

# The Tech

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FIVE CENTS

## Dorm squeeze persists in wake of Residence Week

By Alex Makowski

Some overcrowding will still be necessary in Institute dorms this year following the conclusion of freshman Residence Week.

As was true last year, East Campus will bear a sizeable amount of the burden of "doubling up" to boost capacity. But a shift in room assignment policy has spread the overcrowding a bit more evenly around the campus.

The overcrowding was inevitable — the total fraternity freshman capacity was 408, some 40 or 50 beds short of the number necessary to free the dorm system of any strain. For the fraternities Residence Week was satisfactory, with the number of new freshman members above 95% of the need figure. [See accompanying article below.]

And coed living, in only its second year as a feature of the Institute dorm system, secured its place at MIT. Only two or three spaces for women remained empty Wednesday evening when most of the room assignments had been completed. Housing officer Ken Browning described the Residence Week as "very successful" for coed residence.

Within the dorm system, placement of freshmen ran roughly as the Housing Office expected. The demand for rooms in the newly-renovated

Burton House and the year-old MacGregor House, where some 40% of the freshmen openings were located, exceeded 150% of the two dorms' capacity. East Campus was similarly swamped with a sizeable number of applicants. But the freshman class surprised the housing staff by turning thumbs down on Baker, as applications for rooms there ran well under capacity.

Browning could only explain the disaffection for Baker by suggesting that it was caught in the middle of demand for the cheap living in East Campus on the one hand and the luxury in MacGregor and Burton on the other. For students interested in inexpensive living who are willing to forego modern architectural design and the West Campus reputation, East Campus is

an attractive location. MacGregor and Burton, with their suite living, extensive lounge facilities, and numerous kitchenettes, attract students with enough money to pay for better living quarters. Twenty year old Baker House, similar in design to East Campus (both incorporate long hallways and the consequent "hotel atmosphere") but not much cheaper than MacGregor or Burton, comes up short in comparison.

Besides the advantage of cheaper living, another factor contributed to the high requests/beds ratio for East Campus. The heavy doubling up last year left a large number of upperclassmen in the dorm this fall. The number of beds available for freshmen was only 10% of the dorm's

(Please turn to page 2)



President Wiesner entertaining at the Freshman Picnic last Friday.

Photo by David M. Tenenbaum

## Rush tallies run high after uncertain start

By Norm Sandler

Rush week lived up to the expectations of its coordinators again this year, much to the satisfaction of fraternities and self-styled "living groups" struggling for their economic stability.

With what appeared as a weak and rather disgruntling start, this year's rush had progressed from a fair hope Monday to an excellent chance of reaching or exceeding last year's numbers by Tuesday night. This year's goal set by the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC) was 408 pledges, four more than last year.

According to Steve Altkuler, IFC secretary, overall this year's rush looks like the "best since 1966," and statistically the fraternities have done very well.

Associate Dean for Student Affairs Richard Sorenson said that this rush came off "better than the original projections," noting that the initial estimates are usually fairly conservative. Sorenson attributed the record-setting rush to a "good deal of enthusiasm" on the part of the fraternities and a lack of "pressure and heat generated to the

freshmen" by the rush. He added that some of the credit for the success of the fraternities at MIT is due to "the strong support from the Institute, fraternity alumni, and nationals, which may change the preconceived ideas of fraternity living many freshmen bring to the beginning of rush week."

Two fraternities which did exceedingly well after undergoing organizational or procedural changes were Sigma Alpha Mu (SAM) and Tau Epsilon Phi (TEP). SAM initiated an open-bidding procedure this year, under which offers of membership are extended less selectively than usual among fraternities. TEP's chapter at MIT underwent a complete organizational reconstruction this year with four people taking the task of rushing freshmen. Those four included Mike Ginzburg, Howie Siegel, and two members from the TEP National.

The two coed fraternities — Delta Psi and Sigma Nu — were successful in attracting at least several women each by the middle of the week.

Photo by Sheldon Lowenthal

## Rogers Report due for fall

By Alex Makowski and Robert Fourer

A high-level Task Force on Education may recommend this fall fundamental changes in the format of MIT's undergraduate education.

The effect of the departmental structure on this four-year period could be diminished, while increased contact between students and faculty may be encouraged through a program similar to the current undergraduate research opportunities venture.

Additionally, the Task Force's report will most likely suggest the establishment of a separate Institute division for educational research.

A new post of Dean of Undergraduate Education is also a likely proposal, but its position in the administrative hierarchy has not yet been made known.

Appointed late in the past school year, the Task Force was ostensibly to carry ahead the work of the Commission on MIT Education to the point of setting specific proposals before the faculty. The Task Force met through May and during the summer, and has reached enough of a consensus for chairman Hartley Rogers to begin writing a first draft for their report.

Once the report is completed sometime during the fall it will be presented to President

Jerome Wiesner. From his office it goes to the faculty for action. Until the report is actually released it is hard to predict how the faculty will react to the Task Force's sometimes sweeping proposals for change.

Evaluation of the role of the departments in MIT's educational mission is nothing new. At the Institute this departmental structure has sometimes been charged with hampering both undergraduate education and interdisciplinary research. Sources within the administration have reported that in the President's office, too, there is disenchantment with some departmental policies. The Task Force will probably recommend the creation of an administrative post somewhat akin to a dean for undergraduate education, with some power to co-ordinate the program for these four years.

Encouraging closer contact between students and faculty stems in part from the desire to make undergraduate education a more total involvement with MIT. Many undergraduates, professors have noted, aren't involved with what's exciting at MIT, so they become alienated from the routine fare of lectures, recitations, and labs. The Task Force envisions students spending 20 to 25 percent of the time during their undergraduate years doing some significant work

with a faculty member.

Many of the details for the Educational Division still remain to be worked out. The scope of the Division would transcend the curriculum development now done at the Education Research Center, to include such subjects as developmental psychology. The Division would not have a policy role; rather, it will work with faculty on more of a consulting basis.

Such a task force was originally planned to receive recommendations of the MIT Commission and submit specific proposals the faculty could vote on. However, its policy-making significance has become much greater because of what a large number of top faculty and administrators see as the failure of the Commission to come up with any workable recommendations at all. Plans for a final report of the Commission have reportedly been abandoned, while the Task Force has apparently rejected outright its proposal for a First Division to oversee freshman and sophomore years.

There were no students or junior faculty on the panel. Its composition thus resembles more the Lewis Committee, which put forth comprehensive policy recommendations 20 years ago, than any of the broad-based groups which have sprung up recently.

