

Crowding Doubles Over Last Year; Some in Grad Dorms

By Sarah Y. Keightley
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

More than twice as many dormitory rooms are crowded this year than were last year, and some transfer students have been assigned to graduate housing, according to Eliot S. Levitt '89, staff assistant for Residence and Campus Activities.

Levitt also said 70 to 80 percent of the freshmen in the dormitory system are living in crowded rooms.

Levitt noted, however, that 97 percent of the freshmen were assigned to one of their top three choices of dormitories. About 75 percent of the freshmen received their first choice dorm, 18 percent received their second

choice, 4 percent received their third choice, and 3 percent received their fourth choice or below, Levitt said.

Several factors led to the crowding, including a freshman class of 1147 students, an increase in the number of housing requests from transfer students, and what Levitt described as an "average" rush by the independent living groups.

Of the 228 rooms on campus that can be crowded, 220 currently are crowded. Last year there were 101 crowded rooms.

A room is considered crowded if two students are assigned to a large

Crowding, Page 11

Wolfe to Teach 9.00 Popular Lecturer Was Denied Tenure

By Deena Disraelly

Jeremy M. Wolfe PhD '81, formerly an Associate Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, will once again teach Introduction to Psychology (9.00) this fall as a Visiting Associate Professor, said Philip S. Khoury, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Wolfe, now an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School, was denied tenure here in 1990, fueling a debate over the importance of teaching within a research university.

"I think that we're very fortunate to have him teaching 9.00, which is a basic feeding subject to all of Psychology," said Khoury.

Wolfe has been teaching 9.00 for ten years, and was awarded the Baker Foundation Teaching Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching in 1989. The next year, Wolfe was denied tenure by the Whitaker College of Health Sciences and Technology.

"[Denying Wolfe tenure] was one of the stupidest things that MIT has done," said Rosalie Schneider G, who took Wolfe's class in 1987. "He was one of the best instructors in this whole school."

'I'd never have to teach again'

Wolfe, who is working at Brigham and Women's Hospital for

Harvard Medical School's Center for Clinical Cataract Research, is now researching various visual problems and studying visual attention, or "how you find something you are looking for in a crowded scene," he said.

"If I wanted to, in the position I'm in now, I would never have to teach again, and in my case, that would be a pity," said Wolfe, who enjoys teaching and believes he does it fairly well. Although he has the opportunity to speak in seminars and lecture series, Wolfe thinks he would miss teaching the undergraduate students.

The students would miss him also. Zemer Gitai '96 attended one of Wolfe's 9.00 lectures as a prospective freshman and said, "He's the reason I want to take Psychology first term."

Wolfe's class has consistently been among the most popular courses at MIT. In 1991, 20% of the freshman class enrolled in 9.00. Based on past figures, close to 400 students are expected to attempt to enroll in Wolfe's class, but only 300 will be accepted. A list of accepted students should be available next week.

"It was one of my favorite classes because he actually made learning fun, and it was a class I actually enjoyed attending," Schneider explained.

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DOUGLAS D. KELLER—THE TECH

Activities such as this piggy-back ride brought students in the fourth through sixth grades to MIT for the second day of City Days.

Freshmen Explore Cambridge Local Children, Incoming Students Join Together in 'City Days'

By Brian Rosenberg
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Hundreds of freshmen received a different sort of orientation this week during the "City Days: A Two-Way Street" program, which brought MIT students and Cambridge elementary school students together for two days.

City Days, jointly produced by the Cambridge School Department and several offices at MIT, took place over two days. Monday was the "MIT goes to the City" half of the program, followed on Tuesday by "The City comes to MIT."

On Monday, more than 600 MIT students, most of whom were freshmen, walked through the city on their way to schools and other community centers. Students were assigned to all 14 Cambridge public schools and 14 other agencies, including the Cambridge Furniture Bank and the Cambridge and

Somerville Program for Alcohol Rehabilitation (CASPAR). Once there, the students painted, raked, swept, and performed other public services.

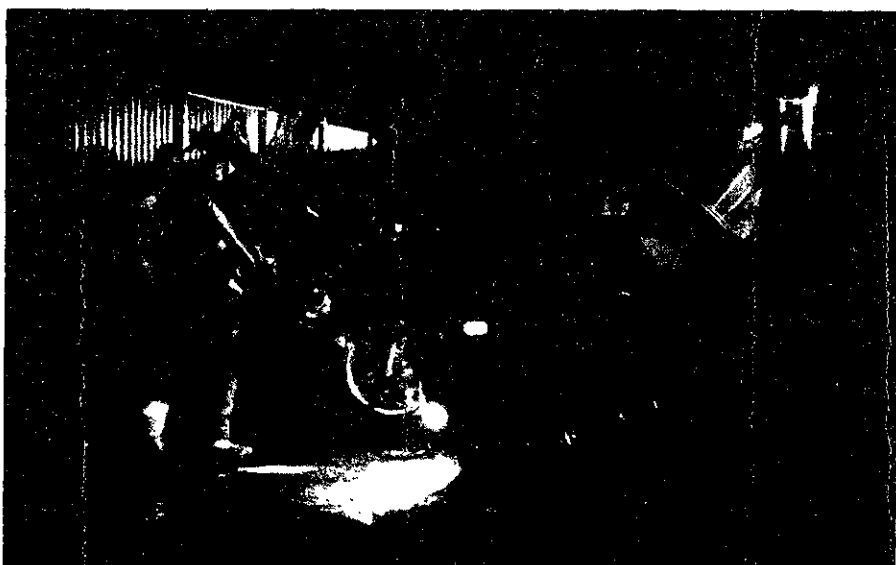
Tuesday brought approximately 450 fourth through sixth graders to campus, where they toured, played games, and ate with MIT students. The two days were linked by a keynote convocation, held at 7 p.m. Monday in Kresge Auditorium. The convocation included speeches from MIT President Charles M. Vest, Harvard University President Neil Rudenstine, and Kenneth E. Reeves, Cambridge mayor and chair of the Cambridge School Committee.

Event gets mixed reaction

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Travis R.

City Days, Page 8

Motorcycle Fire Forces Evacuation of Burton House



ANDREW CHIEN-TECHNIQUE

A tow truck removes the motorcycle's charred remains.

By Brian Rosenberg
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A student's motorcycle parked underneath the Burton side of Burton-Conner House caught fire early Wednesday morning, forcing the evacuation of the building. One student received minor burns as a result of the incident, Campus Police reported.

Campus Police Chief Anne P. Glavin would not release the name of either student and would not discuss the cause of the fire, saying the case was "still under investigation."

The dormitory's fire alarm went off at about 2 a.m. Wednesday, said architecture professor William L.

Porter, Burton's faculty resident. Porter said the building remained evacuated for about one hour.

The motorcycle was parked illegally underneath a wooden shed next to a Burton fire door, Porter said. "The fire damaged the shed roof and windows, as well as the fire door. Some smoke got in the stairwell, which posed a problem for evacuating students," Porter said. He added that several windows in the vicinity had cracked, though he was not sure if there was an explosion.

Motorcycle, Page 11

INSIDE

■ MTG's *Sunday in the Park with George* lives up to its "masterpiece" billing. Page 15

■ *Phantom of the Opera*: Expensive, but well worth it. Page 16

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WORLD & NATION

Clifford to Face More Serious Charges for Alleged BCCI Role

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

A federal trial against former Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford and his law partner was postponed Thursday, ensuring that the pair would first face more serious New York state charges for their alleged involvement in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International scandal.

By granting the postponement sought by the Department of Justice, U.S. District Judge Joyce Hens Green cleared the way for the state trial to begin in Manhattan in early January. Depending on the outcome of that trial, expected to last six weeks, the more limited federal case eventually could be dropped altogether.

Clifford and his partner, Robert Altman, face an array of state and federal charges centering around allegations that they had helped BCCI illegally gain control of Washington's First American bank. The two served as attorneys for BCCI while they were top officers for First American, the capital's largest bank.

Democrats Force Bush's Hand On a Family Values Issue

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Congressional Democrats, seeking to embarrass President Bush on the GOP's own family values issue, approved and sent to the White House Thursday a "family medical leave" bill that the president has threatened to veto despite widespread support.

The legislation would require larger employers to grant workers up to 12 weeks a year of unpaid leave, either to obtain medical treatment for themselves or to care for a newborn baby, sick children, ill spouses or elderly parents.

Although companies would not be forced to pay workers for the time off, they would be required to continue employees' medical insurance and to guarantee that their jobs would be available when they returned.

While Bush has said repeatedly that he approves of the concept, he objects to forcing companies to provide the time off, believing that such a requirement would be especially burdensome to smaller companies.

As Thursday's vote neared, White House aides suggested to Capitol Hill that Bush might instead entertain using several hundred million dollars in tax incentives to encourage small employers to provide the leaves. But they reiterated the president's intention to veto the latest legislation, as he had a similar bill in 1990.

The legislation approved Thursday by the House in a 241-161 vote was a compromise version of the measure endorsed by the Senate in a voice-vote last month. In all, 203 Democrats and 37 Republicans supported it.

Although the margin fell short of the two-thirds majority that would be needed to override a veto, Democratic leaders said they hoped the president's rejection would convince voters that they, and not Republicans, were the strongest supporters of "family values."

EC Gloomy About European Union Pact as French Prepare to Vote

THE WASHINGTON POST

BRUSSELS

Barely a week before French voters go to the polls to decide the fate of the treaty on European union, a sense of gloom has descended over European Community headquarters, where officials and diplomats say they fear the march toward a more united continent may soon succumb to political paralysis even if the French say yes.

The bullish optimism that once fueled European ambitions to become the world's next superpower has evaporated. Even though preparations are nearly complete for the creation of a giant single market at the end of this year, EC officials see little but trouble on the horizon.

Nearly all of the EC's 12 governments are facing growing political trouble as a result of a flood of immigrants from Eastern Europe and North Africa, a deepening recession and spreading civil war in the Balkans. All of those problems seem likely to grow worse in the months to come, eroding the Community's ability to undertake bold initiatives because of the political weakness of its leaders.

WEATHER

Clearing, then Cooler and Drier

By Michael Morgan

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

As a cold front moves further offshore today, clearing will commence and winds will increase from the northwest. High pressure will slowly build eastward from the Great Lakes and turn our weather decidedly fall-like. The front will still be close enough to threaten coastal areas with some clouds, but precipitation should remain offshore.

Today: Clearing with winds shifting to the northwest at 10-20 mph (16-32 kph). High 78°F (26°C).

Tonight: Clearing and cooler. Breezy. Winds northwest 10-15 mph. Low 58°F (14°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny early with afternoon and evening clouds. High 70°F (21°C).

Tomorrow night: Cloudiness diminishing and chilly. Low 52°F (11°C).

Sunday: Mostly sunny and continued cool. High 64-68°F (18-20°C). Low 47-52°F (8-11°C).

Bush Offers His 'Agenda For American Renewal'

By Ann Devroy
THE WASHINGTON POST

DETROIT

President Bush Thursday drew together a disparate package of his administration's past proposals to revive the nation's economy and reintroduced them under a new umbrella that he said will be the basis for a second-term "agenda for American renewal."

In a speech to the Detroit Economic Club, a five-minute campaign commercial broadcast Thursday night on four television networks and a 29-page document sent to Republicans nationwide, Bush sought to convince American voters that he has a coherent plan to achieve a goal of almost doubling the size of the U.S. economy. The plan, he argued, is based on principles of limited government and reliance on the marketplace that differ significantly from those of his Democratic opponent, Bill Clinton.

Bush's presentation, the first substantive effort of the new White House team installed last month by Chief of Staff James A. Baker III when he arrived from the State Department, provides a unifying rationale for many of the administration's previous initiatives. It offered two major proposals that were new — to "right-size" the executive branch of the federal government by reducing and eliminating agencies and cutting salaries and personnel, and to launch a "strategic network" of free trade agreements across the globe.

"I want America to seize this moment," the president said, "I want to stimulate entrepreneurial capitalism, not punish it; I want to empower people to make their own choices, not yoke them to new bureaucracies. I want a government that spends less, regulates less and taxes less. And I will fight without hesitation ... because Americans never retreat, we always compete."

The political rationale for the repackaging was clear in Bush's introduction by Michigan's Republican Gov. John Engler, who called the president "the man with the plan." Bush has been widely

criticized for going from one election-year economic plan to another in order to convince voters he understands and will work on reviving the stagnant economy.

"Perhaps the point that we haven't conveyed effectively," a senior aide said, "is how (prior Bush proposals) all fit together. So that's what this is trying to do today, to show the comprehensive approach."

