

The Tech.

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MIT, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

FIVE CENTS

Freeze to have little effect on MIT's financial picture

By Robert Fourer

The wage-price freeze will have no immediate large-scale effect on the Institute's finances, according to John Wynne, Vice President for Administration and Personnel.

However, losses during the 90-day period due to freeze rulings may slightly exceed gains, stated Wynne, whose office has overall responsibility for determining the effect of the rulings on the Institute. Nevertheless he was optimistic that if President Nixon's new economic program achieved its goals it would benefit MIT in the long run.

Meanwhile, in the initial three-month freeze period the Institute stands to lose anticipated income from rents in Eastgate, Westgate, and apartments operated by the MIT-owned Northgate Corporation. Dividends from stock investments—an important source of income—are also likely to decline in total, due to voluntary compliance with Nixon's request that no specific increases be declared during the freeze.

As for major savings, there are none in sight. Prices of services and supplies are largely fixed by long-term contracts running through the 90-day period. Pay increases are reviewed between January 1 and July 1, so 1971 raises have already taken effect; higher rates for research and teaching assistants were put in effect for the summer session, and will govern any new appointments.

The Institute may gain slightly if new employees whose prob-

ationary periods end during the freeze are not allowed the pay increases they would normally usually receive. But even these raises may be allowed: regulations seem to permit an increase in pay if it has been an "established procedure" after a probationary period of not more than three months.

In addition, tuition, room and board, and medical fees increases are unaffected by the freeze, a gain in a negative sort of way. Overhead charges for research projects will also be unaffected immediately, since they are generally part of long-term contracts.

Predictions of Nixonomics' effect on the Institute have not only been clouded by the unpredictability of post-freeze measures. Contradictory and unclear rulings made even the 90-day freeze hard to assess at first.

A case in point is tuition and related fees (room and board, medical). These were raised effective with the summer term, so at first it was assumed they would be unaffected. A statement in a list of questions and answers released three days after the freeze began supported this assumption, but for different reasons: tuition rates were considered transaction prices, since commitments have been made, and there are a number of cases where payments have been made. No mention was made of room and board or other fees.

Further support came almost a week later in the "Economic Stabilization Circular No. 1," printed in the *Federal Register*

to make the policies in the question and answer sets official. It declared that "Increased school tuition rates for the 1971-1972 school year, announced on or before August 14, are permitted because such rates are considered to be in effect at the time of the announcement." Administrators were now quite confident they needed no longer be concerned with tuition.

But the first mention of room and board came two days later, in another set of questions and answers, and threw matters into confusion. Room and board were declared not exempt from the freeze: "[They] are handled just like tuition. If there were substantial transactions during the base period (confirmed by deposits), the increase may be charged. If there was not a substantial volume, the increase is not allowed." This appeared to contradict previous tuition rulings, and cast some doubt on the original reasoning as well (that increases were permitted because they took effect with the summer term).

In any case, a "substantial volume" had already been defined as 10%, so that any price at or above which 10% of transactions had been made was to be considered the ceiling for the freeze. Thus if there were any transactions for fall term tuition before August 15, one could reason, they would qualify as a substantial volume since not 10 but 100% would be at the new rates. This turned out to be the correct interpretation: a sum-

