Open hearing considers grading, tenure

By Harold Federow

Karl Taylor Compton Prizes, and Barker Awards were presented to students and faculty members at last Thursday's Awards Convocation.

Compton prizes

The Karl-Taylor Compton Prizes went to Daniel J. Fingerman '69, Anthony George '69, Peter Q. Harris '69, Maria L. Kivisild '69, Mark J. Mach and Baker awards were presented Thursday to students and faculty members at last Thursday's Awards Convocation.

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1969 student awards given

By Harold Federow

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Another curriculum-oriented debate concerned Friedman courses. Many first-year students, one professor charged, are turned off when confronted with the sit-down, fact-dispersion courses they take. Some way must be found to encourage the motivation of new students.

Graduation speaking

These educational points touched on the issue of graduate education. Why should there be a special distinction, one professor queried, between graduate and undergraduate courses? Another participant challenged the privileged status accorded to Master and Doctoral candidates.

What, then, should be the Institute's policy on post-doctoral students? A professor called for an examination by the new Lewis group of the contribution these 10,000 scholars make to the MIT campus.

Careful

Yet with all this discussion, Harold Federow warned, we must avoid expecting the commission to be a panacea for MIT. The old Lewis report, he pointed out, contains too many suggestions for reform that are already implemented - as if the community conscience were eased by seeing the problems set down in print.

President Johnstone that a solution never results from just the presentation of the difficulties. He promised action based on the findings of the panel.

Federal Reserve Bank is usually free of the political restrictions imposed by a Congress reluctant to increase taxes. In this way, it is able to speed up or slow down the economy as it feels necessary by increasing or decreasing the supply of money.

While neither Samuelson nor Friedman totally disavowed the usefulness of the other's form of economic policy, both claimed that events had been out of their own respective schools of policy. Friedman offered the continuing inflation as an example. Johnson finally was able to increase effective taxes with the surcharge, but this raze had a negligible effect upon the economy. Keynesian economics predicted otherwise. Samuelson countered by stating that the monetary supply was increasing at the same time, thus negating the effect of the tax raise.

Moral position

Samuelson did admit he was arguing from a moral position at times, notably for regulatory commissions such as the SEC whose primary function is to protect the public. The nation must decide the goal towards which its economic policy is to be directed, taking humanitarian objectives into account.

Some topics were not substantiated by either speaker. Both Friedman and Samuelson actively advocated free international trade. However, Friedman went further and advocated the abolition of all tariffs, arguing that competition and efficiency would enable the US to more than hold its own. Samuelson stated that the dollar has become an overrated currency. For this, Friedman answered: "The dollar...the US is so economically powerful that they don't have to like it...they have to take it...there's still a minimum of coercion in the world."
President's draft overhaul falls short of total reform

WASHINGTON (CPS) — President Nixon last week proposed a major overhaul of the Selective Service System that would include selection of 19-year-olds first by lottery. But the President's proposals fell far short of completely eliminating the inequalities and uncertainties inherent in the draft.

He asked Congress to amend the Selective Service Act so he could make these changes:

* Change from an oldest-first to a youngest-first call-up system,
* Reduce the period of prime vulnerability from seven years to one year,
* Utilize a random, or lottery, selection system,
* Continue undergraduate deferments but place students in the prime vulnerability pool for one year after studies end,
* Permit graduate students to complete the full year instead of one term if they are ordered for induction, and
* Review guidelines, procedures, and standards related to exemptions and deferments.

The trouble with Nixon's proposals, as even the New York Times noted, is not what is in it but what is not. The President virtually ignored the suggestions made by a 1967 White House commission that would have cleaned up uniform standards on all local boards. Moreover, Nixon declined to recommend other changes that have been urged this session in Congress.

Nixon's reforms have a hollow ring because of the way he went about recommending them. The President has executive powers that allow him to change the order of call, end occupational deferments, make standards more uniform, and modernize the system without Congressional approval.

And he neglected to comment on the future of what many young people feel is the symbol of the antiquated draft: Director Lewis B. Hershey, with his sight getting worse and his age advancing.

The President's call for Congressional action was full of the recent rhetoric of draft reform, aiming for equity and reasonableness: "We can do no less for the youth of our country," he said. Young men turning 18 and others who care had hoped for more.
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The current discussion of the role of defense research at MIT comes at a time when there is an enormous amount of ambiguity in the strategic arms race.