AEPS 25 24	PDTX 12 12	SNX 15 15
ATO 13 15	PGDX 11 11	SPE 21 25
BTP 5 10	PKSX 11 9	TEP 16 ?
CP * 13 13	PKT 12 15	TCX 13 12
DKE 9 15	PMDX 13 12	TDC 13 18
DP 9 10	PSK 8 10	TX 4 10
DDX 13 12	PKA X 10 10	ZBT 17 23
DUX 14 11	PLP 19 20	TOT 380 78
KS 11 12	SAEX 13 19	PLEGE 10 TAL
LCA 17 20	SAM 12 19	* DESK CLOSED
PBE 12 18	SC * 14 19	10530 CMB

# Dorms still squeezed in wake of R/O Week

(Continued from page 1)

384-man (and woman) capacity, far short of the 30% Institute average.

When rooms are assigned, the freshman living group preference cards are divided into groups by the designated first choice. The number of cards in each group is compared with the space available in that dorm; any excess is divided up among the unfilled dorms by the designated second (or third, fourth, fifth, etc.) choice. Upperclassmen within each dorm assign the freshmen to particular rooms.

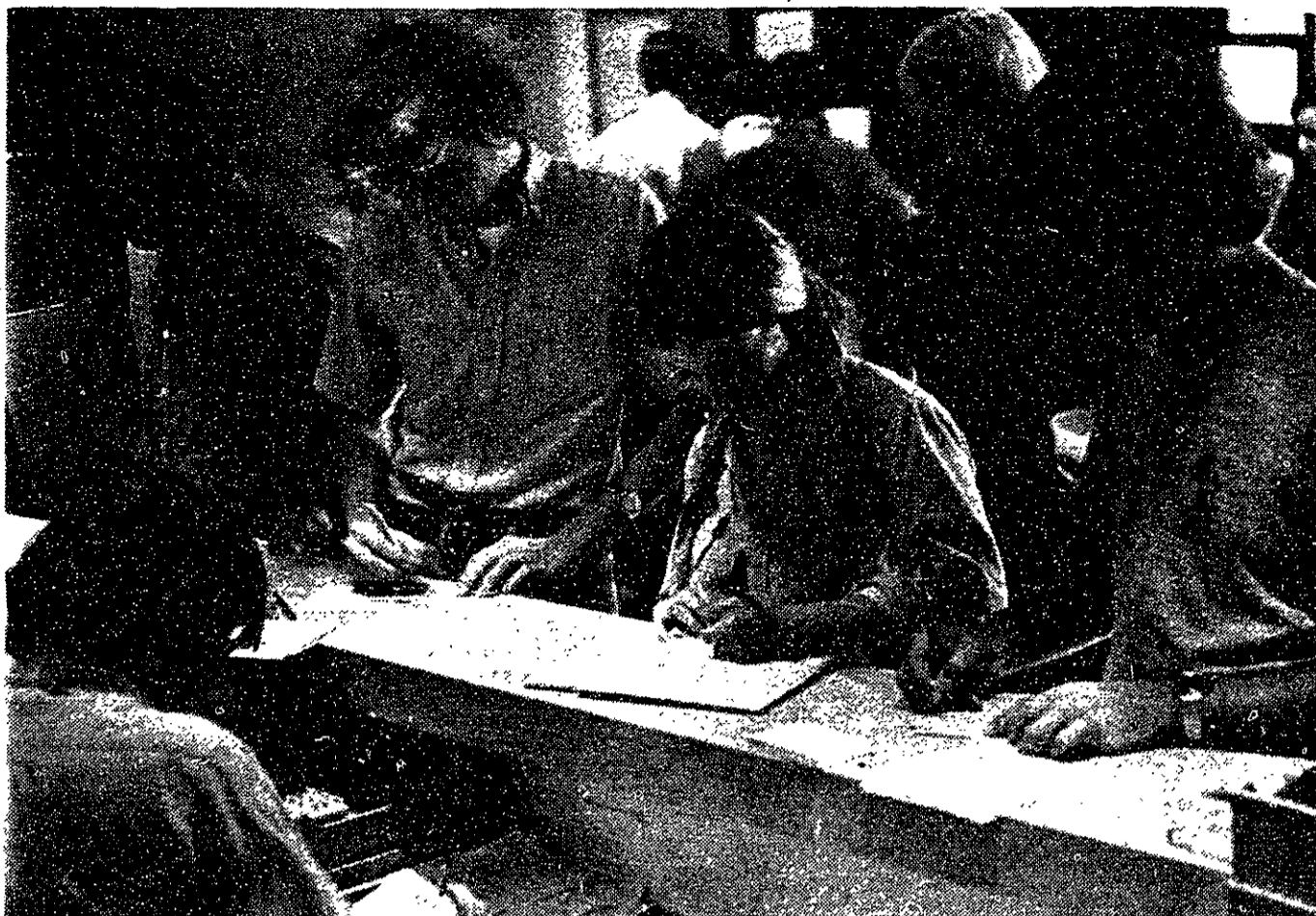
Freshmen had no better luck this year than last in getting their first choice. Tuesday 78% of those assigned rooms found themselves in their preferred dorm. Assignments that afternoon stopped short of placing students in their fourth or fifth choice, and Wednesday another placement round was held for those unassigned freshmen and a few who risked their first-day assignment for a chance at a hole opening up in a better dorm.

By Wednesday afternoon more rooms were available,

mostly as a result of fraternity pledging. That second day 50% of the freshmen assigned found themselves in their first choice. The final batch of 51 freshmen was assigned rooms yesterday; it was this round that demonstrated the need for squeezing extra students into the dorms to provide space for all the freshmen.

Last year the Housing Office anticipated the overcrowding by assigning freshmen to crowded conditions on the first and second rounds. Much of this excess went to East Campus, with the crowding in other dorms held over for the last few assignments. But the fraternities and dorms proved capable of accepting more of the freshmen than expected, and little overcrowding was necessary in the other dorms. "East Campus," explained Browning, "wound up bearing the brunt of the overcrowding. This year we waited with selecting the overcrowded living units until we had a better picture of how the housing system would be able to handle freshmen requests."

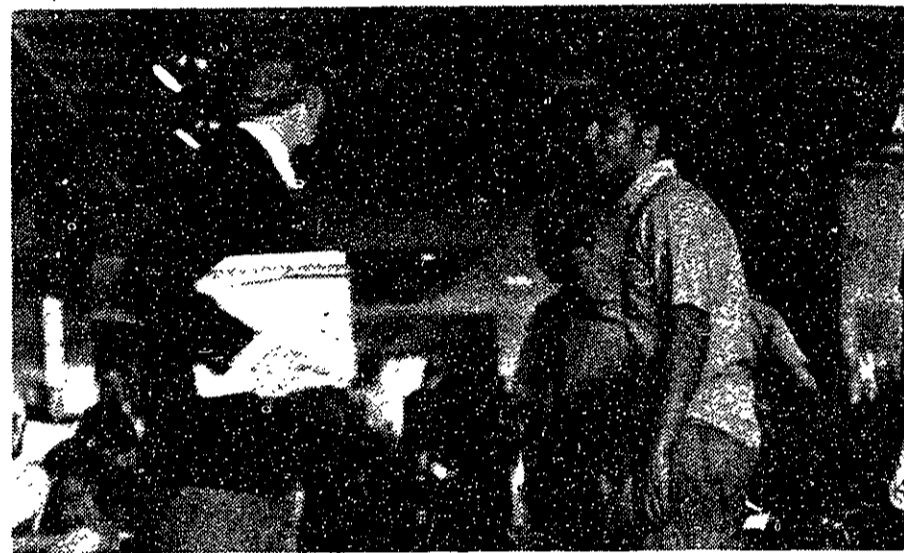
Yet to be resolved is the



problem of transfer students (there were 114 this year). Except for special cases, the Institute will not guarantee them housing; Browning said that MIT felt an obligation to place a higher priority on the younger, less-experienced freshmen. Some transfer students pledged fraternities; most sought housing outside of the Institute's residence system. A few may be accommodated by last-minute cancellations.