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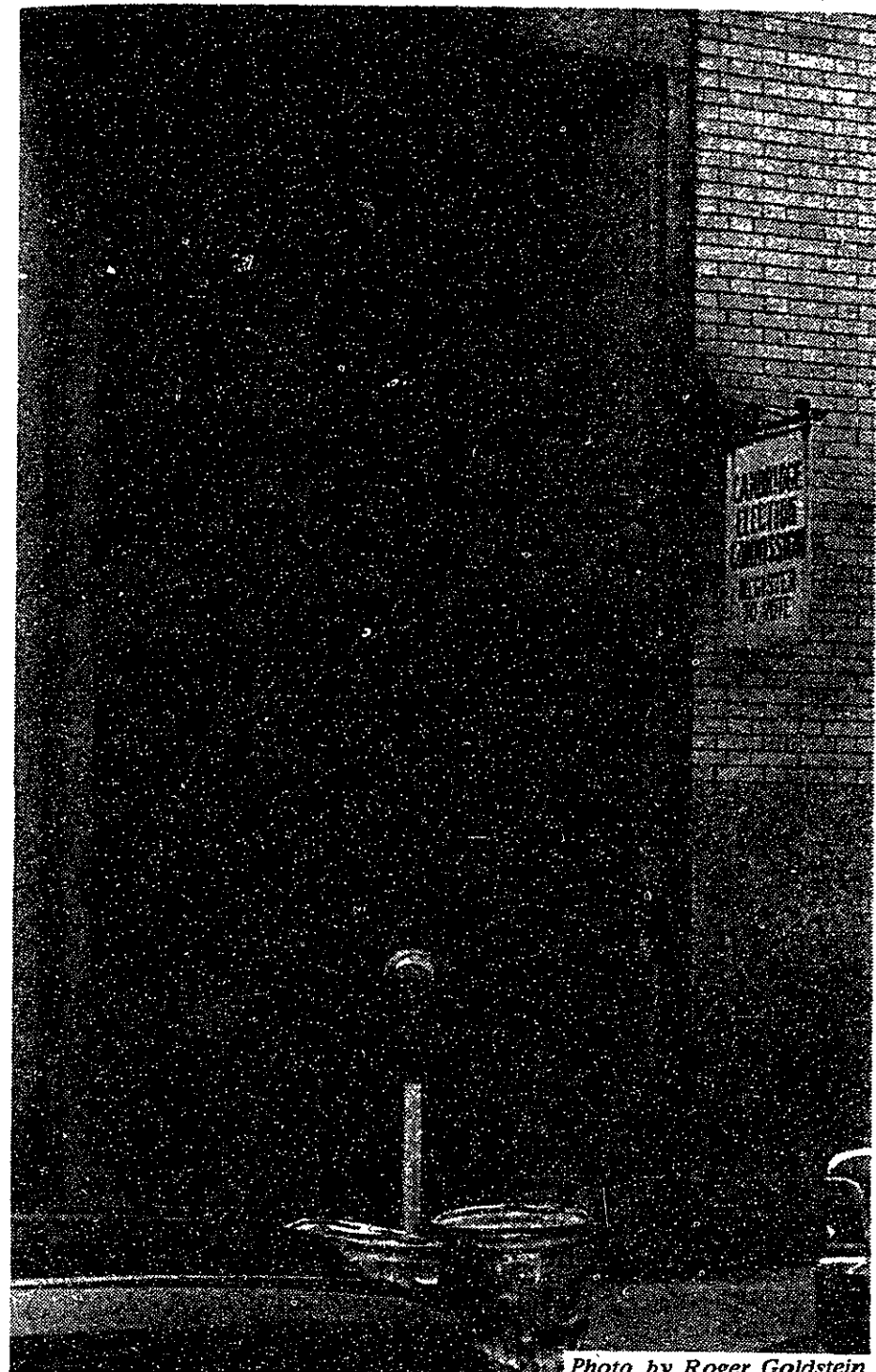


Photo by Roeer Goldstein

Cambridge faces test on voter registration

By Robert Fourer

A court test of Cambridge's continued refusal to register most students as voters will reconvene in U.S. District Court at 10 am today.

At issue is a motion for a preliminary injunction against the Cambridge Election Commission in behalf of three local students. They were refused under Commission policy which requires that voters be self-supporting, and which presumes they will not remain indefinitely after graduation.

An opinion issued by Attorney General Robert Quinn last summer declared these restrictions invalid, but it is not in itself legally binding. [Excerpts from the Quinn opinion appear on page 4.]