In a statement issued from his Little Rock headquarters, Clinton rejected the package as "more of the same: more tax cuts for upper-income people and more deficits and less growth. We've tried this for 12 years. Now, just two months before the election, the president repackages it."

At the same time, a statement put out by Clinton's campaign said that many ideas included in the speech — such as cutting the White House staff and preparing the American people "for a lifetime of learning" — echoed Clinton's own proposals.

Among the guiding principles in Bush's speech was his pledge to cut taxes and reduce spending. As "just an example" of how \$132 billion in spending reductions could be used, he cited a 1 percent cut in tax rates and a 5 percent reduction in the small business tax rate. As in other specifics of his budget proposals, Bush would not commit himself to such a 1 percent reduction.

The agenda distributed to Republicans lists a Baker's dozen — 13 legislative items — that Bush said will be his top priorities the first year of his second term if he is re-elected. The purpose of the list is to gain a voter mandate for a specific legislative package, something Bush did not do in his first presidential campaign.

"Many people have said in the past that candidates don't go out and ask for a mandate, they don't talk about the ideas they want to try and accomplish as soon as they get elected," said a senior official. "These are the 13 things he wants to get done."

Among the familiar items on the list are Bush's education package,

which includes a proposal to allow the use of federal vouchers for private schools; his health care proposals outlined this year; revision of the legal system, limits on congressional terms and a ban on contributions by political action committees, all of which the Democratic Congress has rejected in whole or part the past two years.

In the economic realm, the list of top priorities includes such Bush favorites as giving the president the power to veto individual budget items and a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, plus "a package to cut spending" that includes the cap on the growth of mandatory spending and the taxpayer's "checkoff" unveiled at the Republican National Convention last month.

The directly economic priorities also include a job training program Bush unveiled last month, approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement and new trade negotiating authority for completion of trade pacts in Latin America, eastern Europe and the Pacific.

The overall goal is economic growth and the specific pledge from Bush was to almost double the U.S. economy to a gross domestic product of \$10 trillion by early in the next century. An aide said that is achievable assuming a growth rate of 3 to 4 percent, and a similar inflation rate, an ambitious outline for an economy growing at less than 1 percent during his administration.

An official called the goal "useful" in telling voters that Bush's major effort will be promoting growth, although a pledge Bush made in his 1988 acceptance speech to create 30 million jobs over eight years has been ridiculed by Clinton since there has been an overall loss of private-sector jobs since Bush became president.

"For America to be safe and strong, we must meet the defining challenge of the 1990s," Bush said, "to win the economic competition, to win the peace. We must be a military superpower, an economic superpower and an export superpower."

Sen. Gore Scores White House On Bush Tax-Pledge Flip-Flop

By Sam Fulwood III

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LEXINGTON, KY.

Seizing an opportunity to score points off an apparent Bush administration flip-flop, Democratic vice presidential nominee Al Gore Jr. Thursday ripped into White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater's apparent softening of his boss's promise to never raise taxes.

While campaigning in New Jersey Wednesday, Bush said that he had learned his lesson and vowed he would "never, ever, ever" raise taxes again. The White House, however, dispatched Fitzwater Thursday to make clear that the statement was not a revisiting of his 1988 "read my lips, no new taxes" promise.

"It wasn't a pledge," Fitzwater told reporters at the White House. "It was within the context of the mistake we made before on the budget."

But in Gore's interpretation, Bush was leaving room for himself to raise taxes, and that provided enough of a political opening for Gore to unleash a torrent of sarcasm.

"Well, it sounds to me as if

Marlin Fitzwater has learned to be a lip reader," Gore told reporters following him as he campaigned here. "We are now greatly in debt to Mr. Fitzwater for interpreting the president's comments."

"President Bush has said repeatedly that the principal (campaign) issue is whether or not he can be trusted," Gore said. "We now know that even when he bangs his fist on the table and sets his jaw and says with a very determined look that he will never, ever, ever do something, he doesn't really mean it."

"We will have to wait for the interpretation from his official spokesman after he's checked with his handlers to get the truth of what he's really trying to say," Gore added. "Maybe next time he will say 'cross my fingers and hope Quayle succeeds me.'"

"I want to thank Mr. Fitzwater for being such a good lip reader and interpreting the president's comments because otherwise the nation might have been fooled into believing the president meant what he said."

Gore was in Kentucky to meet with a panel of families who had

risked losing their jobs by taking time off to care for an ill or injured family member. Later in the day, Gore journeyed to Durham, N.C., where he met with 10 families with critically ill children at the Ronald McDonald House.

Both of those photo-perfect settings were intended to dramatize the Democratic ticket's support for family leave legislation, which passed the House Thursday. The Senate has already passed a similar bill and Bush has threatened to veto the legislation.

Gore repeated a challenge he first issued to Bush on Wednesday night during a broadcast of CNN's "Larry King Live" show for the administration to support the family leave legislation in the spirit of supporting family values.

When asked about business opposition to the legislation, Gore said that families should come first. "Now you talk about the hardship that would be faced by an employer," he said. "What about the hardship faced by families? We have to make a choice as a country."

NFL Is in Violation of Antitrust Laws, Jury Decides

By Mike Freeman
THE WASHINGTON POST

MINNEAPOLIS

A federal court jury Thursday unanimously decided that the National Football League's Plan B free agency system is illegal, that it substantially harms the effect on competition for players' services and thus violates antitrust laws.

But the decision leaves the league free to come up with a different, yet still restricted plan.

The jury's ruling means that, in effect, the Plan B system of protecting 37 players on a team is dead. Frank Rothman, lawyer for the NFL, said the league will appeal the decision. The players had argued that Plan B illegally limited their ability to earn top salaries when compared to salaries earned by players in other professional sports, such as baseball, with less restricted

free agency.

The players prevailed on three of four questions put to the jury. The jurors ruled that Plan B had a "harmful effect" on competition, that Plan B was too restrictive, and that the players suffered economic injury as a result.

The owners prevailed on the question of how much Plan B contributed to competitive balance in the NFL.

This means the owners may be able to come up with other rules that are less restrictive.

Jim Quinn, an attorney for the players, said "This is a huge victory." NFL vice president for communications Joe Browne said the ruling meant only that Plan B was now "too restrictive."

The jurors had no comment.

Eight players filed the lawsuit but just four were awarded damages

that totaled \$540,000. That amount is automatically tripled to \$1.63 million under antitrust laws. Players receiving money were Mark Collins (\$178,000), Frank Minnifield (\$50,000), Dave Richards (\$240,000), and Lee Rouson (\$75,000). The namesake in the suit, New York Jets running back Freeman McNeil, wasn't awarded damages. Neither was Green Bay quarterback Don Majkowski, Phoenix defensive back Tim McDonald, and former Los Angeles Raiders defensive lineman Niko Noga. McNeil, Majkowski, and McDonald had the largest salaries of the eight plaintiffs.

All eight were free agents in 1990 but were protected under Plan B.

Plan B, which began in February 1989, allows each team to retain limited rights to 37 players each

season. A protected player is unable to sign with other teams without giving his old team the first chance to sign him or forcing his new club to compensate his old club if he goes elsewhere.

The ruling, at least for now, appears to suggest that NFL players have taken one more step toward some sort of free agency system.

The players now believe that they can either try to stop the league from coming up with another free agent plan or they can begin bargaining. If bargaining does not result in a settlement, federal Judge David Doty, who presided over the case, could institute what he feels is a legal free agency system. Rothman said the league will attempt to come up with a "Plan C." He suggested that instead of protecting 37 players, like Plan B did, they may try to protect "29 or maybe

30."

"We will put rules in place," he said. "Okay, so we have a job to do, to figure out what isn't restrictive. But rules there will be."

Rothman said an appeal would be based on, among other things, the fact that the defendants feel the National Football League Players Association never actually decertified as a union.

Attorneys for the players say they will fight any new system the league attempts to put in place by filing for an injunction or bringing another lawsuit to challenge whatever the NFL does next.

Conceivably the verdict means that if a player's contract is up next year that player could file for an injunction to keep the NFL from taking any action against him. Then, the lawyers for the players say, he would be a free agent.

Questions About Bush's Iran-Contra Role Resurface

By Doyle McManus
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Like dogged ghosts from a past that President Bush would rather forget, questions from the Iran-Contra scandal have resurfaced in the presidential campaign, reviving once more the issue of Bush's truthfulness about his actions as Ronald Reagan's vice president.

Ever since the scandal erupted almost six years ago, Bush has maintained that he was unaware that Reagan was secretly trading weapons to Iran as ransom for American hostages, and that he did not realize that then-Secretary of State George P. Shultz PhD '49 and then-Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger bitterly opposed the deal.

But the testimony of other high

officials has contradicted the key points of Bush's account.

Now Democratic candidate Bill Clinton is seeking to focus public attention on the issue, arguing that more attention should be paid to what he calls Bush's deliberate misrepresentations of his role. "It seems to be that he is not telling the truth about this," Clinton spokesman George Stephanopoulos said Thursday. "I think George Bush has a big credibility problem."

The Clinton attacks are designed not only to create immediate problems for Bush but, indirectly, to help Clinton overcome his own credibility problems, which polls show remain serious. By suggesting that almost all politicians have credibility problems at some time or other, Clinton may persuade undecided voters that questions about his

own candor on such things as his draft record should not disqualify him for the presidency.

If voters decide that neither candidate has a spotless record, said Republican pollster Vince Breglio, they are more likely to base their choice on other issues — most notably, the economy, which is Clinton's strongest point of appeal.

Seeking to blunt the Democratic attack, Bush maintains that the question is closed. "This seems to me to be just a late smokescreen out of that dead old saw," the president said earlier this week. "I have nothing to explain. I've given every bit of evidence I have to these thousands of investigators. And nobody has suggested that I've done anything wrong at all."

In fact, Democrats and others have long suggested that Bush may

at the least be making implausible claims of ignorance about the affair. But the accusations have never blossomed into a serious problem for Bush, in part because his claim not to remember is difficult to disprove and in part because he — unlike other figures in the Iran-Contra drama — has never been seriously examined by investigators armed with the power to compel testimony.

A congressional committee investigated the scandal during most of 1987, but it never focused on Bush — both because the panel operated under a short deadline and because Democratic members feared going after the vice president would make them appear too partisan.

"There still remain many unanswered questions," said Sen. George J. Mitchell, D-Maine, a member of

the Senate investigating committee. "Our timeframe ... was clearly inadequate."

Special prosecutor Lawrence E. Walsh has spent more than five years investigating the scandal, and has brought charges against 14 defendants, but he never focused on Bush either — because he was concentrating on acts that could lead to criminal prosecution. The main charges against Bush are not of criminal misconduct, but of distorting the truth — a political sin, perhaps, but not a criminal offense.

The crux of the substantive issue of Bush's role in Iran-Contra is whether he has told the truth about what he knew about the secret arms sales to Iran when he was in a position, as vice president, to try to stop the possibly illegal scheme.



What's this OldFiles directory?

It's a backup of your old files. Don't worry — it doesn't count against your quota.

Why can't my friends read my files? I used chmod!

To change access permissions under AFS, you use a form of the **fs** command, not **chmod**. (By the way, you now set access on a per-directory basis, not a per-file basis.)

What are my default permissions? who can read what?

Only you can read your files. (Other users can *list* the files in your top-level directory, but not your subdirectories — and they can't *read* ANY of your files.)

What about these Public and Private directories?

`~/Public` and `~/Private` were created to help you manage your files easily. (Files you place in `~/Public` are readable by everyone. Files you put in `~/Private` are not listable by anyone but you.)

What else happened that I should know about?

The default user disk quota has been increased from 1200 to 2200 blocks!

