins presidency

By Annabelle Boyd

MIT Provost John M. Deutch '61 is reportedly one of the two leading candidates to be the next president of Johns Hopkins University. Hopkins is expected to name its new president at the end of January.

According to *The Baltimore Sun*, Deutch and Pennsylvania State University administrator William C. Richardson were both in Baltimore last week to interview with Hopkins deans and members of the search committee.

Deutch is still a candidate for the presidency of MIT.

According to *The Sun*, Hopkins faculty and administrators are impressed by Deutch's "intellectual capabilities" and his expertise in defense policy and research.

Like MIT, Hopkins manages federally sponsored defense research laboratories that account for more than half of its annual research dollars.

Since 1970, Deutch has been a member of the Defense Science Board, a select group of academics and Pentagon officials that advises the secretary of defense on defense policy.

A chemist by training, Deutch joined the MIT faculty in 1970, was named dean of the School of Science in 1982 and provost in 1985. He earned his undergraduate degree from Amherst College and his master's and doctoral degrees in physical chemistry from MIT.

According to *The Sun*, some Hopkins faculty question whether Deutch's expertise in defense and his corporate ties are right for the university at a time of lessening world tensions and likely reductions in the US defense budget. *The Sun* also suggested that Deutch's management style — which some have labeled abrasive — might be a factor.

Students learn design skills, build bridges in IAP contest

Feature

By Joan D. Abbott

The annual Chi Epsilon bridge design contest, sponsored each Independent Activities Period by the civil engineering honor society, began yesterday. Contestants will design and build a model bridge from furnished materials; the bridge which carries the highest load will win.

After receiving a kit of parts yesterday, contestants attended lectures and demonstrations to learn about the materials from

tures. Participants will also attend seminars on structural analysis and learn to use the computer-design program "Growl-Tiger."

During the second week, contestants will test their designs in the structural engineering lab. The final test, which will take place in Lobby 10 on Jan. 10, will involve a loading frame — affectionately called the "nut-cracker" — which can put up to 4000 pounds of load on the bridges. This final loading, at which each bridge will be loaded

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Harold Edgerton, strobe photography pioneer, dies

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Contributor to ocean research

Edgerton also became interested in oceanographic photography and did much to improve the designs of underwater cameras to withstand water pressure. One of his major contributions to oceanographic photography was his work with sonar and his development of side-scan sonar equipment, which produced profile images of objects on the ocean floor. This allowed researchers to better visualize the shape of objects on the ocean bottom.

In his work on oceanographic photography, Edgerton collaborated with the oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau beginning in 1953. The pair worked closely on numerous endeavors, including photographing the bottom of the five-mile deep Romanche Trench in the South Atlantic and locating various ancient wrecks.

In 1973, Edgerton helped locate the wreckage of the Civil War ironclad *Monitor*, which sank in a storm off Cape Hatteras, NC, and in 1976 he participated in an unsuccessful attempt to solve the mystery of the Loch Ness Monster in Scotland.

Role as professor

As a professor at MIT for nearly 60 years, Edgerton worked to influence and energize hundreds of students, and students, faculty, and staff alike celebrated him for his humor, informality, and caring.

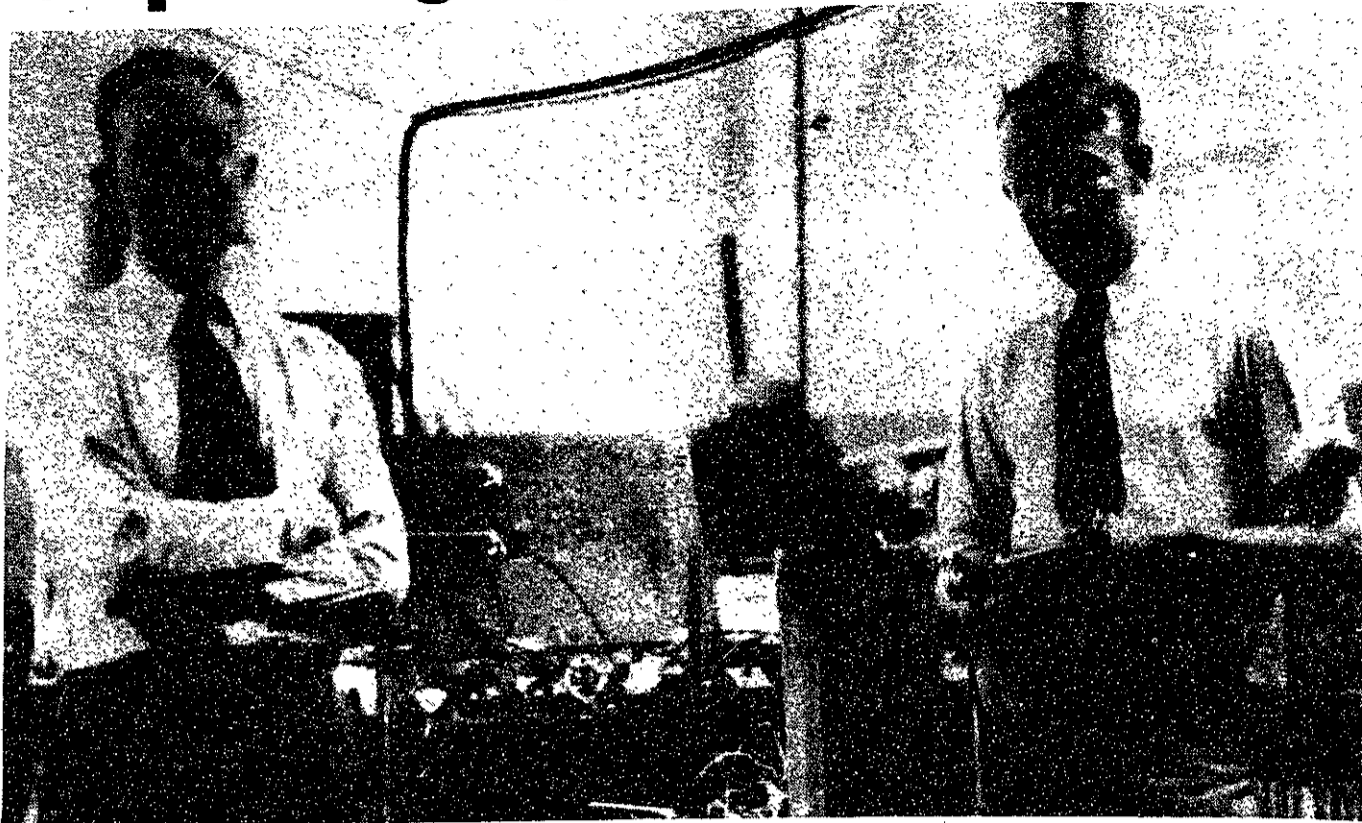
Paul Penfield Jr. ScD '60, head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, commented: "His strobe lab has been a haven for generations of students, who simultaneously learn, mature, and get infected with Doc's enthusiastic approach to science, engineering and life. Doc was always carrying around a pocketful of postcards with one of his famous photographs, to give to children (and those of us still children at heart)."

Born on April 6, 1903, in Fremont, NE, Harold Eugene Edgerton attended the University of Nebraska and received a bachelor's degree there in electrical engineering in 1925. He then joined the General Electric Co. in Schenectady, NY, and the next year entered MIT as a graduate student. After receiving an SM degree from the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1927 and an ScD in 1931, he was appointed to the faculty.

President Paul E. Gray '54 said in a statement: "Harold E. Edgerton is known to the world as the inventor of high speed photography and as a major figure in its many applications. He is known to MIT as a teacher of uncommon effectiveness and generosity and as a friend and mentor of the thousands of students, myself among them, who had the good fortune to be associated with him during the past 60 years. He has no peers here and he will be deeply missed."

Edgerton published four books: *Flash! Seeing the Unseen by Ultra High-Speed Photography* (1939, in collaboration with James R. Killian Jr. '26), *Electronic Flash, Strobe* (1970), *Moments of Vision* (1979, with Killian) and *Sonar Images* (1986).

He is survived by his wife, Esther May; a daughter, Mary L. Dixon of Hickory, NC; a son, Robert F. Edgerton of Pontiac, MI; and two sisters, Margaret Robinson of Sarasota, FL, and Mary Ellen Pogue of Chevy Chase, MD.



Edgerton (right) in 1930 with Kenneth Germeshausen '31, one of his partners in EG&G (top photo). A girl jumps rope in a picture Edgerton took using the stroboscopic lighting techniques he developed (bottom photo). photos courtesy MIT Museum

Chi Epsilon sponsors bridge design contest

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to failure, allows contestants "to see what other people have built and [to] compare," according to last year's second place winner Roland K. Springer G. "Sometimes the really slick looking ones fail right away and the rough ones turn out to be the strongest. Last year, a simple beam bridge surprised everyone by winning the contest," he said.

Contestants will use weights to load the structure up to 1000 pounds, then walk along beams connected to the load frame to put additional load on the structure until it fails. Springer described his experience with the nutcracker: "My partner and I were walking up the plank trying to load the bridge evenly. I'd slow down and then speed up trying to keep the loads even. It was very tense. You'd hear a crack and wonder 'is it going to fail now?' Finally it broke and pieces of the bridge went flying across the floor of Lobby 10."

The scoring of the contest is based on weight, strength, flexibility and some analytic calculations. The bridge must not deflect more than six inches at midspan when loaded with 1000 pounds. In addition, contestants will predict the failure load for their bridges and receive points for accurate estimates.

Since a heavy bridge could be very strong but would lose points for weight, contestants try to balance strength and weight. To test for flexibility, one support is removed from the model before the

final loading. This requires the structure to be strong but not too brittle.

Springer regarded the flexibility of the bridge as the key factor but would not reveal his secrets for achieving it. He would say only that "keeping your bridge flexible and maintaining strength is one of the biggest challenges of all."

Contest organizers made changes to the contestant in hopes of improving it. In past years, contestants did not know the exact loading of the bridge until after it had failed. This year, however, there will be a direct read-out in pounds so that the contestants and the audience will know the exact load each bridge withstands.

Organizers considered substituting man-made materials like graphite or kevlar for wood. But, because the strength of these materials would make the bridges so strong that they could not be loaded to failure by the nutcracker, the idea was rejected.

The contest was open to all MIT students. The majority of contestants are undergraduates, but graduate students have also entered the contest, according to contest sponsor Research Associate Thanasis C. Triantafyllou.

Since all necessary theory will be taught during the course of the project, Springer encouraged students of all levels to enter. "A little basic knowledge helps but intuition is one of the most important aspects of this contest. It's just using common sense to build a strong bridge."