Deployment of MIRV and ABM is being justified in terms of the possibility that if we have more and more missiles, we might get into a situation where a first strike capability vis a vis this nation. This would mean that they would be able to launch a nuclear attack against this country which would be so devastating as to eliminate the possibility of effective retaliation by the US. Thus, we would get a first strike, which is what we are afraid of. If we do not have the first strike, no initial attack could destroy enough of the enemy's retaliatory forces to prevent the attacked nation from launching the attacking power. It is this uneasy balance which some analysts fear is being upset.

The prime evidence offered in the case supporting the hypothesis that the Soviets are seeking a first strike capability is the continuing deployment of the medium-range SS-9. The SS-9 is seen as a first strike weapon because of its higher accuracy and greater payload than previous models, both prerequisites for effective first strike. As a result of such deployments, some analysts who have opposed deployment of US strategic weapons, such as the Soviet SS-11, need not be as accurate or powerful in order to be effective against cities, which are the prime targets in a second strike.

However, data on the SS-9 is incomplete, and it is possible that it represents an evolutionary upgrading of the Soviet missile force rather than a major attempt at gaining a first strike capability. This interpretation is bolstered by the continuing deployment of the less expensive SS-11c; one would expect that if the Soviets were truly seeking a first strike, they would use their entire missile budget for the SS-9. If SS-9 deployment levels off within a year or so, it will be evidence that there may be a second strike capability in jeopardy. In any case, we will have to take some sort of action to preserve our deterrent. The least expensive action to take under those circumstances would be to deploy Poseidon missiles (equipped with I-Lab's MIRV) on our Polaris subs. While we do not favor deployment of US strategic forces, we do not believe that the system be ready to go if Soviet intentions prove unfavourable.

We reiterate our opposition to the Safeguard ABM system as a means for preserving our deterrent, since it is unlikely that it will safeguard anything. If a means of preserving our second strike capability is needed, Poseidon will be cheaper and easier to deploy than Safeguard. In addition, deploying Safeguard is likely to convince the Russians that we are seeking a first strike capability which will be gained by extending the proposed system to protect our cities against a Soviet second strike.

The only real solution to the threat of nuclear devastation, however, is an end to the US-Soviet agreement on strategic arms limitation. The possibility of achieving such an agreement may be seriously jeopardized by completing the final two months of MIRV testing, which are about to begin. If these tests are completed, the Soviets will have no choice but to assume that we have deployed MIRV, and they will have no choice but to report that it will not work.

FILE NOTE: Instead of our usual division columns, we are printing three rather unified columns. Although it is not possible for the student, faculty, and administration to agree on an appropriate way to close the column, we believe that anyone who reads in the spirit in which they will read them will find them in the spirit in which they were intended.

First strike

Michael Albert

An Open Letter to the Administration

When I ran for office I was asked whether I would be able to get along with other sons of bitches. I said yes, I knew why not, though I didn't believe it was possible. Now I wonder. I know that I thought as the case that you are well-grounded and personable, but that there are some people about whom you could say, like you, but still do not wonder. Why?

Perhaps because of this, but I still have to begin work. I have many tasks to complete for last month. The final test before a final test.

So alright you say I'm a pessimist. How does all this happen? Regretfully I must report that it will not be long before we reach a state of disintegrate the American dream. It is this uneasing which some analysts fear is being upset.

If you are too young to die, can it be possible, as everyone else suggests, that we are too old to live?

Yours in Freedom and Expectation,

Michael Albert
John King - Concentrated Studies

By Charles Mann

It started in 1963 when I was teaching classes on a regular basis like everyone else and also trying to do some research. I became aware of how fragmented my time was so I thought it would be nice if I could do my teaching and then my research and not have my work broken up with an hour here and an hour there. It was purely artificial.

Then along came the CCCP which was an extensive study of our curriculum. It set a stop to any other development, but it did one very important thing as far as I was concerned: it authorized project labs. I then worked on our project lab which hit students very well sometimes, and sometimes they get very frustrated. Maybe they are learning that they do or don't want to become experimental physicists, the kind that work with apparatus rather than computers. I could see that the lab suffered from meeting at intervals and between times the detail on the structure of the project parts was the kind that the Institute does not ordinarily foster. Anyway I would be in the laboratory from nine to ten thirty every day and one thing I feel is not to evaluate it but to press to do the homework collected, and every- body sort of looked down. Soon after they started complaining in private. Maybe they just didn't like having the homework collected, so we rescinded the order. You (the interviewer) have seen the report and know that most of the homework was done.

Q. What about evaluation?

A. Far more subjects are amenable to study in this way than seems obvious at first glance. That is one of the reasons for my wanting to have more publicity. In fact any serious work is done in concentrated form. It is possible to turn around a situation. The last analysis the best thing is for a student to come to a research lab and find someone whom he enjoys working with and someone who will take him seriously.