There is no data yet on where MIT's black freshmen chose to live. Few went through the fraternity Rush Week, so almost all of them must be in dormitories. Browning pointed out that there is no classification by race on the room preference card, so a separate study must be made to determine where the blacks are living.

As mentioned earlier, placement of women in MIT housing went well. "All but four or five



girls," said Browning, "got their first choice for a room assignment. We were disappointed, however, that we could satisfy so few of the Wellesley girls' requests, but our policy was to place MIT coeds in rooms first."

Of the 25 Wellesley students living on campus this year as participants in the MIT/

Wellesley Residence Exchange, 13 are living in McCormick. Only two listed that as their first choice. In addition, a number of them were reportedly displeased with their McCormick room assignments. On the other hand, it was clear that not a few coeds were less than pleased with the Wellesley invasion.

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Photo by L.D. Fullerton

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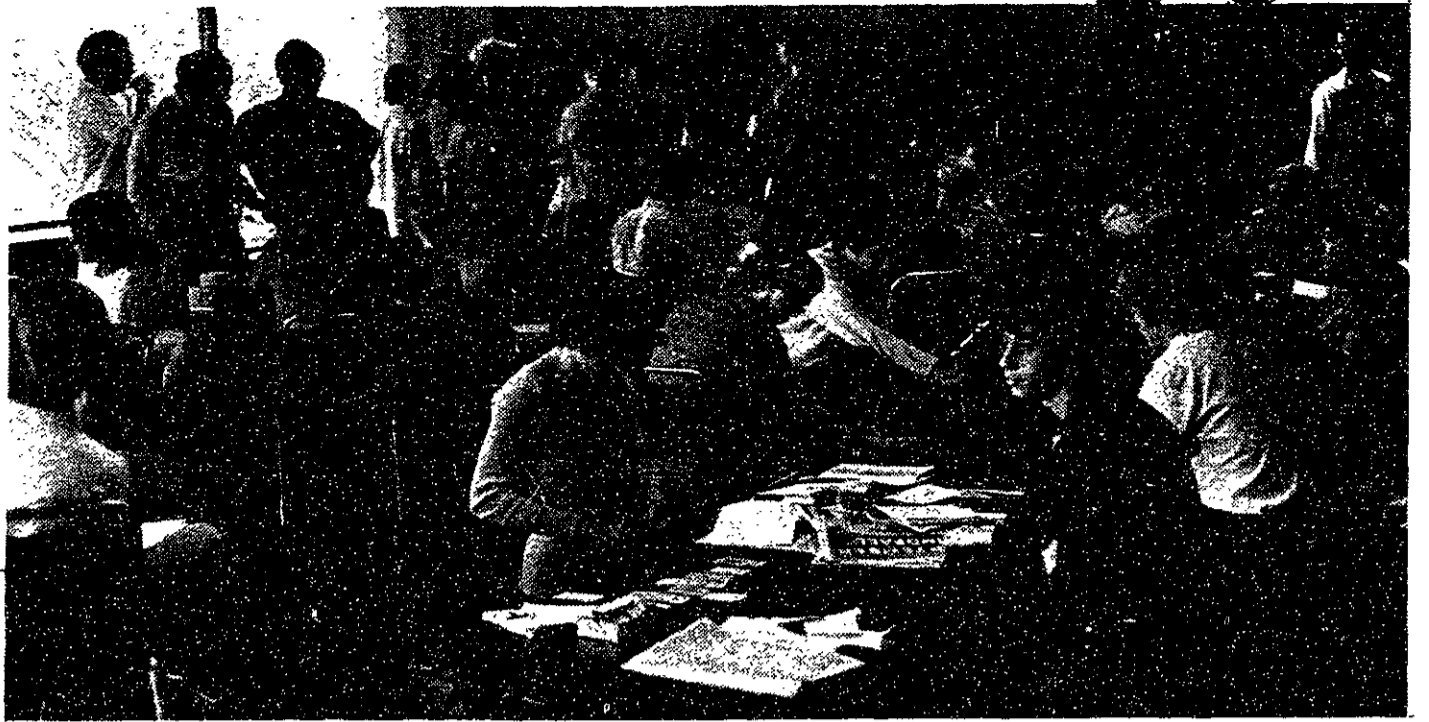
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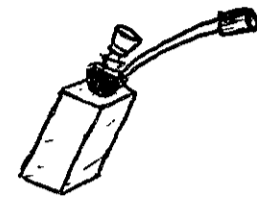
Page at left: top, registering for rooms at Burton House; bottom, fresh baggage waiting outside the Student Center West Lounge. Above: left, crowd at the Freshman picnic; right, crowd at the Information Center, inside the West Lounge.

Photos by David Searls, except above left by David M. Tenenbaum

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A complete listing of participating merchants, their products and the discounts each offers student members is available through your campus representative. An investment of \$5.00 in a U.S.D.A. membership card insures you of continued savings throughout the year. You will find that your membership fee and much more can be made up easily during

your first day on-campus. From then on you are saving on every purchase you make throughout the year. In addition to the 125 members already listed in the U.S.D.A. booklet, new merchants will be continuously added to the U.S.D.A. program. You will be advised of such additions through ads in your school newspaper.

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MIT's U.S.D.A. campus representative is Alex Makowski. Contact him at x1541 or 267-2180 for more information, or get in touch with him for a part-time job selling U.S.D.A. memberships.

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## NOTES

\* As of Tuesday there were still openings in the following Undergraduate Seminars: 021 The Birth and Care of a City, 022 Modern Marvelous Mechanical Motions, 023 Diver's Wet Suit Heating System Design, 025 How the Human Body Works, from an Engineering Point of View, 026 Pot, Acid and Booze, 02A Macro-Engineering and Social Options, 053 The Structure of Molecules, 084 Astrophysics - Here and There in the Galaxy, 122 Chemistry of Massachusetts Environmental Waters, 132 The Hydrodynamics of Sailing Vessels, 163 Fluid Mechanics Experiments, 164 The Laser: Who Needs It, 173 Counter Cultures, 203 What Is (Are) the Cause(s) of Heart Attacks, 204 Nutrition, National Development, and Planning, 210 Ways of "Knowing," DL1 Environmental Measurement and Control. Full descriptions of most of these are in the Freshman Handbook. (Other seminars listed in the Handbook may also have developed vacancies later in the week.)