AFS Raises Questions

For details about these and other topics related to AFS, pick up a copy of the free document *AFS at Athena* in your favorite cluster or from Graphic Arts (11-004 or W20-028), or look at it online via OLH. At the `athena%` prompt, type:

`help @afs:main_menu`

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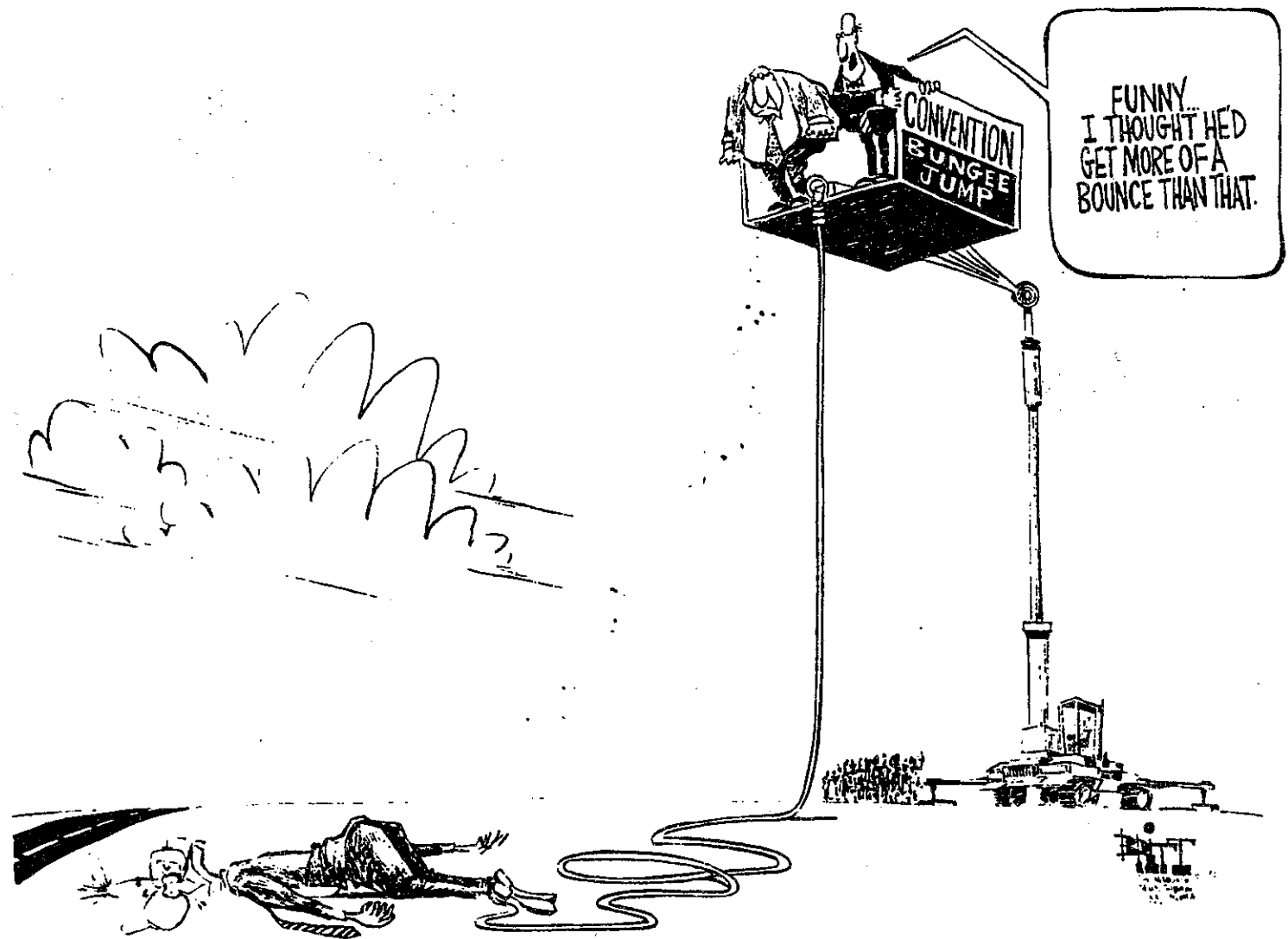
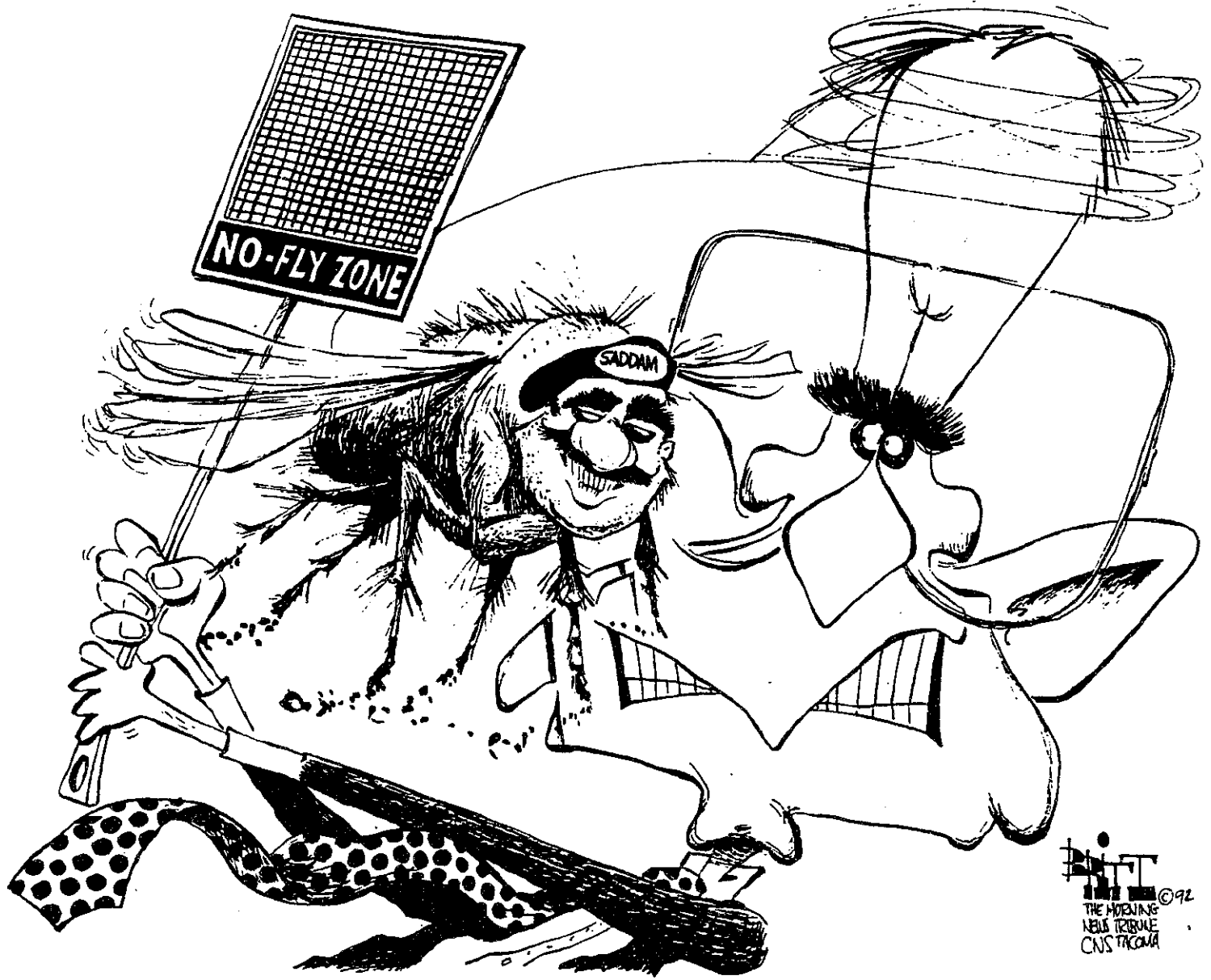
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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer for \$20.00 per year. Third Class by *The Tech*, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-0901. Third Class postage paid at Auburn, Mass. Non Profit Org. Permit No. 59720. **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: *The Tech*, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-0901. Telephone: (617) 253-1541. FAX: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 1992 *The Tech*. Printed on recycled paper by MassWeb Printing Co.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Party Poster Obscene

(The Tech received a copy of the following letter addressed to Associate Dean for Student Affairs James R. Tewhey.)

In my time as a student here at MIT, there have been a number of occasions when people have complained about the content of party posters. Usually, the complaint has been that the posters in the question depicted women in some way that the viewer found vaguely sexual or otherwise insensitive to the feelings of a group within the MIT community.

The other day, I was walking through the fourth floor of the Student Center, when I noticed the most blatant offensive poster I have ever seen on this campus. It includes a cartoon of two naked women in what is described as "an arcane sexual position." This poster isn't just in bad taste; it is overtly obscene, according to every definition of the term I've found. Moreover, it was strategically placed on the outside of the Association for Women Students/Society of Women Engineers office, along the most direct route to the offices of several religious student groups.

I think it's reprehensible that a group like GAMIT — which so loudly calls for more tolerance on campus — would post something so deliberately inflammatory. If any fraternity

had the gall to put a picture of a naked woman outside the AWS/SWE office, it would be crucified; and yet for some reason these people seem to think it's okay to do so themselves.

It is MIT's stated policy to encourage tolerance and sensitivity in the community; and this GAMIT poster is an obviously provocative violation of that policy. I have removed it.

Consequently, I would like to lodge a formal complaint against GAMIT for distributing this garbage. I trust that this behavior is not indicative of the MIT gay community's general attitude, and hope the officers of GAMIT will have the good grace to admit their mistake without making excuses.

Charles E. Roburn '92

LETTERS POLICY

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

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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to *The Tech*, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, Mass. 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to tech@athena.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4 p.m. two days before the issue date.

Letters and cartoons must bear the author's signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the 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.

Environmental Technology Is Still a Little Green

Column by Matthew H. Hersch
OPINION EDITOR

Technology is a strange and wonderful thing. It allows people to stop wasting time on the trivial and spend time on more important things, like sleeping, eating, helping each other, and discovering things.

But the revolutions technology can produce are never quick. Science is an isolated art, and it often takes years, even centuries for scientific advances to adapt themselves into useful products.

This is a good thing. Experimental technologies — automobiles, coffee makers, nuclear power — are often too crude in their initial forms to really provide any net increase in utility for their human users.

Nuclear fission, for example, promises high energy return for the mass of fuel con-

sumed, yet the waste produced by it more than makes up for the gains made in energy production. It will be years before the technology of nuclear power becomes an efficient technology.

This is the natural way of progress. It took decades for people to adopt automobiles as a means of transportation, and that delay had positive results. If people had adapted to the first cars more quickly, we might still be riding around in steam-powered contraptions that have to be turned on half an hour before you want to ride in them. Public revulsion to experimental technologies provides a great impetus for engineers to improve on them.

The real-world constraints of technology, though, have yet to dawn on some environmentalists.

When I went back to my hometown last

weekend, many in the community were up in arms about an ordinance requiring them to separate their trash for recycling. Even more ludicrous were reports that in a nearby city, citizens would be required to separate their trash into five different categories for disposal.

The residents of my town are right to be angry, and any idea that the same urban dwellers who dump garbage out their windows will soon separate it into neat plastic containers is patently ludicrous.

It is great that the technology exists to reclaim natural resources from , but it is wrongful and naive to settle for a recycling program in which people are required to spend more time worrying about their trash than they did before.

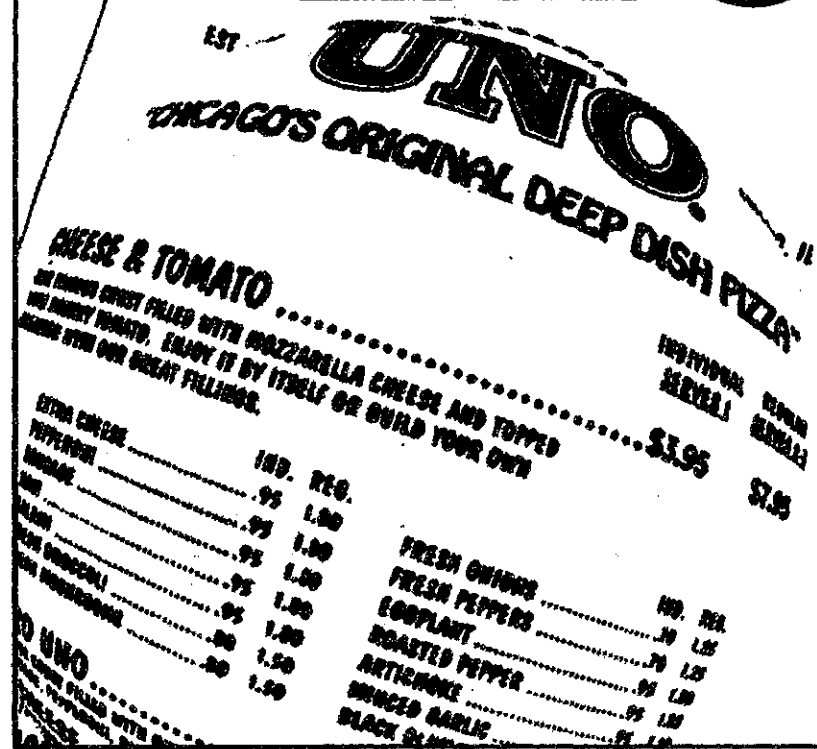
This is not how human beings work —

they are only motivated to act when they sense the potential for personal gain. Any technological service that wastes time instead of saving it is merely an experiment, unfit for widespread use and inappropriate for public consumption.