Q. What sort of topics do you think are amenable to study in this way?

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Q. What sort of evaluation do you think set problems but sets like this where there are so many other things going on?

A. I don't think it will succeed very well. The corridor labs and project labs are the best of a bad thing. In the last analysis the best thing is for a student to come to a research lab and find someone whom he enjoys working with and someone who will take him seriously.

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I

Music...

Unusual effects accent Vaughan Williams' 7th

By Robert McCall

The first recording of Ralph Vaughan Williams' 7th Symphony, based on themes from his soundtrack of the film Scott of the Antarctic, uses some unusual techniques, making the album worth noting. First: the insertion of spoken interpolations at the beginning of each movement by Sir Ralph Richardson adds tremendously to the overall theme of the Antarctic journey of Scott, and also recalls other heroes who fought nature and lost. Another novel device is a "wind machine" in the first and fifth movements of the Symphony.

The movements suggest the different moods of the explorers: arrival, setting off on the journey, during it, and the end, as they die of frostbite three miles from their destination. "To suffer woes which hope think infinite..." begins the first movement (Andante Maestoso), depicting the awesome majesty of the southern wastes which the expedition is about to cross. Vaughan Williams introduces a theme that is present throughout the Symphony (with the exception of the fourth movement) played by the bass instruments that express the drudgery and monotony in all phases of the crossing.

The second movement (Moderato) is a quick scherzo, which downed little by little into the bass theme. "There go the ships and there is that Levathan..." They are slow and easy in the task before them, the journey starts quickly and easily, but the snow, the cold, the wind, and the wolves are against them as they reach the mood that is to prevail throughout the crossing.

The third (Lento) is a musical description of the landscape about them, starting with the intricate beauty at their fingertips and then suddenly rising in a majestic swell as if approaching a large barrier, elegant in its imposing nature. This movement is, ironically, the weakest of the Symphony, calling upon themes and moods from other movements without sufficient development of any.

The fourth movement (Andante Sostenuto) has no feeling of Antarctica: it is warm and human, depicting the men inside the tent and away from the cold, the men who can forget, for one brief moment, that their lives are in danger. Yet, towards the end, this warmth dies off into nothingness, like the fading memory of an extinguished flame.

Climax: origin

The lines for the last movement are taken from Captain Scott's journal: "I do not regret this journey; we took risks, we knew we took them, things have come out against us, therefore, we have no cause for complaint." The Epilogue (Alla Marcia Moderato, ma non troppo) has the forces of nature finally overpowering the theme that is related to the men, but more in a way expressing any brave man overwhelmed by circumstances.

Vaughan Williams' Symphony No. 7 is well done and is not, as some critics have inferred, downgraded by the fact that it has come out of the cinema. Other great composers of our time have rewritten concert music from their movie scores, among them Shostakovich and Prokofiev, and little is said of them in this respect. Andre Previn has, perhaps, put too much embellishment into the music; however this served to intensify the spectacular nature of the score. This Symphony is listed as the first of a series of Vaughan Williams' Symphonies.

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movie...

'Teorema'-who wants to decipher it?

By Robert Fourer

Symbols in the arts, movies in particular, can (and usually does) fail for a wide variety of reasons. Mostly, though, the problem is some combination of the two simplest ones: the symbolism is too obvious, or too obscure. In the case of 'Teorema', the latest film by Pier Paolo Pasolini (of The Gospel According to St. Matthew) it is both, and the result is more than doubly unfortunate.

To begin with, 'Teorema' is a parable; so its strength must lie in its symbolism, and little else. The film opens, after a difficult introduction that becomes clear only later, as a young man (Terence Stamp) comes to visit a middle-class Italian family. All of them—mother, father, son, daughter, and maid—are mysteriously and usually sexually, attracted to him; and he benevolently satisfies their desires. After treating them all in turn, he is suddenly required to turn, he is suddenly required to

To begin with, Pasolini has created the most obvious Christ-type figure one could ever hope to see. If the movie ended right there, there wouldn't be much to puzzle about—everything would be reasonably, if not entirely, clear out. The director, however, has broader ideas. After the young man leaves—and he is not seen again—he examines the five others one by one. Now, one by one, they break down, but in an unpredictable and seemingly uninterpretable way. Some perform good deeds, and some bad; some influence others, and some withdraw entirely; the daughter can do nothing; she contracts an incurable disease. The symbolism here is thick and complicated, and obviously Pasolini is working with much more than he at first seemed to be.