Each Seminar is 6 units, and is open to all undergraduates. To register or ask for further information see Alice Bailey, Room 7-105, x3622.

\* Harvard-MIT Program in Health Sciences and Technology: Information on new courses and application forms for enrollment in Functional Anatomy and Human Pathology will be available at DuPont Gym on registration day (Monday). That same evening from 5-6 pm in Kresge Auditorium there will be a discussion of the Program by the Director, Dr. Irving M. London.

## UROP

\* Freshmen are urged to begin looking now if they wish to participate in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). This program provides an opportunity for an undergraduate to become involved professionally with a faculty member, as a junior colleague in his research group.

If you want to become involved in UROP, consult the UROP Directory, which you should have received with registration material this summer (extra copies are available in the Information Office, 7-111). Each department and laboratory in the Directory has a UROP Coordinator who is prepared to assist you in finding a research opportunity as well as answering questions about the program. Many of the departments and laboratories list faculty and staff who have openings. To save time, you may wish to contact these individuals directly. Don't be discouraged if you do not get into your first choice - many of the entries have only a few openings - so keep shopping around until you match up with a faculty/staff member.

Limited support is available through UROP to offset research expenses. Inquiries regarding financial research assistance should be directed to the UROP Coordinators.

Lincoln Laboratory - a center for research and development in advanced electronics - has joined UROP as a resource for students to do research such as computer systems, space communications, detection of earthquakes, underground nuclear explosions, etc.

The Charles S. Draper Laboratory will have openings for students, also. In addition to the well-known work of the Apollo Missions, the Draper Lab has many other interests in advanced electronics. Some of these topics will be discussed in a Freshman Seminar being given by the Draper Lab this fall, entitled "Environmental Measurement and Control" (DL-1).

New opportunities and openings not listed in the UROP Directory will be posted outside the Freshman Seminar Office, and will be published next week in *The Tech*. If you have any questions about UROP, see Mrs. Amy Metcalf, Room 20C-222, x6044.

# While you were away...

Tuition was raised \$250 effective summer 1972, unless post-freeze measures disallow it. \$2900 TFM!

\* Now it's Wellesley's turn to find a new chief officer. President Ruth M. Adams announced her resignation, effective next June 30.

\* The Institute may finally be getting a CENTREX phone system next August - five years after planning began. The system will be entirely new, requiring installation of lines from the phone company office building in Kendall Square. This will require construction of extensive underground ducts - now taking shape in the trenches along Vassar Street - which if delayed may put the project off still further.

When the work is completed, the Institute will have a new exchange - 253 - all to itself. Calls to extensions directly from outside will then be possible: to reach x2731, for example, one would dial 253-2731. Inside the Institute, the first two digits are dropped; the caller just dials 3-2731. The Draper Labs will get their own separate system, with exchange 258.

CENTREX offers several new options for offices which can afford them. Calls can be directed to another extension automatically when no one is present to receive them. Touch-Tone phones will be available.

Meanwhile, a tie-line system between dormlines and extensions is now in operation. To reach dl xyzw from an extension, dial 810-xyzw (don't wait for a second dial tone after 8!0). To reach ext abcd from a dormline, dial 80-abcd.

\* The last weekday U.S. mail pickup from street boxes around the Institute is now 4:30 pm. Postal officials hope this will produce a more even distribution of mail throughout the day, facilitating next-day delivery in the Boston area.

\* James Rhyne Killian's resignation as Corporation Chairman, announced over a year ago, precipitated a chain reaction of promotions taking effect in the last few months:

Killian became Honorary Corporation Chairman, succeeding Vannevar Bush.

Howard Johnson became Corporation Chairman, succeeding Killian.

Jerome Wiesner became President, succeeding Johnson.

Paul Gray was appointed to the new post of Chancellor.

Walter Rosenblith became Provost, succeeding Wiesner.

Alfred Keil became Dean of the School of Engineering, succeeding Gray. Dr. Keil remains head of the Department of Ocean Engineering.

\* The Institute witnessed a multitude of other appointments as well:

The Department of Electrical Engineering gained two associate heads. Wilbur B. Davenport, Jr. is associate head of the department for Electrical Science and Engineering. Robert M. Fano is associate head of the department for Computer Science and Engineering.

James D. Bruce became Associate Dean of the School of Engineering, succeeding Charles Miller, who is to devote full time to his continuing position as Director of the Urban Systems Laboratory.

Constantine Simonides, previously Assistant to the President (Johnson), and

for the past year also a Vice President, now has the title Vice President in the Office of the President and Chancellor.

Malcolm G. Kispert, who has served under four Institute presidents, most recently as Vice President for Academic Administration, has been given the new post of Institute Secretary. He will work to solicit contributions to MIT from rich individuals.

Bernard J. Frieden, a professor in the Department of Urban Studies and an authority of planning of housing and community development, is the new director of the MIT-Harvard Joint Center for Urban Studies. The Center's current plans call for special emphasis on the field of housing.

Jon Hartshorne replaces Jay Hammer as Student Center Dean.

And Reid Ashe, former *The Tech* Managing Editor, is now an Assistant Editor of *Technology Review*.

\* Two or three balloons a day are being launched from the top of Building 24, relaying data to the Weather Service Forecast Office at Logan Airport to assist in predicting air pollution conditions. The station on the building's roof has consequently been christened an Environmental Meteorological Support Unit.

\* The MIT Corporation elected its first five members in the category Representatives of Recent Classes. They include Pamela Whitman '70 and Christina Jansen '63 (the second and third women ever to serve on the Corporation), Michael Sawyer '71 (the third black), Laurence Storch '71 (the youngest) and James Hester '65.

Most Corporation members are businessmen. Among those also elected last June were Paul Cook '47, president of the Raychem Corporation; William Egerly, financial vice president of the Cabor Corporation; and Kenneth Olsen '50, president of the Digital Equipment Corporation.

\* David R. Scott '62 went to the moon, backed up, as were all previous Apollo missions, by 100 Draper Lab engineers on 24 hour call.

Meanwhile, professor of geophysics Gene Simmons was serving as chief scientist at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston. Dr. Simmons will return to the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences this fall.

\* A cracked five-dollar brass valve caused a two-week breakdown in the Student Center air conditioning system. Doors were thrown wide open on the first three floors, but it availed little as temperatures climbed and the windows stayed firmly shut.

\* Professor Alan A. Altshuler of political science has been appointed Secretary of Transportation and Construction for the Commonwealth by Governor Francis Sargent '39. Altshuler will thus be dealing with (among other things) the long-delayed Inner Belt highway plans, which call for a limited-access road to cross Mass. Ave. several blocks north of campus.