This is not to say we should not care about the environment. On the contrary, we should care even more, and avoid settling into an environmental program that is technologically immature. In doing so we are only inviting failure, and worse, a suspension of recycling activities if people become fed up with the system.

Clearly, the technology exists to separate trash chemically. It is the job of science to discover a way to do it, to improve our society in a way that is economical, time-saving, and easy. In a world stripped of academic pretensions, this is what science is for.

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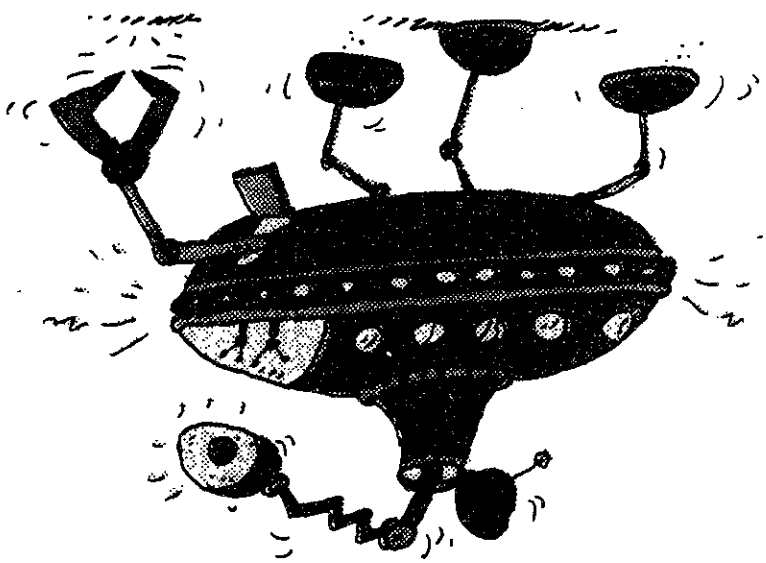


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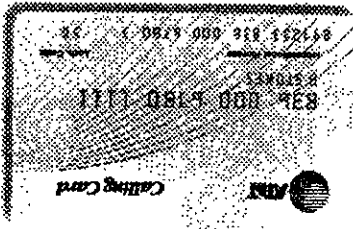
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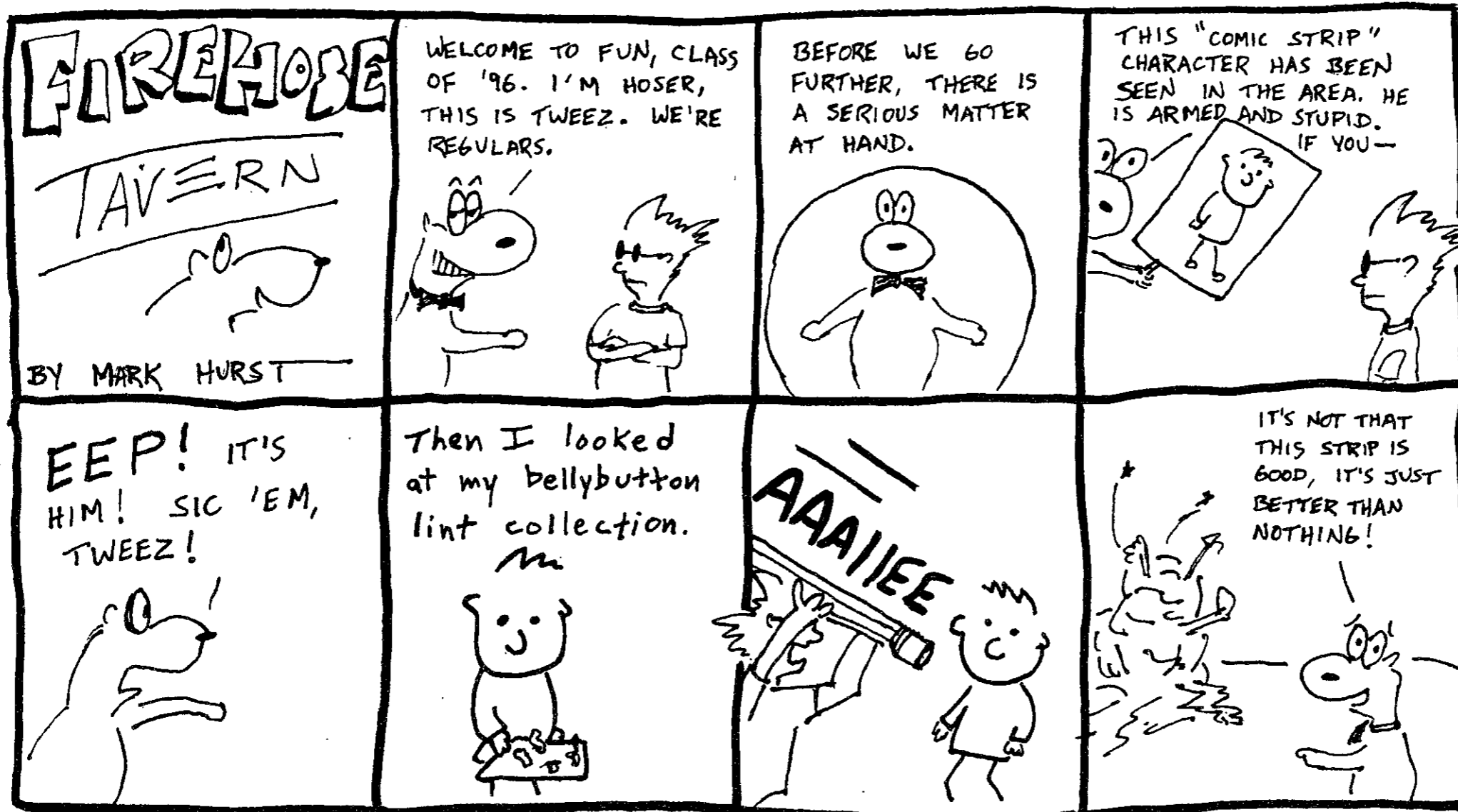


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City Days brings local children to MIT

City Days, from Page 1

Merritt, who helped plan City Days, thought the event was successful. "Given the fact that this was our first time through, and that it was on such a large scale, I thought we did well," he said.

Several freshmen who participated in City Days were less enthusiastic. "On Monday, we took a long, boring tour of Cambridge," said Elaine A. Stefanis '96. "Our group got split in half. ... We were sup-

posed to be painting for CASPAR, but our directions were wrong and we never got there," she said.

Maria S. Redin '96 also thought the tour of Cambridge was boring, but enjoyed the rest of the day. "We painted a day care center, and it looked like it really needed it. It was definitely worthwhile," she said.

Cle Haywood, custodial supervisor for the Cambridge School Department, said he was pleased with the program. Students who visited schools cleaned up the school-

yards and planted chrysanthemums, he said. "I appreciate anyone that's going to do something" for the schools, he said. "The plants and yards looked very good, and I heard a few comments at different schools this week about them. I applaud MIT and the students for doing it," he added.

Juno Choe '96 objected to the work he did at a Cambridge school. "We were all exhausted afterward, and we didn't get anything out of it. I think the school was using the

freshmen to get some good public relations," he said.

Event not perfect, planners agree

Ateev Mehrotra '94, a City Days planner in the Public Service Center, agreed there were problems with Monday's activities. "Our tour guides were mainly R/O workers, many of whom don't live in Cambridge themselves. Also, Cambridge doesn't really have tourist areas," he said.

"The purpose of the tour was to get people walking around in Cambridge, which hadn't been done before, and that happened. To do this again, we'd have to make it more interesting," he added. "There's a lot of room for improvement, but the community service was fun, and I think everyone gained something from it."

Odysseas D. Kostas '95, another PSC planner, thought Monday's events "worked out really well." He said a few schools "had a problem with getting projects, but it gave students an opportunity to go to the community and get interested in volunteering."

Over 1000 host schoolchildren

Nearly 1000 MIT students, including about half of the freshmen class, showed up Tuesday to host about 450 Cambridge schoolchildren, Merritt said. Organized by living group, the students split into two groups. One group hosted an activity "such as kite-building, paper airplane construction, or jello slurping, and offered it five times" during the day, Merritt said.

The other group traveled from activity to activity with a group of Cambridge children. "Groups were usually made up of between 20-22 people, with a two-to-one ratio of kids to MIT students," Merritt said.

Impressions of the Cambridge children varied widely. "Taking the kids around was more interesting than hosting an activity," said Han Shu '95, who helped coordinate Chi Phi's involvement in City Days. "I saw quite a few kids get close to the freshmen — they were hugging and telling jokes," he said.

"Some of the kids were really rowdy, but others were really nice," said Sisela S. Park '96. "Before lunch, the groups were better. Afterward, they started coming late and falling apart. It wasn't well coordinated — some of the leaders didn't know where to go. But it was fun to play with the little kids," she said.

"The kids came, and we babysat them," Choe said. "It wasn't fun, it was work. I don't have anything against community service, I just didn't like the kids," he said.

Mehrotra said after talking to students who had taken the children around, he had "heard a few war stories." "Some people said the kids were a pain. People had to chase them sometimes, and some of them got lost. Kids are kids, though. I think most of the stories had a tinge of amusement," he added.

Merritt said some form of the City Days program will continue through this academic year. "We're launching sustained programs to link MIT student and faculty talents to the Cambridge schools, especially the elementary schools," he said.

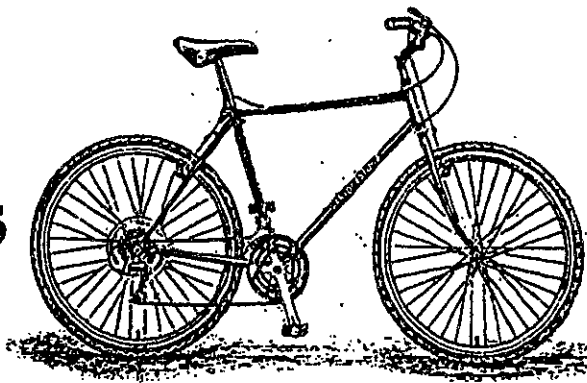
One such program will bring MIT students from a single living group to elementary schools to create science clubs for sixth graders, Merritt said. The clubs will culminate in a big science fair, he said. Another program will provide after-school sports programs for the students, Merritt added. Other programs may also be created.

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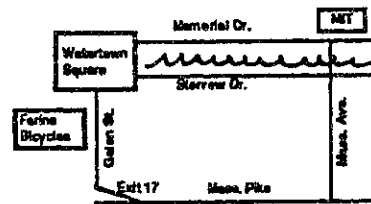
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City Days at Agassiz Community School

-Douglas D. Keller



The City Days group assigned to Agassiz Community School in Cambridge, near Porter Square, had signed up for yard work. Their goals were to tend to the existing flower beds, trim the bushes (*left*), and break up the hard ground so that flowers could be planted. After a quick course on "what was a weed and what was not" (*upper left corner*), the group set to work breaking up the ground with pick axes (*above left*) before planting the new flowers (*far left*). Clean-up was quick as the principal of Agassiz helped sweep up dirt from the sidewalk (*below*). The results were better than expected (*lower left corner*) and a significant improvement from the beginning of the day (*upper right corner*).





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Jay K. Lucker
Director of Libraries

Wolfe to Teach 9.00

Wolfe, from Page 1

Bonnie Ky '95 agreed: "He's very enthusiastic. He keeps the class exciting and is a good lecturer."

"I think he is an absolutely first-rate teacher with an unusually strong commitment to undergraduate education," said Khoury.

But Khoury admitted that the Psychology Minor Program, created by Wolfe, may not fare well without him. "I am concerned about our ability to sustain the minor program, but believe we are doing well so far," said Khoury. His concern stems from the fact that maintaining

the minor requires a faculty commitment to its continued existence.

Wolfe has been looking forward to the class, which begins today. But he says he will miss the day-to-day interaction with students he enjoyed as an MIT faculty member and a freshman advisor. Although he does not anticipate returning to MIT, Wolfe said he "would not rule out [full-time teaching] as a possibility either here or at another university."

"As long as the department still wants me and I can still manage to find the time in my schedule, I plan to continue teaching undergraduates at MIT," Wolfe said.

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Crowding Forces 20 Transfer Students to Westgate

Crowding, from Page 1

single, three students are assigned to a large double, or four or five students assigned to one room. Crowded students pay less for their housing than they would for normal accommodations.