The trouble now, though, is that the appearance of this complex symbolism is intrusive; the viewer wishes it would go away, or at least resolve itself. A successful parable should tempt one into trying to figure it out; in 'Teorema' the urge is more just to sit back, and watch uncomprehendingly. The scenes, in any case, are far from boring, and Pasolini has an especially haunting way of shooting his characters.

Of course, it's possible the film was intended this way—perhaps Pasolini wanted the effects of his deity to be random and undecipherable. Unfortunately, it would take several more viewings, and a

fair amount of curiosity, to check even this out. If anyone's really interested, at least he could do worse.

One scene, the love-making episode between the young visitor and the daughter, comes to an abrupt and uncharacteristic end with what is by far the skippiest jump cut in the entire film; it's as if the scene is supposed to reach a climax as soon as the camera reaches the girl's breasts. It would be hard to convince anyone that something hasn't been cut out; with all the fuss over censorship, maybe someone should take a look at the changes that don't reach court.

In short, Pasolini has created the most obvious Christ-type figure one could ever hope to see. If the movie ended right there, there wouldn't be much to puzzle about—everything would be reasonably, if not entirely, clear out. The director, however, has broader ideas. After the young man leaves—and he is not seen again—he examines the five others one by one.

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Wilson cracks New England steeplechase mark in 8:51.8

By Pete Peckinsky

Ben Wilson ’70 led the New England ICA’s 3000 meter steeplechase from start to finish as he set a conference record in the grueling event. The Golden Jet, who was favored to win the event and was granted the pole position on the starting line, after two laps had opened up twenty yards of daylight on the pack. Charlie Lang of UMass closed the gap to five lengths, but Wilson was too strong in the drive beneath the wire. His effort smashed the year-old mark posted by 1968 BAA Maraton Champion Amby Burfoot of Harvard.

In the three mile, Art Dolgon—‘Holy Cross distance phenomenon, who won a battle royal for the first half of the race. Wilson shot out to the lead for the first half mile in a typically quick start. On the third lap, Richard Spurrier of UConn and Dolgon came storming past, Wilson stayed right with them for a lap until Spurrier drew away and faded. Wilson shadowed Dolgon for the next two laps until Dolgon suddenly pulled away at the mile and one-half mark as the effects of Wilson’s record-setting steeplechase began to take their toll. The race ended with the runners in that order.

Back in the pack, newly-epsilon ’7070 veteran Capitol Larry Petro ’70 was fighting for fifth place, Petro closed the gap to 20 yards on Ross Wayne of UMass with a lap to go. However, Paul Hans of UMass slipped ahead of Petro in the final kick over the last lap at Petro finished seventh. On the strength of Wilson’s tenth point effort, MIT placed 15th in both the Coast Guard and Holy Cross and tied at 35 points apiece for the championship.

Tech nine loses last game 5-4

By Jay Zager

The long season came to its quiet end as Friday the varsity baseball was defeated by Bentley College by a 5-4 margin. The loss gave the register a 6-15 mark, considerably below last year’s record of 11-12. In order to reach this year’s mark, the team had to play 500 ball for the last eight games.

Friday’s game was another in a series of close contests that might have gone either way. After two scoreless innings, MIT came to life in the bottom of the third, as Tom Pipal reached third base on a single. Chris Thurner then chopped a high hopper towards third. When Haberman deflected it into foul territory, two runs came home to make the score 6-5. Sikes bore down and poured two strikes past Paul before the SAE hurler connected for the game winning hit.

Bentley pulled ahead to stay in the sixth, as Montgomery ran into a streak of wildness. A single, a hit batsman, and a walk, combined with two wild pitches gave the Visitors a 2-3 lead.

In the bottom of the ninth, the Varsity took life to Moore Field as off led off with a hit. He went to second on an error, and scored on a line single off the bat of senior Mike Nescheiba, playing his last game. Nescheiba proceeded to steal second base, but died there as Brittle slid to left to end the game, as well as the season. Thus, Frank O’Brien’s first year as MIT baseball coach came to an end. Individual statistics show Bob Dreese as the team’s leading hitter with a 270 mark in 20 games, John Compton was second at .251, while Tech ABD Jeff Weissman hit .331 and led the squad in Runs Batted In with 17. Among pitchers, leading mounts were David Dewitte, who compiled a 44 mark, while setting a new MIT record for innings won in a career, as he was 44 in his junior year.

Next year’s squad will be co-captained by Bob Gerber and Bruce Wheeler, who is returning from a year at Princeton.

Photo by Gary DeDoherty

Dave Dewitte ’69 beats out an infield hit in Wednesday’s game against northeastern. The varsity ended the season with a 6-15 record by losing a 5-4 decision to Bentley.


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