\* The J.B. Carr Indoor Tennis Bubble burst only two days after it went up - a victim of Hurricane Doria. The bubble has been returned to Birdair Structures Company of Buffalo, N.Y. (Walter Bird '34, president), and is expected to be back in

Cambridge for another try in a couple of weeks.

\* Having turned out engineers for over a century, the Institute undertook to help retrain some whose previous fields no longer offered jobs. A month-long orientation program, part of Project ADAPT, sought to fit unemployed aerospace and defense personnel for middle-management careers in government. Participants studied processes of urban development and growth, effects of expansion on environment, and the delivery and effectiveness of public service agencies.

Job recruiting was a vital part of the program, needless to say. Unfortunately, indications are that government support for these retraining programs is expanding faster than the budgets of those who would hire the retrained.

\* Professor Gregory Tucker of the music faculty died on July 7, following a four-month illness. Professor Tucker, a noted pianist and composer, was director of the Humanities Series which brought outstanding musicians to Kresge each year for a series of five concerts. He also directed a program of informal concerts in the Music Library, and taught a series of courses in Twentieth Century Music.

A memorial service will be held at the Institute this fall.

\* A record 21,344 donors contributed to the Alumni Fund in 1970-1971. Gifts totaled \$2,564,394, -11% over last year and second only to the record of 1969.

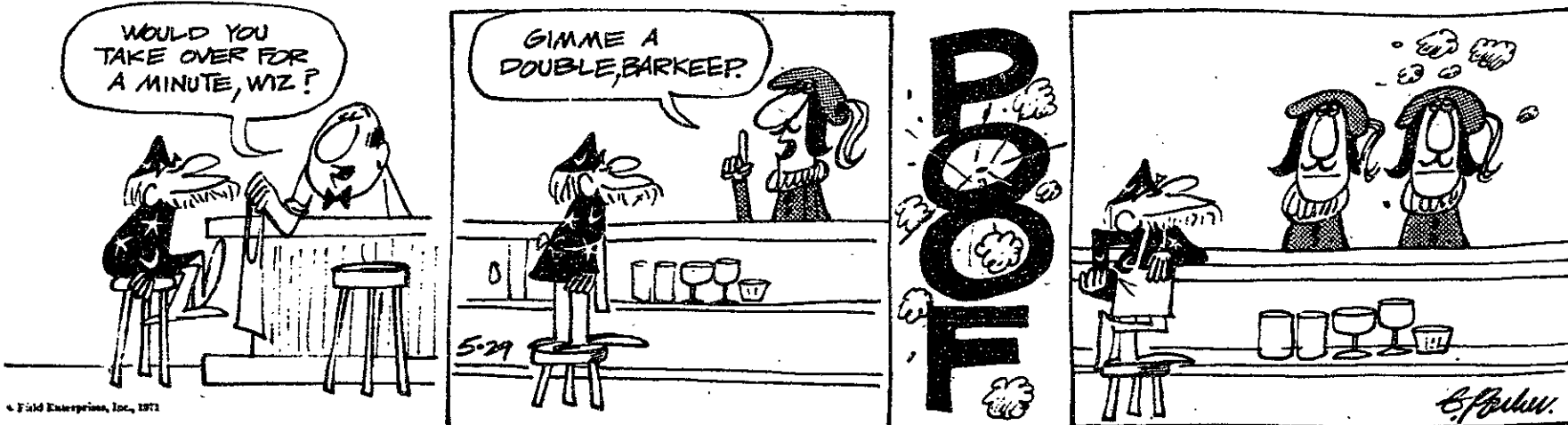
\* The Institute changed its cable address, from MITADMIN to MITCAM. This move may well have no significance whatsoever.

## Welcome (back) to MIT.

The beginning of the year is the best time to start something new, and we're looking forward to seeing as many new faces as possible. Interested freshmen are urged to visit our Midway booth on Friday night, of course, or stop by the office (W20-483) anytime it's occupied. But upperclassmen - who know some of the Institute's ins and outs already - will be welcomed even more gratefully.

This special issue contains updated academic information, and a few stories from our summer issue for those of you who weren't here and didn't get it in the mail. Our first big regular paper will appear on Tuesday. Among the contents: the Freeze and the Institute; Boston's World Science Fiction Convention; a detailed look at MIT's undergrad housing system; How MIT Rejected the Pentagon Papers; and the burst of the big tennis bubble.

## THE WIZARD OF ID



by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

books:

# At the Edge of History

By Bruce S. Marten

AT THE EDGE OF HISTORY, by William Irwin Thompson. Harper & Row, \$6.95. 163pp.

"In straining our industrial technology to the limit, we have, in fact, reached the limit of that very technology. Now as we stand in the shadow of our success, there remains light enough to see that we are approaching a climax in human cultural evolution."

Population, pollution, depletion of natural resources, and the breakdown of all our social, political and cultural institutions — simultaneously — have raised grave doubts about the continued viability of our civilization. Here at MIT, Prof. Jay Forrester — as outlined in his book *World Dynamics* — has even computer-modeled the apocalypse. We shall run short of fuel. Or we shall pollute the air too much, or generate too much heat in the process of industrializing underdeveloped nations. Or overpopulation will lead to famine even in the developed nations. Or we shall avoid these disasters through sophisticated management, but at the price of creating a society tyrannized by its own organization, against which the young shall rebel even as many are already rebelling. Or —

Many grave possibilities. At the edge of history, where the future is taking shape, we can see little except that we cannot go on like this. A radical transformation must soon overtake this world, either because of disasters or through the conscious application of measures designed to prevent them.

The dimensions of this coming transformation are in part the subject of William Irwin Thompson's book *At the Edge of History* — but only in part, for although he is concerned with outlining the shape of the future, his first interest is with the *imagination* of history, and how it affects society and individuals. The idea of history — what has been and what shall be — is a crucial chunk of society's *mythos*, that body of unquestioned value assumptions (beliefs, or ideology, if you prefer) upon which people in that society base their actions. Expressed or implicit, such a *mythos* is at the core of every culture, even our own supposedly rational, technological one. The shortcomings of the *mythos* of technology, with its implicit faith in the rational mind and man's ability to master any nature including his own, are only just now being revealed as the environment demands ecological redress or takes revenge on its abusers; as human nature seeks refuge from mechanization in neo-Luddite revolts against the liberal technological state, technology itself, and technology's midwife, science.

The *mythos* of technology is a primary social force in our world, and it is the primary theme in Thompson's book. Because of this, *At the Edge of History* is an especially important philosophical work for anyone who works in or is concerned about technological institutions. By its subject matter and tone one senses the arguments are addressed directly to us. The chapter entitled "Getting Back to Things at MIT," in fact was addressed to us.