Dean of Student Affairs Arthur C. Smith said, "The number [of admitted students] was somewhat larger than we had intended ... we have to deal with what has happened." He said the

administration wants to "balance the need for using our facilities fully" with the risk of overcrowding.

To alleviate overcrowding in undergraduate dormitories, the Residence and Campus Activities Office has assigned 20 transfer students to Westgate, a graduate dormitory for married students.

Since the 1991-1992 academic year, incoming transfer students have been guaranteed one-and-a-half years of housing. Previously, transfers were

placed in a lottery for dormitory assignments. If they were not placed within a dormitory, they would be placed on a waiting list, Levitt said. This system was changed because Smith felt strongly that the transfer students deserve the same support that the freshman get, Levitt said.

This summer, the housing office reserved 10 rooms, or 20 spaces, in Westgate to prepare for crowding problems, Levitt said. During Residence/Orientation Week, transfer students were allowed to rank Westgate as one of their dormitory choices. Westgate rooms have private bathrooms and kitchens. Transfer students placed in Westgate were also guaranteed a double that would not be crowded.

All 20 of the reserved spaces in Westgate were used, but about half of the transfer students assigned to the dormitory did not indicate that they wanted to live there, Levitt said. If ILG rush had gone well, the housing office would have "re-evaluated using [the Westgate] rooms," he said.

Elizabeth S. Johnson, associate director of admissions, said that 60 transfer students came to MIT this year, down from the approximately 85 who came last year.

One sophomore transfer student who wished to remain anonymous said she was very upset when she was assigned to Westgate. Her first choice

dormitory was McCormick Hall. To avoid living in Westgate, she moved to an ILG.

Crowding has also forced the housing office to turn down about 90 percent of the requests from upper-classmen returning from leaves of absence without guaranteed housing. "There's a human cost to that," Levitt said.

Even with the increase in the amount of crowding, Levitt said the number of housing complaints has not changed significantly from last year.

"Some crowding is a fact of life, but we hope not to repeat what has happened this fall," Smith said.

Smith said a long-term answer to the crowding problem is under discus-

sion, and added that the administration is "not intending at this point to make any major increases in the student body."

A freshman who wished to remain anonymous said she was upset because the administration seems not to care about the freshmen in crowded rooms. She added that she and her roommates have had problems getting more furniture.

Other freshmen do not seem to mind the crowding. Kristen N. Fortino '96, who lives in Baker House, said that living in a crowded triple is "not too bad at all."

"The Baker rooms are pretty big anyway," said Stacy L. Robb '96, who is also living in a crowded room.

Fire Empties Burton

Motorcycle, from Page 1

Glavin would not comment on whether any action would be taken against the motorcycle's owner.

"The Campus Police and the Cambridge police and fire departments were all marvelous," Porter said. "[The fire] demonstrated the effectiveness of all our support services, at both the city and Institute levels."

Porter said the evacuation was handled well, but that Burton tutors and housemasters will hold a meeting to discuss fire procedures "to make sure the next fire is handled even better."

Kara B. Altshuler G, a floor tutor on the fifth floor of Conner, said the fire demonstrated the need for tutors to have passkeys to all the suites. "Many residents left doors open within their suites, which is a very dangerous situation. A student could just close the door and get stuck in there, or someone could close the outside door and steal from the rooms within the suite," she said.

Altshuler also noted the need for fire marshals, students responsible for making sure everyone on the floor is outside. She said last year's fire marshal had graduated, and that new marshals would be chosen soon.

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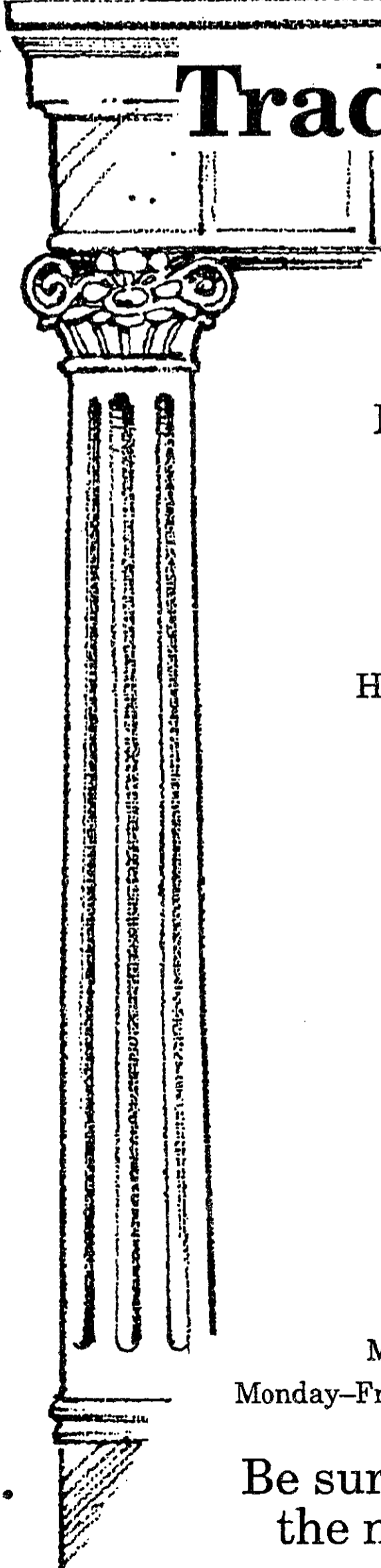
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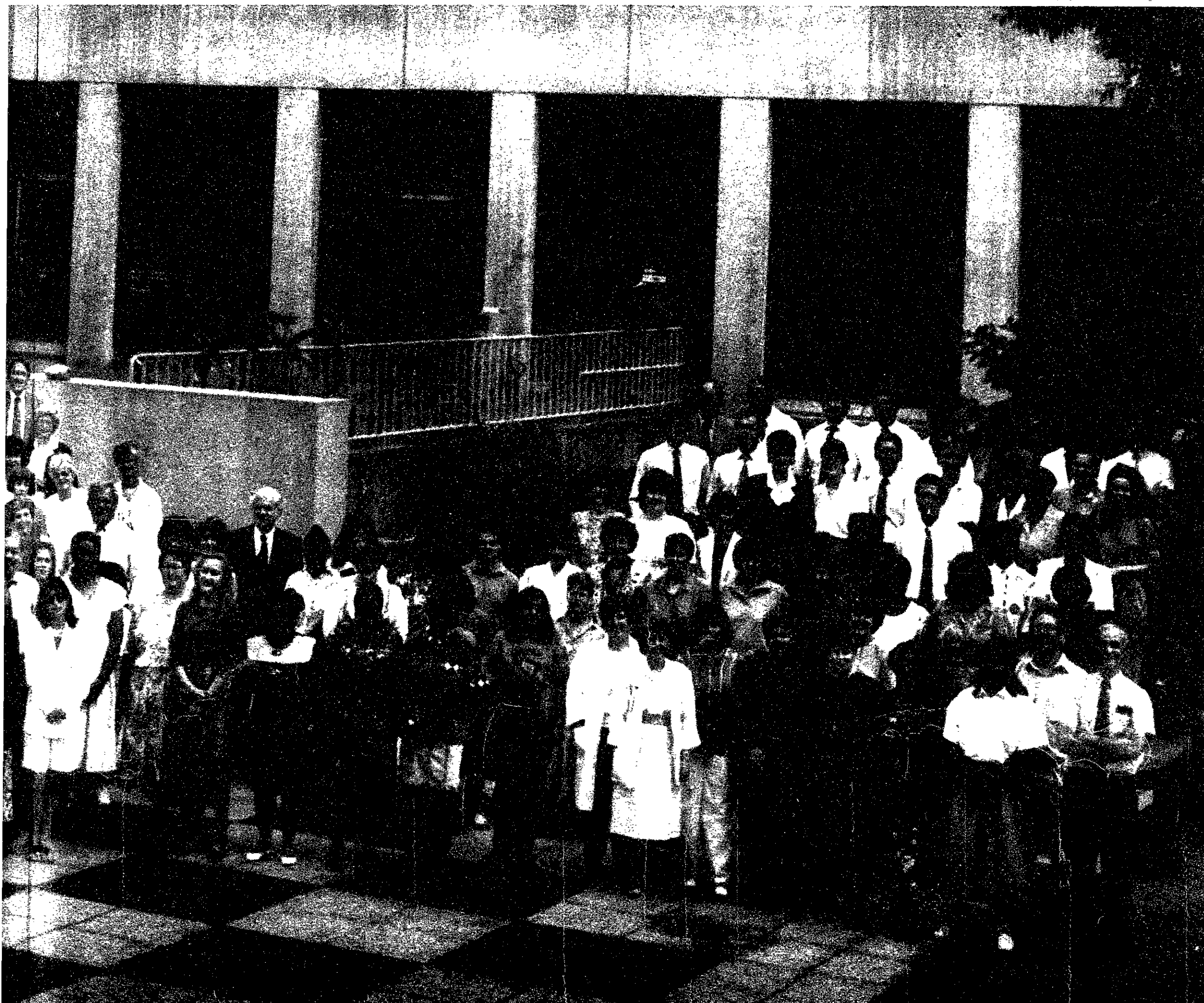
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and be merry

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2. Starting September 14, the Financial Aid Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. so you can pick up and deliver forms, check job boards, and receive general information before or after classes. Telephone hours continue to be 9 to 5.
3. Financial Aid Officers are available:
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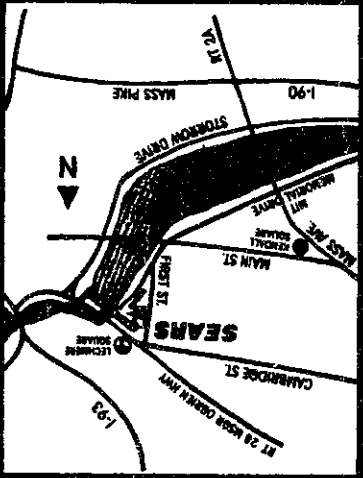
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THE ARTS

Compelling *Sunday* deserves 'masterpiece' billing

SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.
Book by James Lapine.
Directed by Tarik K. Alkasab '92.
Starring Bob De Vivo and Jeannette L. Ryan G.
Presented by the MIT Musical Theatre Guild.
Kresge Little Theatre.
August 28-30; September 3-6, 10-12; 8 p.m.

By Chris Roberge
ARTS EDITOR

Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's *Sunday in the Park with George* is a wonderfully complex and emotional musical that may well deserve the label of "masterpiece" that the MIT Musical Theatre Guild has used in advertising the production. The story is compelling, Sondheim's score is as engrossing as it is interesting and original, and its themes are presented in a subtly powerful fashion.

The recurring image of the musical is that of minute details, expressions, and actions coalescing into balanced and harmonious wholes. Unfortunately, the different parts of MTG's production of *Sunday in the Park with George* do not always fuse seamlessly, but overall this is a competent and very entertaining presentation of an excellent work.

The majority of the plot of *Sunday in the Park with George* focuses on a period in the life of the pointillist painter George Seurat (Bob De Vivo). George is depicted as an obsessive man whose devotion to his art can be seen in his dogged insistence on perfection. This determination to be as flaw-

less as possible, as well as a welcoming attitude toward scientific theories describing the nature of vision have led him to develop a novel style of painting. George paints small dots of various colors on his canvases in such a way that from a distance, the points appear to blend together to create an image with a unique degree of shading, lighting, and texture. In preparation for composing each of the objects in his paintings from countless dots, he studies and sketches each of his subjects in different locations and times. It is only in George's mind and in his art that all of the subjects and settings are combined into one structured entity.

This fragmented approach carries over into his outward appearance and actions as well. No one, including his girlfriend Dot (Jeannette L. Ryan G), truly understands how he feels. He can be highly emotive in isolated instances, but it is difficult for anyone to piece together the clues he reveals to comprehend the motives behind his actions and decisions.

Eventually, Dot becomes frustrated with George's behavior and leaves him for the less passionate but more dependable Louis (Thomas Andrews).

In the stunning second act, George's problems with both his personality and his art are inherited by another George (De Vivo again), who is a relative several generations later.

By the musical's end, the increasingly universal obstacles that the two Georges encounter require simple but beautiful resolutions from both the past and the present in order for the characters to move on into the future.

The cast of *Sunday in the Park with George* is quite good, with only a few minor exceptions. As George, Bob De Vivo provides a very stable center for the production. His



A scene from *Sunday in the Park with George*.

