The Tech.

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Vice-President Kenneth Wadleigh (right, above) addresses last Thursday's Corporation Joint Advisory Committee (CJAC) meeting. [See story, page 6]

Photo by Sheldon Lowenthal

Northgate tenants to sue over rent controlled status

By Robert Fourer

An organization of tenants in the MIT-controlled Northgate properties has decided to sue Northgate and the Cambridge rent control board, in an attempt to nullify the exemption from rent control the board granted Northgate last summer.

The suit, to be brought by the Northgate tenants' union, follows the breakdown of month-long negotiations between tenant representatives and members of the MIT Housing Office led by Institute Vice-president Kenneth Wadleigh.

Wadleigh, at an open meeting of the Corporation Join Advisory Committee (CJAC) Thursday, acknowledged the probable lawsuit and other Northgate problems including losses due to Nixon's rent freeze, pending rent increases in excess of what graduate students can afford, and indefensible lapses in repair and maintenance.

In response to complaints Wadleigh admitted that a "fair number of people want the Institute to get out of Northgate," and declared this possibility to be under consideration. He hinted divestiture would be most likely if the rent control exemption were not upheld.

In Somerville, where a similar exemption has been denied, the Institute last week announced a suit of its own against that city's rent control board.

Rent control is the central issue behind much of the Northgate controversy. When it took effect last January, all Northgate rents were rolled back to September, 1969 lease levels; however, the exemption was not granted until July. At that time, MIT-affiliated tenants were informed of rent increases averaging over 30%, to take effect September 1.

Had Nixon's rent freeze not stalled the increases until mid-November, tenants say, many graduate students would have faced either searching frantically for cheaper quarters or paying rents beyond their means. Negotiators asked that at least half the increase be put off until next year to give the tenants a chance to make other plans, but according to the tenant's union head Ron Searls, officials insisted upon the entire raise as soon as possible.

According to Wadleigh, frozen rents are now losing Northgate $18,000 a month, on top of a $110,000 deficit in the year ending September, 1971; The large increases, officials say, are necessary only because prices and taxes have risen steeply in the last two years while rents have stayed the same.

MIT receives over $100,000 in interest per year on loans it made to non-profit Northgate after setting it up in 1966. Many tenants see these payments as hidden profit, whose elimination would reduce increases by at least half. MIT sees it as normal return on invested capital, however, and Wadleigh made it clear that he considered any reduction in interest as a means to lower rents to be an additional subsidizing of graduate students. He opposed such a subsidy, but did not explain why.

Wadleigh did make it clear, however, that he viewed Northgate's situation in light of its objectives five years ago, when, it claimed, it was set up to provide MIT-controlled housing for staff. The MIT investment, he stated, was meant to get the project started and spur commercial loans. As for the graduate students, they had to be let in only later when the Cam-

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Press blackout looms for anti-war movement

By Norman Sandler

The fall offensive for anti-war activities was outlined Wednesday at a press conference at Northeastern University, and according to speaker Debbie Bustin, "the most serious crisis is breaking through an apparent press blackout" aimed at the anti-war movement.

Ms. Bustin is national coordinator of the Student Mobilization Committee (SMC), which is sponsoring the November 3 Student Strike as well as the massive anti-war demonstrations planned for 17 major cities on November 6.

In calling for support of the SMC's fall actions, she stressed the point that "in no way will the demonstrations get the support necessary unless the press is tapped," and explained the need for college publications to take part in the activities.

In describing the state of the student movement at this time, Ms. Bustin explained that "the war is not winding down" as many people believe. She substantiated her stand by evidence of US involvement in Indochina – namely "the extension and increase in bombing, the devel-

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Nixon boosts technology

By Paul Schindler

The word is out in Washington: there may be more money for research and development. How much and who gets it, are questions yet to be answered.

Institute Vice President for Research Albert Hill commented: "It's a long way from the President's office to a working, funded program, and the process can take a long time."

As mentioned previously (Friday, September 10) in *The Tech*, President Nixon in his September 9 speech called for new programs in science and technology to bolster the American economy.

As a result of this commitment, the New Technology Opportunities Program was formed, with a one-man office run by William M. Magruder, a former test pilot known previously for his efforts on behalf of the SST. As Hill put it: "His record isn't very clear, and remember, at this point, there is no funding."

Magruder, however, when asked if he was optimistic about the program, said, "The fact that I took the job is the answer." He also defended the heavy economic emphasis of the new program by noting that, "We simply cannot afford social improvements without a healthy indus-

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Uniform Coop rebates will begin next year

By Debra Deutsch

"Both cash and charge members of the Coop will receive the same percentage rate on rebates, starting next year," says Howard W. Davis, the new general manager of the Coop. The change which is being made because of a new Massachusetts law, is hoped to result in rebates of at least 4% for every member of the Harvard Cooperative Society.

Howard Davis, who has held his position since last year, came to the Coop from Jordan Marsh, where he had worked for 26 years, eleven of which were spent as vice president for operations. He prefers the Coop because, "It's smaller and more intimate." He also cites its being part of the academic community as an important asset.

Restoring student confidence in the Coop is what Davis considers his biggest task. He notes that the Coop now handles the charge accounts of its members, instead of the Harvard Trust Company. "It disturbed the students' relationship with the Coop."

Another phase of his program was the opening of the I-Beam Shop at the Tech Coop. This was in response to the observation that students were not buying the $7.95 Arrow shirts that were sold at the Coop. Although no similar openings are planned for the future, Howard Davis believes that "more and better merchandise" is the cure for the Coop.

Davis is also a firm believer in competitive pricing, and plans to have more sales such as the record sale at the Tech Coop last week. "We will meet all competitive prices. Tell the manager about any lower prices, we will verify it and lower ours accordingly. We will meet any price."

Warned when he first came to the Coop that students might be a problem, Davis was happy to find out otherwise. "I have had nothing but support and help from our student directors!" Expecting coldness, he found that they "want the Coop to succeed" as much as he does.

One of his programs has been to increase the number of students working at the Coop. It has only been moderately successful because of the difficulties involved in matching the Coop's schedule to that of a full-time student's.

Audience feedback tested

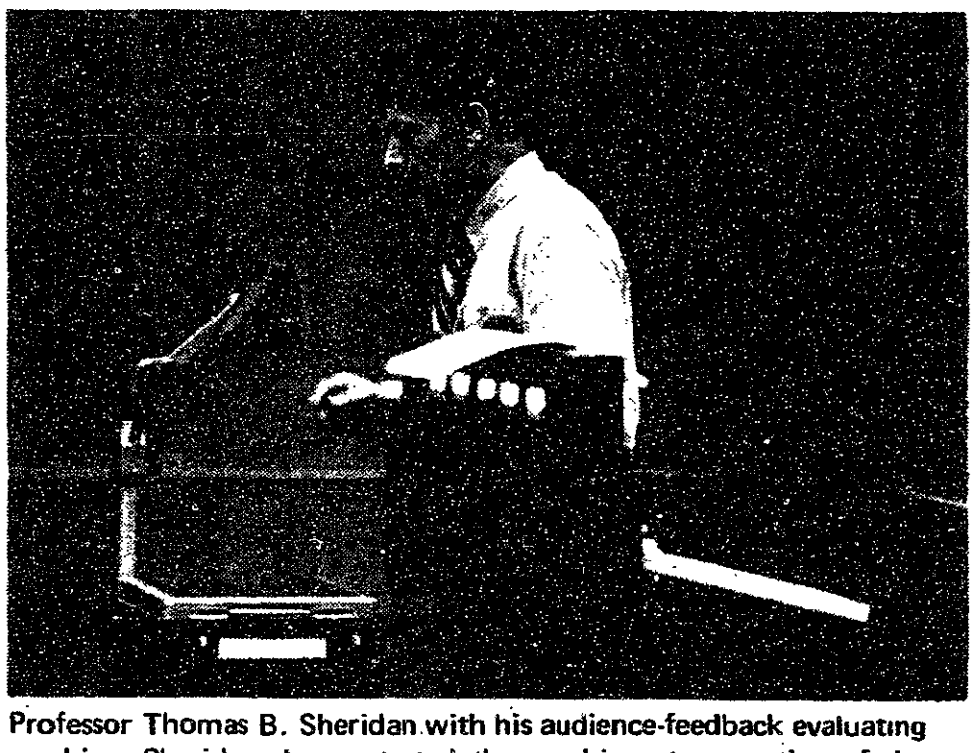
By Lee Giguere

Built into the front of the lectern is a set of six "nixie tube" two-digit displays, and at every seat is placed a small box with, again, six small switches – the man behind the lectern is Professor of Mechanical Engineering Thomas B. Sheridan, who has temporarily abandoned more rigorous scientific pursuits to study audience feedback.

Sheridan's apparatus, none of which involves anything more than current state-of-the-art electronics, has been tested at several different meetings in an exploration of the ways in which large groups can interact while considering complex issues.

The equipment, in Sheridan's view, should not be used to speed up making hard decisions – he fears that "mob psychology" might enter into the process in this way – but as a means of improving communication within relatively large groups.

In a recent demonstration of his techniques at a meeting of the MIT student section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Sheridan used a set of "dummy" questions to provoke audience response. After a brief explanation of the system – each listener is equipped with one set of the six-switch boxes, and the responses of the audience are collated by digital circuitry and displayed on the front of the



Professor Thomas B. Sheridan with his audience-feedback evaluating machine. Sheridan demonstrated the machine at a meeting of the MIT student section of the Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Photo by Sheldon Lowenthal

lectern – he posed a question asking the members of the audience to indicate their political position on a scale ranging from conservative to radical (in addition, there was a response titled "I object").

The system he explained, can be set to provide a running count of the voting, to zero all the displays, or to give a final, fixed tabulation. The tabulation on that one question showed a rather unsurprising distribution, but more importantly, in Sheridan's view, those who objected can be further questioned, if they agree to reveal themselves, and the question can then be altered and refined. This provides the audience with a means of shaping the questions rather than being the "passive" subjects of a poll.

Last summer, Sheridan, along with a graduate student from the Department of Political Science, visited two towns in Eastern and Western Massachusetts, under a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Education to

MIT tenants to sue to keep rent control

(Continued from page 1)

bridge housing market began to tighten.

One of the original objectives was 100% MIT-affiliated occupancy. When Northgate has bought or leased a building, present tenants have been allowed to stay indefinitely; but new leases were to be given only to MIT affiliates, who would be forced to leave when their affiliation ended.

Rent control makes this plan illegal, however. A tenant may not be evicted if he is willing to sign the same lease he had the previous year. New tenants, moreover, must be given leases not substantially different from ones their predecessors had, so Northgate could not have slipped by the law by adding the qualifying phrase on present leases giving them the right of termination whenever the tenant ceases affiliation with MIT.

Officials still consider the all-MIT objective essential to Northgate's success, but many graduate students chafe at being forced to live only with others from MIT. (In recent years, Institute students living in commercially-operated housing have tended to live more and more with non-MIT people.)

In addition to its eviction provisions, rent control provides for detailed hearings on any request for a rent increase. Housing Office officials have claimed such hearings would mean extra administrative expenses great enough to force higher rents. However, Searls declared in a discussion Friday, that at negotiations tenants were refused specific figures, including a system-wide breakdown of maintanence costs, which would be required at a rent increase hearing.

According to Searls, officials offered only oral briefings to members of specific buildings. This would be of little value, however; as Wadleigh pointed out at the CJAC meeting, costs are balanced over the entire Northgate system, some buildings showing a profit and some a loss.

Tenants have also suffered problems with building management, which is provided on contract by Vincent Realty, a small Cambridge firm. While Housing Office people profess to be pleased with Vincent's service, tenant complaints are not infrequent.

Assistant Professor David Botstein, a CJAC member, complained at the meeting of the poor way several of his students had been treated, declaring Northgate a failure which satisfied no one. Wadleigh admitted the deficiencies, and offered to intervene himself in behalf of anyone whose pleas to lower officials brought no relief.

It will probably be at least several months before the tenants' suit comes to court. The tenant's union has retained a lawyer and is raising money.

Northgate's exemption, which applies only to MIT-affiliates in its buildings, was based on a section of the law which excepts "any hospital, convent, asylum, public institution or college or school dormitory operated exclusively for charitable or educational purposes."