For William Irwin Thompson, historian, was an Associate Professor of Humanities at MIT in 1967-68. He did not get on well with the Institute, and left after one year to accept an associate professorship at York University

in Toronto, feeling that Canada, somewhat at a remove from the American power nexus, offered a better setting for calm, detached scholarship. He left behind an essay entitled, "MIT and the End of Our Technology," which was published in serial form in the now-defunct student magazine *Innisfree* and the first issues of *Thursday*. Most of that essay is incorporated in this book. In the essay he described his frustration as a teacher of history at MIT, and his reasons for leaving. Humanities at MIT, he said, camouflaged the real purposes of the institution: to produce technologists.

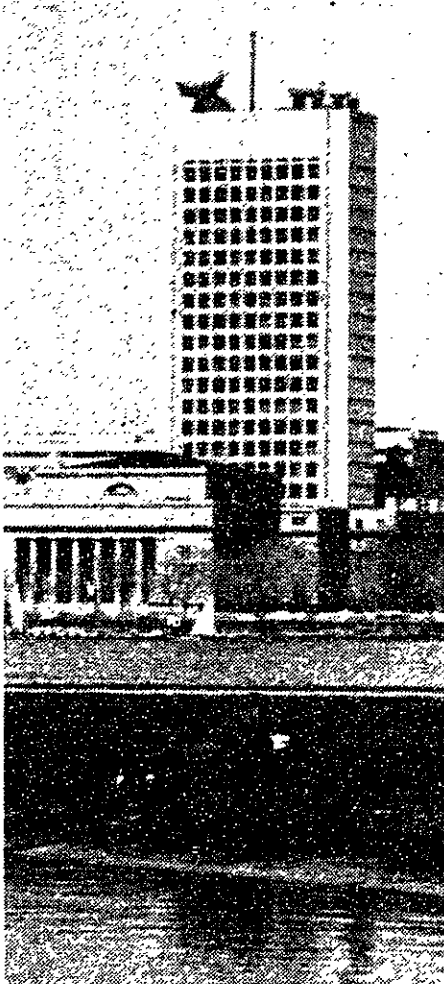
"To the degree that the humanist succeeds in technologizing the humanities (by turning them into the social sciences), he destroys the humanities; to the degree that he ignores the technological world and teaches as one might at Cardinal Newman's Oxford, he ensures the conviction in his students' minds that the humanities are simply irrelevant to the mastery of our new complex society; to the degree that he succeeds in communicating the relevance of the traditional humanities to our society, he finds himself welcomed by the administration as valuable camouflage, and resented by his students, who correctly point out that while he makes a great noise, he is still powerless to affect the inhumane training of the whole Institute."

It is worth noting that MIT administrators who have read the book are scornful of Thompson's criticisms — not surprising since much of it is aimed their way — and that alone makes it worth reading. After all, this is the book of which Jerry Wiesner, MIT's president-elect, said: (and I must paraphrase since I cannot recall his exact words) "We bring these men here; we try to get them to understand what we want, and then they turn around and do this."

*At the Edge of History* is hung on a skeleton of personal history, Thompson's own from 1967 to 1970. He sets out, after receiving his Ph.D. from Cornell in 1966, "Looking for History in L.A." There, in the vast rootless supersuburb of southern California, he examines the experience of "the average citizen who has escaped the village mentality of the South or the Midwest [and] encountered in Southern California the freedom to find himself, or lose himself." Having torn loose from his old history, he must now find or invent a new idea of history. "When the megapolis is too vast to be perceived meaningfully, the individual projects, against the chaos of his world, a new mythopoeic simplification" — and that can mean the paranoid conceptions of a right winger, a black nationalist, a Weatherman; the smug faith of a progressive liberal; the jaded hedonism of the swingers. In the absence of tradition, Angelenos create instant traditions: Nathanael West's "Sargasso of the Imagination" at Disneyland and high tables at the shiny new University of California at Santa Cruz. The interesting — and frightening — thing about these mythopoeic simplifications is that they are all equally wrong, since the social reality is too complex for anyone to understand. This puts the lie to an important tenet of the technological *mythos*: that man can live rationally by applying reason to his environment. In Dr. Forrester's terms, social systems are "counter-intuitive," and henceforth we can only expect

to deal with them productively by relying on computer models. Unfortunately (or not, depending on how much you like leaving things up to the IBM 360), as Thompson suggests, human beings will insist on having their own conceptions of the way things are, and we will stumble onward, each of us in the dark; — but each in a different dark. The myths we used to believe in have lost their grip, and new beliefs are coming upon us in bewildering profusion: political revolutionaries and Jesus-freaks; mantra chanters and superpatriots. Nathanael West suggested the outcome of these trends in his novella, *The Day of the Locust*: "There would be civil war." Thompson makes no dire predictions, but the cultural transformation is under way.

One facet of tomorrow's situation comes into focus in "Going Beyond it at Big Sur," in



"On the few sunny days of a Cambridge winter, the sun is blurred, and on the brightest noon of summer electric light can be seen burning behind the darkened glass. . . . The building is MIT's symbol."

which Thompson follows the trail of hippies and a "new consciousness" to Esalen in the summer of the hippie, 1967. In this account of his experience at the now-famed Institute specializing in sensitivity and awareness training, Thompson shows himself to be a far more perceptive observer than Charles Reich, whose naive *Greening of America* propagated the new folk myth of the hippie triumphant over the repressive technological state — even as the hip scene was degenerating into a morass of drugs, mysticism and social withdrawal, underscored by a succession of disastrous rock festivals. Reich should be shamed, for as early as 1967 Thompson had discerned the weaknesses of the counterculture as well as its strengths. In the classic Greek tragedy scene Thompson employs, the hippies' unique excellence (*arete*), their sensitivity to emotion and states of mind, was inextricably enwound with their great flaw (*hamartia*): ignorance of the technology which made possible the leisure that spawned them in the first place. Thus the victory of the hippies over the technologists would be impossible: the hippies could continue indefinitely as a subculture as long as industrial society produced sufficient wealth to keep them fed, clothed and housed. They might move to the country

and try to live off the land, but then they would be something other than hippies: they would be peasants. The more likely outcome would be that the cultures of the hippies and the technologists could not remain inseparable forever; if the freaks did not rise in nativistic and ultimately self-destructive revolts against the industrial state then some sort of mixing of the cultures would occur — and even now we see the beginnings, in hip capitalism and mod businessmen, and computer freaks.