JEWISH MOVIE MARATHON

TUESDAYS, JANUARY 16 & 23, 1990
STUDENT CENTER MEZZANINE LOUNGE
6:00 pm - 2:00 am \$2. admission

Tuesday, January 16

- ★ 6:00 pm Frisco Kid
- ★ 8:00 pm Hester Street
- ★ 9:30 pm Gefilte Fish
- ★ 10:00 pm Brighton Beach Memoirs
- ★ 12:00 am Zelig

Tuesday, January 23

- ★ 6:00 pm To Be or Not To Be
- ★ 8:00 pm The Ten Commandments (highlights)
- ★ 8:45 pm Crossing Delancy
- ★ 10:30 pm Fiddler on the Roof



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news roundup

from the associated press wire

World

Contra leaders turn to votes

Nine contra leaders have decided to give up their armed battle against Nicaragua's Sandinista government. The official who ran the contra office in Honduras and eight others said on Monday that they will continue their struggle at the ballot box. The nine said they decided to return home to express support for the Central American peace process.

Satanic Verses discussion revived

Now that the furor over the novel *The Satanic Verses* has died down, a group of Moslems in Britain is trying to stir it up again. They are picketing the book's publisher to show they are still angry with author Salman Rushdie. He has been in hiding since Iranian clerics offered a bounty for his death. Moslems say his book blasphemes their religion.

Nation

Panama invasion cost plenty

A \$1.5 billion price tag is being put on the United States invasion of Panama — at least as a down payment. One congressional critic of the invasion, California Democrat Don Edwards, said on Monday that Panama's new senior vice president suggested that much is needed in United States aid this year to repair the damage and rebuild the economy. Just back from Panama, Edwards said Panamanian support for the invasion may erode if Uncle Sam does not foot the bill for the repairs. Despite Edwards' comments, a Bush Administration official said Panamanian leaders have not yet made a formal aid request.

Meanwhile, the Peruvian embassy in Panama City admitted that they gave diplomatic asylum to a dozen Panamanians, including several top aides to former Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega. US troops are outside the embassy, playing the same waiting game as at the Vatican embassy before Noriega surrendered. Included in the group are a top security official and an alleged torturer; both are top names on the military's most-wanted list.

Columbia finally lifts off

After more than three weeks of delays, the space shuttle *Columbia* lifted off into space yesterday. The mission had been pushed back due to a combination of technical problems and bad weather. The crew is expected to launch the Syncom satellite sometime today. Friday's schedule includes the retrieval of the LDEF research satellite, but this could very well be delayed because of the complex maneuvering necessary for the operation.

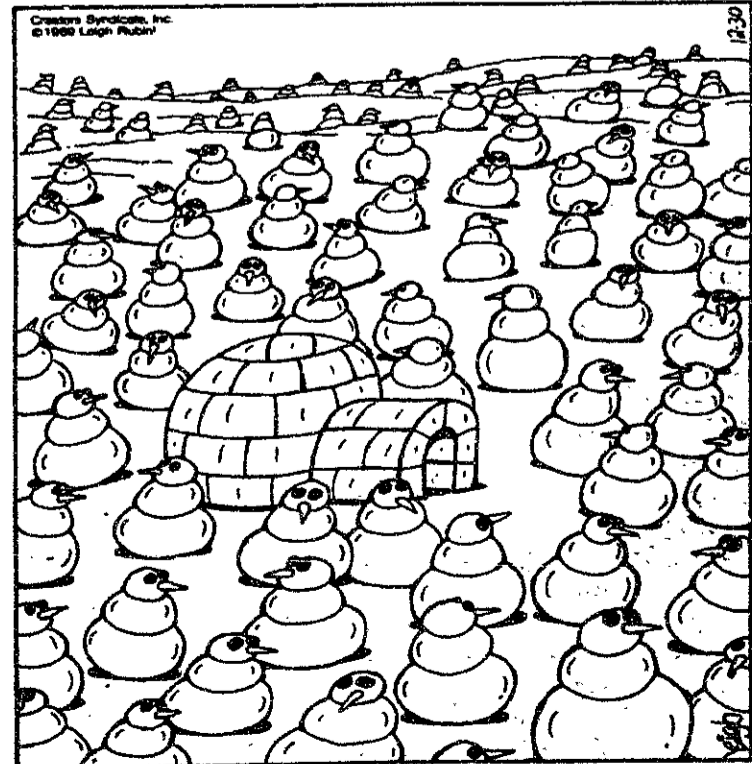
Student literacy rate improves

Education Secretary Lauro Cavazos said yesterday that the nation can learn a lesson from the latest check on literacy among schoolchildren. He said the overall findings of the nation's report card show kids are in jeopardy. The findings indicate kids are reading a little better, but writing as abysmally as they did in 1971, when the first report card was issued.

Cavazos said there is hope in the news that black and Hispanic students are reading better. The National Urban League, which released a separate report yesterday, said blacks need a domestic Marshall Plan to improve education, as well as other social service areas. League president John Jacob said big aid money is needed to pull blacks up to the economic level of whites.

Rubes

By Leigh Rubin



By the end of winter vacation the kids were getting bored having run out of things to do.

Salvador cleric wants full investigation

The new rector of the Central American University in San Salvador is not satisfied with word that Salvadoran troops are responsible for the killing of six Jesuit priests. The church official said on Monday that the admission by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani only confirms what had been said from the beginning, and that the real question is who ordered the attack. The Bush Administration had welcomed the announcement, calling it an important breakthrough. Cristiani has appointed a special panel to make sure the killers are punished.

E. German party retains secret police

East Germany's opposition parties cut short their talks with the Communists on Monday. The new parties claimed the Communists have not yet made good on their promise to disband the secret police. If the talks fail, it could spark a new round of political turmoil in East Germany.

Jackson granted South African visa

Declaring "some walls have come down," Rev. Jesse Jackson yesterday announced plans to visit South Africa. Jackson has long been a critic of South Africa's segregationist policies, and has repeatedly been denied permission to visit there. But the Pretoria government changed its mind on Monday, and Jackson said his visa, along with the recent release of some leading black nationalists, demonstrate changes in the white-minority-ruled country.

Meanwhile, Nelson Mandela — South Africa's most prominent dissident — remained jailed. His wife, Winnie Mandela, indicated that his release could be just weeks away. Nelson Mandela has been jailed for almost 28 years.

Sports

Pardee to head the Houston Oilers

Jack Pardee, who coached the University of Houston football team for the past three seasons, was named the 14th head coach of the Houston Oilers yesterday. Pardee had previously headed the Chicago Bears for two seasons and the Washington Redskins for three, compiling an overall record of 44-46. He also coached the defunct United States Football League's Houston Gamblers to a 23-13 mark in 1984 and 1985. Team owner Bud Adams met with Pardee Monday and, according to a broadcast report, decided to hire the new coach without consulting general manager Mike Holovak.

NCAA to publicize schools' graduation rates

Delegates at the National Collegiate Athletic Association's convention in Dallas have voted overwhelmingly to make public each school's graduation rate for athletes beginning next year. The delegates also agreed that schools must this information to prospective athletes during recruiting. The NCAA has been under pressure from Congress, which is considering legislation to force the release of the rates.

Justice Department remembers King

President Bush vowed yesterday to bring to justice those responsible for recent bombings that have targeted civil rights figures. The bombings left two people dead. Bush made the pledge as he signed a Martin Luther King Jr. holiday proclamation.

On Monday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation — which had secretly investigated King — gathered to mark the civil rights leader's birthday, along with the rest of the Justice Department. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh and FBI director William Sessions were among those at the gathering who sang "We Shall Overcome."

San Francisco votes on accordions

San Francisco's lawmakers took up a hot issue on Monday night — whether to make the accordion the official musical instrument of the City by the Bay. The man leading the effort said he enjoys playing the accordion because, "it's a good way to meet girls."

Court to rule on religious clubs in public schools

The newest issue before the Supreme Court is whether children in public school can join religious clubs. The High Court is considering a Nebraska case that asks if religious clubs have the rights that, say, chess clubs do. The Bush Administration sides with the kids, and supports a 1984 federal law that forces high schools to permit student religious groups if the schools also permit other clubs. A lawyer for a Nebraska school system says the law is too broad. The Court is expected to rule by July on how the law squares with the constitutional separation of church and state.

No free flights for babies

Free airline seats for babies eventually may go the way of cigarette smoking aboard most domestic flights. Federal regulators say they are taking a second look at safety guidelines, which now allow children under age two to ride for free on an adult's lap. The change, they say, may mean that tickets will have to be bought for children that young, and that they would have to be secured in federally-approved child seats.

Local

One more mystery in Stuart case

One of the mysteries surrounding the Stuart shooting case is whether the couple actually attended a birthing class at Brigham and Women's Hospital on the night Carol Stuart was fatally shot in October.

A woman who attended birthing classes at the hospital with the Stuarts said she never remembered Charles Stuart asking a question or speaking during either of the two classes they attended. But she told the *Quincy Patriot Ledger* that Carol Stuart was very outgoing and friendly.

The woman said nothing between the couple seemed out of place — that the Stuarts appeared to be a nice, average couple.

On the night of the shooting, the woman remembered asking the instructor during class if it was all right to take a warm bath during pregnancy. During the break, she said Carol Stuart came and said her doctor had told her that taking a bath was fine.

Charles Stuart alleged that a black gunman shot his wife and then wounded him as the couple headed back to their Reading home following a birthing class on Oct. 23. Last week, the case turned when a brother of Stuart's implicated the 30-year-old fur store manager.

Weather

Ed Nelson's January Almanac

The excitement of the holidays has passed. Now comes the time for us to get refreshed on the real meaning of winter. The days are now beginning to lengthen. The eastern cyclogenesis area offers the warm water of the Gulf Stream and plenty of moisture, providing the potential for "bombogenesis," a rapid deepening and intensification of storm systems. These storms hold the potential to give large amounts of snow, and are often difficult to forecast.

The full moon occurs on the 21st while the new moon occurred on the 7th. Visible planets during January include Mercury, Venus, and Mars.

The average high temperature for the month is 35.9 °F (2.2 °C) and the average low is 22.5 °F (-5.3 °C), giving a monthly mean of 29.2 °F (-1.6 °C). Normal precipitation is 3.94 inches — with 12 days of measurable precipitation.

Colder times ahead

The above normal temperatures experienced so far this year are about to come to an end. A low pressure center over New York state this morning will redevelop to our southeast this afternoon and then move northeast. As the low redevelops this afternoon, colder air will arrive on strengthening northwest winds — changing our rain showers to snow showers or periods of snow. The precipitation should end late tonight. Yet another low will approach the area late Thursday and increase our chances of precipitation. Looking ahead to the weekend, it appears as if colder temperatures and some light precipitation are in store.

Wednesday afternoon: Cloudy and breezy with rain showers. Turning colder with rain mixing with snow. High near 43 °F (6 °C). Winds southwest 10-20 mph (16-32 kph) shifting to northwest 10-25 mph (16-40 kph).

Wednesday night: Mostly cloudy with occasional wet snow or snow showers. Low 29-32. Winds northwest 15-25 mph (24-40 kph).

Thursday: Partly cloudy early, becoming mostly cloudy during the late afternoon. Chance of rain or snow developing late. High 36-39 °F (2-4 °C). Low 29-33 °F (-2 to 1 °C).

Friday: Cloudy, breezy, and colder with snow showers or light snow possible. High 35 °F (2 °C). Low 24 °F (-4 °C).