Tenants claim that Northgate is not an MIT dormitory because only three-quarters of its residents are MIT affiliates, because it collects rent monthly instead of semesterly, assigns units as apartments instead of dorm rooms, and requires leases of twleve-month periods (the standard dorm contract creates no tenancy).

Audience feedback tested

(Continued from page 1)

assist them "in a program of setting educational goals." At a series of meetings with invited citizens (other area citizens had invited interested townspeople), Sheridan conducted meetings using his audience feedback equipment. The questions, he explained to *The Tech*, were drawn from three sources: the experimenters themselves, community leaders, and the responses of the audience participants. The system, he pointed out "is useful in developing questions."

Electronic audience feedback, Sheridan argued, "seems to be a good way to deal with a larger group," while insuring anonymity and encouraging participation. The "object" category in particular, Sheridan noted, was useful since it enabled the experimenters to draw out the views of the audience and form more meaningful questions and enabled the participats to "criticize the procedure." He admitted that "at first people are reluctant to use the 'object' category," but added that they quickly learn to take advantage of it.

Sheridan foresaw a number of possible uses for audience feedback techniques besides improving communication at large meetings. He pointed out that it is easily adaptable to meetings between two or more groups in different locations: such an arrangement, he explained, might be useful where it is inconvenient or difficult to bring divergent groups together. Instead, it would be possible to " let people go where they feel comfortable."

Coupled with either broadcast or cable television, audience feedback systems would permit more direct participation in a TV program, particularly those using a forum format. Sheridan also noted that the system has many educational applications, providing more immediate feedback to teachers from their students. It could also be used as an aid in the design process, where the ranking of alternatives is a problem.

The problems in the field, Sheridan emphasized repeatedly, are not with the hardware; rather the difficulties lie in the area of developing the procedures for using available technology. At present, he noted that there is not accepted objective procedure "to compare values of different persons or groups on a common scale." Further, Sheridan admitted that there are a number of difficult ethical questions involved. The technology already exists, he noted, to "keep track of where each vote came from." Without some process of certification, the participant has no guarantee of his anonymity besides the word of those who operate the equipment.

"the war is not winding down"

(Continued from page 1)

pment of highly sophisticated, echnological warfare, the draft, pen support of the recent scan- alous election in Saigon, and he support shown to the Thieu overnment, both militarily and conomically."

The illusion that the war is nding has led many to believe hat the student movement is oing the same, and Ms. Bustin oted that this is partially due to conscious subversion by the ress of the sort which appeared n an article published Sunday, ctober 27, in *The New York imes*, which contended that the tudent movement, once so pre- alent, is now dead.

She went on to say that after the article appeared, she and other student leaders called to ask for a revision of the story; however, *The Times* did not ever print any such story.

In recounting her experiences while touring the country for SMC, Ms. Bustin noted a substantial rise of anti-war sentiment and discontent with the Nixon Administration, and said that the SMC is receiving heavy support from organized labor and working people.

"Labor unions in Detroit and Atlanta have sponsored anti-war demonstrations and activities . . . and hundreds of labor unions support November 6."

Also cited was an open letter to trade unionists calling for an immediate end to the war in Indochina and the wage-price freeze, signed by 160 labor union leaders.

Student support is also at a maximum, according to the student leader-activist, as high school and college students are all showing their support for the November 3 strike on college and high school campuses throughout the nation. Ms. Bustin commented that the student movement in the Boston area is "very angry about the war."

She said that proof of this lies in action last week which prompted Northeastern to retract an invitation which had been extended to Attorney General John Mitchell to come to the school to dedicate a new building. Students and some faculty then voted to hold demonstrations if Mitchell were to attend, prompting retraction of the invitation.

Finally, the SMC coordinator mentioned that there are others showing support for the peace actions this fall who are normally overlooked, namely the American GI's. "There is a sharpening crisis in the Army and in Vietnam with GI's," she said, noting increased antiwar sentiment in the military. She went on to predict that if Nixon should not end the war soon, it will end because of the GI's, as "the Army can no longer be the vehicle for destruction in Vietnam."

UMOC

After only one day of balloting, the Great Court Jester assumed the lead in the race for Ugliest Man on Campus (UMOC) with a total of 7242 votes. Ugleon and Spud the Crud were a close second and third with 6511 and 6084 votes respectively.

The $340.11 collected yesterday represented the highest first day total in UMOC history. All money collected in this contest, sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega, will be donated to CARE.

Voting will continue through Friday in the lobby of Building 10. Votes are a penny apiece and you may vote as often as you wish.

Other voting totals were: Mr. Natural, 5097; Hermann Q. Witherspoon, 2064; Dave deBronkart, 1924; and Oded Feingold, 1292.

Seminar hears talk of noise

By Storm Kaufmann

Engineers and designers may e held responsible for hearing osses attributable to their achines. The point was made y Allen Cudworth in a seminar riday entitled "Noise and Hear- ng–A New Engineering Chal- enge."

Cudworth, who obtained his asters. from MIT in 1952 and orked for Lincoln Labs on ound propagation in the Arctic, s presently Assistant Vice-Presi- ent of the Liberty Mutual nsurance Company and Direc- or of the Hopkington Research enter. His discussion concen- rated on the effects of noise on earing and steps that can and e being taken to prevent ccupational auditory depriva- ion.

The legal realization of the anger of noise and the responsi- ility of those at fault came in a 948 New York case in which a orker in a drop forge factory uccessfully sued for hearing oss. The decision was based on he fact that, while such loss of bility did not directly or mmediately affect his earning ower, it was covered by the orkman's Compensation Law which covers all MIT employ- es). With the prospect of costly isbursements ($2000 is the verage settlement, but if insuf- icient protection or warning is iven for a product there is no mit in such a jury-considered. ase) and higher premiums, the nsurance companies and con- erned industries have made tudies on how to improve the ituation.

Analysis of three groups of orkers in a textile factory was resented by Cudworth as an xample. Using a decibel scale eighted to stress high frequen- ies, it was found that there was a temporary and a less massive permanent loss. Those who worked constantly in high noise areas (over 90 DBA) over a period of years were found to have an increasing risk of deafness at high frequencies. The disability is progressive and permanent and eventually can include frequencies low enough to make speech impossible to understand.

This is unlike the conductive loss due to colds in which we perceive all frequencies at lower than their actual tones, but it is similar to the degenerative effect suffered by most people over forty years of age.

As five percent of the working force–23% of those in the so-called "noisy industries"–are likely to be affected, it is understandable that in its new Occupational Safety and Health Act the federal government has included noise standards. A fine of up to $20,000 per incident against the employer may be levied if noise exceeds permissable exposure levels and tne following steps are not being taken: engineering and administrative controls being instituted to decrease exposure, temporary ear protection provided, and a hearing conservation program for those exposed to more than 90 DBA. No one may be exposed to more than 115 DBA for any period and it is believed that 140 DBA is the absolute maximum. (90 DBA is roughly equivalent to going through a tunnel with car windows open.

Some new machines have improved the situation and some of those that cannot be replaced may be enclosed to shield workers. This has resulted in significant improvement of levels from two major sources: high speed gas flow and impact of surfaces with each other. Cudworth expressed hope that some of those at MIT would consider the noise aspects of the machines they design and help produce a quieter environment.

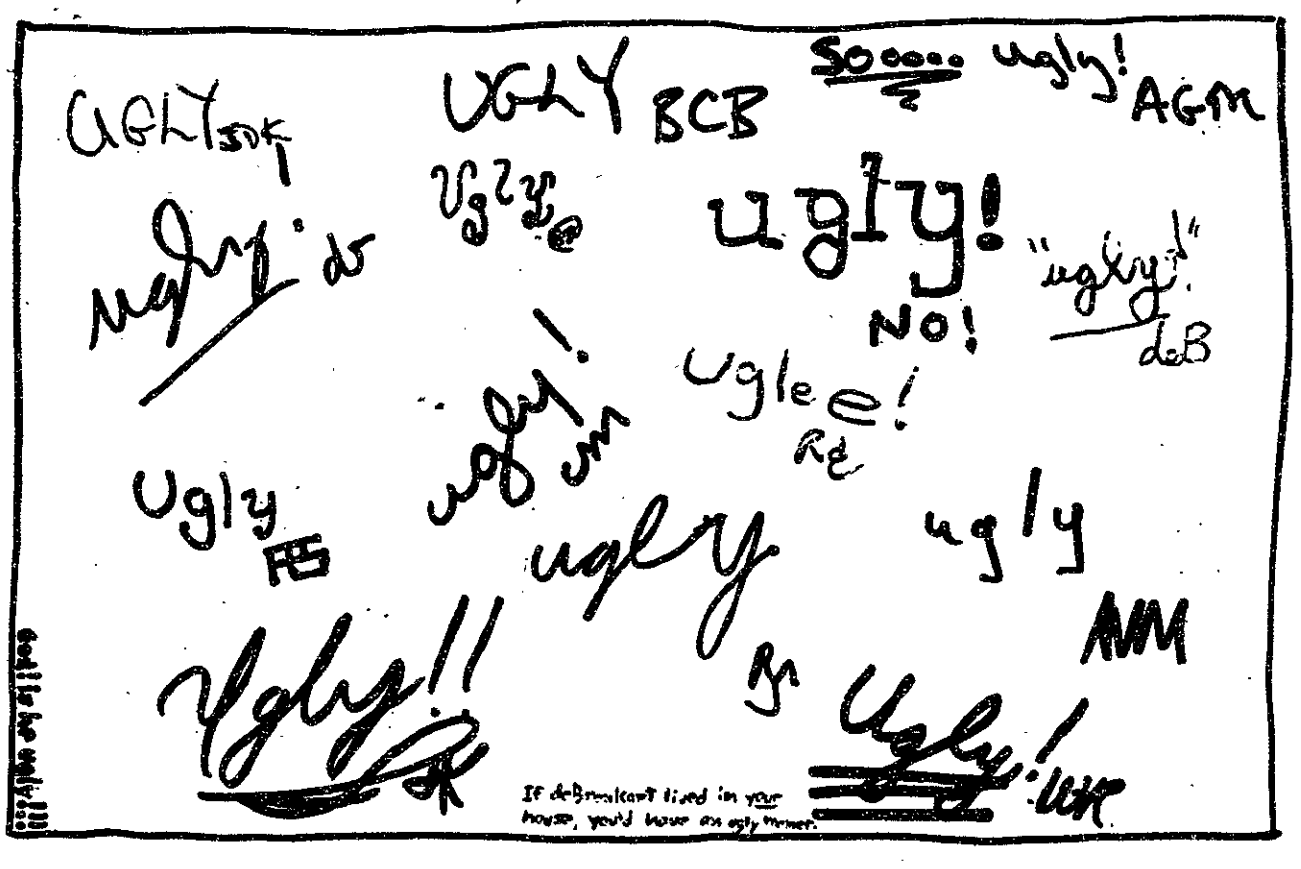
'deBronkart' means 'UGLY'

"A RICH, ILLUMINATING, MOVING PIECE OF [redacted]!"

"PROFOUNDLY CRAZY!"

"STRINGENT AND POWERFUL!"

A [redacted] OF INSANE PROPORTION!



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NOTES

* The Premedical Advisory Committee will present "Opportunities and Prospects in Oral Medicine," a talk by Dr. Harry M. Goldman, Dean of the Boston University School of Denistry and Associate Director, Boston University Medical Center, this Thursday, Nov. 4 at 4 pm in room 39-500. All interested students, particularly those applying for admission in Sept. 1972, are invited.

* Godzillar vs. The Thing, Alpha Phi Omega's annual UMOC movie, will be shown in Room 10-250 on Thurs. evening at 7 and 9:30. Admission price is 48 cents. In addition to this chilling film, you will also witness your favorite uglies parading about the stage in their attempt to win you over to their side. This is you big chance: take a break from tooling and see all those disgusting creatures Thursday night.

* Thursday noonhour concert, MIT Chapel, 12:10: a harpsichord concert, works by Handel, Cipoli and Scarlatti performed by John Gibbons.

* The MIT Concert Band will present a concert on Sat., Nov. 6 in Kresge Aud. at 8:30. Admission free.

* Beginning Mon., Nov. 8 Lynda Benglis will construct a large foam sculpture in Hayden Gallery. The piece will be complete Nov. 19. The public is invited to watch her work in Hayden.

* Wellesley-MIT Residence Exchange: Applications for spring 1972 residence exchange are available in 7-101 and 7-111. Applications are due Wed., Nov. 10.