After "Getting Back to Things at MIT," and a long groundwork-laying chapter on "Values and Conflict Through History," Thompson emerges in his fifth chapter with a scenario of "A.D. 2000," Scientific-Planetary Civilization. He is a hesitant prophet — World War III or any of several possible ecological/natural disasters could bounce us back to the Stone Age — but extrapolating a possible outcome of present social trends he describes "the millennium under new management": a super-technological world dominated by an almost priestly class of scientific-initiates and peopled largely by techno-peasants who "cannot speak the sacred language of number." Despite his obvious antipathies to the Howard Johnson-style systems managers, Thompson foresees their ascendancy. They will be more hip, or course; the environment will be spared its present abuse and social engineering will come into its own as "the progressive liberals return to reinstate the new Government of Youth." In their mod clothes and sensitivity-trained style, the new managers will understand the needs of a complex, post-industrial culture: the last vestige of puritanical America will be swept away and in the new empire they shall have psychedelic TV and legal pot. "Role conflicts, as between today's freaks and technocrats, will persist and must persist, for the roles in conflict in specialized societies are also complementary. Just as warriors require the enemy, so tomorrow's hippies will need the technocrats to provide worldly goods. The technocrats, for their part, require the services of media, to bind the body politic, entertainers, to relax them from their labors, and even humanists, whose function "will be to create a consciousness of human civilization." And among all these dissident yet complementary groups, just as in all civilizations before, a dynamic balance will exist — presumably one less destructive than the present one in terms of human lives and suffering. Thompson does not pass value judgement on his millennium. He leaves it up to us.

*At the Edge of History* concludes by reversing itself. Up until the last chapter all our attention has been focused forward, on the present or future; then, abruptly, Thompson invites us to travel to the *other* edge of history — the far past — to undertake "The Re-visioning of History." For if the imagination of history affects what we do, a new conception is bound to change our behavior. Now we are asked to contemplate a heady synthesis of historical scholarship, mythology, science and science fiction. How, for example, does one account for the persistence in all world mythologies of the story of the Flood? What accounts for the almost-overnight emergence of civilization in pre-Columbian America? Edgar Cayce, "the

sleeping prophet," a Virginia mystic, whose medical advice given while in trance cured hundreds of people — cures which cannot be explained away — said that parts of Atlantis would begin rising around the Bahamas in 1967. J. Manson Valentine, in 1968, investigated the sightings of undersea quadrangles off Bimini, and found them to be ancient stone walls or roads thousands of years old. The existence of Atlantis would explain a lot of things in our scheme of history, even as the neutrino explained a lot of things about the atom.

Myth, as Thompson explains, is not rumor, for myths in traditional society are sacred and their tellers do not change them around to suit fancy. There appears to be more to history than our "scientific" historians allow: Why, for example, was Immanuel Velikovsky so abused by the scientific establishment (even to the extent of harassing his publishers) for daring to propose his cataclysmic theory? Because Science, like the medieval Church, has become an institution with certain dogmas of its own: "Myths are simplifications of reality, but so are scientific laws, for they magnetize the infinite information of the universe into fields of their own formulaic descriptions; what is objectively outside the field of our consciousness is literally inconceivable." Science does not recognize the evidence of sleeping prophets no matter how many cures they effect; apparently the lack of explanation outweighs the evidence of results, an example of just how close-minded an institution supposedly dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge can be.

Thompson suggests an underlying motive behind the blanket rejection of Atlantis' existence: a theory of history containing an advanced civilization which was totally destroyed by natural forces has shattering implications; it destroys the technological myth of progress, of the advancement of the civilization ever upward, if sporadically and gradually upward, with only minor and occasional setbacks, from barbarism to our present elevation, and higher in the future. If a civilization existed 12 or 20 thousand years ago, and destroyed itself by unleashing forces beyond its power to control, the same thing might happen to us — say, by nuclear blasts disturbing the earth's mantle and triggering cataclysmic earthquakes.

This re-visioning of history is ultimately the most radical thought in the book. For by it we are forced to put off the *hubris* that says we can rule nature; and the way is open for a return to the affective resonance with nature we abandoned so long ago when we went to live in cities.

Books are read for style as well as content, and style, as McLuhan says of the medium, is a message. *At the Edge of History* is beautifully, dramatically written. Thompson writes with a lyrical pen that doesn't hesitate to turn a poetic metaphor. You should be able to read it in one sitting; I did. But to really get the content out — and not be merely dazzled by the prose — you ought to read it again. Hopefully it will appear in paperback soon so that it will receive the wider audience it deserves. Unfortunately, its excellence will probably prove its flaw: I suspect it is too challenging and un-reassuring for the bestseller list.

# Nixon to hike R&D funding

By Paul Schindler

President Nixon, in an address to a joint session of Congress yesterday afternoon, strongly implied increased funding for research and development.

Nixon told Congress: "I shall present [legislation for] new approaches toward insuring the maximum enlistment of American technology in meeting the challenges of peace."

Observers at MIT, in general, seemed to feel that if the past is any guide, MIT can expect at least part of any new funds appropriated for technological research. But no one was saying for sure yet. Although he was in Washington visiting some congressional friends last night, Dr. Wiesner said he received no inkling of the President's upcoming remarks.

Dr. Wiesner did not hear the President's speech, but when informed of its content by *The Tech*, he said that it was "conceivable" that MIT might get

more federal funds. "MIT certainly has plenty to offer; if the government is really serious, they could challenge us to help solve these problems."

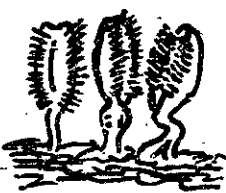
The President called a strong peacetime economy, with low unemployment and little inflation, one of the major challenges of peace, and felt it a goal that the Administration would work towards, along with its previously announced goal of a generation of peace.

"Technology alone will not buy us security," Wiesner said, however. "Nor will it replace new ideas, work or common sense. It makes a difference as to whether peace is assured by a better international situation or by more weapons."

The thrust of Nixon's proposal was explained by a staff member of Ron Ziegler's White House press staff: the legislative

drive will be spearheaded by William MacGruder, who previously headed up the unsuccessful Nixon SST effort. The effort will be two-pronged: MacGruder will work with Assistant for International Economic Affairs Peterson to "produce patentable scientific breakthroughs on technological manufacturing capabilities relating to the balance of payments"; he will also work with Science and Technology Advisor Dr. E.E. David on "new government-industry partnerships which might produce breakthroughs."

MIT administration officials saw only one cloud on the horizon, but were reluctant to discuss it. Usually reliable sources indicated that most of academia is "in the dog house" with the Administration, and that this fact might reduce its share of  
*(Continued on opposite page)*

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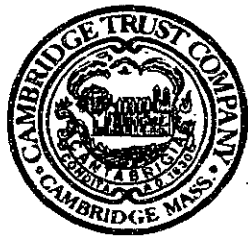
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# Courses the Catalogue couldn't catch

The following subjects will be offered next year even though they were not listed in the Catalogue. The Humanities Department has sent us descriptions (all their courses listed are offered first term); queries about other subjects below should be directed to the appropriate department headquarters.