Forecast by Michael C. Morgan
Almanac prepared by Ed Nelson

opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Montreal murders resulted from misogyny

I would first like to thank the women of the Association for Women Students for sponsoring the memorial on Friday, Dec. 9, for the women murdered and severely injured at the University of Montreal on the previous Wednesday.

Without neglecting the pain, suffering and the grieving that families of these women have gone through, I would like to comment on the letter in *The Tech* by Allen Downey G ["Mon-

treal shooting reveals society's cowardice," Dec. 12]. This premeditated act was directed specifically against women. It was not a random shooting at a Wendy's or McDonald's. (If it were, the media would have given it much better coverage, and I have a feeling that Downey would not have much difficulty with the coverage.) The perpetrator was a misogynist; he was clear on his intent. Misogyny is present in our culture everywhere. His behavior

fell on the extreme end of the continuum of woman hating. To explain him away as some psychopath is weak and naive. This argument shows an unwillingness on one man's part to listen with an open mind to what the feminist movement has been saying for a long time.

Then Downey has the gall to blame the women for their own deaths and says that there are worthy causes for which to die. He may think that the 58,000 United States servicepeople who died during the 17-year period of the war in Vietnam died for a worthy cause. Does he know that, according to DC Men Against Rape, 51,000 women were killed by their male partners (i.e. husbands, lovers, boyfriends, etc.) during the same 17-year period? These 51,000 women and the women killed since the end of the war cannot be blamed for their own deaths. Only those who killed them bear responsibility.

Downey understands the men's decision to leave and does not understand why the women "were unable to raise a finger against a man they knew would kill them." Downey's assumptions are not that clear to me. If I were up against an armed man as these women and men were, I cannot guess what I would do. Nor can I guess what thoughts were going through the victims' and survivors' heads in Montreal.

James Schaaf

Visiting Research Associate

Blaming victim only increases gender violence

We are appalled at Allen Downey's letter ["Montreal shooting reveals society's cowardice," Dec. 12] about the murder of 14 women in Montreal.

Whatever the intent, blaming the victim could only contribute to further violence against women at institutions such as MIT.

Susan Carey and 11 others
Faculty and staff of the MIT Program in Women's Studies

Ability to choose one's living group ought to be preserved

In his recent letter ["FHC proposal would give freshmen perspective," Dec. 12], Eric Blackman '90 manages to misconstrue the point of my argument. I did not in any manner intend to compare the relative merits of independent living groups and dormitories. I firmly believe that there is great value in each of these options, which is why I advocate the current system.

This is consistent with MIT's libertarian educational philosophy — as explained to me by President Paul E. Gray '54 — that the Institute strives to provide its students with all the resources necessary to obtain an education of the highest quality, both in and out of the classroom. The choice of living group options from day one is an integral part of this educational opportunity. Having visited over 40 universities in my current occupation, I have become increasingly partial to MIT's way of doing things, especially when compared to other New England institutions such as Bowdoin, Middlebury, and Colby where there have been attempts to combine academic excellence with social engineering. I contend that the two are incompatible.

I agree with Blackman that rejection is not necessarily a good experience and that, like murder, we should not routinely practice it on campus. I will reiterate my pro-choice argument: no one is forced to rush, pledge, or remain at an ILG. There is a dorm space for everyone that wants it under

the current system. I agree that a four-day rush period does not necessarily provide the best atmosphere for making this choice. To that end, the administration and the InterFraternity Council have to do a better job of encouraging both incoming freshmen and the living groups to be more active in the summer rush.

Finally, let me address the real point that Blackman is trying to make — that fraternities are in and of themselves bad. He speaks with authority, having lived in a fraternity, a dormitory and off campus. I'm glad he was able to experience all of these options and was able to find what was best for him. That is my entire point.

I'm sure it is the case that some fraternities require pledges to answer the phones or clean the house, but this is not enough to convince me that the institution itself is bad. In my opinion, the amount of hazing that goes on in our fraternities is no greater than hazing that goes on in dormitories (e.g. showering and being chained to a keg). Furthermore, every national fraternity has at least attempted to educate its members about the stupidity of hazing. Getting rid of fraternities is not going to get rid of hazing, or any of the other problems on the college campus.

Fraternities and dormitories are not for everyone; MIT should be lauded for allowing its students to choose.

Jeffrey M. Hornstein '89
Zeta Psi International Fraternity

MIT's glorious nerd heritage must not be forgotten

Ever since I arrived at MIT more than 20 years ago, I've noticed that a few of our faculty and a fair number of our administrators suffer from Crimson Envy. To be sure, there are some wonderful things about Harvard. President Paul E. Gray '54 and all the others who are working so hard on MIT's fundraising campaign can have good reason to covet Harvard's endowment, and even I have entertained a fantasy of the MIT libraries housing a rare book collection to match Widener's. Yet I've never counted myself among those who wish that MIT undergraduates were more like those up the river.

Well, I was thrown for a loop the other day to read — in *Time* magazine, of all places — about Harvard undergraduate Jeremy Kahn and SONG, the Harvard Society of Nerds and Geeks, which was formed this fall to espouse the cause of single-minded intellectualism. As I said, I've never been jealous of Harvard students, never cared much that they trade jokes with Robin Williams at the Hasty Pudding Club and defend their honor

against Yale every year in the Big Game; but when they start getting national media attention for championing nerdiness, then that's hitting too close to home.

I suppose it was foreseeable that matters would reach this sorry state. As long as I can remember, MIT administrators have been making private and not so private statements to the effect that the intellectual focus of MIT undergraduates is something to be ashamed of.

Even just a few weeks ago, Susanna Hinds, MIT's Director of Campus Activities, was interviewed about SONG by a local newspaper, *The Tab*. According to *The Tab* (12/13), "she says that her university is looking to shed, not enhance the image of Nerdville, and that she for one is proud that there's nothing like SONG at MIT."

The ironic thing is that the folks who have been working to make MIT a less intellectually intense place have such a poor sense of timing. Haven't they noticed? Nerdiness is *in!* While the whole country was laughing with the crew of Lambda Lambda Lambda in *Revenge of the Nerds*,

our administration was bemoaning "pace and pressure." While high school students all over the country tune in weekly to "Head of the Class" to follow the exploits of Arvid Ingham and friends (including Arvid's best friend, Dennis, whose lifelong ambition is to attend MIT), our administration is enjoined to look for applicants with social grace. Well-rounded Betsy and Bill may have been the campus darlings of the '80s, but this new decade, with United States' concerns focused on education and international competitiveness, will belong to the nerds and the geeks.

I hope that the next time my Crimson Envious friends think of Harvard undergraduates, they'll remember Jeremy Kahn and SONG. Both institutions, Harvard and MIT, could use more students like them. And consider, if Cambridge ever becomes known as the home of the "Harvard nerd" rather than the "MIT nerd," then we'll really have something to envy.

Hal Abelson PhD '73
Associate Professor
of Computer Science

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Copy News Service



"The next step to improved relations with China is a summit meeting!"

The Tech

Volume 109, Number 58 Wednesday, January 10, 1990

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opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student Center may stay open on holidays, but problems remain

(Editor's note: The Tech received a copy of this letter addressed to Stephen D. Immerman, director of special services in the Office of the Senior Vice President, and also a reply from Immerman.)

The recent robbery of the Student Center Committee Game Room over Thanksgiving weekend ["Vandals rob SCC Game Room," Dec. 1] is an unfortunate consequence of the Institute's policy of locking the Student Center on major holidays.

When I was a student, the Student Center was open 24 hours per day, 364 days per year. (It was closed on Christmas Day, but not on Jan. 1.) A small core of students stayed in the Student Center over holidays such as Thanksgiving and were an effective deterrent to robberies and other mishaps.

As a student who was often unable to go home for the holidays, the warmth and cheer that I found at the Student Center often gave me something for which to be thankful.

I hope that you will reconsider the increasing frequency with which students are being locked out of their building.

Simson L. Garfinkel '87

(Editor's note: Immerman below responds to Garfinkel.)

Thanks for your note about the Student Center closings. Your ongoing concern and interest are both welcome and appreciated. I do, however, need to correct some of your assumptions about the closing of the Student Center and the recent robbery of the SCC Game Room.

First, let me acknowledge that I understand and share your desire to have the Student Center remain open during major holidays. I initiated the additional closings in 1985 (two years before your graduation) in order to allow the staff the opportunity to spend time with their families. There has been no "increasing frequency" of closings of the Student Center, and no additional closings are planned.

As you are aware, the personnel in the Student Center are a dedicated group who work around the clock in support of facilities in the Campus Activities Complex and of student and community events. I continue to support their need to have some time away from their Institute duties such that none of them must forgo important family holidays.

As you have indicated, such a policy ought not to diminish the service from which the community has become accustomed, and I agree.

I have spoken to Phillip J. Walsh, director of the Campus Activities Complex, who succeeded me over a year ago. He has been reviewing the closing policy

and will be bringing the issue to the Undergraduate Association in the near future. Phil will be asking for their assistance, along with the Advisory Board of the Campus Activities Complex, in developing options toward the end of keeping the building open 365 days a year. One option which will be considered is using student staff to help keep the building open during holidays.

I must take issue with your assumption about the student presence in the building as a deterrent to theft. It is entirely likely that the robbery was accomplished by someone very familiar with the operation of the building and of the Institute as a whole. That is not to suggest that

the theft was an "inside job," but rather to help you remember other thefts in the Student Center which were accomplished during the times when the building was fully occupied.

We must be mindful that the renovated building now requires a higher degree of security than that which we may have been comfortable in accepting in the past. Activity in the building may not necessarily be an effective deterrent to theft or vandalism.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with either myself or Phil Walsh should you have any further ideas on this issue.

Stephen D. Immerman
Director of Special Services
Office of the Senior V. P.

Current housing system helps individual search for diversity

With Residence/Orientation Week memories still fresh in my mind, I can state unequivocally that R/O should not be removed from the MIT experience. It acts as an unequalled and irreplaceable introduction of freshmen to the autonomy and diversity of the MIT community. My friends from high school, all assigned to their dorms randomly their freshman year, were jealous when I described how I could choose my residence and the freedom of the MIT environment which allowed me to do so.

I do not believe my R/O experience was in any way unique or an anomaly. I ran the gamut from getting asked to spend a night at a fraternity to getting flushed. When I was flushed, it was done with extreme politeness, kindness and friendliness. The brothers suggested several other living groups I might like, and I thanked them for it. I felt no animosity towards them, and no rejection at all. Were I to encounter them now, I would thank them even more, because it made me look at more living groups and find one in which I was truly excited to live. Once I realized that the place I wanted to live was a dorm, it became clear that I would not have been as happy being part of a frat.

The whole point of the current housing system is that it helps freshmen to find groups of people whose styles and personalities complement their own; people with whom they can live happily and in a productive environment

for the duration of their MIT career. Heavily emphasized was the fact that each independent living group and each dorm, even the floors within the dorms, have their own distinct personalities, and that no one place is right for everybody just as no one is right for all places. There are groups of people in which others just do not fit, and it is R/O that allows each freshman to pick exactly of which group he or she feels most a part.