* The mechanical engineering department will present a survey of current research topics in biomedical engineering on Tues., Nov. 9. The program will begin in Room 3-133 at noon, and will conclude at 4:30. Notices of the detailed schedule will be posted around the Institute.

* BLOOD!!! MIT-Red Cross blood drive Nov. 8-12, in the Sala. See your solicitor or TCA, W20-450, to make an appointment, or call x7911 for info. Please give so that others may live.

* The MIT-Wellesley Upward Bound program, which helps low-income high school students from Cambridge reach college, needs volunteers, especially in math/science. We have opportunities in weeknight tutoring sessions, individualized tutoring with a single student, and in our Saturday program at Wellesley College which offers sessions in subjects of student and volunteer interest. If, after reading this brief description, you are interested, please call x5124 for further details.

* Nathaniel Branden, Executive Director of the Institute of Biocentric Psychology, will speak on "Romantic Love: Neurosis or Rational Ideal?" in Kresge Aud. this Thurs., Nov. 4 at 8:15 pm. Sponsored by LSC; admission free.

* A seminar-discussion on the role technologists can take in aiding environmental concern groups will be sponsored by the Nuclear Engineering Department and the student chapter of the American Nuclear society this Wed., Nov. 3, at 3:30 pm in Room 9-150.

* ERC Cooloquim: "Non-Regular Education," talk by consultant to the President and Provost, MIT. 12 noon, Friday, Oct. 5, The Bush Room (10-105). General public invited.

IAP

Remember that Friday, November 5 is the deadline for submitting proposed IAP activities. Submit them through your co-ordinator or directly to Joel Orlen in the IAP planning Office, Rm. 5-207, x1973. The first Guide to IAP Activities will be out November 15.

Commons: MIT on $4.12 a day

By Joel Bergman

The Dining Service is rather concerned about the declining participation in the Commons program at Walker this term. During the fall term last year, Walker had 332 students sign meals contracts. Since then, the price of commons has increased from $3.82 per day to the present $4.12 per day. This fall, only 226 people remain on commons — a 32% decrease.

The same trend is occurring in all of the Institute's dining halls, though the decline elsewhere has not been as sharp as at Walker. Figures provided by David Cantley, General Manager of the Dining Service, show the following changes in commons participation:

	Fall 1970	Fall 1971		Spr. 1971
MacGregor	325	277	−15%	321
Baker	350	295	−16%	327
McCormick	183	124	−32%	167
Ashdown	182	204	12%	152
Walker	332	226	−32%	268
TOTAL	1372	1116	−19%	1235

Several items presented above require explanation to be meaningful. Note that while all other living groups show decreases, Ashdown has 12% more people on commons than it did last fall. This is easily explained by the fact that there are roughly 250 more students living on-campus this year as a result of the re-opening of Burton House (345) and the closing of Random Hall (95). In addition to increasing the Ashdown total, this also caused the losses at Baker and MacGregor to be less severe than they might otherwise have been.

East side, west side

Until now, all students living in Baker, MacGregor and McCormick were required to take commons. For the first time this year, commons is voluntary for all of West Campus. Many people who had desired to leave commons have now been able to do so — hence the drop-off on West Campus. An even greater loss would have occurred in these houses were it not for the re-opening of Burton without its dining hall.

Every year, the houses with optional commons have experienced a 15% to 20% decrease in the number of commons people from fall term to spring. When asked to explain this trend, Cantley said that many new students (both freshmen and others) sign up for commons during their first term at MIT mainly for the security of knowing where their next meal is coming from. Once they get their bearings, a large number of them drop off commons, causing the reduction in participation each spring.

Where have all the people gone?

With a drop of 250 students from the commons program, one might expect a corresponding increase in a la carte sales. Unfortunately for the Dining Service, that isn't the case. A year ago, Ashdown's gross sales (at the register) were $4200 per week. This year, the figure is up only to $4300. The situation is comparable at Walker, where sales average just over $1000 per day — up only slightly from a year ago. Apparently, many students are providing their own meals, either by cooking for themselves or by eating in off-campus establishments.

Various reasons are given for why students leave commons. The two most often presented are the poor selection of entrees and the excessive cost of the contract.

This reporter has spoken to numerous people who use the dining halls, and a number of gripes have been aired regarding selection. One complaint heard on several occasions was the lack of beef being served. "Twice recently," groaned two students, "Walker offered veal parmesan and lamb stew as the commons choices." "I don't remember having either pot roast or brisket of beef yet this term," said another.

How to lose customers and influence people

The Dining Service has managed to create ill-feeling towards itself on East Campus with petty regulations. A case in point: Ashdown is the West Campus answer to Walker — it operates an a la carte facility as well as serving commons. As such, Ashdown prepares both soup and assorted juice at both lunch and dinner. Their policy is that any item in the kitchen (except for non-commons entrees and beer) can be taken on commons. On the other hand, Walker has insisted upon restricting commons people to either soup or juice (sometimes fruit cup), varying from meal to meal.

Cantley did not realize that such a difference in policy existed. When questioned about it, he replied, "That's just plain goofy. I can't see how changing that policy would cause either production problems or financial problems."

This brings up the larger issue of why only certain items are on the menu at any one meal. Why not put all entrees on commons? Obviously, it would not be economically feasible to include such things as sirloin steak on commons daily. However, if the most expensive item on commons is $1.00, why not let all items below $1.00 go out as commons as well?

"That is what the Ashdown manager is doing at present," remarked Cantley. At this point, Cantley said that there could be a problem in planning how much of different foods would be needed if this plan were implemented at Walker. He did agree that this idea should be considered further.

The economics of the situation (or, 14.01 revisited)

Probably the key reason for students' dropping off commons this term is the price — $4.12 per day. People ask themselves the question, "Is it worth $4.12 per day to eat the way I do?" and the answer is "No" more often than not. The present commons system is designed for one of the following two types:

1. people who constantly eat seconds;
2. those who eat three meals a day, every day.

If you don't fall into either of the above categories, commons is probably a rip-off to you. A person can eat two large-sized meals a day at Walker, a la carte, and still pay about $3.25 per day.

How did Dining Service choose the price they did? First, one must realize that the Dean's Office had just approved the voluntary commons idea on West Campus. The Dining Service feared a sharp fall-off in those houses; they had to keep that in mind.

The Dining Service suffered large losses last year. The figures below show the sales and expenses of each area in thousands of dollars for 1970-1971:

	Ashdown	Walker	West Campus
Sales	271	441	482
Labor	130	190	209
Food	114	200	211
Other	50	77	89
Total exp.	294	467	509
Loss	23	26	27

"Other" expenses include maintenance, supplies other than food, utilities, and managers' salaries. The net loss among the dining halls totalled $76,000.

Cantley said that the Dining Service feels that the demand for commons is nearly inelastic; that is, an increase in commons prices will not be matched by a corresponding decrease in the number of people participating. Following this line of reasoning the Dining Service determined that a price of $300 ($285 on West Campus) would produce the optimal result. The following assumptions were made:

1. McCormick would have a 50% participation rate.
2. Baker and MacGregor's rate would be 65%.
3. Burton would provide 50 additional contracts to other houses.

Using these assumptions, they determined how many employees it would be necessary to hire. Unfortunately, the decreases in both commons and a la carte sales have caused the Dining Service to revise its forecasts. The following figures (again, in thousands of dollars) reflect Cantley's current forecast for 1971-1972:

	Ashdown	Walker	West Campus
Sales	290	436	460
Labor	141	194	189
Food	129	201	209
Other exp.	53	83	91
Total exp.	323	478	489
Loss	34	42	29

(Rounding of figures causes a slight discrepancy.)

As anyone can see, this year's projected loss is $105,000. One might ask how this trend can continue. The answer lies in inter-fund transfers. This year, a $20 surcharge was made upon the rent of each resident of East Campus and Senior House "for the convenience of having Walker's Dining Hall nearby." Residents of Baker, McCormick, MacGregor and Ashdown were gouged for $35 apiece for having a dining hall in their building. Burtonites escaped with a loss of only $15.

All the proceeds of this charge were transferred to the Dining Service Account. Additional funds were shifted from higher West Campus rents to make a total of $111,000 earmarked for the Dining Service. Although it may appear that they make a profit, this $111,000 must also cover the $55,000 projected loss of the Student Center Dining Service.

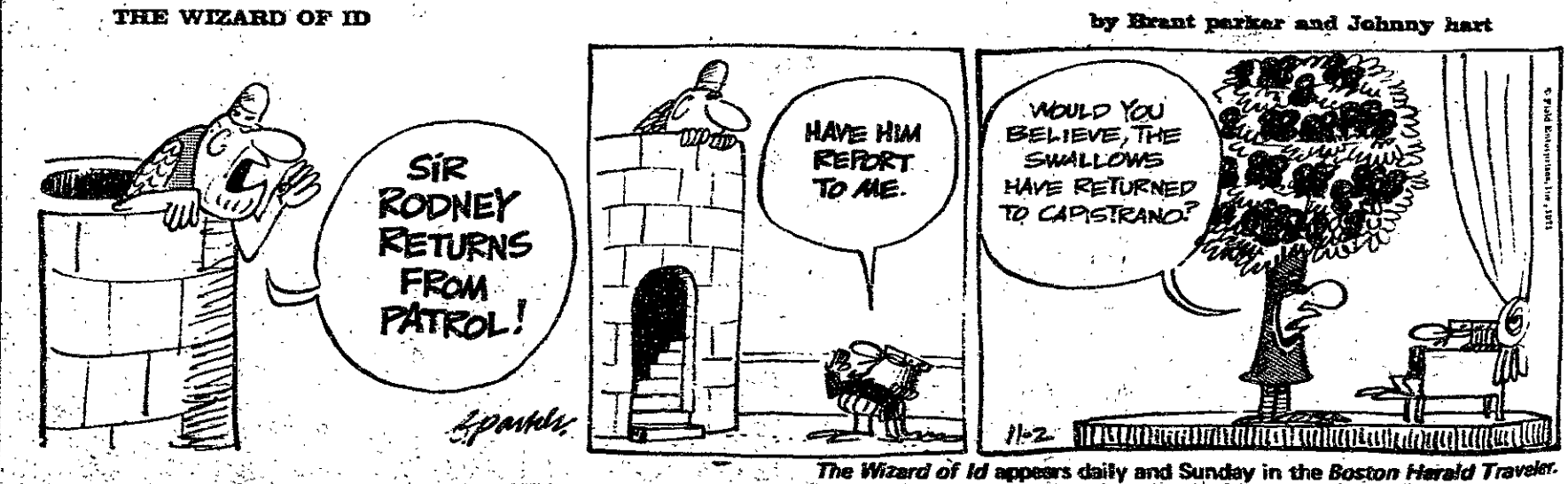
$4.12 per day — too damn much

There are several factors which cause the price of commons to be as high as it is. The first of these causes is the MIT wage policy. All employees of the MIT Dining Service are paid according to the generous MIT wage-benefits package covering all Institute employees. Their counterparts elsewhere in the restaurant industry, both at Stouffer's and elsewhere, receive a considerably less costly package. The major differences are in sick leave and vacation pay, as well as in hourly rates. The difference is reflected in higher labor costs here, and is met by higher prices.

Another reason for the high price is the Dean's Office insisting upon a dining hall in every house. It has been their paternalistic attitude for many years that "it's good for the student" to have a dining hall in his house. Of course, it is convenient to be able to walk downstairs to breakfast, without having to go out into the cold. But there is a definite

THE WIZARD OF ID

by Brant parker and Johnny hart



The Wizard of Id appears daily and Sunday in the *Boston Herald Traveler*.

economic disadvantage in doing so; it's no longer possible to have economies to scale. Food must be ordered in smaller quantities; duplicate equipment must be purchased; unnecessary managers must be paid.

According to David Cantley, the cost of meals would be reduced substantially if MIT were to adopt a system of few large dining halls, instead of having five smaller ones. This system is used at other schools with commons being mandatory.

In addition, this year a student who signs up for commons in both terms has the option of purchasing twenty days' worth of IAP commons for $40. In other words, he is paying only the food cost during IAP. Where does the difference come from? Fall and spring term prices, of course. "I could offer a price of $3.85 a day if not for the IAP subsidy," claimed Cantley.