MUSICAL THEATER GUILD

Sunday in the Park with George



singing is the best of the cast, particularly in the second act's "Putting it Together" and "Move On," and his acting captures both the humor and sadness of the characters. Jeannette L. Ryan G is also good as Dot, and excellent as Dot's daughter, Marie. Her voice is expressive, but during several songs it was overpowered by the orchestra. Nicholas Pioch '94 gives an entertainingly stuffy performance as George's chief peer and critic, Jules. Also noteworthy is Courtney Furno, who acts in two of the play's flashiest roles, the outspoken boatman whom George chooses as one of his subjects, and the southern aristocrat, Mr., whose insolence causes many of the musical's funniest moments.

The stage, designed by Franklin Burriss Jackes '90 and Peter Marc Coalo G, is an astonishingly intricate success. The multilayered, pointillist park of the first act is a wonderfully playful and imaginative representation of the setting of Seurat's most famous painting. The studio where George works

meticulously on his works is a darkly lit and unkempt area with only the painting itself providing a bright and clear focus of attention. And the modern gallery of the second act is a bleak and empty area that mirrors the emptiness of the people who gather there.

Sondheim's music is beautiful and ingenious. Many songs begin with isolated and disconnected notes, and only as the songs progress do the notes converge into full and sweeping melodies. This fragmentation and combination of orchestral tones and colors reflects the combinations of visual colors and images that George uses. The orchestra sometimes struggled with the difficult score, but their performance was still enjoyable.

This production does have some noticeable missteps, but even these minor flaws disappeared by the second act. The good work done by the cast and crew provides a great opportunity to see *Sunday in the Park with George*, a fascinating and very entertaining musical that definitely should not be missed.

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The MIT Office of the Arts announces the development of the List Foundation Fellowship Program, which will annually award up to \$5,000 each to one MIT undergraduate and graduate student to support the year-long pursuit of a project in the performing, visual, or literary arts. List Foundation Fellowships are available to students of color who are US citizens or permanent residents.

Deadline for Applications: September 30, 1992

For more information contact:
Maureen Costello
Director of Special Programs
MIT Office of the Arts
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Telephone: 253-4004
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•Friday, Sept 11	Trigonometry Room 4-163
	Exponentials, Logs, & Complex Numbers Room 2-105
•Sunday, Sept 13	Algebra Room 4-163
	Exponentials, Logs, & Complex Numbers Room 2-105
•Monday, Sept 14	Geometry and Analytic Geometry Room 4-159
	Trigonometry Room 4-163
•Tuesday, Sept 15 - Make-up Lectures	Algebra Room 4-153
	Geometry and Analytic Geometry Room 4-149
	Trigonometry Room 4-163
	Exponentials, Logs, & Complex Numbers Room 4-145

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Questions? Call the UAAO at x3-3561 or 3-7909.

Wang Center provides a fitting home for *Phantom*

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA.

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber.
Lyrics by Charles Hart.
Directed by Harold Prince.
Starring Kevin Gray, Teri Bibb,
and Nat Chandler.
The Wang Center
For the Performing Arts.
Through November 14.

By Joshua Andresen

The newly restored Wang Center is very much an appropriate venue for a performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber's acclaimed musical *The Phantom of the Opera*. The refurbished gold leaf ornamenting and polished crystal chande-

lier are well-suited for the dazzling production of *Phantom*. For those who know the music but have not seen the musical on stage, it is worth the price of admission to witness the live performance at the Wang.

The Phantom of the Opera takes place in the Paris Opera House at the end of the nineteenth century. The opera house is haunted by the Phantom (Kevin Gray), who lives in a labyrinth beneath the building. He becomes fond of a chorus girl, Christine (Teri Bibb) and raises her to stardom. When Christine falls in love with Raoul (Nat Chandler), a friend from her childhood, the Phantom becomes jealous and devises a plan to steal Christine away. The musical ends with a chase and a few big surprises.

The special effects in *Phantom* are as spectacular as the music. Magnesium burns, flares flash, and flames leap from the stage. After one particular display, the audience gasped collectively and actually applauded the effects. The set for the labyrinth is especially memorable. Lights on the stage floor penetrate a lake simulated by a thick layer of green smoke. In one scene, Raoul jumps into the lake and is swallowed by the stage in a somewhat startling visual treat.

The interplay between the staging and the music is particularly impressive. The Phantom is able to appear wherever he wants to in the opera house. He often speaks from the rafters or from beneath the floor. Several times he literally emerges from the woodwork, quite unexpectedly. The Phantom's theme starts on a staccato descending scale from a held note, and it too can emerge quite unexpectedly from anywhere. At the end of the first act, the Phantom suddenly appears on stage as his theme can be heard in the music of the love theme, ending the first half of the performance on a haunting note.

The music is, of course, phenomenal. Tony Award-winning composer and orchestrator Andrew Lloyd Webber (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita*, *Cats*, *Starlight Express*, *Aspects of Love*) held back nothing in writing *The Phantom of the Opera*. From the haunting themes of "Angel of Music" and "The Music of the Night" to the showstopping love theme "All I Ask of You," the music will leave you humming for weeks. The dancing is also striking. The Paris Opera House has a ballet company that dances several numbers in *Phantom*. Despite the Phantom's censure of the troupe's performance in his opera house, the ballet is really quite impressive and is a welcome break from standard musical choreography.

A few problems do present themselves in the Wang Center production, though. The renovations included an improvement in the



sound system, but the speakers still prove to be somewhat inadequate for the Center's staggering expanse. In the numbers in which more than one person sings, it is nearly impossible to discern what each person (and in some cases any person) is saying. The wide dynamic range of the songs also poses a problem, causing some slight distortion during the louder sections. Neither of these is a serious problem, though, and they do not detract from the overall effect of the musical.

The Phantom of the Opera runs at the Wang Center through November 14. Tickets are still available and are \$20 to \$60 depending on seat location and date of performance. The combination of music, dancing, staging, and the splendor of the new Wang Center make for a very memorable evening.

The PHANTOM of the OPERA.

A relaxing luncheon retreat...

McCormick
...at Lunch

Opening Thursday, September 10

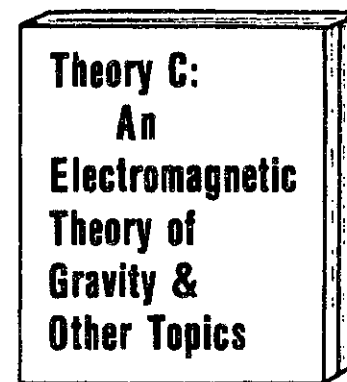
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This fall, an experimental program brings an altogether different dining experience to the MIT community.

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Matthew Sweet talks about his excellent *Girlfriend*

MATTHEW SWEET

Girlfriend.
ZOO Records.
Paradise Rock Club.
September 12.

By Chris Roberge
ARTS EDITOR

In a review I wrote for the 1991 WFXX Best Music Poll Concert in April, I said that the music of Matthew Sweet had "the potential to drag and fall flat." After I formed that opinion, two things that drastically changed my mind occurred. One was hearing the energetic first track of Sweet's *Girlfriend*, "Divine Intervention," and another was witnessing the brutally powerful delivery that Sweet and his band used to serve up all of the pleasures of the album that I had somehow overlooked. After taking a closer listen to *Girlfriend*, I now realize that this deeply personal and musically exciting collection of songs was one of the better albums of the last year and I welcomed the chance to speak with Sweet about his great work.

One of the greatest strengths of *Girlfriend* is the ability of the instantly memorable melodies, strikingly intimate lyrics, and exceptionally strong guitars to cut across generic boundaries. Sweet admitted that one possible reason for the disparity between his music's critical and popular successes is the difficulty of classifying what type of music *Girlfriend* actually is, saying "that keeps a lot of people from selling records, because radio is really what sells records. Most people just don't know about anything that doesn't get

stuck right in front of them. And a lot of people listen to the radio, so I think that's a place where that segregation really occurs."

Radio currently places Matthew Sweet into either "pop" or "alternative" markets, and Sweet is quick to point out the misleading nature of those names. "To me it's kind of funny to call it alternative now because it seems really mainstream. So many of these records, like the Pearl Jam/Nirvana records, are selling millions of copies. That's mainstream. It's almost like it's not alternative anymore. Even the alternative radio stations are becoming more and more commercial."

With *Girlfriend*, Sweet has departed from a more refined and predigested sound that he achieved primarily through the use of drum machines. The rawness and spontaneity in his new songs have led many people to refer to them as throwbacks to the 1950s, a notion that scares Sweet. "I've never been into people who just wanted to be a revival kind of a thing, like the Stray Cats or whatever. That guy's a really good guitar player, but that was what turned me off to rockabilly — that reviving a style and trying to recreate the past was something I've never been into. I've always wanted to live in my own time and because of that I used machines for a long time. And then I just came back to making as simple and organic a record as I did just because I finally found through making demos at home that that was just the way the music came alive for me."

The songs on the album alternately speak to the hopeless and the hopeful, with lyrics that deal with the pain of loneliness and god-

lessness and the joys of being in a relationship. The original title of the album was *Nothing Lasts*, before Sweet switched to the more upbeat *Girlfriend*. The duality exists even in the cover photo of actress Tuesday Weld, who was a screen beauty in the 1950s, but who later in her career "was so obscure she had killed herself in 1979," Sweet said.

Another song on *Girlfriend* with a link to loneliness and movie actresses is "Winona," with its plaintive chorus, "Won't you be my little movie star." "Actually, Lloyd Cole suggested I call it that," Sweet explained. "I didn't have a title for a long time and he knew that I liked the movie *Heathers*. He thought that we should call it 'Winona' because I wanted a kind of a country title and at the time she was still a lot more obscure. First of all it didn't occur to me that there would be a lot of people giving attention to anything I did. And second of all it didn't occur to me that people would think that it was about her. Then by the time the record came out she had actually heard the song through a guy at *Rolling Stone* and supposedly liked it so I thanked my friend for sending it to her because at the time I didn't think the record was even going to come out. It was a really dark period and I thought, 'Well at least Winona Ryder heard my record.'"

Sweet admitted that many people did think that the track was a love song written expressly for Winona Ryder. "When I'm writing songs I don't usually think about any sort of audience. It's always been more of a personal thing for me. I just write whatever I feel like at the time and it's usually governed very

much by what kind of a mood I'm in, but usually not nearly as literally-based as most people think my songs are. I don't sit down and write a song to a specific person. For example the song 'You Don't Love Me' seems like a really personal song, and it is in a way because it encapsulated a really unhappy feeling for me. But technically it wasn't that I felt unloved in the relationship that I was going through. So you have to take it with a grain of salt. The words are generally more pulled out of a hat than they seem. It's just that I write in a really conversational tone, giving the songs a more personal quality, and I think that's a strength of the music. But it does scare me when people think it's all exactly autobiographical."

After saying that his songwriting was a very personal process and not really geared toward any particular audience, Sweet, laughing, described his live performances in a similar fashion. "In live shows I just try to have fun, I guess, in a pretty selfish way too. We're really looking forward to doing club shows again because we've been doing a lot of opening dates at big outdoor places and it's only so fun. We want to turn our volume up loud and be messy and throw our guitars around. All of this looks kind of stupid when you're an opening act without a diehard audience."

Matthew Sweet will be performing in a completely selfish appearance at the Paradise on September 12, but chances are that the audience will get a good deal of satisfaction out of the show anyway.