The system works. The fact that some people get flushed further supports the efficiency of the system. It is a decision made in the best interest of both the student and the ILG, and it in no way means that the student won't find another ILG or dorm at which he or she will be happy. Often, this can encourage the student to continue searching.

The report of the Freshmen Housing Committee criticized the present system because it divided the campus resulting in "the lifestyles of some dormitories and ILGs being very different from those of other residential groups." ["Forum collects views on student housing system," Dec. 8.] This is a point to be celebrated, not criticized. Does the FHC want some average lifestyle with an average personality for every living group? As everyone knows, there is no such thing as an average MIT student, and when one tries to mix all the brightest, most beautiful and individually vibrant colors together, the result is a dull gray.

Brian Rubin '93



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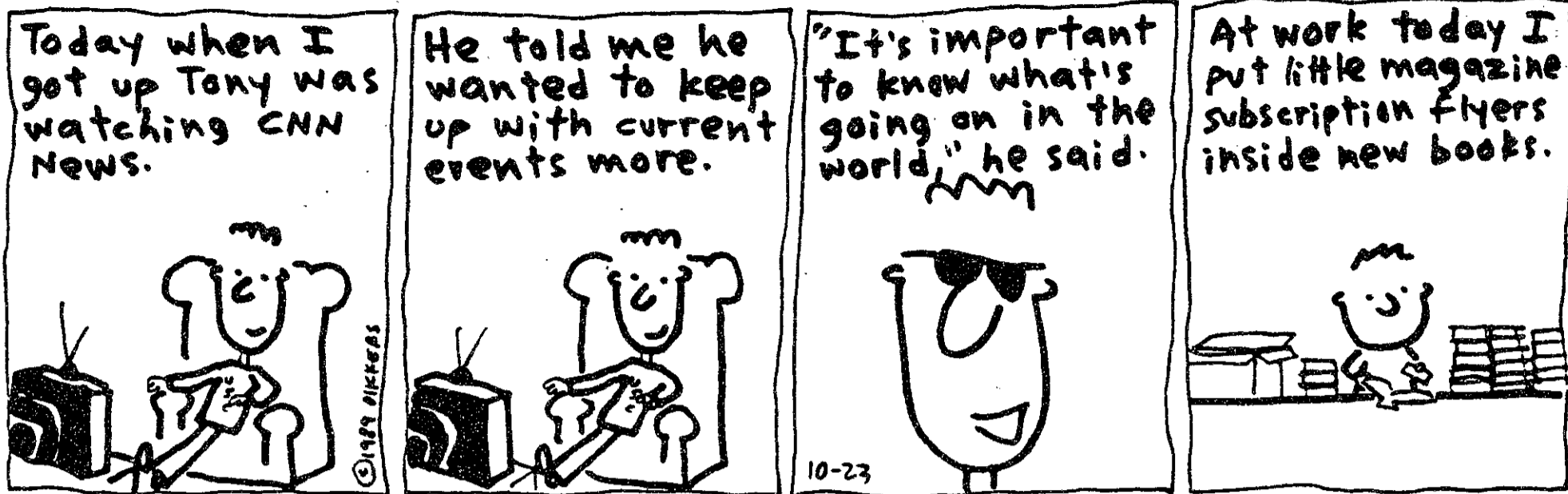
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Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without express prior approval of The Tech.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters. Shorter letters will be given higher priority. We regret that we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

comics



by Jim

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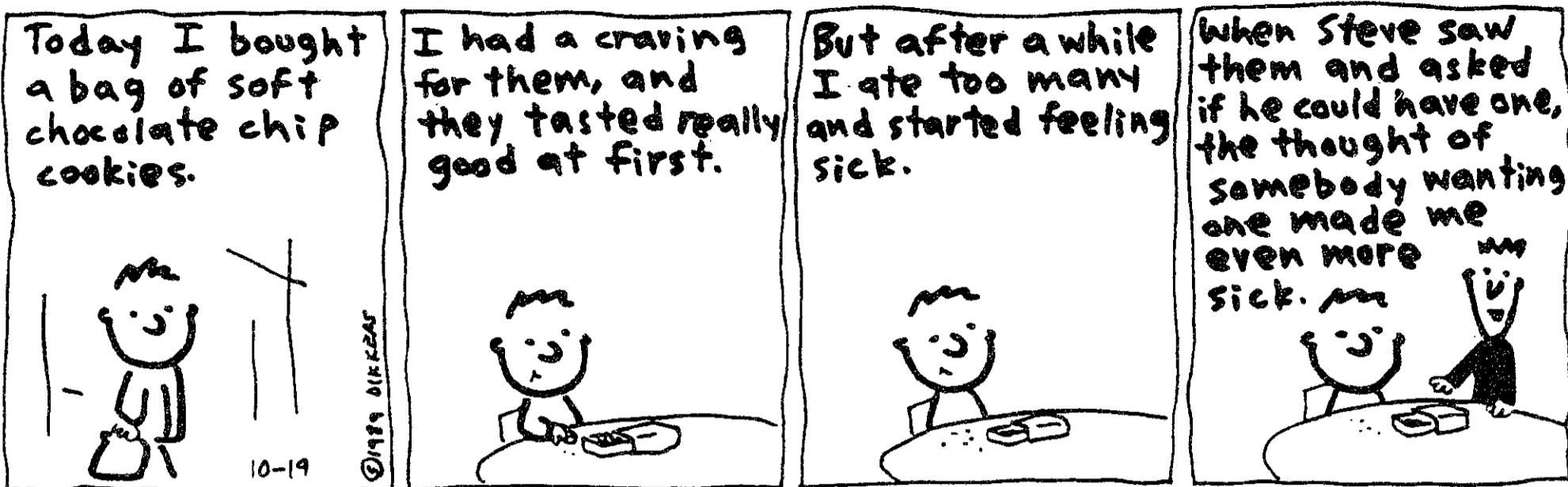
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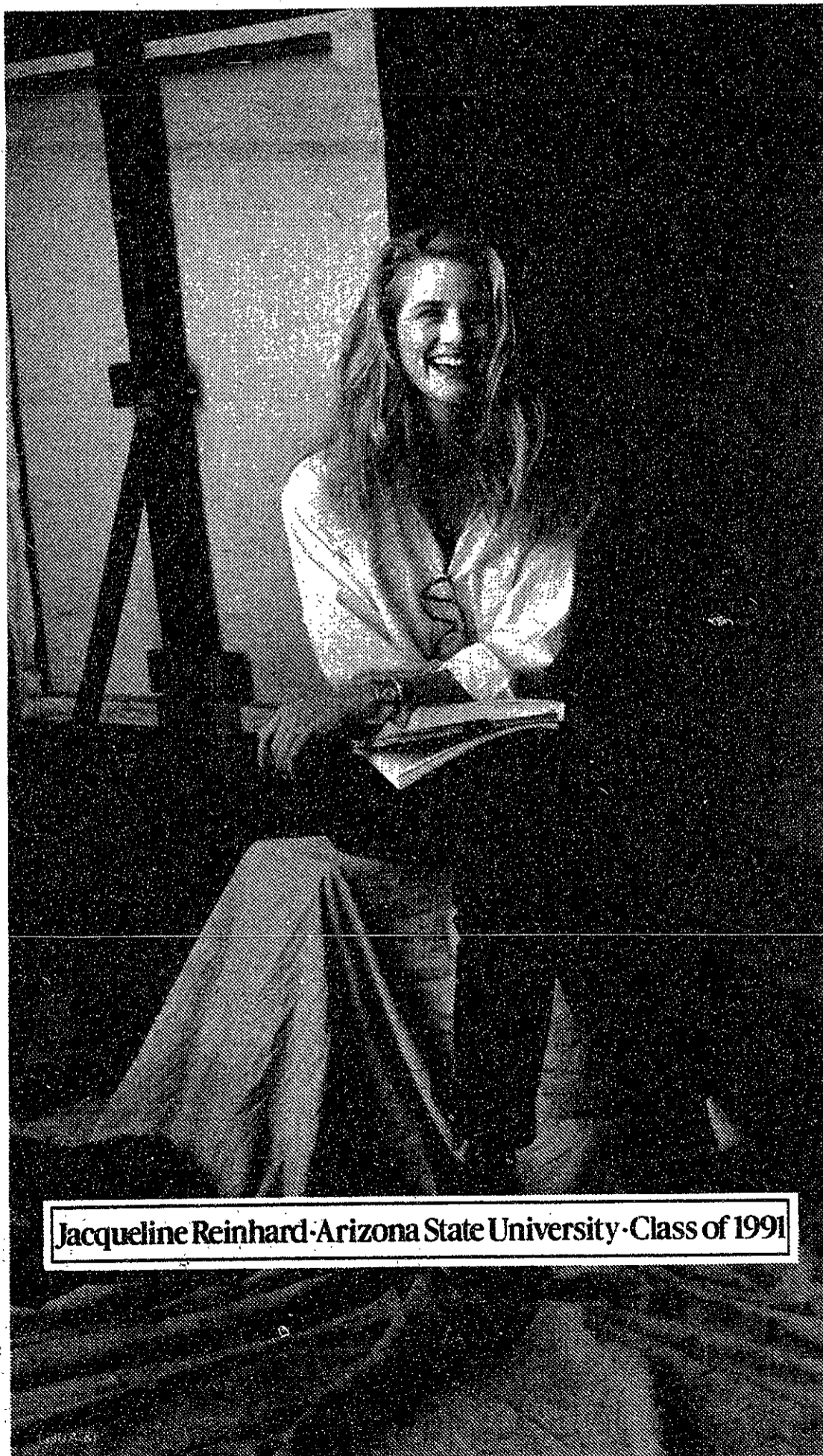
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Jacqueline Reinhard - Arizona State University - Class of 1991

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Stone's new epic a gripping portrayal of horrors of war

BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY
 Directed by Oliver Stone.
 Starring Tom Cruise, Kyra Sedgwick, Frank Whaley and Willem Dafoe.
 Now playing at the Loews Paris.

By ANNABELLE BOYD

RON KOVIC WAS BORN on the fourth of July in 1946. His youth was dominated by John Wayne movies, make-believe games of war in the back woods of his neighborhood, and the mandates of the Catholic Church. When a Marine recruiter came to speak at his high school, Kovic readily identified with the Marine mentality — the quest to be the best and the affirmation of manhood through war. Shortly after graduation he enlisted, leaving his lower middle-class family for the front lines of Vietnam.

In 1967, on his second tour of duty in Vietnam, a bullet tore through his spinal column, leaving him paralyzed from the chest down and emotionally as well as physically shattered.

Upon his release from a Veterans Administration hospital, Kovic faced a family embarrassed by his disability and an America divided by protesters who refused to separate the war from the warrior. The turmoil of "coming home" led to the slow destruction of everything in which Kovic believed: family, God, and country.

However, disillusionment triggered a process of awakening in Kovic. It was an awakening laced with alcoholic excess, political protests, and frantic writing, including his National Book Award-nominated autobiography. It was an awakening which forced Kovic to overturn the values that had shaped his life and to adjust dramatically the ways he measured his belief in himself.