When I asked him why the subsidy exists, Cantley replied that it is necessary to attract people onto IAP commons so that all dining halls can remain open. But in a way, such an attitude puts the cart before the horse. If many people will not be on campus during IAP, it makes sense to close several dining halls for that period. After all, the commons house dining halls are closed during spring vacation; why not close them during IAP as well?

A smaller problem that increases costs is the leakage in the system. "Leakage" refers mainly to students cheating the system, as well as any employee theft. For example, some students on commons have been known to liberate food for their a la carte friends. It's not unusual for people to leave the dining room with food, either. When queried on this, Cantley pointed out that the leakage here is no worse than at Stouffers' restaurants or at other colleges' dining services. As he put it, "The cost of closer supervision would exceed any savings that might result."

What are some alternatives?

Maybe the current 15-meal-per-week plan is not feasible. Other plans have been suggested either in place of, or in addition to, commons as it exists presently.

One plan that has been suggested is a 10-meal per week plan, that, is, lunch and dinner from Monday through Friday. This plan would be ideal for someone who eats only lunch and dinner; but, there's one drawback. According to Cantley, the best price he could offer for such a plan is $285 – only $15 cheaper than the present setup. Breakfast is the least costly meal and has the highest absentee rate. Cantley pointed out that fixed costs would not change and that labor costs would decrease very little. Thus, a ten meal plan does not seem feasible.

A 14-meal per week plan, serving lunch and dinner every day, has been suggested. This system has the advantage of using the dining halls seven days a week, but it would cause a labor problem with the union help. Union workers must work five consecutive days than then have two days off. At the Student Center (which is open seven days a week), the managers have found it difficult to schedule workers so that they are working when needed. In addition, the trend at Lobdell has been for fewer and fewer people to eat on weekends. Apparently, a 14-meal plan would not work, either.

Another alternative is to modify "unlimited seconds" to be "seconds only." In other words, a person would be permitted to take two portions of everything, but no more. Such a change could drive some big eaters off commons, but might attract more people to commons with its reduced price.

A seminar-discussion session on the role technologists can take in aiding environmental concern groups will be sponsored by the Nuclear Engineering Department and the student chapter of the American Nuclear Society tommorrow (Nov. 3) at 3:30 pm in Room 9-150.

Richard Hall, an attorney, and Dr. Glenn Paulsen, both of the Natural Resources Defense Council, will lead the discussions. Richard Hall is presently conducting litigation against the TVA on a strip mining issue. A few MIT grad students have and are continuing to aid NRDC with technical and economic information pertaining to this case.

We could do with fewer specialists

By Steve Carhart

The healthy attendance at this fall's Technology and Culture Seminar series is but one more indication that science and technology – at least as they are commonly understood and applied in our society – are facing a period in which they will undergo intensive criticism and reorientation. It goes without saying that MIT, as the nation's pre-eminent academic center of science and technology, has the choice of either leading the re-examination of the ways in which technology enables us to understand and interact with the world, or standing by idly and accepting the judgments of others as the larger community makes its decision on this issue.

There are a variety of sub-issues which must be resolved in this area, ranging from abstract and philosophical issues to very practical matters of politics. While the abstract issues raised by science as a way of knowledge and the impact of analytical, materialist assumptions on our culture can occupy intellectuals indefinitely, there is little disagreement that we are facing a more immediate problem arising from the fact that our social and political institutions are being shown less and less adequate for handling the application of technology in a manner consistent with our values. While deciding how to act on some of the more abstract issues raised by the rise of technology in our society, ought not the Institute take some initiative soon toward developing practical ways to ensure that technology serves human ends?

A modest proposal

One proposal for doing so was presented recently by Professor Carroll L. Wilson at the recent inaugural panel on Research in the Seventies. While the proposal seemed relatively modest, it provoked startlingly vehement objections from the pure scientists on the panel.

Following relatively straightforward presentations by other faculty of the technical problems which various decisplines expect to tackle in the next decade, Wilson put four questions to the panel: a) What kinds of research at MIT have in the past been recognized and rewarded by society and the MIT community? b) In the 1970's, are other kinds of research expected of MIT by society? c) Is society prepared to support such research? and d) How ready is the MIT community to respond to this need and what are the obstacles to be overcome before MIT can play a leading role in responding to this challenge?

Historic perspective

Historically, Wilson said, the country has expected MIT to discover new knowledge and applications in the form of technology, and the Institute has responded. Progress of this sort requires specialization within disciplines, and both society and MIT have rewarded specialists with prizes, patents, tenure, and (here the other panelists winced) by listening to their remarks in fields outside their specialties. While he saw such specialization as continuing to be important and expected by society, Wilson described also a new expectation which society has of MIT: the expectation that MIT should take steps to be aware of and understand the social consequences of advances in science and technology and should act to influence the application of technology for maximum social benefit through research and by educating a new kind of graduate who understands science and technology and its impact on society and is a skilled problem solver in this interface.

The last straw, though, was Wilson's conclusion that while society was ready to support work to improve our ability to use technology in a humane way (as avidenced by increasing government support of multidisciplinary work on environmental, urban, and other socio-technological problems) large segments of the MIT community are not prepared or able to respond to this need or support those who do. In particular, he named specialists already fully engaged in their fields and students and junior faculty whose progress toward a degree, promotion, or tenure is dependent upon the approval of the specialists under whom they work, that approval being contingent strictly upon excellence in a narrow area. Until there is an alternative to this reward structure, Wilson concluded, MIT will not be able to support faculty and student effort in research and education dealing with the broad socio-technological questions which are becoming increasingly important in our society.

Like Nixon in Berkeley

The reception this modest proposal received from the rest of the panel, particularly the scientists, was roughly akin to what Nixon might get in Berkeley. Some of the objections were based on an obvious misunderstanding of what was proposed, while others were more substantive. For instance, one panelist objected that his and others' technical work would suffer if they started to spend much time worrying about social consequences of technology. Evidently he didn't realize that it was not proposed that *everyone* worry about the social aspects of technological development, and he did not hear Wilson specifically state that specialized work in the traditional disciplines will continue to be important.

The more substantive objections revolved around the problem of evaluating performance in socio-technological problem solving, whether the need was in fact as strong as Wilson said, whether people concerned about broader problems would be trained as specialists first.

Wilson conceded at the outset that it was indeed difficult to judge the performance of those working on exceedingly complex technical-economic-political problems. I would suspect that while the criteria might be difficult to develop, they might be more like those used in engineering than in science, i.e., practicality. Can people concerned with these socio-technological problems develop solutions which are technically economically, *and* politically feasible? One further question which should have been directed at the panelists who objected to Wilson's proposals on these grounds is this: what criteria should govern the decision of what activities are undertaken at MIT? Should we wait until there is a computer program to measure participants' performance to the *n*th decimal place, or might the fact that a problem is of critical importance to the well-being of our society carry some weight?

Critical need?

But is the problem of developing better approaches to understanding and controlling the application of technology that critical? Two of the panelists (apparently unwittingly) gave strong support to Wilson's contention that it is. Professor Salvador Luria, for example, commented that the biology department probably would not have much impact on environmental problems, since the solution of environmental problems required "not a thousand ecologists, but ten Ralph Naders." (Presumably he does not believe that biologists, physicists, or geologists will solve them either.) Here is basic agreement with Wilson's thesis that the solution to the problems vexing our society from misapplication of technology requires pragmatic problem solvers who understand the basics of a variety of specialized fields: law, economics, technology, politics, and so forth.

Less directly, Professor Victor Weisskopf spoke wistfully of a malaise and disenchantment among students which must be overcome. Might that malaise stem from the fact that the problems which really seem important to many students today cross traditional dicipliinary boundaries, with the result that students are unable to work to solve the problems that really bother them within their curriculum? I would suggest that the apparent conventionality of this year's freshman class, as evidenced by low interest in politics and low enrollment in the various educational experiments on campus may stem from the fact that the intellectual risk takers and askers of bothersome questions may have self-selected themselves out of the technical curriculum. Might they not sense that scientists and technologists are not prepared to deal with the important social problems their work has caused, and consequently that a technical education will be narrow and not likely to help one with the real problems of our society.

How much specialization?

Probably the toughest question which will have to be answered in considering what MIT will do to deal with problems resulting from the application of technology is the degree of specialized background which is desirable for people dealing with these problems. (We should keep in mind that the graduates of a program such as that proposed by Wilson would not be primarily academic researchers, but rather action-oriented individuals who would show up in places such as congressional staffs, consumer and environmental groups, and executive agencies charged with regulating the application of technology, such as the Environmental Protection Agency.) I inferred from the comments of Luria and others that they believed people dealing with these problems should be trained as specialists first. (This would seem to contradict his earlier statement that the solution of environmental problems required not specialized scientists, but more Naders.)

There is no question that intellectual development is fostered by creative work in a scientific discipline, and that there is value in learning a narrow area well. That is not the issue, however. The real issue is this: assuming that MIT feels a responsibility for educating people to deal with the problems caused by the application of technology, is this the best way to educate them? Should a person with responsibility for dealing with problems such as determining what ingredients go into detergents be a chemist, or should he know something about economics, the law, and the politics of regulating industry, supplementing his own basic understanding with additional information from specialists in sub-areas of the larger question? Will people concerned with such issues continue to go into law and management unless a new approach is developed?

When do you stop?

Beyond this, there remains a question: assuming that one is interested in solving social problems caused by the application of technology, when does one *stop* specializing and begin working on those problems? As an undergraduate? At the masters or doctoral level? After the Ph.D.? Or should one work in the field for twenty or more years before worrying about these issues? Whatever answer one gives, there will be some who say that a person isn't *really* qualified to worry about the social application of technology until he serves one *more* term of specialization. But what of the motivation of the students? If the thing that really bothers the student is the social consequences of the growth of pesticide use, will he be motivated to spend years learning chemistry or biology inside and out, when 98% of what he learns will not apply to the problem that concerns him? And aside from questions of wasted time and lack of motivation, those who preach specialization first seem not to comprehend the sense of urgency which many students feel about these problems: by the time today's students are "qualified" specialists in the eyes of some, it may be *too late* to make needed changes in our technology management machinery.

The most critical determinant of MIT's role in the nation over the next few decades will be the degree to which it succeeds in exercising leadership toward integrating human values with the power of technology. If it seizes this opportunity to develop new approaches to this problem, it can make a contribution to meeting society's needs perhaps as significant as its previous achievements; if it shrinks back, it seems destined to become (remain?) merely a collection of specialists, developing hardware according to the decisions of the corporate managers and the lawyers who run the government.

Protest, housing future confront CJAC

By Robert Fourer

Renewed protests by radical groups against MIT Northgate housing policy, and prediction of another undergraduate housing crisis in three to four years, marked an open meeting of the Corporation Joint Advisory Committee (CJAC) Thrusday.

Vice-President Kenneth Wadleigh openned the meeting with a presentation of Institute activities in undergraduate, graduate, staff and community housing projects, and then fielded questions from CJAC members and the audience.

The "SDS-UAG Housing Committee" had advertised the meeting with large "Confront Wadleigh on Housing" posters in the hallways, and there was a somewhat larger than usual crowd on hand to hear the same charges of evictions, excessive rents and racism which the same small group of people had been pressing for about a month. They greeted Wadleigh's presentation on Northgate with hisses and catcalls, and subjected him to an angry grilling during the question and answer period. Neither side gave ground.

Wadleigh was noticeably angered only by the radical's continued insistence that Peter Quinn, a managing agent at a Northgate apartment house, had told one tenant she was being evicted because she had "too many niggers and Puerto Ricans visiting." The protesters refused several times to reveal their source for this information, and countered that MIT would not reveal its sources of complaints against two government-subsidized tenants who were removed by the Cambridge Housing Authority.

Wadleigh's presentation began with a less controversial survey of on-campus housing. Undergraduate housing plans are now very vague, he said. Plans for "MacGregor II," another undergraduate dormitory west of MacGregor, were shelved three years ago, due to the recession and doubt as to the viability of the house concept. The dormitory system is now filled slightly over capacity, because the return rate of upperclassmen has begun to rise – due to soaring housing costs off-campus and, perhaps, improved facilities on-campus.

If the return rate continues to rise, Wadleigh predicted, a new campus housing crisis is likely in 1974 or 1975, by which time there will be $1-2 million in repairs pending on older buildings.

In addition to the costly possibility of building a new dorm on campus, Wadleigh suggested the Institute might abandon the goal of housing for all undergraduates, build apartments cheaply and lease them at market rates, buy older buildings and convert them to dorms, convert graduate housing to undergrad, or let freshmen live off-campus.