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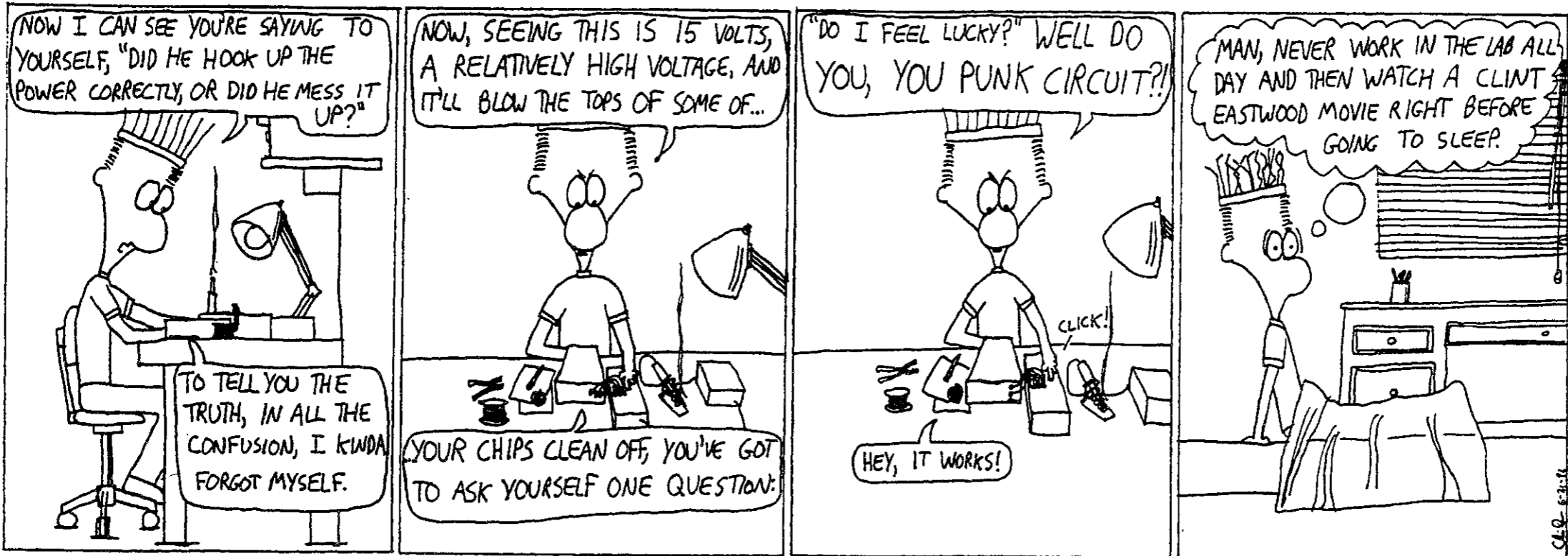
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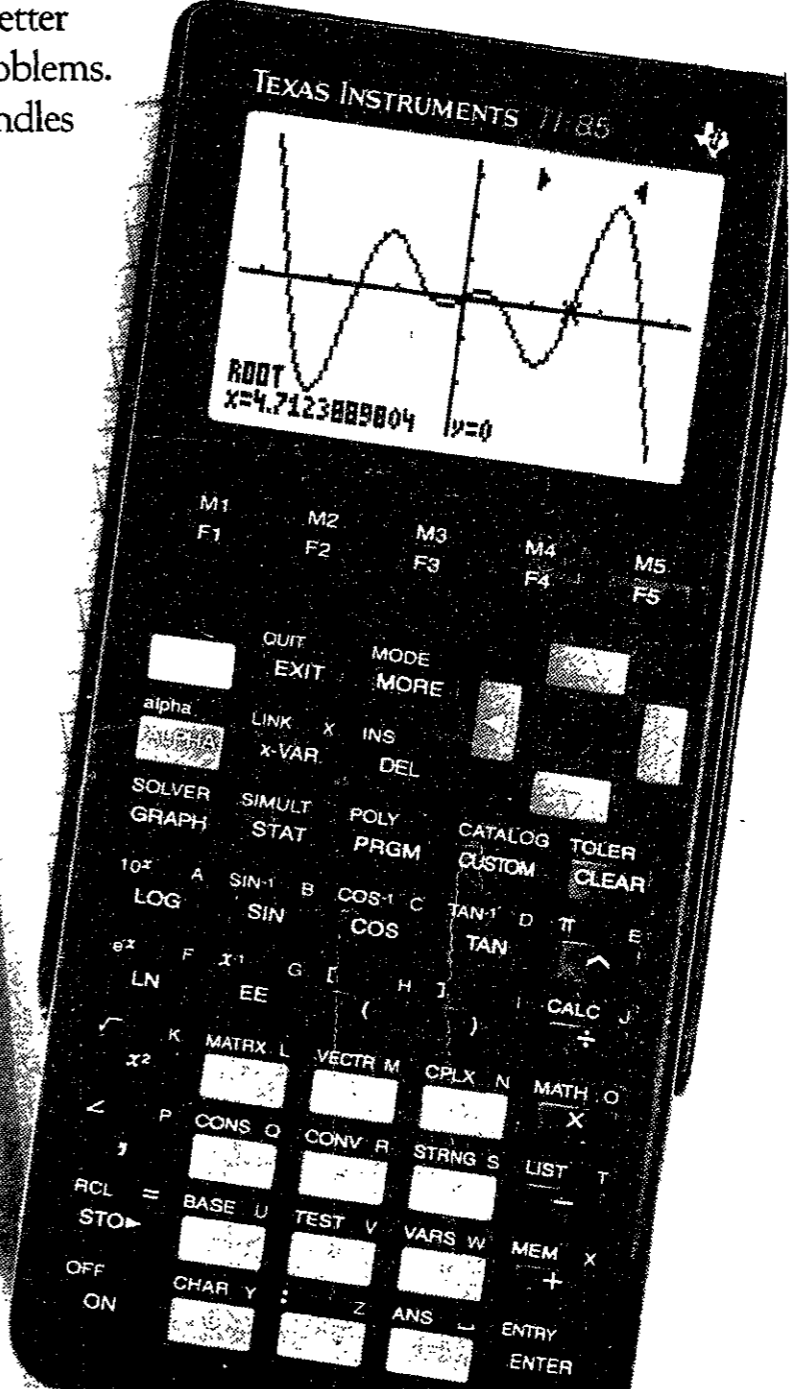
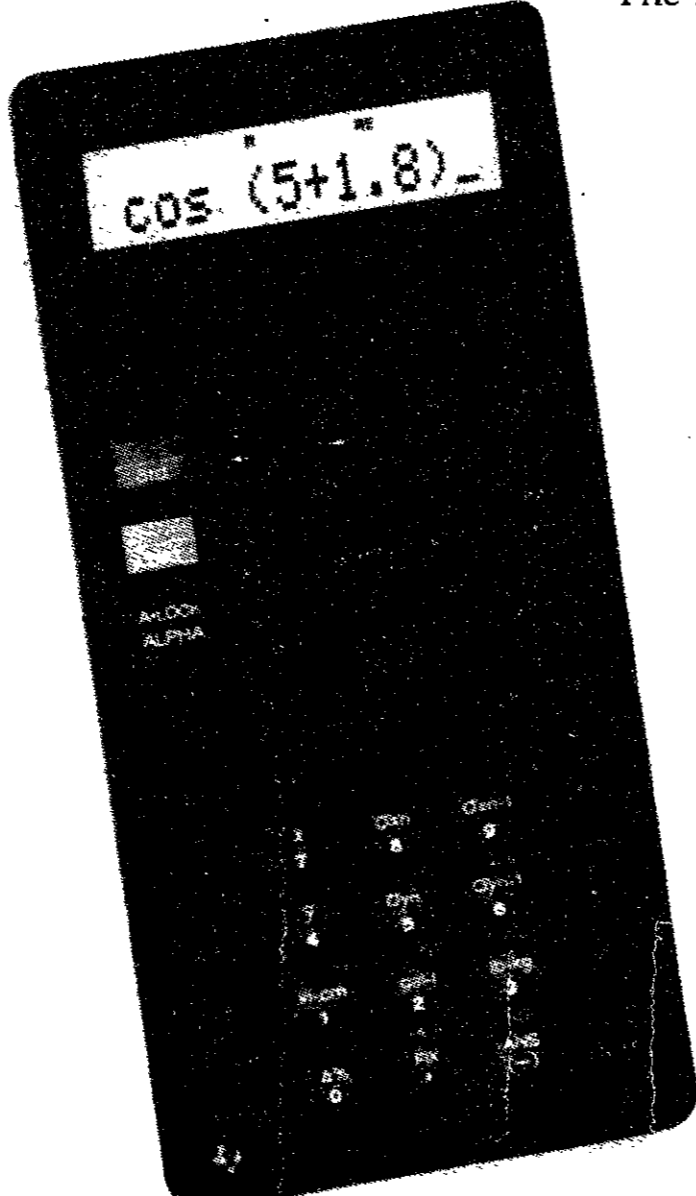
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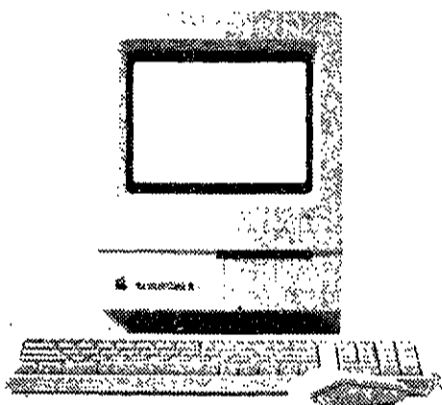
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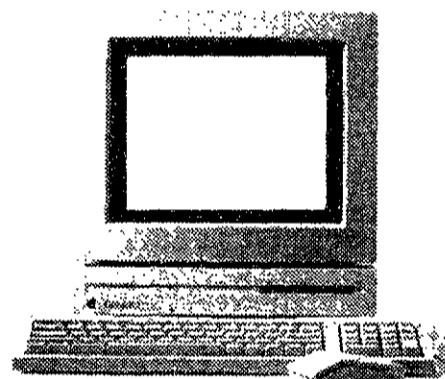
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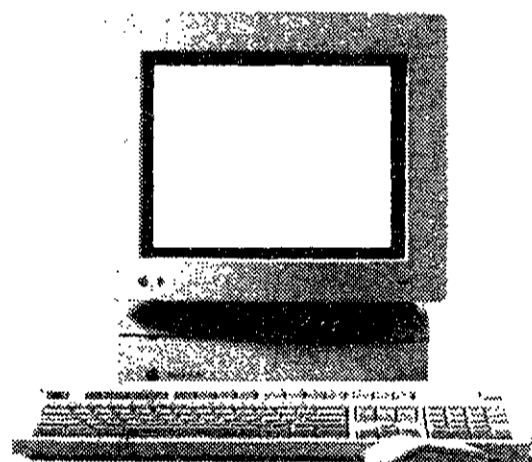
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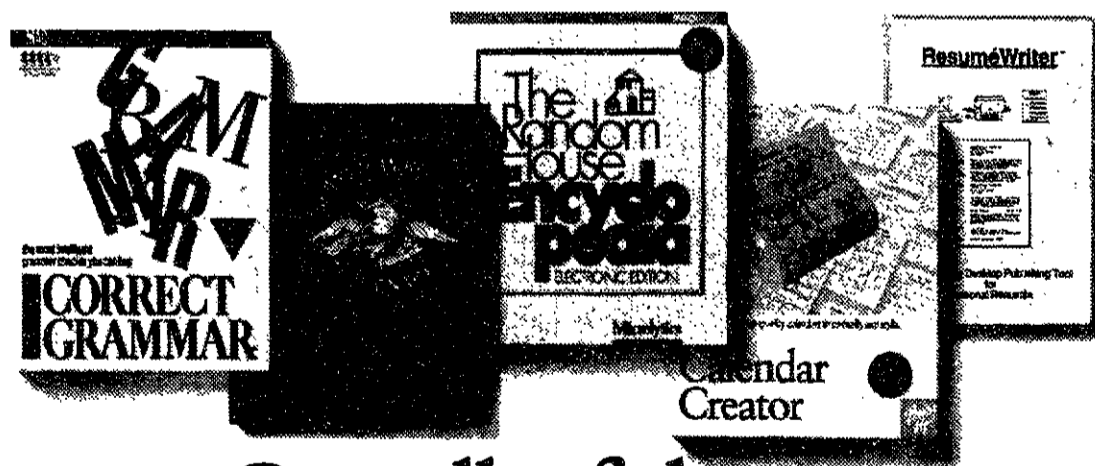