Born on the Fourth of July is Oliver Stone's bitter, searing rendition of the life of Ron Kovic. It is also a brilliant post-script to his Oscar-winning *Platoon*. Centering on two threads of Kovic's Vietnam experience — his paralysis and subsequent impotence, and his accidental killing of one of his own troops — Stone weaves an impassioned film which assaults the American military tradition, and lays to waste the value system that forces men to wage war in search of their manhood and their identity.

Much of the film's visceral power comes from Tom Cruise, who in a stunning portrayal of Kovic runs the emotional gamut from enthusiastic young soldier to crippled

head of Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Cruise's physical transformation is astounding; his thinning hair, wasted body, and rueful grin sharpen the terror of Kovic's paralysis and the agony of his spiritual recovery.

Cruise's Kovic is both particular and emblematic. His drunken rows at his mother and his condition, his loss of faith in God, and his wearying search for renewed belief in himself are inherent to him but symbolically representative of the struggle of a generation. When he finally confronts the parents of the soldier he murdered, he destroys a family's faith that the loss of their son was for a worthy cause. He epitomizes the recognition of millions of Americans that the American military tradition is not above reproach, but is something that can be manipulated by a corrupt government and an ambitious military bureaucracy.

Written jointly by Oliver Stone and Ron Kovic, the screenplay for *Born on the*

Fourth of July mercilessly evokes the casual, careless horrors of war. Stone uses only two battle scenes in *Born*, but they represent some of the best battle footage ever put on the big screen. As in *Platoon*, the fighting is portrayed as quick, confusing and Darwinian. However, in *Born*, Stone adds an extra dimension through his manipulation of sound. War cries, baby screams, helicopter whirrs, and fear-quickened breathing generate a powerful soundtrack that is echoed throughout the film in memories and dreams.

Like Oliver Stone's other films, *Born on the Fourth of July* is fiercely antagonistic. Stone is keenly aware of the influence movies have on a society's perception of war. In his mission to quell the Hollywood war-glorification myth, Stone assaults his viewer with the human hell of the Bronx VA hospital — a morass of amputees, excrement, rats, overflowing urine bags, screams, and moans. When Kovic flees his

family for a Mexican resort where the warehouses cater to paraplegic vets, Stone unflinchingly depicts a self-annihilation replete with alcoholism, violence, and sexual humiliation.

Born on the Fourth of July possesses an emotional grip of iron. Stone seems haunted by Kovic's past and by what Vietnam did to his beliefs and to his faith in his country. He tells Kovic's story with anger, insight, and a bullying determination to make the American nation come to grips with what it did to Kovic and thousands like him. *Born* is a gruesome movie, but it offers courage and inspiration and the hope that the hard-learned lessons of Vietnam can help a new generation to a greater understanding of the nature of democracy and heroism and war.

Born on the Fourth of July is Stone's poignant plea to America to re-define its out-dated, dangerously intoxicating notions of manhood.

Indian film Mirch Masala makes for peculiar viewing

MIRCH MASALA
 [SPICES]

Directed by Ketan Mehta.
 Written by Shaji Hakim and Ketan Mehta.
 From a short story by Chhunil Madia.
 Starring Smita Patil, Naseeruddin Shah, Suresh Oberoi, and Om Puri.
 Plays today through Friday at 5:30 and 7:50 pm. at the Museum of Fine Arts.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

THE GARISH MUSICALS and sappy melodramas that dominate Indian cinema have been the bane of serious Indian film directors for decades. So when an ostensibly serious director declares his intention to use melodrama as the primary vehicle for his films — as Ketan Mehta has done with his newest film, *Mirch Masala* ("Spices") — one can't help but approach his work with measured ambivalence.

The film improves as it goes along, and it actually manages to build to a startling conclusion. Taken as a whole, however, the scattershot nature of the film makes for some particularly peculiar viewing and an annoyingly bumpy ride.

The film is set in colonial India during the early 1940s when tax collectors known as Subedars would travel from village to village with their bands of soldiers and demand payment of land taxes. From their

positions of considerable power, they would terrorize villages and confiscate women along with money and property.

The film tells the story of one such Subedar (played by Naseeruddin Shah) and a woman named Sonbai (played by the late Smita Patil) who courageously resists his advances, flees from his grasp, and takes refuge in a local spice factory. Soon, the standoff between Sonbai and the Subedar plunges the whole village into conflict. A group of women, led by the village chief's wife, want to join Sonbai in her unprecedented rebellion. But before they can even begin to help Sonbai, they are confronted by their own husbands: the men in the village have decided to force Sonbai to give into the Subedar's demands and thereby save the village from being pillaged and destroyed by the Subedar's soldiers.

Such a story obviously has tremendous potential, and Mehta's exposition of the complexities underlying the situation helps bring forth the drama inherent in the events. For example, the one person who unhesitatingly stands up for Sonbai's honor is the aging watchman Abu Mian (Om Puri), who guards the spice factory. The local schoolteacher (Raghu Nath) also tries to speak up on her behalf. In marked contrast, some of the women trapped in the spice factory turn on Sonbai and accuse her of selfishness for refusing to sleep with

the Subedar. One woman even tells Sonbai that she will have a good time if she does agree to the Subedar's demands.

Nuances and conflicts such as these can serve a film well. Mehta, however, undermines his own work — especially in the first half — with one silly and embarrassing scene after another.

For example, early in the film, Sonbai returns home to find her no-good husband sleeping lazily on a cot. Soon thereafter, the postman comes by and announces a letter has arrived. Up jumps Sonbai's husband. He grabs the envelope and exclaims "I got a letter! I got a letter!" He begins dancing up and down, all the while shouting "I got a letter!" over and over again. This repetition continues for a minute or two. Then he rushes off to ask the schoolteacher to read the letter aloud to him, since he can't read. The letter, it turns out, informs him that he has gotten a job at the railway station in the city. Upon hearing this, once again he starts jumping around and exclaiming "I got a job! I got a job!" This scene goes on for several minutes on end, and while it begins on a note of silliness (comic relief?), it becomes downright embarrassing and painful to watch by the time Sonbai's husband calms down enough to leave for the city.

At many other points in the film, Mehta

(Please turn to page 10)

CLASSICAL MUSIC

The Boston Lyric Opera, with Roger Roloff as Wagner's *Der Fliegende Holländer*, is presented at 8 pm at the Emerson Majestic Theatre, Boston. Also presented Sunday, January 14 at 3 pm. Tickets: \$28. Telephone: 267-1512.

The Boston Chamber Music Society performs works by William McKinley, Mozart, Martinu, and Fauré at 8 pm in Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough Street at Huntington Avenue, Boston. Also presented Sunday, January 14 at 8 pm in Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, Quincy and Kirkland Streets, Cambridge. Tickets: \$8, \$13, and \$20 general, \$2 discount to seniors and students. Telephone: 536-6868.

Pianist Anna Soukiasian performs works by Bach, Beethoven, Prokofiev, Liszt, Scriabin, and others at 8 pm in the Edward Pickman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, Follen and Garden Streets, Cambridge. Admission: \$5 suggested donation. Telephone: 876-0956.

Saturday, Jan 13

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC
 *** CRITICS' CHOICE ***
 Ministry performs at the Channel, 25 Necco Street, near South Station in downtown Boston. Tel: 451-1905.

The Neats, She Cried, and Angel and the Drunken Gods perform at T.T. the Bears, 10 Brookline Street, Cambridge, just north of MIT. Telephone: 492-0082.

Dogzilla, Shoot That Dog, and Ragging Lemmings perform at the Rat, 528 Commonwealth Avenue, Kenmore Square, Boston. Telephone: 247-8309.

Mozamb with Bob Moses and Staa Strickland perform at Johnny D's, 17 Holland Street, Davis Square, Somerville, near the Davis Square T-stop on the red line. Telephone: 776-9667.

Rache Alpert performs at 8 pm at Nightstage, 823 Main Street, Cambridge, just north of MIT. Tickets: \$8. Telephone: 497-8290.

Laurie Sargent and Garr Lange & The Big Rig perform at 7:30 at Necco Place, One Necco Place, near South Station in downtown Boston. Tickets: \$5.50/\$6.50. Telephone: 425-7744.



Boston Symphony Orchestra in an all-Beethoven program, January 11-13.

CLASSICAL MUSIC
 Violinist Peter Gwandjian and pianist Ilana Vered perform works by Beethoven, Ravel, Khachaturian, and Brahms at 8 pm as part of the 1990 Pro Musicis Foundation series in Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough Street at Huntington Avenue, Boston. Tickets: \$5 and \$7.50. Tel: 482-2595.

FILM & VIDEO
 The MIT Lecture Series Committee presents *No Way Out* at 7 pm & 10 pm in 26-100. Admission: \$1.50. Telephone: 258-8881.

Sunday, Jan 14

FILM & VIDEO
 The MIT Lecture Series Committee presents *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* at 7 pm & 10 pm in 26-100. Admission: \$1.50. Telephone: 258-8881.

The Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation continues its *Best of the Coolidge* film series with *The African Queen* (John Huston, 1951) at 5:30 & 9:50 and *The Magic Flute* (Ingmar Bergman, 1974) at 7:30 at 290 Harvard Street, Coolidge Corner, Brookline. Also presented January 15 and 16. Telephone: 734-2500.

The Brattle Theatre continues its Sunday *James Bond* series with *Goldfinger* (Guy Hamilton, 1964) at 3:10 & 7:45 and *Thunderball* (Terence Young, 1965) at 12:45, 5:15, & 9:50 at 40 Brattle Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge. Admission: \$5 general, \$3 seniors and children (good for the double feature). Tel: 876-6837.

JAZZ MUSIC
 Tiger's Baku performs at Johnny D's, 17 Holland Street, Davis Square, Somerville, near the Davis Square T-stop on the red line. Telephone: 776-9667.

CLASSICAL MUSIC
 *** CRITICS' CHOICE ***
 The Boston Philharmonic, Benjamin Zander conducting, performs Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* at 7:30 in Symphony Hall, Huntington and Massachusetts Avenues, Boston. Tickets: \$10, \$20, \$35, \$50, and \$100. Telephone: 536-4001.

Pianist Peter Serkin performs works by Berio, Kirchner, Liebermann, and others at 3 pm in Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough Street at Huntington Avenue, Boston. Tickets: \$20 and \$22. Telephone: 536-2412.

Consort of Musick performs Italian and English songs from the 17th century, including works by Monteverdi, Frescobaldi, Blow, and Purcell, as a presentation by the Handel and Haydn Society at 8 pm in Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough Street at Huntington Avenue, Boston. Tickets: \$15. Telephone: 266-3605.

Laura Jeppesen, Jane Hershey, Alice Robbins, viola da gamba; Catherine Liddell, theorbo; Frances Conover Fitch, harpsichord; and Margaret Daniels, dancer, perform Marin Marais' *Pièces à trois voiles* and Jean 'Fery Rebel's *Les caractères de la danse* at 3 pm in Remis Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston. Tickets: \$12 general, \$10 MFA members, seniors, and students. Telephone: 267-9300

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC
 Ibrahim's World Beat performs at the Channel, 25 Necco Street, near South Station in downtown Boston. Admission: \$6.50/\$7.50. Telephone: 451-1905.