In the same period, fraternities will be in much worse shape, the majority of them needing huge gifts or long-term low-interest loans to keep their houses from falling apart. The problem is aggravated by tax laws which do not provide for deductable gifts to fraternities.

Wadleigh offered several conceivable solutions: MIT ownership of fraternities, movement to less expensive suburbs, or doing nothing in the hope that money will come from somewhere.

Graduate students are presently housed on campus only in Ashdown House, which has a waiting list despite its poor condition. Westgate II, now rising at the west end of campus, will house 400 more single graduate students beginning next September; it is convertible to married student housing, but the Institute cannot presently charge rents low enough for married students to afford.

Despite the great demand, there are no plans for more on-campus housing after Westgate II, partially due to doubts about the future of graduate education at MIT.

Turning to off-campus housing, which accomodates most grad students and all staff, Wadleigh described the crisis in housing availability which started in the mid-1960's. In the last five years demand has risen 200%, and rents 55%, he said, and the doubling of inquiries to the Community Housing Service required the hiring of four full-time professional staff members.

After covering the Northgate problems, Wadleigh recounted MIT's progress in developing five Cambridge sites. This project, which was announced several years ago, was to have included 1600 units, 750 low-income subsidized by the government and the rest for MIT people and others at market rates. Presently construction of over 600 units, all of them for the elderly, is progressing smoothly on three sites (Clarendon, Gore, and Erie Streets), and groundbreaking is expected in a few weeks.

The other sites have had no such luck. The Portland St. project was dropped, Wadleigh explained, when MIT and various local groups could not agree on plans. MIT still owns the land, but will build nothing there "for the present time." The fifth project, a Northgate building at 1000 Mass. Ave., has been delayed indefinitely due to funding problems. The garage which stood at the site has been razed, however.

Finally, Wadleigh touched briefly on the Simplex factory site and its evirons, which he termed the "Northwest Sector." MIT purchased Simplex's 19 acres, which once employed over 1000 people, for $12.75 million two years ago; Wadleigh declared it was imperative the property be bought then to prevent its being developed by another organization in a way displeasing to the Institute. The purchase price was paid out of MIT's investment portfolio, he explained, and so the Institue will expect a good return on its development.

Wadleigh noted there had been disagreement at previous CJAC sessions over the mix of commercial and residential building on the site, and over the mix of types of residential units. A pilot planning project now nearing completion has carefully considered these questions, he said.

Further discussion on the Simplex area was put off until November 23, when Wadleigh is scheduled to cover it in detail at another open CJAC meeting.

Wadleigh spent most of the remainder of the meeting explaining and defending MIT policy to questioners. He evinced special pride in MIT's use of government-subsidy programs: the three "turnkey" sites, which will be built by MIT and then sold to the Cambridge Housing Authority, comprise the largest project under that program in the country. "Cambridge has had a housing crisis for near a decade," he declared, "and it took MIT to break the ice." All the turnkey units will be for the elderly, however, who have shown a marked disinclination to move from their old homes into projects.

Wadleigh didn't hesitate to add that now that MIT has broken the ice, in his opinion, it might pull out of the housing market entirely if it proved unprofitable, especially if the Northgate rent control exemption didn't come through.

Nixon boosts technology

(Continued from page 1)

trial base." Magruder noted that "Literally thousands" of ideas are being considered at this time, but that the cost, in terms of federal funds, and how much the program will add to the nation's ongoing research and development effort have not yet been determined.

Also concerned with the program is Presidential Science Advisor Dr. E.E. David, Jr. who heads the Office of Science and Technology. He stated that the program calls for "an unaccustomed set of incentives and supports" for American industry . . . but we have to be competitive in the world."

The program will use several approaches to increase use of technology to solve domestic problems, including write-offs for increased R&D funding, subsidies, and Government loans.

In addition, efforts will be made to get Congress to do a little minor surgery on the patent and anti-trust laws which would enable companies to pool both monetary and research resources in an effort to push forward the frontiers of technology and its applications to industrial innovation and efficiency.

If funding actually goes up due to this new effort, it will be the first increase in R&D funds since they began trailing off in 1968. At this time, only about 10% of the nation's $28 billion research effort (60% government supported) goes into basic science. This balance may be improved by the New Technology Opportunities Program, for, as Magruder put it, "exploratory research is the well-spring from which all things come."

The areas in which work will be concentrated were delineated by Dr. Lawrence Goldmutz, who is doing a survey for David's office. He stated that project ideas are being sorted into nine broad areas at this time: communications, transportation, protection from natural disasters, health care, natural resources, air quality, law enforcement, urban development, and productivity.

More than 14 government agencies are involved in some way with preparation of the program, which is targeted to reach the president's desk by the end of the year. The details will first be filtered through both Magruder and John Erlichmann, head of the President's Domestic Council, before finalization.

Usually informed sources indicate that MIT's share of any money allocated might be affected by the Institute's current status in Washington, which one highly-placed member of the MIT administration succintly described as "in the doghouse."

There are a variety of causes, including the Institute's past peace work, and the Republican nature of the Nixon administration.

Dean Robert Alberty, head of the School of Science noted that, "it's too early to tell what this means to the country or the Institute," but he is "glad to see that attention is being given to the development of a national program of technological development." He felt sure that MIT could make "important contributions in the areas now under consideration," but said it was "too early to speculate" as to the likelihood of future funding at the Institute.

Alfred Keil, Dean of the School of Engineering noted that he has "already received letters of inquiry concerning this project," and added that he thought that there "might well be an increase of funding here at the Institute as a result of... [the Nixon program]." Some proposals have already been submitted by his department.

Dr. Wiesner, when asked to comment, said "one might hope we will get this work. . . I think this *is* a serious effort on the part of the Nixon administration."

ARTS

theatre:

Twigs grows in Boston

By P.E. Schindler, Jr.

George Furth begat *Company*, and it ran long and hard, and it is still running, even though Clive Barnes of *The New York Times* didn't like it. And now Furth has struck again, with *Twigs*; he may well have tapped another gold mine.

Twigs opened to slightly mixed reviews in Boston, but its hard to see why: the play is a delight from top to bottom and end to end.

It's basically a series of four one-act plays, whose only connection is the familial relation of the central character in each: three daughters and their mother. All are played, and damned well, by Sada Thompson, who makes it very nearly a one-woman show as she moves powerfully from one portrayal to another.

Admittedly, this is not the kind of evening at the theater for which the word "powerful" is usually reserved. It is not weighty, or burdened with excessive message. It is good clean fun, and tells of people as they are in today's wacky world: wacky. By exposing their foibles on stage, Furth has us alternately laugh at, laugh with, or cry (a little) for the people he portrays.

The first of the plays (considered by some to be "too light") concerns a lady moving into a new apartment, as she gets to know the moving man. While flitting about the room like some hyper-thyroid housefly, she berates the mover, Frank (Nicholas Coster) for being too hyper-active. The humor here is very low-key, but it dominates, as there are no large amounts of tragedy.

The second scene takes place between a retired Army man and his wife, as they are visited by an old friend from his Army days. The friend is a slob, the wife a scatter-brained idiot, and the two men polish off a six-pack apiece during the 30 minutes covered by the scene. The tone here is tragic, as the troubled wife (complete with two breakdowns) tries to break through to her unfeeling husband. The perfect slob is played well by Conrad Bain.

The third play, which raises the curtain for Act II, is a husband and wife at home for their 25th wedding anniversary, and as the scene progresses the hilarity accelerates to a blinding pace. We witness their little idiosyncracies, and are set up by their light slap-stick.

Then Ned comes in for the kill, and what a kill it is. The audience is placed in hysterics by the antics of this partially-deaf brother-in-law, and kept

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film:

Downfall Child and Heart

By Emanuel Goldman

It is difficult to criticize *Puzzle of a Downfall Child* because the film is so earnest, to the point of embarassment. A fashionable photographer turned filmmaker is gathering material for a film-memoir of a former lover-model-friend, Lou Andreas-Sand. He visits her at her Long Island retreat, where, subsequent to her nervous breakdown, she has shut herself off from her previous life. Over several sessions, she and Aaron (the filmmaker) recount in flashback her rise and fall in the fashion world.

Aaron's involvement with Lou (that is, with the subject of his film) is the most curious aspect here, since Lou's actual recollections are rather trite if not cliched. Despite her huge career success, Lou herself recognizes this, declaring "I think that is my whole problem – that it is so ordinary."

There is never a clear articulation of her problem, but one can surmise that it has to do with her inability to relate to other people, to love properly, and to enjoy sexual contact. Her choice of profession – a voyeuristic world where appearance is what counts, and not substance – seems very appropriate in relation to her behavior off camera.

Although at the outset, Aaron, in narration, attempts to assume some responsibility for Lou's "downfall," it never comes across that way in the film. This is the source of embarrassment. For why, then, is Aaron constructing his film this way – as a memoir recounted in sessions between him and Lou – if he is not shown to be in some way culpable? He might just as well have filmed it as a straight narrative. What's his motivation for using this highly structured form? The viewer can only suspect that he has something to get off his chest, but that he is ashamed to tell us what it is. And the viewer, of course, being well-mannered, is too embarrassed to ask.

* * *

At the outset, it should be clearly stated that writer-director Paul Almond is a very fine artist indeed. It should be stated now, because *Act of the Heart* is quite an enigmatic film, containing a very shocking trick ending which I do *not* feel is successful as art – although I would admit its success as a sort of "anti-art."

It is almost a conventional narrative – but not quite. There are bits and snatches of story and dialogue. This is a cultivated incompleteness, a disjointed yet coherent sensation, as is often the case in so much of real-life experience. All the pieces don't fit, don't fall into place – empty holes remain.

As in his previous film, *Isabel*, this one assumes the intense point of view of the heroine, a French Canadian young woman named Martha (Genevieve Bujold, Almond's wife). In Montreal, Martha sings in a church choir, and lives with a woman and her son, Russell. Martha's introspection and fear of men is briefly sketched; she gradually, however, begins to be attracted to the priest who is conducting a new chorale work in which she is to sing a solo part. Russell is killed in a hockey game, and Martha, distraught, goes to the church. When the priest tries to calm her, she seduces him (without any difficulty) and they begin a new life together.

Up to here, the film lends itself readily to a conventional romantic analysis: Russell's death is the impetus that pushes Martha to action, into life for the first time. But Almond is not willing to allow the viewer the comfort of such analysis. Although the ex-priest (Michael) and Martha seem to be happy and in love, that is not enough. Michael says, "Maybe people need an example – one positive act that they remember for the rest of their lives." "But they had that – Christ," Martha says. "Oh, come on," answers Michael. "Who remembers him now?"

The next day, Martha tells him "I love you more than life or death," and then goes off, soaks herself in gasoline, and burns herself.

Why the self-immolation? The identification has been so close to Martha, that this willful self-destruction is very painful to watch. Is it really a positive act in some cryptic way in Martha's mind? Or is it just a rejection of both artistic convention and the viewer's sensibilities? The reason is not at all obvious.

–At the Orson Welles

recordings:

Lazarus, The Doors, et al.

Lazarus – Lazarus, Bearsville

Lazarus is a Texas group, produced and directed by Peter Yarrow, and one of the first groups to be signed to Albert Grossman's new Bearsville label. The sound of Lazarus – Bill Hughes, Carl Keesee, and Gary Dye – is keyed around the tight three-part harmonies weaved by the group, strongly resembling the sound of Peter, Paul, and Mary (heightened because someone in Lazarus sounds decidedly like Mary Travers). Lyrically, the heading of the group is well set, as they're all into the whole Jesus Trip. The acoustic musicianship is very able, though not as distinctive as, say, Peter, Paul, and Mary – perhaps that is the one thing *Lazarus* lacks.

Lazarus comes off as one of the freshest, most pleasant albums released in quite awhile. Such cuts as the truly beautiful "Looking Through," "Eastward," and the hauntingly dark "Rivers" all add up to and excellent first effort. The total feel of the record is somewhat nebulous, but with a little more firmly established direction, some fine music can be expected of Lazarus.

–Neal Vitale

Other Voices – The Doors, Elektra

The three musicians in The Doors – Robby Krieger, Ray Manzarek, and John Densmore – were always very capable, creating just the right dark, slithery counterpoint to Jim Morrison's vocals. But after Morrison's death in July the question of how the group's musical imagery would survive with other vocals was left unanswered.