- 1.552 Advanced Structural Design (3-1-5) (the old 1.552 has been renumbered 1.553)  
 3.80J Comparative Ancient Technologies (3-0-6)  
 4.123 Architectural Design (0-12-8)  
 4.172-4.175 Architectural Design, Special Problems (Arr)  
 8.20 Introduction to Special Relativity (2-0-4)  
 9.311 Neural Basis of Visual Perception (3-0-6)  
 12.781-12.789 Seminar in Oceanography at Woods Hole (Arr)  
 13.70 Special Projects in Ocean Engineering (Arr)  
 13.71 Special Projects in Ocean Engineering (Arr)  
 13.998 Special Projects in Ocean Engineering (Arr)  
 14.141 General Equilibrium Theory (2-0-4)  
 14.142 Linear Economic Models (2-0-4)  
 14.143 Advanced Theory of the Market III (2-0-4)  
 14.144 Applied Price Theory (2-0-4)  
 14.145 Economics of Uncer-

- tainty (2-0-4)  
 14.197 First-year Graduate Seminar (1-0-2)  
 14.198 First-year Graduate Seminar (1-0-2)  
 14.382 Econometrics I (4-0-8)  
 14.453 Macroeconomic Theory III (2-0-4)  
 14.454 Applied Macroeconomics (2-0-4)  
 15.561 Benchmark Computer Programming (0-3-0)  
 18.595 Seminar on Current Topics in Logic (3-0-9)  
 19.73 Atmospheric Chemistry and Radiation (3-0-6)

21.487 Comparative Racial History (3-0-6); F. Henriques  
 Main topics: the manifestation of slavery in the New World in a comparative sense — the Caribbean, U.S.A., Brazil; the study of ethnic conflict — relationships between European and non-European in selected instances; problems of immigration and settlement of peoples in the contemporary world.

21.691 Non-Literate and Civilized Communes (3-0-6); C. Boehm  
 A practical look at different kinds of extended household cooperation, beginning with various forms of extended family among non-literate peoples then turning to utopian experiments in the context of modern civilized societies. Criteria will be developed along a number of

theoretical and practical dimensions to judge success or failure of communal experiments. A number of case studies will be explored in depth.

21.92J Musical Acoustics (3-0-6); A. J. Houtsma  
 A study of physical and psychological acoustics in relation to music. Physical acoustics examined through an introduction to the physics and mathematics of vibrations, sound waves and boundary effects; spectrum description of complex waves; systems analysis of some musical instruments; properties of musical scales. Section on psychological acoustics covers behavioral studies on the perception of musical sound and the ways in which the ear and peripheral auditory nervous system trans-

form and encode musical messages. (Same subject as 6.38J.)

21.943 Through Politics (3-0-6); C. Oglesby  
 The various current modes of extraparliamentary politics. The New Left at '60's and '70's. The decline of (social) rationalism. The emergence of alternative paradigms of political, social, psychospiritual, scientific, and cosmic knowledge. The role of MIT in the critique of sciencism.

21.945 Rhetoric and Journalism: The Analysis of Texts (Arr); E. Diamond  
 Critical analysis and practical exercises in reporting, writing and editing. Both historical and current texts will be used to study such journalistic categories

as news, opinion, features, editorials, commentaries. Organizational influences on graphics, headlines, pictures, layout. Also: consideration of biasing and antibiasing techniques (objectivity); the roles of the journalist and the historian; economics of publishing. Students will be responsible for creating a substantial body of work for publication and/or display in campus or extra-campus media. Examples of student work, as well as professional models, will be discussed and criticized in class and by the seminar leader. (Permission of instructor required.)

First meeting will be Friday, September 17 at 12 noon. For further information contact the instructor at extension 3147.

## Nixon to hike R&D funding

(Continued from opposite page)

any new money. In particular, MIT's anti-SST and anti-ABM faculty, as well as student anti-war activities, have given it a lower than usual ranking in the councils of power.

Dr. Albert Hill, Institute Vice President for Research, was asked if technology and in particular Technology (MIT) can do the job for the country: "Certainly, if it is managed wise-

ly and sensibly. It is not clear, at this point, what the President means to do, or how technology will be involved. But we have done a fair amount of work for the government in the past."

Vice President Constantine Simonides also missed the President's speech, but lauded the sentiments involved concerning technology. Asked if MIT could help solve the problems the President is concerned with, Simonides said: "We're committed to the idea that technology can play a useful role in the solution of these kinds of problems. As a matter of fact, much of our current and on-going work is relevant to these problems."

The timetable for presentation of Nixon's proposals was

alluded to in his August 15 economic address when he stated that by the start of the new session (in January) he would: "Develop and introduce credits for research and development." But Ellis Mottor, of Senator Kennedy's office in Washington, informed *The Tech* that as of Thursday at 5:30 p.m. no legislation or legislative proposals had been forthcoming from the Administration on actual implementation of the Nixon statements.

There is other work being done to increase funding for technology, some of it by Senator Kennedy, who is supporting legislation to re-train unemployed scientists and engineers.

## classified advertising

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As a *The Tech* staffer, you can find yourself covering just about anything, from a relatively calm faculty meeting to a full-fledged riot. If you like an ever-changing, challenging job; if you don't mind working under pressure; if you enjoy meeting and talking to people; then the newsroom is the place for you.

### Features writers

Writing features for *The Tech* is somewhat different from writing straight news. Features are more detailed, more subjective than the purely objective news story. Features also cover a wide range of subjects — from MIT's financial policy to in-depth interviews to the Boston scene (the Boston Museum of Science liked our feature on them so well that they reprinted it for their own publicity folders). If you like getting really involved with a subject; if you enjoy a smoother writing style; if you prefer a little more leisure in your writing, writing features for *The Tech* may be for you.

### Artists

Can you draw? This year, *The Tech* would like to utilize editorial artwork much more extensively than we have in the past. Someone who can sketch well would be particularly welcome, as cameras are forbidden at many closed meetings. Editorial cartooning is another fertile field. In addition, there is often advertising artwork to be done, and our Features Editor would appreciate illustrations and original drawings.

### Layout designers

Somebody has to decide how all the masses of copy and advertising will fit into the newspaper. We haven't had a layout staff since Becky and Gail quit two years ago — the editors do all the layout and, frankly, could use some help. Also, many advertisements must be set up in our shop — layout and design are usually left up to our staff — which gives a chance to do graphics design and earn some money at the same time.

### Advertising salesmen

*The Tech* is not subsidized by MIT and depends upon advertising sales for its revenue. Those who undertake to sell this advertising space receive a commission on their sales.

### Business staff

Bookkeeping and management is a largely-hidden facet of the operation at *The Tech*. It's good training, we feel — our business department is responsible for about \$60,000 and 300,000 copies of *The Tech* per year.

### Arts writers

The arts page is another weekly feature of *The Tech*. High on the list of attractions of working for our arts staff is the prospect of seeing your work in print; however, tickets to movies and shows and free review copies of books and records are also nice to have.

### Production staff

Production is the process by which all of the above items become physical reality. *The Tech* operates a production shop next to our office in the Student Center, equipped with an IBM MT/SC typesetting system. Besides production for *The Tech*, the shop also handles outside jobs and, since production is a never-ending, somewhat repetitive task, production staffers get first chance to earn money producing these outside jobs. If you like seeing something take shape under your hands and would like a chance to earn some money in your spare time, production work is right up your alley.

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Friday, September 10, 1971