FILM & VIDEO
 John Sveikay and Jim Infantino Lourdes perform at 7:30 at Necco Place, One Necco Place, near South Station in downtown Boston. Tickets: \$3.50. Telephone: 426-7744.

Monday, Jan 15

CLASSICAL MUSIC
 The Boston Composers String Quartet performs works by Beth Denisch, Chadd Crumm, Jeffrey Stadlerman, Marti Epstein, and Leon Kirchner at 8 pm in Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough Street at Huntington Avenue, Boston. Tickets: \$8.

FILM & VIDEO
 The Brattle Theatre continues its Monday film series *Humphrey Bogart: A Brattle Cult* with *The Big Sleep* (Howard Hawks, 1946) at 3:40 & 7:50 and *The Maltese Falcon* (John Huston, 1941) at 1:45, 5:50, & 10:00 at 40 Brattle Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge. Admission: \$5 general, \$3 seniors and children (good for the double feature). Tel: 876-6837.

Tuesday, Jan 16

CLASSICAL MUSIC
 Banchetto Musicale performs Early Music at 6 pm at the Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston. Admission: \$5 general, \$2.50 seniors and students. Telephone: 566-1401.

FILM & VIDEO

The Brattle Theatre continues its Tuesday film series *Boston Independents* with *What's Happening* (Maysles Brothers, 1964) & *Grey Gardens* (Maysles Brothers, 1976) at 7:00 and *High School* (Frederick Wiseman, 1968) at 5:30 & 9:30 at 40 Brattle Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge. Admission: \$5 general, \$3 seniors and children (good for the double feature). Telephone: 876-6837.

EXHIBITS

*** CRITICS' CHOICE ***
 When the Eiffel Tower Was New: *French Visions of Progress at the Centennial of the Revolution* opens today at the MIT Museum Building, 265 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge. Continues through February 25 with museum hours Tuesday-Friday 9-5 and Saturday-Sunday 12-4. Admission: \$2 requested donation, free to MIT community. Telephone: 253-4444.

Wednesday, Jan 17

JAZZ MUSIC
 The Stan Strickland Quartet performs at Johnny D's, 17 Holland Street, Davis Square, Somerville, near the Davis Square T-stop on the red line. Telephone: 776-9667.



Monet in the '90s: *The Series Paintings* begins at the MFA on February 7.

Arts Arts Arts Arts Arts Arts Arts

Exaggeration and melodrama plague Mirch Masala

(Continued from page 9)

undercuts himself by repeatedly using slow motion shots. He overuses slow motion shots so grossly that their cumulative effect is absurd. Some may consider this kind of exaggeration a form of satire, but the only one who ends up looking foolish during these scenes is Mehta himself.

As for the foray into melodrama, it is simply not possible to put Mehta's film in the same league as the films of other directors who have worked with melodrama. Both Douglas Sirk and the great Luis Bunuel created powerfully restrained melodramas during their careers, while the renowned Alain Resnais created an elegant thinking-person's melodrama in 1986 and named it *Meló* — which is short for "Melodrama."

Comparing *Mirch Masala* to such accomplished films makes it dimly obvious that Mehta has yet to develop the narrative skills needed to realize his goals. The best one can say about the film as a

American release.

whole is that Mehta has managed to avoid the worst excesses and mistakes of his peers in the commercial Indian cinema and that his goals remain commendable ones.

One may be willing to give Mehta the benefit of some doubt, since this is only his third film. Also, the film's running time — 98 minutes — is remarkably short by Indian standards, which raises the distressing possibility that some potentially redeeming footage has been deleted for the film's

In any event, Mehta's use of vivid colors and sharp, crisp photography and his ability to uncover underlying realities do hold promise for his future works. If he can excise the worse elements that plague *Mirch Masala* and at the same time concentrate on his strengths, he offers the tantalizing hope that he can become the director who demonstrates anew the artistic possibilities that melodrama has to offer. In light of the dismal state of so much Indian cinema, such an accomplishment would be remarkable indeed.



Sonbai (Smita Patil) begs her husband not to leave for a job in the city in Ketan Mehta's *Mirch Masala*.

classified advertising

Legal Problems?

I am an experienced attorney and a graduate of MIT who will work with you creatively to solve these problems, answer your legal questions and provide legal representation. My office is conveniently located in downtown Boston just minutes from MIT via MBTA. Call Attorney Esther Horwich, MIT '77 at 523-1150.

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Right hand image: Katsura Fukakoshi, *Sand and the City*, 1986.

Arts Arts Arts Arts Arts Arts Arts Arts Arts Arts

Rapid change, escapism the themes of Motion Sickness

MOTION SICKNESS
 Beau Jest Moving Theater.
 Dec. 31, Suffolk University.

By SIMSON L. GARFINKEL

A PLAY WITH THE UNLIKELY NAME of *Motion Sickness* stole my heart on First Night. Steven Henson, who plays both narrator and a variety of characters, explains that motion sickness is what happens to people who undergo rapid, unpredictable, tumultuous movement. The only way to avoid it is to stay where you are.

But some people's lives are intolerable; they cannot remain in one place. *Motion Sickness* follows the travels of five exceptional characters representative of the passions within each of us. Henson's character is a sage, an amateur poet of sorts, who talks of sharing boxcars with Faulkner and watching sunsets with Einstein. He keeps moving because if he didn't, he wouldn't get anywhere.

Motion Sickness comprises five independent story lines, each centered upon one member of the company. The stories are our own: a fed-up Lisa Tucker plays a woman who is tired of the daily headaches of living in the city; late for work, she hires a taxi and has it drive her to Vermont.

Elyse Garfinkle's voyage is more into the realm of danger than distance. She plays a little girl who cajoles her father into taking her to the beach. He forbids her to swim in the ocean, but she does anyway, and swims away from the shore until she can't find her way back.

Then there are those who plan their escapes. When Bob (David Robenson) and Ann (Karen Tarjan) end their relationship at the beginning of the play, Bob takes a vacation to an exotic European village where nobody speaks English; Ann sells all of her possessions and moves into an empty apartment, reveling in the simplicity of her new existence.



Elyse Garfinkle takes flight in *Motion Sickness*.



The travels are interesting by themselves, but motion sickness, as Henson narrates, is an inevitable consequence of violent movement. Soon each voyager is in over his or her head; precise acting and tack-sharp choreography force the audience to empathize with the characters' plights. A combination of comedy and suspense rivets attention to the stage.

The play has few props. Instead, the actors use one another to set the stage and scene, playing everything from townspeople to fish to airplane windows. Best is when Garfinkle's head pops out of a suitcase that David Robenson is carrying; she plays his conscience. The characters are all so distinct, and the force of the play so directed, that the audience has no trouble keeping everything separate. Good music, dancing, and lyrics drive the performance forward as the characters search for a simple, carefree existence.

"I don't know if I'm going to live, but I know I'm going to land!" says Henson after he jumps from an airplane and his parachute fails to open. Humor and movement are the main ingredients of this production, which was written by the company in collaboration with writer James Taylor. Each player marvelously exploits her or his talents for mime, dance, and song.

Motion Sickness will be shown next at the Majestic Theater on March 22-23.

On The Town

Compiled by Peter Dunn

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

The Hooters perform at the Paradise, 967 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston. Telephone: 254-2052.

Galaxy 500 and Blake Babies perform at 9 pm at Nightstage, 823 Main Street, Cambridge, just north of MIT. Tickets: \$6. Telephone: 497-8200.

Perfect World, The World of Form, and Scuff perform at 7:30 at Necco Place, One Necco Place, near South Station in downtown Boston. Tickets: \$3.50. Telephone: 426-7744.

THEATER

Spitting Into the Wind, Laura Browder's play confronting the explosive issues of "Red-baiting" and government-sanctioned censorship, opens today at the New Ehrlich Theatre, 539 Tremont Street, Boston. Continues through February 4 with performances Thursday-Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 2 pm. Tickets: \$15 general, \$10 seniors and children. Telephone: 482-6316.

FILM & VIDEO

The Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation continues its *Best of the Coolidge* film series with *Blade Runner* (Ridley Scott, 1982) at 5:30 & 9:20 and *Dr. Strangelove* (Stanley Kubrick, 1964) at 7:40 at 290 Harvard Street, Coolidge Corner, Brookline. Also presented Thursday, January 18. Tel: 734-2500.

CRITICS' CHOICE

The Brattle Theatre continues its Wednesday/Thursday *Janus Film Festival* series with *Pandora's Box* (G. W. Pabst, 1928) at 4 pm & 8 pm and *M* (Fritz Lang, 1930) at 6 pm & 10 pm at 40 Brattle Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge. Admission: \$5 general, \$3 seniors and children (good for the double feature). Telephone: 876-6837.

The Museum of Fine Arts presents a sneak preview of *Camille Claudel* (Bruno Nuytten, 1989, France), starring Isabelle Adjani and Gerard Depardieu, at 7 pm at 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston. Tickets: \$6 general, \$5 MFA members, seniors, and students. Tel: 267-9300.

Ongoing Theater

CRITICS' CHOICE

The Bald Soprano, Eugene Ionesco's absurdly comic stab at middle-class banality, and **The Chairs**, Ionesco's tragicomic parody of a 75-year-old marriage, continues through January 13 as a presentation of the American Repertory Theatre at the Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Performances are Tuesday-Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 7 pm, and Saturday/Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets: \$16 to \$33. Telephone: 495-2668.

The Devil Amongst Us, an audience-participation murder mystery, continues indefinitely at the Mystery Café, 738 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge. Performances are Thursday-Saturday at 7:30. Tickets: \$25 to \$28 (includes meal). Telephone: 262-1826.

Forbidden Broadway 1989, the latest updated version of Gerard Alessandrini's musical comedy revue, continues indefinitely at the Terrace Room, Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Performances are Tuesday-Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 7 pm & 10 pm, and Sunday at 3 pm & 6 pm. Tickets: \$16.50 to \$24.50 depending on performance. Telephone: 357-8384.

Hollywood After Dark, a nightclub revue celebrating the glory days of "the Silver Screen musical," continues indefinitely at the Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston. Performances are Sunday at 7:30, Monday at 8:00, and Wednesday & Saturday at 2:00. Tickets: \$14 to \$16. Telephone: 426-6912.

Morning's At Seven, Paul Osborn's gentle comedy about four elderly sisters, continues through January 27 as a presentation of the Nora Theatre Company at the Theater at the Harvard Union, Quincy and Harvard Streets, Cambridge. Performances are Thursday-Saturday at 8:00 with matinees January 14 and 21 at 5:30. Tickets: \$15 general, \$10 seniors and students. Telephone: 495-4530.

Nonsense, Dan Goggin's comedy about the Little Sisters of Hoboken who stage a talent show to raise money to bury four of their number, continues indefinitely at the Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston. Performances are Tuesday-Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 6 pm & 9 pm, with matinees Thursday at 2 pm and Sunday at 3 pm. Tickets: \$15.50 to \$26.50 general, half-price for seniors and students on Thursday matinee. Telephone: 426-6912.