Other Voices has, unfortunately, resolved the matter. Neither Kreiger nor Manzarek can sing. Possibly this is in the shadow of Jim Morrison; probably not.

The vocals are where the Doors fail. The lyrics were never a strong point of the group, save for some of the Morrison epics ("The End" and "When the Music's over"); and Krieger has also done a large share of the

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film:

Bergen as T.R. Baskin

By David Searls

Many years ago, when Candice Bergen was but a pubescent lass, father Edgar gave her a Hollywood-style debut – on the Ed Sullivan Show. After her walk-on, and some well-rehearsed banter on the state of Youth, the orchestra struck up some heavy cocktail rock and Candice did an enthusiastic frug. Edgar Bergen's eyes widened comically, Charlie McCarthy's wooden jaw dropped (as did, no doubt, Ed's), and a star was born.

The least that can be said of her career is that it hasn't gone downhill from there. But it was not until *Carnal Knowledge* that she received anything resembling critical acclaim. And now, in an attempt to prove that the highly-touted "magic" of Mike Nichols is more than transient, Candice is starring in her first (essentially) solo performance, *T. R. Baskin*.

One can only assume that the film is meant to be an acting *tour de force* by Ms. Bergen, as both the plot and the theme are nothing new. T. R. is a sensitive small-town girl who comes to the big city to "seek fame and fortune," and instead finds lonliness and depersonalization. Aside from some rather belabored forays into already well-known thematic variations like what the big city "does to people," and what it's like to work in the skyscraper office buildings, and how the people at the top of them are "schmucks," that is the extent of it. The film does not even *restate* the themes, it simply says them again.

The screenplay is competent. Most of the action is in the form of flashbacks from a hotel room, where T.R. is in bed with an impotent automotive parts salesman (Peter Boyle); these are handled unselfconsciously, with neither schmaltz nor pretentious art. The only major shortcomings seem inextricable from the familiarity of the theme, such as T. R.'s endless Sunday morning perambulations in the empty city, and some rather over-stylized portrayals of massive ennui, with the heroine cooped up in her apartment every evening. There are two ways to present such boredom cinematically; one is the clever,

(Please turn to page 8)

film:

Skin Game: its not porno

By Jay Pollack

No, it's not porno, it's a western. A comedy-western even, with a GP rating. *Skin Game* is about two con-men who toured the South during the middle 1800's. Quincy, the white one, goes into a spiel about having to get rid of his valuable, healthy, loyal slave. Someone buys Jason, the black one, then he escapes with the help of his white partner and they split the loot.

They run into trouble in one town when the famous John Brown liberates (and removes) all the local slaves, and in another town when Jason is clapped into chains and can't escape without his recently met girl-friend-slave.

Of course, it all works out and since the people who get it in the end are the slaveowners, the con-men are the good guys.

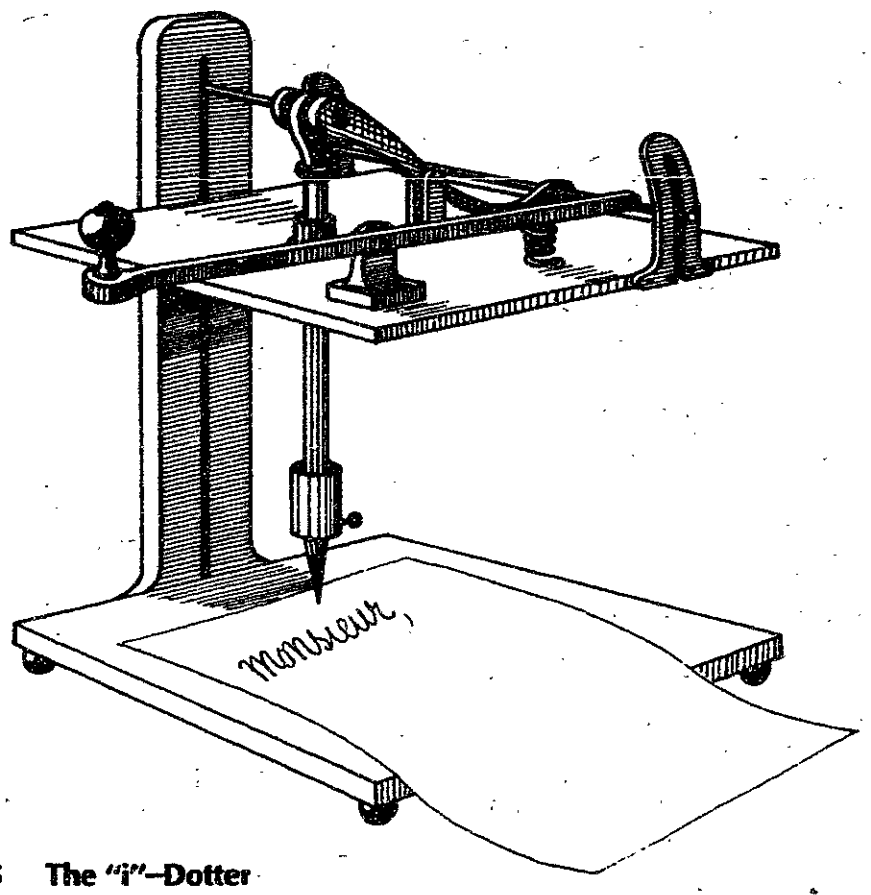
James Garner is here in his familiar Maverick-style role into which he fits so well. Lou Gossett plays Jason with the amazing facility to switch from his well-educated New Jersey style language to the degraded drawlings of the well-behaved slave. Susan Clark plays a snakey lady who walks into their lives (and Quincy's bath) with as much nerve and little conscience as either of them. All three of them are naturals, and you get the feeling that Garner could play this part in his sleep – he's been there so often before.

Although the film is played strictly for laughs, it is a little depressing to see the way the slaves are treated in a few scenes. It is also not that funny to be reminded that even though Jason and Quincy are partners, it is always Jason who has to walk instead of riding, or sleep in the slave pen or have his guns poked at by some prospective buyer and it couldn't possibly be the other way around. And Jason has to suffer the risk of actually having to be a slave while Quincy has the easy part.

When their reputation gets too big and they are discovered, they both have to get their hides away fast, which they do with the help of four African slaves of whom Jason has become the tribe leader. Everybody ends up in Mexico and both men have their women, so it's a happy ending.

The pace keeps up throughout the film and it does manage to be amusing most of the time. In short, *Skin Game* pretends to be nothing more than it is – a funny western, which is neither too rough nor too inane – an excellent diversion.

–At the Savoy Complex



The "i"–Dotter
No perfectionist should be without one. (Inquire about our combination t-crosser and crucifix-embosser.)

The Catalog of Fantastic Things, is an obvious parody, right down the line, of the *Whole Earth Catalog* whose typography and style are imitated closely. Originally written in French by Jaques Carelman, the book was Americanized by Amram M. Ducovny, and translated by Barbara and George Davidson. Carelman obviously has a strange sense of humor, which he indulges in page after page of oddball gimmickry (see above). The whole thing comes off as slick, and often amusing. *Available at the Tech Coop*

Lazarus, The Doors, et al.

(Continued from page 7)

writing — so a total switch to Krieger's pen is not all that noticeable. Musically, the group is still basically the same, though they seem to be delving more and more into rock'n'roll. Manzarek is proficient on keyboards, Krieger's guitar work has always been distinctive, and Densmore's drumming, while blander than usual, is adequate. But something, probably the energy of a Jim Morrison vocal, is missing.

Some of the songs on *Other Voices* are worthy of note, nonetheless. "Ships w/ Sails," "Wandering Musician," and "Hang on to Your Life" are the best, being long tunes, concentrating more on the music than the singing. "Down on the Farm" seems to be a blending of two distinct songs, and "Variety is the Spice of Life" is saved by Manzarek's honky-tonk piano.

Other Voices finds the Doors in much the same situation as the Small Faces were in after their founder and leader, Steve Marriott, left the band. It wasn't until Rod Stewart joined that they put out anything memorable. If The Doors can replace Morrison with some other competent singer, they just might retain their status as an influential rock group. Until then, *Other Voices* and, in all likelihood, subsequent releases, will join the ranks of "almost" records — good, but not good enough. —Neal Vitale

John Prine — John Prine, Atlantic

John Prine's first and, so far, only album will definitely please a large group of people. Prine's style is country, and he is well aware of the proper way to do country.

The album as a whole is a collection of very pleasant music; nothing is impressive on its own, but everything together is decidedly agreeable. Several of the cuts could very easily be depressing, but the arrangements and musical interpretations are light enough to keep that from happening. —Jeff Star

Furth opens Twigs; critic lauds goyishe play

(Continued from page 7)

there by alternating slap-sticks, sight gags, and quick laughlines. Credit both A. Larry Haines (as the husband) and Walter Klavun (as Ned) for the almost best scene.

The best scene is the last, in which we meet the parents of the family as they play geriatric put-down games. The mother, who is one step from the grave, is hiding it completely from her children, and partly even from her husband. It seems a bit like a situation comedy, as the situation is made clear: finally, it turns out that the couple has never been married in spite of their years together. In a combination deathbed-marriage scene, the audience is the winner; Furth does a good job.

It's a funny play, it's a moving play, it's a good play, it's on at the Wilbur for a few more days before it goes to Broadway.

* * *

George Furth was at MIT last Wednesday afternoon, and addressed a few comments stagecraft to a group of playwriting and drama students in Kresge Little Theatre.

Furth is a modest man, and looks very unimposing. He admitted surprise at the incredible response which *Company* received from the critics. "The only reason it was so different is that I didn't know how to write a regular musical. If I could have written something like *South Pacific* I would have."

There is one other thing which distinguishes his first musical, Furth contends, and it also distinguishes *Twigs*: "*Company* was the first *goyishe* (non-Jewish) musical on Broadway.

"People were afraid that a non-Jewish musical wouldn't make it, but *Company* did. *Twigs* might do all right. It depends," said Furth, obviously a man who does not believe in blowing his own horn.

Furth specifically discussed the ways in which a play is changed during its try-out period, and gave an example from *Twigs*: the ending of the second play. As seen by the critics, it ended with the wife losing her mind. As I saw it last Thursday, it ended with her walking back, sitting down, and trying quietly to reach her husband. Furth proposed another alternate ending which may be tried before the end of the run in Boston: the wife leaves the room, comes back with an M1 rifle, and asks (as she releases the safety) whether she can perform another musical number for the two men.

Bergen/Baskin, again

(Continued from page 7)

economic way, and the other is what might be called the "real-time" approach — the director simply undertakes to bore the audience, with great hunks of footage in which nothing happens, thus creating a very realistic impression. In *Baskin*, the former method is avoided in favor of portrayal by infliction. Regretfully, insult is added to injury when even the boredom is botched in places — shots of T. R. roaming her flat are overlaid with painfully familier soundtrack devices (radio, television, and sounds-of-the-city surrealistically superimposed).

Which leaves only the question of Ms. Bergen's acting. Hers is the kind of performance that could capture all kinds of acclaim, critically. Specifically, there are instances of what might be called brilliance — for instance, her monologue on the telephone to her parents, in which she displays masterful timing, really believable, as well as a creditable case of hysteria. But the question remains as to whether she is really acting, in the strictest sense of the word, or merely being herself. For she seems to have evolved but little since the early days (and even in *Carnal Knowledge*, you will remember, Nichols did not so much mold her as direct her); she is still alternating between beauteous pensiveness and a very characteristic style of child-like mugging. One can't help but get the feeling that she is acting a caricature of herself.

All this, of course, is not necessarily to the detriment of the movie. But insofar as the film is a display of acting, it is less of a "show" for the excellence of the casting. In short, it is doubtful that Ms. Bergen can ever act in a role that is, to any significant degree, "out of character." And, unfortunately for any specific movie, it is hard to shake this impression even while she is on the screen; one will always be wondering if it is too much to ask that actresses be *adaptable*, like in the good old days.

After her appearance in *Carnal Knowledge*, one reviewer lauded Mike Nichols for finally finding *the* role for Candice Bergen, where she became an F. Scott Fitzgerald character. *T. R. Baskin* is but an unlikely variation, in which it becomes clear that the protrayals are more autobiographical than anything else. *At the Cheri Complex*

film:

The Last Picture Show: a study in desolation

By Lee Giguere

The Last Picture Show takes one year out of the life of five people in a small, backward Texas town of the early nineteen fifties and chronicles their defeats and rare victories. The film backs into its story, picking up the thread of its characters' lives in the middle, introducing them one at a time in a rather offhanded manner so that the viewer is given the sense that there is much that has gone on before he comes to the situation.