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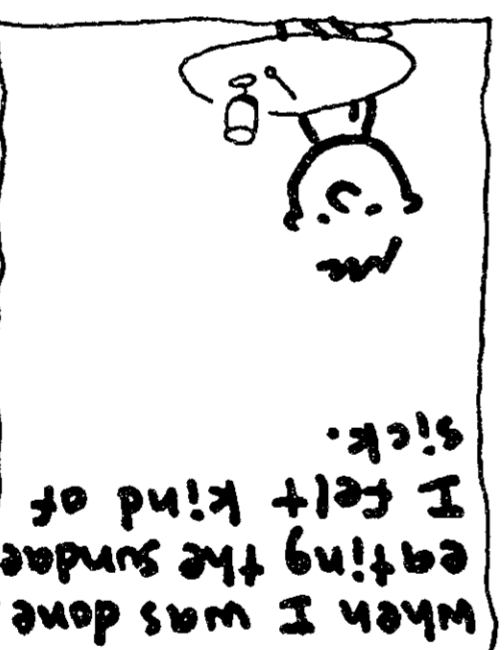
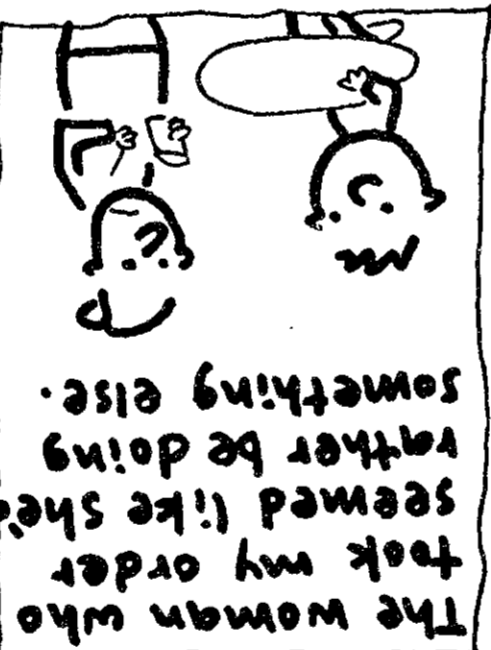
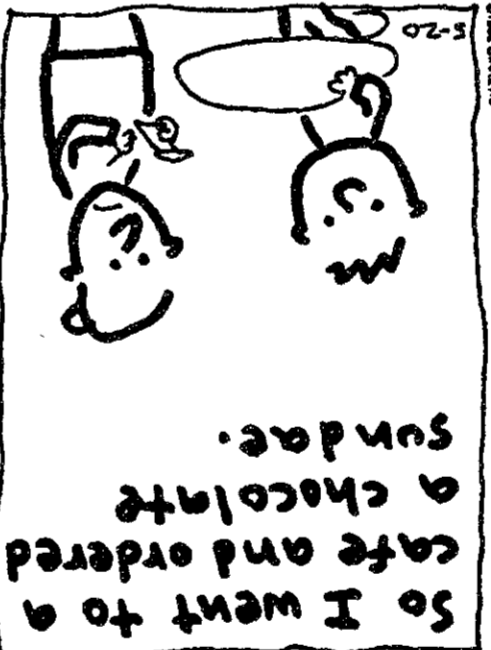
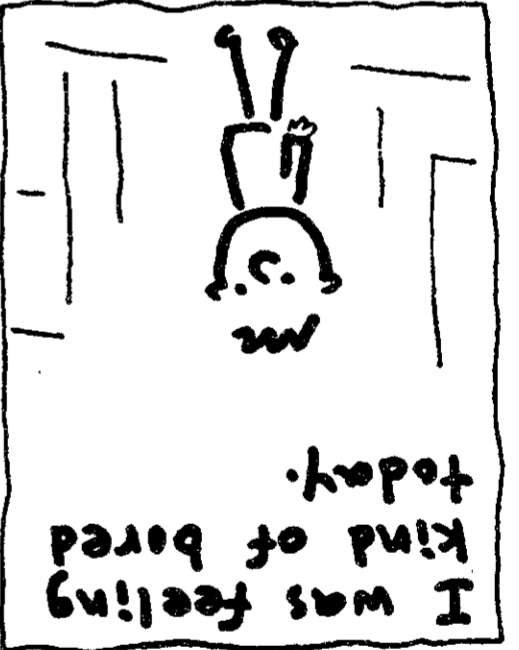
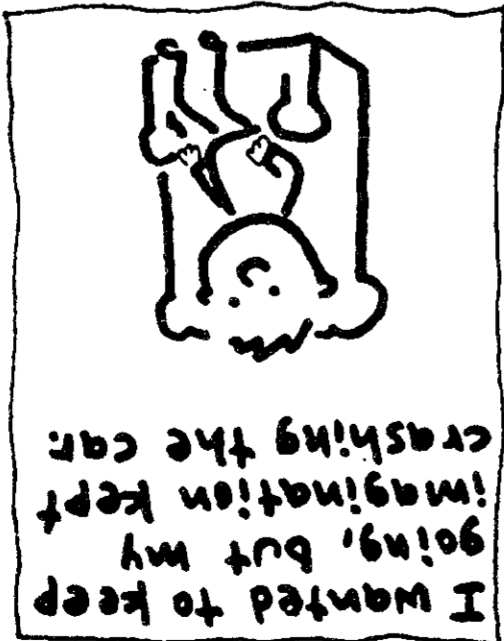
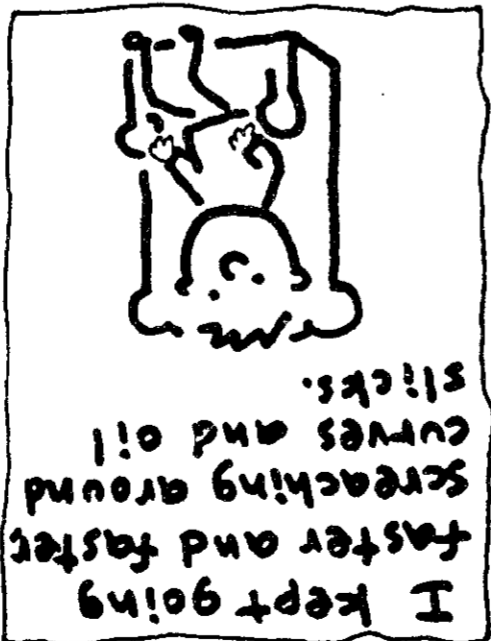
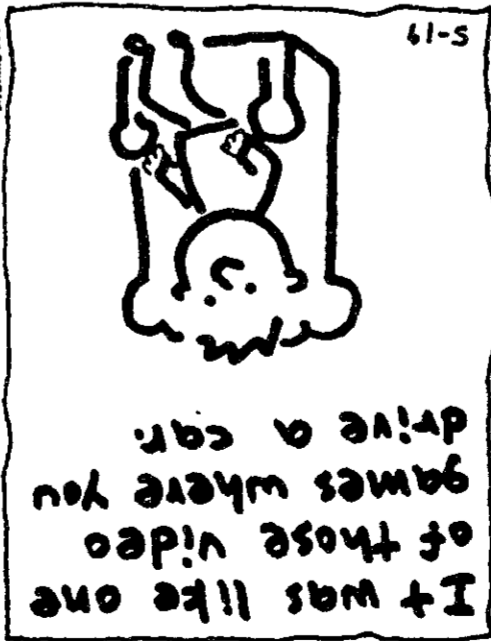
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Jim's Journal

by Jim

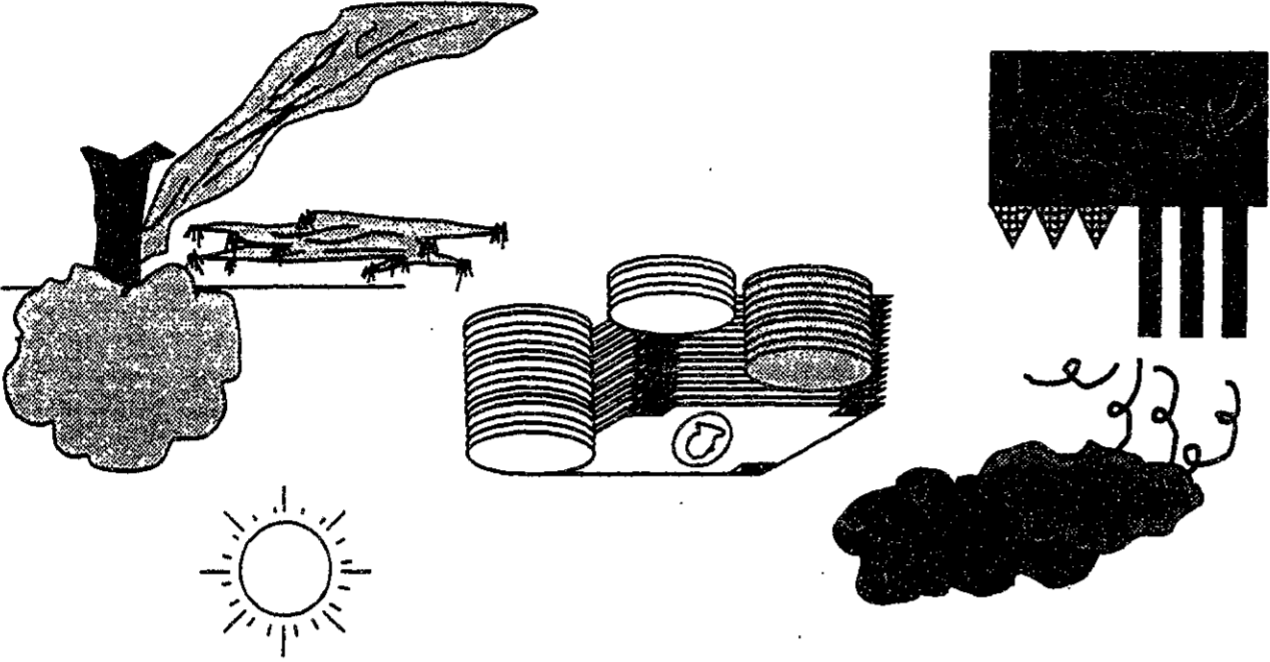


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Stephen S. Hau, *Technique*

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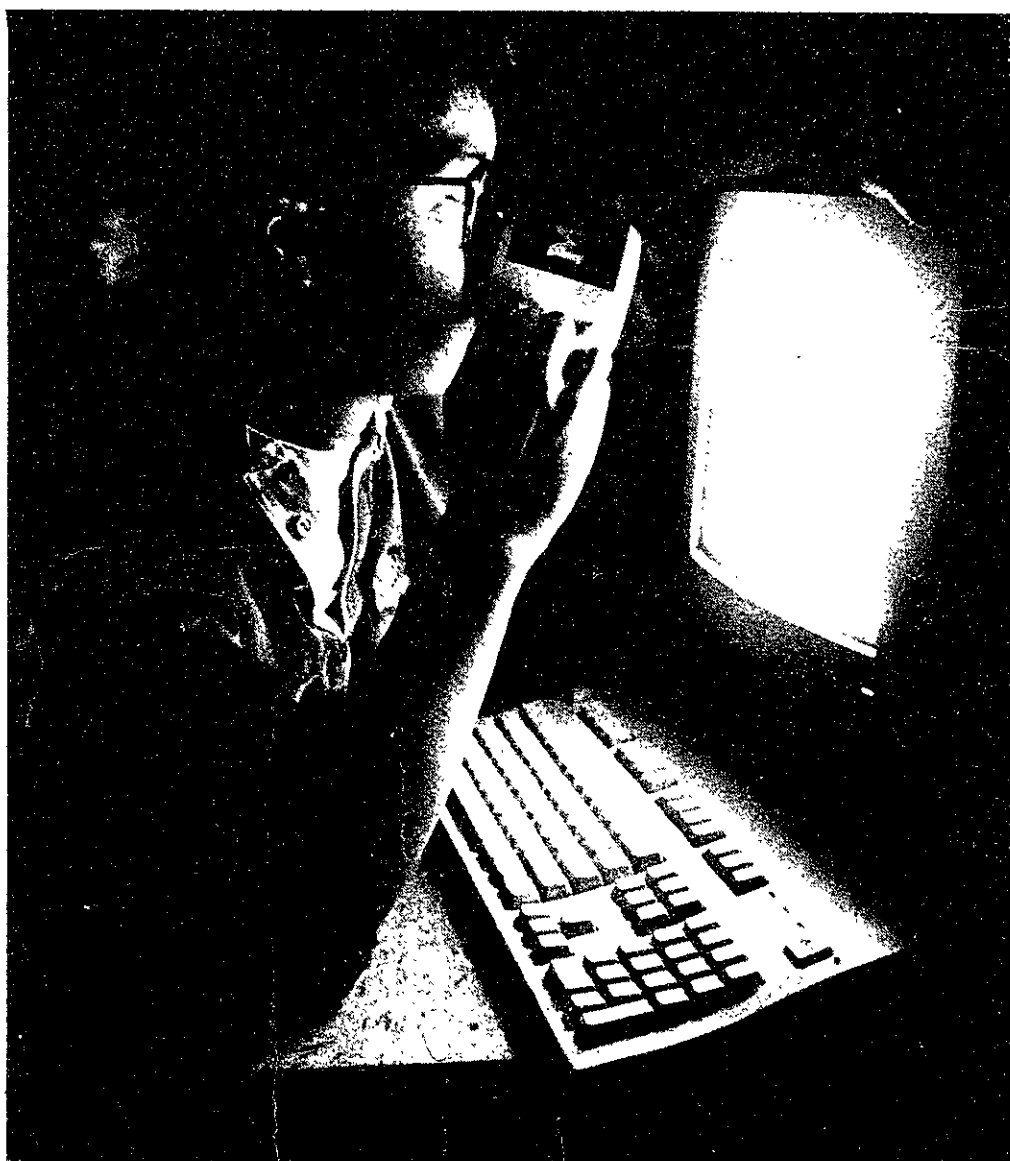
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