O Pioneers!, Darrah Cloud's adaption of the Willa Cather 1913 novel of struggle and sacrifice on the American frontier, continues through February 4 as a presentation of the Huntington Theatre Company at the Boston University Theatre, 264 Huntington Avenue, Boston. Performances are Tuesday-Saturday at 8 pm with matinees Wednesday, Saturday, & Sunday at 2 pm. Tickets: \$14 to \$29. Telephone: 266-3913.

Out Bran and Remembrance, Boston Baked Theatre's latest collection of musical and satiric sketches, continues indefinitely at the Boston Baked Theatre, 255 Elm Street, Davis Square, Somerville, near the Davis Square T-stop on the red line. Performances are Friday at 8:15 and Saturday at 7:00 & 9:15. Tickets: \$13.50 and \$15. Telephone: 628-9575.

Otherwise Engaged, Simon Gray's comedy of sex, society, and yuppies, continues through February 4 at the Lyric Stage Theatre, 54 Charles Street, Boston. Performances are Wednesday-Friday at 8:00, Saturday at 5:00 & 8:30, and Sunday at 3:00. Tickets: \$13.50 to \$17. Telephone: 742-8703.

Party of One, Morris Bobrow's new musical revue about the perils of comingling, continues indefinitely at the Theatre Lobby at Hanover Street, 216 Hanover Street, Boston. Performances are Tuesday-Friday at 8:00, Saturday at 7:00 & 9:30, and Sunday at 3:00 & 7:00. Tickets: \$14.50 to \$21.50. Telephone: 227-9381.

The Promise, Aleksei Arbusov's fascinating glimpse of life in modern Russia, continues through February 4 at the New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln Street, Newton Highlands, near the Newton Highlands T-stop on the 'D' green line. Performances are Thursday & Friday at 8:00, Saturday at 5:00 & 8:30, and Sunday at 3:00 & 7:30. Telephone: 332-1646.

Talking With . . . Jane Martin's play of 11 women as they reveal their anxieties, accomplishments, and dreams, continues through January 28 at The Back Alley Theatre, 1253 Cambridge Street, Inman Square, Cambridge. Performances are Thursday-Sunday at 8 pm. Tickets: \$12. Telephone: 491-8166.

Twelfth Night, by William Shakespeare, continues through January 20 as a presentation of the American Repertory Theatre at the Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Performances are Tuesday-Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 2 pm & 8 pm, and Sunday at 2 pm & 7 pm. Tickets: \$16 to \$33. Telephone: 547-8300.

Under a Mantle of Stars, Manuel Puig's black comedy about an aging pair of visitors and their adopted daughter, continues through January 27 as a presentation of the Cicatrix Theatre Company at the Leland Center, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont Street, Boston. Performances are Thursday-Saturday at 8 pm. Tickets: \$8. Telephone: 282-8348.



Louise Brooks in Pabst's *Pandora's Box* at the Brattle Theatre, January 17.

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Don't delay. Wellesley classes begin on Monday, January 29.

Cross-registration ends Tuesday, February 13

ARTS



Weston's Westons: Portraits and Nudes continues at the Museum of Fine Arts through March 4.

Ongoing Exhibits

ON CAMPUS

*** CRITICS' CHOICE ***
Artists Behind the Desk, a juried support staff exhibit sponsored by the MIT Working Group on Support Staff Issues, continues through January 12 at the MIT Museum Compton Gallery, between lobbies 10 and 13. Gallery hours are weekdays 9-5 and Saturdays 12-4. No admission charge. Telephone: 253-4444.

*** CRITICS' CHOICE ***
Against Nature: Japanese Art in the '80s, mixed media work by 10 younger Japanese artists, continues through February 18 at the List Visual Arts Center, MIT Wiesner Building E15, 20 Ames Street. Gallery hours are weekdays 12-6 and weekends 1-5. Telephone: 253-4680.

Holography: Types and Applications, drawn from the work of MIT Media Lab's Spatial Imaging Group, continues at the MIT Museum, 265 Massachusetts Avenue. Museum hours are Tuesday-Friday 9-5 and weekends 12-4. Admission: \$2 requested donation, free to MIT community. Telephone: 253-4444.

OFF CAMPUS

*** CRITICS' CHOICE ***
Weston's Westons: Portraits and Nudes, 118 vintage photographs by the "quintessential modern photographer," continues through March 4 at the Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston. Telephone: 267-9300.

*** CRITICS' CHOICE ***
Rembrandt and His School, drawings from the Museum Boymans-van Beuningen, Rotterdam, continues through January 28 at the Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge. Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday 10-5. Telephone: 495-9400.

The Hollywood Photographs of Director George Sidney continues through February 28 at the Mugar Memorial Library, Boston University, 771 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston. Library hours are Monday-Friday 9-5. No admission charge. Telephone: 353-3696.

Upcoming Events

The **Mighty Lemon Drops** at the Paradise on January 26 and 27. The **Opera Company of Boston** performs Puccini's **Madame Butterfly**, January 25 & 28, February 4 & 11, and April 21 & 28. The **Six Getz Quartet** at the Charles Hotel on January 27. **Bill Cosby** at the Wang Center on January 27. The **Herbie Hancock Trio** at the Charles Hotel Ballroom on February 3. **k. d. lang** and the **Redclines** at Lowell Memorial Auditorium on February 3 and at the Providence Performing Arts Center on February 4. **Warren Zevon** at the Orpheum Theatre on February 3. **The** at the Citi Club on February 4. **Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers** at the Worcester Centrum on February 7. **Monet in the '90s: The Series Paintings** at the Museum of Fine Arts, February 7 to April 29. **Soak Youth** at the Paradise on March 11. **Les Misérables** at the Shubert Theatre, March 16 for 10 weeks.

On The Town
Compiled by Peter Dunn

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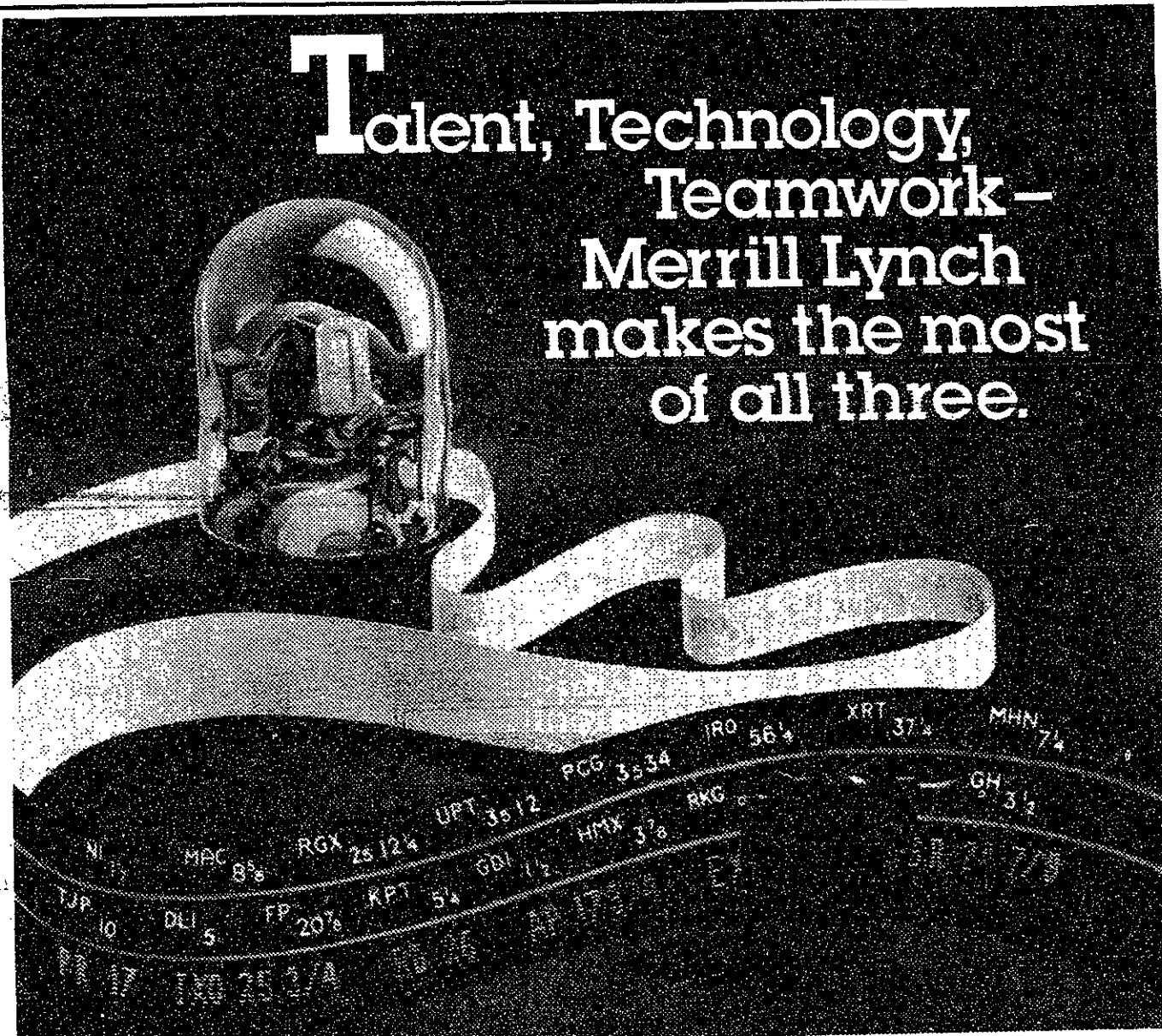
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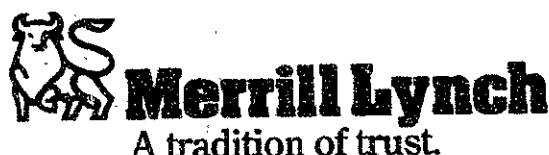
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FAC hears input from faculty and students

(Continued from page 1)

poration will take the faculty search committee recommendation. A committee member said that the Corporation and faculty committees work together, and that members of the FAC would not be doing this if they thought they were wasting their time.

Skolnikoff denied the requests to make a short list available, saying that it would politicize the selection process. He added that the trustees "shoulder responsibility for the decision." Committee member Lawrence M. Lidsky PhD '62 said that there will be a "pragmatic plebiscite," in which community members will say whether they are happy with the decision.

Role of defense questioned

Many students were concerned about the connection between the president of MIT and the US Department of Defense.

King said that working engineers and scientists "need the courage to take the step out of the Cold War period."

David Alt '93 accused MIT of having "no social conscience," and expressed his displeasure

with the amount of DOD money present in research. Hsu added that "many students see MIT as a primarily money-making institution," and accused it of "not [being] devoted to education."

Professor Vera Kistiakowsky expressed her desire for the new president to reverse the trend of increasing amounts of military-sponsored research. She said that while 40 percent of MIT research was defense-sponsored in 1980, that percentage increased to 66 percent in 1989. In response to this criticism, Skolnikoff noted that these figures included Lincoln Laboratories, and said that on-campus military research had not increased during that period.

Other concerns brought up during the forum included the necessity of previous MIT experience, higher priority given to teaching rather than research, and preservation of openness in the administration.