The movie opens in a very bleak scene, with Sonny (Timothy Bottoms) and Duane (Jeff Bridges), two high school seniors who serve as the focal points of this study of small-town life, driving through the wind-blown town to the pool hall run by Sam the Lion (Ben Johnson). It is from Sam's pool hall that the film views the town, returning there at critical moments to retain its continuity. From this slow beginning, we are quickly plunged into the daily life of the two boys: their dates that night at the local picture show.

The plot continues in a rather melodramatic, episodic manner. Sonny, whose girlfriend had broken up with him in the first episode, forms a liason with his coach's wife Ruth (Cloris Leachman) after he is asked by the coach to drive her to the local clinic. Jacy (Cybill Shepherd) leaves her boyfriend, Duane, who then, in a fit of anger, joins with a group of friends to take the town's idoit boy to the local whore. Jacy begins to associate with a racy group of young people from a nearby town, and when she is turned down by its "leader" because she is a virgin, she turns to Duane, who is unable to have intercourse with her.

Sam eventually dies, but only after a brief interlude in which he revives his memories of the freer, more exciting life of his youth. Sonny marries Jacy only to be stopped by her father before the marriage is consumated. Duane joins the service and leaves for Korea, and the town's only picture show closes, a victim of the appearance of television.

Director Peter Bogdanovich (along with screenwriter Larry McMurtry) makes no attempt to introduce any thematic unity into the plot. Instead, they have choose to present a "slice of life" with very little trimming. There is really very little to hold the plot together besides the coincidence of location and the interplay of the characters, so that there is no illusion of unity, as is often the case in works of fiction.

Technically, the film is excellent. The acting is generally well-done, as is the photography. The setting, at least to one who has very little familiarity with the fifties, seems very real. In fact, it is rather reminiscent of my earliest memories of television.

In spite of its apparently disjointed plot, *The Last Picture Show* forcefully presents a carefully cultivated image to the viewer. Bogdanvich has let nothing interfere with his effort to represent a picture of the dull, desperate, desolate life led by townspeople in isolated villages throughout the "heartlands" of America. These people were dull, and they lead dull lives, gleaning what glamour they could from the picture shows.

Bogdanovich chose black and white specifically to fend off the cheeriness that color would have introduced. He has scrupulously adhered to the times, using only period rock-and-roll in his soundtrack, and, with a religious sense of realism, he has allowed the music to enter only when his characters are actually listening to a radio or juke box. The actors are all plain; even Jacy, who is meant to be a local beauty, is good-looking without being truly beautiful. And Ruth, who is perhaps the most desperate of all the characters, is remarkably plain.

By avoiding anything that might distract the viewer from his central image, Bogdanovich is able to lend real power to a movie that might otherwise be a rather tedious account of the life in a lonely, lost, and dying town. He has succeeded in documenting and dissecting what may well be an important phenomenon in the development of modern America: the death of the small town.

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WOULD YOU BELIEVE.... that such a banal, insensitive, vapid, trashy, review fit for serialization in Redbook could be written about Eliza McCormack's latest kickshaw... and published in The Tech

Have you ever felt like destroying a

By Bruce Schwartz

Three years ago, when I lived in Baker House, I kicked a vending machine every Sunday. That was because they always emptied out by Saturday night, and when I wanted ice cream on Sundays, I would have to go off campus to find it. The frustration of being confronted with not only an empty ice cream machine, but an empty candy machine and pastry machine as well, usually set off a reaction that resulted in my kicking a machine, chosen at random. What the hell— they were always stealing change anyway.

Three years later, as far as I know, those machines are still mostly empty on Sunday, and still getting kicked.

*

A Typical Experience

The subject was working on the fourth floor of the student center at 3 am one morning. Conceiving a great hunger, he sought to satisfy it by descending to the basement and buying food from the Servend machines squatting in a long row west of the Post Office.

His first attempt, with one of two Pastryshop machines, ended in failure when the automaton refused his offer of two nickels and a dime.

The second Pastryshop accepted American coin, but gave nothing in return.

The subject called extension 5858, reported the loss to a recording, and returned to the machines. The soda machine was dead. It apparently had been firebombed, judging from the melted insulation and charred metal in its dispensing port. The milk machine, for reasons yet unknown, was dark and silent.

The first Candyshop had a stopped-up coin slot. The second swallowed a quarter, considered it, and spat it out.

The subject took the elevator back upstairs and got change from a friend. Back downstairs, the Candyshop devoured a dime and a nickel.

To his credit, the subject restrained himself and did not kick nor beat the insolent machines. Instead, he went back upstairs and vented his frustration on several cases of empty Coke bottles, which he proceeded to smash against a concrete wall. He offered no resistance when two campus patrolmen arrived to cart him away.

*

About two weeks ago, Robert Fourer and I took a Sunday night tour of the vending machines in MIT dormitories and a few other locations. With few exceptions, we found an empty rate of over 50% and a high percentage of malfunctioning machines. A few of the highlights:

MacGregor: The pastry machine bore a paper notice, "Caveat Emptor." The soft drink machine was not accepting nickels, while the coffee machine was eating them. The milk machine was out of change, and the change machine was dead.

Burton: Cold Food and Pastryshop were empty; the change machine was dead, and Ice Cold Drinks in Cans stole my quarter. Ice Cold, poor fellow, was marred by the dents made by previous victims. Kicking set the machine on a nickel-dispensing jag which stopped after 20 cents had spewed forth.

Baker: Cold Food, Ice Cream, and Pastryshop were all empty. Candyshop wasn't taking quarters. Soda checked out all right, but bore an ominous notice scratched into its off-beige paint job: "Thief Oct 19 71." Milk was out of change; however, change is available at Baker desk. Until closing, anyway.

A different situation entirely prevailed at locations within the Institute proper. In the basements of Buildings 7, 10, 26, and 14, we found only one out-of-order machine, and though many slots were empty, virtually all of the machines were capable of dispensing something.

Student Center: Cigarettes, Ice Cream, and one each of Candyshop and Pastryshop — all dead. Cigarettes had choked on pennies down its coin slot. Coffee did not appear long for the world. Its door was twisted where someone had obviously tried to jimmy it open, probably with a crwobar.

East Campus: The vending room at East Campus looks like a mechanical morgue. Only Cold Food appeared to be still functional, and it was empty. The Ice Cream machine had been forced open, and someone had ripped out most of its innards, leaving only a few wires and tubes, dangling like disemboweled viscera on the floor.

I called extension 5858, reported the whole woeful tale, and asked for my lost quarter back. As I later discovered, x5858 doesn't have a very long tape, which may explain why I never did get my refund.

*

When Servend raised its prices this fall, many people who rely on the vending machines for snacks and sandwiches were annoyed. Lousy service and higher prices, too?

Servend-Seiler Corporation of Waltham, which holds the exclusive contract for MIT vending operations (exclusive except for Coca-Cola machines), asked MIT's Housing and Dining Service for permission to raise prices for several reasons, including vandalism, according to H&D director Howard Miller. The others were a decline in overall sales, increased labor and product costs, and an unfavorable product mix, growing steadily worse.

Those who have trouble summoning pity for corporations, or who have special gripes against Servend, may be skeptical. However, according to MIT officials, and Servend's on-campus manager, Ed DeFino, the company is taking a beating on its vending operations at MIT and may in fact be losing money.

Photo by Joe Kashi

Servend's problem is rooted in the nature of its contract with MIT. Back in 1967, four companies, including Servend, operated vending machine concessions on campus. Trouble developed because the largest of these was giving poor service; the MIT administration decided it would be more efficent to have only one vendor. The contract was then put up for bids. Servend offered the best commission percentage to MIT. (Concession contracts are negotiated either on a flat payment basis, wherein the company pays a flat fee for the right to set up a concession on the client's property, or a commission basis, where the client is paid a percentage of sales. MIT's contract with Servend is of the latter type.)

The contract places all the risks in Servend's lap. The Institute cannot be held liable for vandalism, and hence cannot lose money. In fact, MIT makes money from the concession; about $30,000 last year, which was not a particularly good one. At one time the concession was paying the Institute close to $40,000. This contrasts with MIT's manual food-delivery services, all of which operate at no better than break-even, and most of which require subsidization. The rate of commission is based not upon total sales, but varies by product, with a higher rate attached to such high profit items as coffee. Servend-Seiler must pay this commission whether it nets anything from the operation or not.

MIT also has the power to require the machines to be kept in unprofitable locations. Presently, Servend has about 175 machines on campus, and would like to pull out many of the slow-selling ones, such as those in the dormitories, but the Institute will not allow this, since it regards the machines as irreplacable in certain locations, such as the nuclear labs, which are distant from the campus. The Institute thus has the best of the deal.

Servend could pull off the campus entirely if it wanted to, but this is unlikely since the company has about $300,000 worth of capital invested on the campus, in the form of machines which cost $700 to $1800 apiece. The company can afford to run the operation at a break-even level, or even at a slight loss, writing it off in taxes and at least covering overhead. Miller, and Robert Radocchia, Walker Dining director, and MIT's liason man with Servend, regard a pullout as highly unlikely.

Just as unlikely would be MIT expelling Servend for poor service. The Institute could not possibly find a cheaper substitute.

Servend machine? Or, Woe and Why

*

Breakage and pilferage, especially over the past year, have been tremendous in all but a few locations. One of these is the lunchroom on the third floor of the Ford Building, E18/19, where Servend maintains two walls of impeccable machines, filled daily, serviced whenever necessary. It is regarded as the model area in Servend's campus empire.

When I left Miller's office on the third floor of E-18, I went to the lunchroom to buy an ice cream cone. There I discovered four employees gathered around a disabled Candyshop.

The machine had developed an ailment common to its kind: two or more candybars somehow get dropped into the dispensing display tray, which then refuses to flip the goodies into the customer tray. The problem is usually compounded by greedy people trying to get two bars for the price of one, which only jams the display tray further.

The Candyshop was now sporting two or three bars in each of its slots, and the youngest of the four employees was busily trying to retrieve them with a bent coat hanger. He and his three colleagues from Physical Plant also tried shaking the machine, turning it half over on its back, and bouncing it. They succeeded in liberating two candy bars.

As they were engaged in this, Howard Miller walked by the lunchroom door. He paused, considered the situation, then called x5858 while the employee returned to work with the coat-hanger.

Moral: No one has any morality regarding machines.

*

Ed DeFino, a fortyish man with great many keys in his pocket, is Servend's manager on campus. He runs the operation out of a small warehouse in Building N-52.

Machines malfunction for a variety of reasons, but many of them result from tampering or attempts to vandalize the machine. Coin mechanisms are delicate and will sometimes reject coins on their own, for no apparent reason, but kicking will only compound the malfunction. More commonly, DeFino finds machines refusing to accept money because their magnetic detectors have captured slugs or Canadian coins, rendering the particular denomination unacceptable, since the trapped discs block the slots. The chicken-or-egg first paradox applies to vending machines (do they first malfunction, and then get kicked by frustrated people; or do they get kicked and then malfunction?) but the result is eventually the same: gronked machine.

Vandalism in the dormitories, however, goes beyond mere frustrated kicking. The destroyed East Campus machines are a case in point; the machines in Senior House were so badly damaged last year that they have since been removed.

Whether the vandalism is done by residents or outsiders DeFino couldn't say. However, the relatively less damage incurred by machines in the academic complex may indicate that students are to blame.

Three servicemen work under DeFino; according to him, they service most of the machines "daily." The men's duties are divided by category; one handles candy, pastry and sandwiches; another cigarettes, a third milk and ice cream. By law, sandwiches and pastry cannot be left in the machine more than a day or so. This means that the company throws away considerable amounts of food (13% of all pastry placed in campus machines, for example, has to be thrown out). In slow-moving areas like MacGregor, this can mean a loss of up to 2/3 of the product. Not stocking a machine to capacity results in complaints of bad service; you can't win.

A repairman is on duty eight hours a day during the week; he checks in with DeFino in the morning and, if there have been no complaints from the night before, makes a round of the machines, spot checking and doing minor repairs.

DeFino himself listens to the x5858 recording every morning, writes out refunds, and makes repair assignments. As a rule, anyone who reports a coin loss has the money sent to him at his MIT address, and, says DeFino, a certain few names turn up with unusual frequency, indicating phoney claims are being made. Their dollar value is small, however, and most are paid, anyway. More troublesome are people who report coin losses and then fail to leave full name and address information. Extension 5858 also attracts about 50% crank calls, some of them obscene.

The 50 or so machines Servend would like to pull out are mostly located in dormitories, where competition from kitchens and students cooking in their rooms have severely bitten into sales. DeFino mentioned examples like the coffee machine in MacGregor, which had been averaging under 20 cups a day, not even enough to pay for its own maintenence.

At least for this year, however, MIT insists they remain.

The company seems to have reacted by subtly slowing down its service in these fringe areas. Service is noticeably faster in the profitable areas such as E-19 and building 10. Servend is understandably loath to invest in expensive repairs on a machine that will not sell sandwiches and probably get broken again — so the machine will stay out of order for a while.

The coffee machines' sales have also been hurt by competition from departments, who, over the past couple of years have been setting up their own coffee urns and, in some cases, supplying donuts. The company asked MIT to curtail this in E-19 and, with the exception of one floor, MIT acceded. Needless to say, however, the Institute is not about to infringe on departmental coffee urns.

*

Examining the Servend system, one is impressed by its technical backwardness. Investigating the Engineering library, I found a handful of articles on vending machine design and construction, compared to several dozen on their placement, sales management, decoration, etc. One wonders whether a project lab in Courses II and VI, for example, might not be able to come up with a machine that could electronically self-diagnose its ailments and relay that information, along with a status report of its condition (sales? empty slots?) via phone line to a central computer . . .

It is also hard to understand why the company doesn't fill machines only to their capacity to sell, rather than waste pastry in machines that aren't patronized.

However, that's Servend's problem, for as we said, MIT can't lose a penny.

SPORTS

Photo by Brad Billetdeaux

Heavies show promise in annual Head regatta

By Brad Billetdeaux

There were signs of future success for MIT crews in the annual Head of the Charles regatta rowed a week ago Sunday, October 24. On first look however, the results of this multi-event regatta seem as bleak for the Techmen as the weather that day.

On a chilly, sunless day, MIT took no first places and failed to retain the Paul Revere Trophy for overall point victory. Tech's best finish was turned in by the four-with-coxswain of Charles Aden '74, bow, Larry Esposito '73, Charles Davies '74, Doug Looze '74, stroke, and Jim Clark '74, coxswain, in the intermediate four-oared event. They were fourth out of 22 boats and only 2½ seconds separated them from second place – quite a small margain when considering that the race is three miles in length and the average time for a four-oared shell is over 17 minutes. Another MIT four finished fifth in the same event.

MIT's most enheartening finish was in the elite four-oared event, where the nucleus of the varsity heavy-weight squad faced the best fours in the country and placed fifth. However, the first and fourth place finishers were not collegians but rather internationally experienced club oarsmen.

The only collegiate crews ahead of MIT were Brown and Harvard. Directly behind the Techmen was last year's Eastern Sprint champion Navy. The MIT crew included cox Dave Burns '72, stroke Jere Leffler '73, Dustin Ordway '73, Greg Chisholm '73, and bow Andy Kernohan '74.

The varsity lightweight's fall aerobic training program has not yet begun to pay off for them, as their first eight-oared crew finished fifth, well back of a strong Navy crew which has been rowing since the beginning of August. MIT was very close to Harvard's time, however.

In other events, the frosh heavies were beaten by only one other freshman crew in the intermediate eights event. That crew was Dartmouth and composed of ex-prep school oarsmen. The MIT oarsmen were all novices. The graduate crew was clearly out of their class in the elite eights event, rowing against the US national championship eight.

Tech booters top Colby 2-1

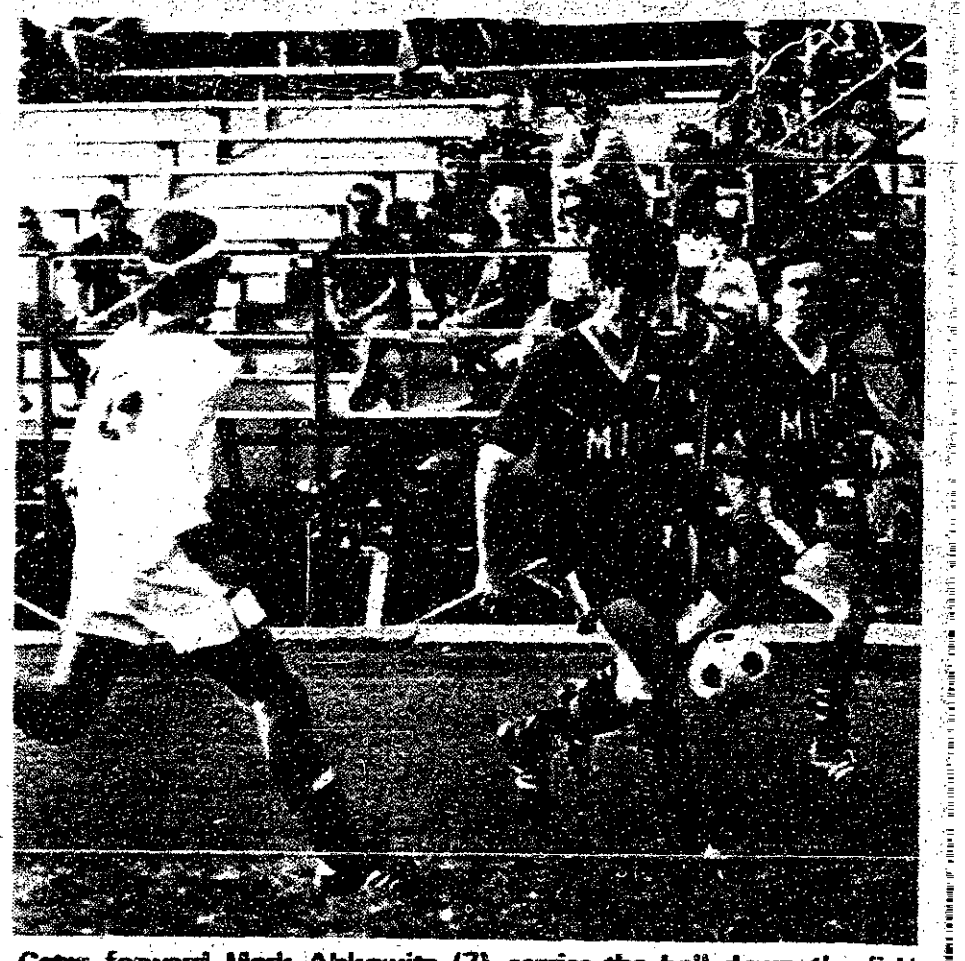
By Nakir Minazian

The Tech soccer team continued in its winning ways this weekend with a 2-1 victory over Colby College. The booters have won four out of their last five games and are now five and six on the season.

The Techmen controlled the game over the visitors from Colby from the start and heavily outshot them, especially in the second half, but were again plagued with an inability to put the ball into the net. They scored in the first half on two beautiful plays but failed to put in some easy goals, including two missed open-net shots.

The first goal came late in the first period when a Tech halfback tried to loft a pass to the forwards from midfield. A Colby defender went up for the headball and even though he had better position, center forward Mark Abkowitz '74, just back from a knee injury, went up higher and sent a perfect headpass over to left outside Iain Glendinning '72. Glendinning made a beautiful shot from the corner of the penalty area and caught the upper far corner for his second goal of the year.

In the second period, the Techmen again stormed the Colby goal with no result until late in the period. After a corner kick and some hard pressing offensively by the booters, a Colby clearing pass was intercepted about 40 yards out by halfback John Kavazanjian '72. Kavazanjian beat the defenseman who challenged him, dribbled into the right side of the penalty area, and passed off to Esref Unsal '75 wide open in the middle. Unsal dribbled past a defender and beat the Colby goalie for the needed margin.



Center forward Mark Abkowitz (7) carries the ball down the field with help from left wing Iain Glendinning (13). Abkowitz and Glendinning combined for the Techmen's first goal in Saturday's win over Colby.

Photo by Brad Billetdeaux

The MIT attack was highlighted by a good short passing game, brilliant at times, and good usage of backpasses to goalie Tom Aden '72 on defense. The only Colby goal was scored in the fourth period on a long, right to left cross pass and a head ball, but defense was in general good. The true test comes against nationally ranked and undefeated Tufts, whom the booters meet on Tuesday. It will take not only a brilliant short passing game and good defense, but conversion of any good scoring opportunities to win. The game is at home, on Briggs Field, at 2.

Varsity scores sailing wins

Both the men's and women's varsity sailing teams scored victories this weekend, as the men won the MIT Open Regatta, and the women took first place in the Victorian Coffee Urn Trophy Regatta at Radcliffe. In other action, another varsity contingent placed fourth of nine teams in the Donaghy Bowl at Holy Cross, and the freshmen took fourth in an invitational at Boston University.

In the MIT Open on Saturday, Alan Spoon '73, with Dean Kross '73 as crew, and Steve Cucchiaro '74, sailing with Launey Thomas '74, sailed the varsity to a victory, as they both placed first in their respective divisions. With respective records (not necessarily in order of race) of 1-1-2-4-6 and 1-1-1-2-5, Alan and Steve easily outdistanced second place Maine Maritime. Participating schools were: MIT 24, Maine Maritime 39, Brown 42, Harvard 54, Tufts 55, Northeastern 61, Coast Guard 63, Boston College 78, Trinity 79, Babson 86, and Yale 102.

On Saturday and Sunday, the women's team won the Victorian Coffee Urn Regatta, topping hostess Radcliffe by a two-point margin. Trailing Connecticut College by two points after Saturday's racing, the women came on to win in Sunday's fresh breeze. Maria Bozzuto '73, with Shelly Bernstein '74 crewing, placed second in "A" Division, while Lynn Roylance '72, sailing with Martha Donahue '75, took low-point honors in Division "B".

The Donaghy Bowl, sailed on Lake Quinsigamond on Worcester, was plagued by it usual light air conditions. Frank Keil '73 and John Lacy '72 co-skippered Tech's A-Divison entry, while Walter Frank and Randy Young, both sophomores, sailed in Division 'B', taking low-point laurels. MIT finished fourth, as Coast Guard won the regatta. The resulting scores: Coast Guard 18, Harvard 23, Boston University 28, MIT 32, WPI 41, Tufts 46, Brown 58, U. of Connecticut 64, and Holy Cross 65.

Athletic program discussed

By Randy Young

On Friday and Saturday, October 29-30, MIT's Visiting Committee on Student Affairs met to discuss and study the school's athletic program and facilities. The committee, whose members are alumni and other interested parties appointed by the Corporation and the President, heard presentations and remarks from students and Institute officials concerning various phases of MIT athletics. They will report to the Corporation in mid-1972.

The Friday morning session began with a welcome by President Jerome Wiesner and Dean for Institute Relations Benson Snyder. Following these talks, J. Daniel Nyhart, Dean for Student Affairs, outlined the educational premises underlying student affairs programs.

Ross Smith, Director of Athletics, then spoke on the organization, goals, scope, and problems of the athletic program, covering topics including the physical education program and the budget. William Dickson, Director of Physical Plant, followed Smith and reviewed the facilities and operational aspects of the program.

Following lunch, a student panel discussed the athletic program and fielded questions from members of the committee. The discussion was moderated by Smith and panel members were Greg Chisholm '73, John Kavazanjian '72, Linda Tufts '74, Ken Weisshaar '72, Richard Willoughby G, David Wilson '73, and Professor Arthur Farnham, Jr., Head Track Coach.

Topics covered in the session included athletics for women at MIT, possibilities for an improved graduate student athletic program, athletics in relation to the needs and background of the black student, the need for improved facilities, and the importance of athletics in student life at MIT.

Saturday morning's session dealt with planning for future development of athletic facilities, featuring a presentation by O. Robert Simha, Director of the MIT Planning Office. Simha divided future projects into short, medium, and long range goals, and included items such as development of satellite facilities near living groups, a cover for the hockey rink, and a new athletic center.

The Visiting Committee's report will have a major effect on budget allocations for next year and on capital funding for future development of the athletic plant.

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