The faculty and Corporation advisory committees were formed in April of last year following the announcement that President Paul E. Gray '54 would become chairman of the Corporation on July 1.



Kristine AuYeung/The Tech

This year's telethon sponsored by the Alumni Association and the Graduate Student Council raised \$21,352 for graduate student housing — 75 percent higher than last year's total. Presenting the check to President Paul E. Gray '54 on Dec. 13 were (left to right) GSC Housing Chair Julia Vail, GSC President Mike Warwick, Ashdown President Arnout Eikeboom, and Jim Abbott, head of the Ashdown House Telethon Committee.

classified advertising

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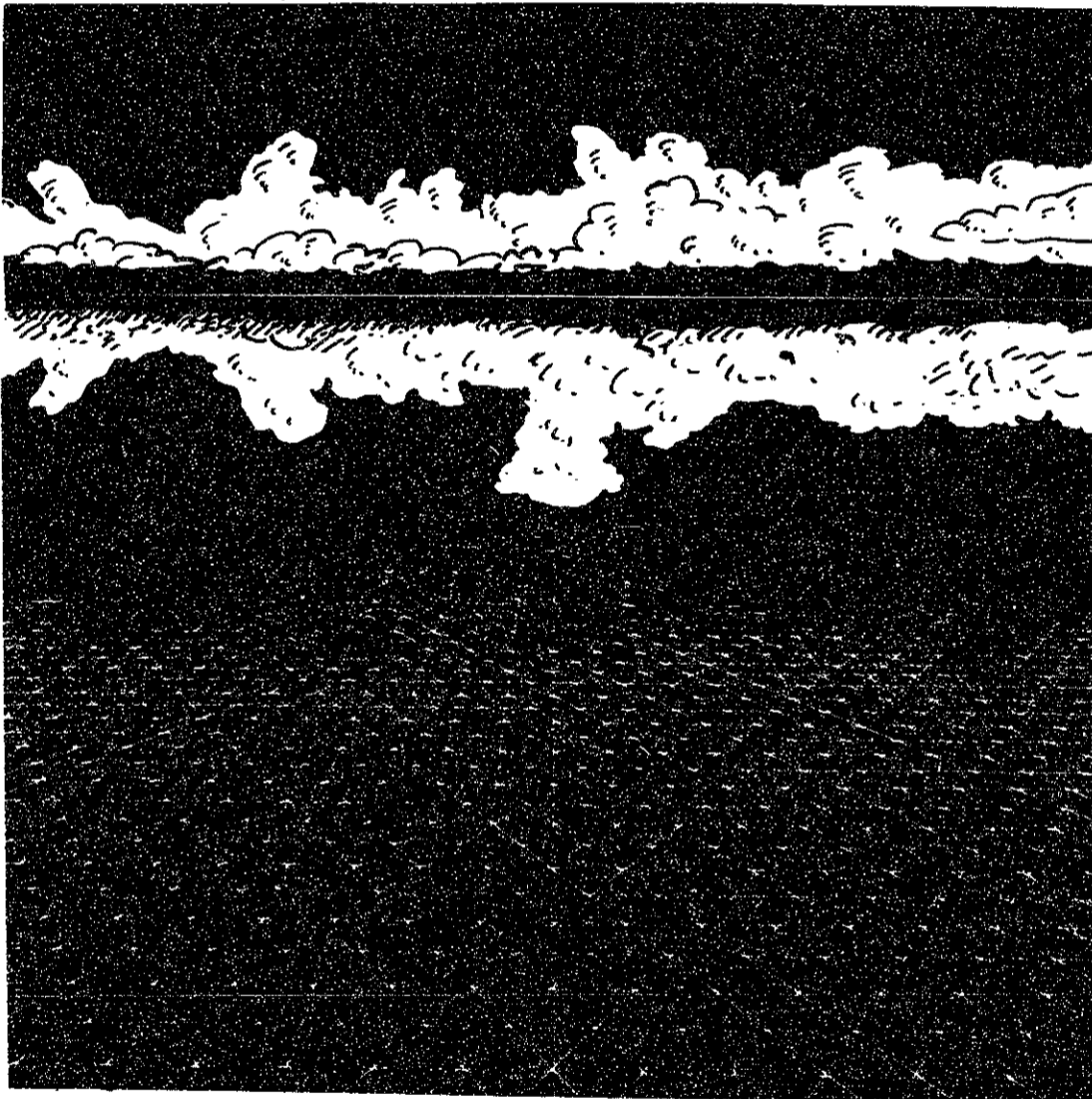
ATTENTION — EARN MONEY TYPING AT HOME! 32,000/yr income potential. Details. 1-602-838-8885 Ext. T-4058.

Summer Management Positions An opportunity to earn great money and gain valuable business experience. Some experience in painting or carpentry helpful. No management experience required; extensive training. Field supervision of 10-15 employees & manage mktg., estimating and sales. Avg. earnings \$8,000-\$10,000 for the summer. Positions available in Greater Boston area. For more info. call (617) 964-7020.

ATTENTION: EARN MONEY READING BOOKS! \$32,000/year income potential. Details. 1-602-838-8885 Ext. Bk4058.

The Tech Subscription Rates: \$17 one year 3rd class mail (\$32 two years); \$44 one year 1st class mail (\$86 two years); \$49 one year foreign; \$8 one year MIT Mail (2 years \$15). *The Tech*, W20-483; or PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139. Prepayment required.

WHAT'S THE FUTURE HOLD?



One thing's for sure. It will be more complicated. Nowhere is that more true than in the world electronics market. At Teradyne, we're ready for whatever the future brings. Our technological edge spans several businesses, all critical to tomorrow's products.

In our Automatic Test equipment businesses, we're a leading player in virtually every market, from board test to component test. When you need to test the latest product, you talk to Teradyne first.

Our Electronic Design Automation business is bringing our technology to market in this fast growing software arena, producing state-of-the-art products used in engineering design analysis and test of complex electronic systems.

We're also the world's largest merchant producer of backplane connection systems. These systems are vital in the development of tomorrow's military and commercial electronics products.

And, Teradyne is the world's leading independent manufacturer of telephone network test systems. As voice and data merge, we'll be there to provide test solutions for the telecommunications industry.

To stay one step ahead of the future, we need talented people with new ideas, and the initiative to use them. Teradyne has facilities in some of the country's most desirable areas, and close to most of the nation's major learning centers.

To learn more about your role in Teradyne's future, visit your Placement Office.

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The IAP Forum

Tuesday, January 16, 4-6 pm, 6-120
followed by dinner discussions.

IAP in the '90s:

Where does IAP go from here?

For twenty years, IAP has given students and faculty time—a very valuable commodity—to do research, catch up on unfinished projects, explore new styles of inquiry, and enjoy an environment where learning can be done without the pressure of the regular academic term.

How can IAP better meet the needs of both faculty and students?

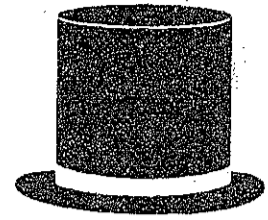
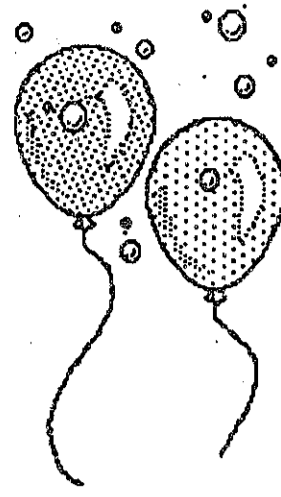
Are people getting as much from IAP as they could be?

You are invited—in fact, urged—to participate in a forum on the future of IAP on Tuesday, January 16, from 4-6 pm, in 6-120. Other participants will include IAP Policy Committee chairperson Prof. James Mar and representatives from the IAP Student Task Force.

Bring your questions and ideas.

And have some real impact on the future.

After the forum, join students and faculty for a free dinner and continued discussion.

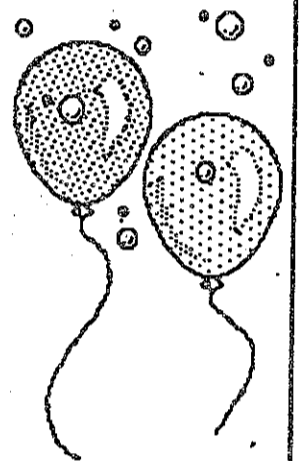
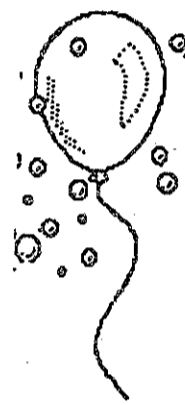


Happy Birthday IAP!

Friday, January 19
12 noon to 2 pm, Lobby 7.

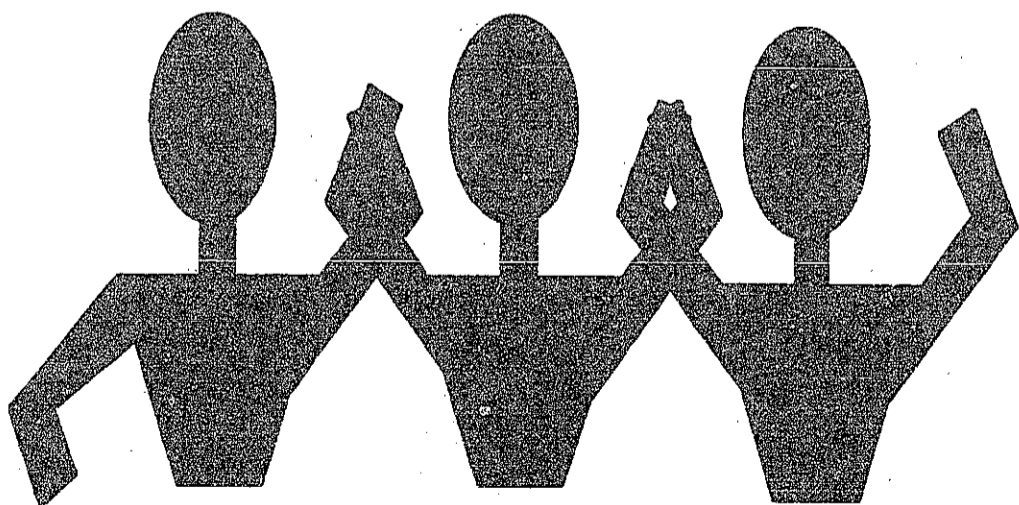
Whether this is your first IAP or your twentieth, join us in celebrating IAP's contribution to education at MIT. We will look at IAP events of the past two decades, and enjoy music and refreshments.

If you would like to perform at the party, or have your IAP activity featured in the display, please contact the IAP office, 7-103, x3-1668, before January 12 for inclusion in IAP's birthday party celebration.



Whether you are a born leader, or have had leadership thrust upon you, this is an event you won't want to miss!

Association of Student Activities IAP Leadership Seminar



January 25, 1990
9:30 AM - 7:30 PM
Mezzanine Lounge, Student Center

Pre-register by January 16, places are limited. Call 253-2696