Meanwhile, the Boston Election Commission has accepted Quinn's guidelines, and will register anyone who can prove residence for six months by election day (November 2) and who simply declares he intends to remain in the city indefinitely. (Registration in Boston resumes after the primary election today.)

Quinn's ruling would permit a student to select his own domicile for voting purposes, regardless of whether he lives in a dorm or fraternity, or whether his parents support him. Domicile for voting purposes was defined by Quinn as "actual residence in the town, coupled with an intention to remain indefinitely. The intention to remain indefinitely does not mean an intention to stay forever but merely that there is no present intention of leaving."

Thus, courts willing, the way

would be cleared for almost every college student who wished to vote in the town where he attended school. Residents of Boston fraternities or apartments should have no trouble registering now if they lived in the same place last May 2 (and can prove it with a lease, letter from a landlord, old utility or phone bill, or old phone listing). Cambridge students will have to wait for the court ruling, unless they are apartment dwellers who can contrive not to look like students; but chances are good a decision will be forthcoming well before the October 13 registration deadline. (Freshmen will be ineligible for this fall's elections, since they fail the residence requirement.)

If Quinn's opinion is upheld statewide—and chances seem good it will be—students will comprise at least 25% of the eligible voters in seven of the state's communities, including Cambridge. In 17 more, including Boston, they will make up more than 10%.

Student voting has especially great potential consequences in Cambridge, where there are currently less than 50,000 registered voters out of a possible 80,000 under Quinn's ruling. Of those unregistered, it is estimated that at least 14,000 are students; there are probably many thousand more young people not in school.

Cambridge's nine city council seats and six school board memberships will be contested this November. In the last election (1969) it took only 2500 votes to elect a councillor under the city's proportional represent-

(Please turn to page 3)

'71 draft ceiling set at 140

Men with draft lottery numbers above 140 are almost certainly safe from the possibility of induction this year, even if Congress passes a new draft law this month, according to "knowledgeable government officials" cited in *The New York Times* last week.

If the draft extension is delayed—a prospect which is not unlikely—the top number may remain below the present ceiling of 125.

No one has been drafted since June 30, when the government's basic authority to draft men into the Army expired. Technically, the government still has authority to induct men under 35 years of age who have had deferments, but the Nixon administration claims there are no plans to do so.

Students born in 1951 or earlier are included in the draft-eligible pool this year if they are not deferred. Those who are 1-A on December 31 and whose numbers have not been reached will escape induction, barring a major mobilization.

Thus if a person with a 2-S student deferment determines his number will not be reached this year he may write to his local draft board and request he be placed in the pool and his deferment cancelled. He will, for all practical purposes, escape

the draft. Students are warned not to drop their deferments hastily, however, since if their numbers are reached they will be unlikely to get the 2-S back again.

The total draft call this year will probably be less than 110,000, compared with 165,000 last year when the highest number was 195. The longer Congress delays in passing the draft bill, the fewer people will be called this year, and the more will be taken the year after.

The bill is being held up by two factors not directly related to the draft. One is strong Senate support for an amendment sponsored by majority leader Mike Mansfield which would declare the policy of the country to be that American troops are to be withdrawn from Vietnam by the end of this year if prisoners of war are released first. The amendment was passed by the Senate but considerably watered down in a House-Senate conference on the bill, and several Senators have threatened a filibuster.

The second factor is the freeze. The bill before the Senate would increase the pay and allowances of servicemen effective October 1, and legal experts believe such a law would supersede the law that gave Pres-

ident Nixon authority to freeze wages. To prevent such a break in the freeze, passage would have to be delayed while the bill was returned to committee for modification.

When passed, the new draft bill will also give the President authority to eliminate student deferments, an authority he has already stated he will use.

College students who were enrolled full time in the 1970-1971 academic year will be eligible for student deferments in the 1971-1972 school year, if they continue to make satisfactory progress in their programs of study. However, those who enroll as freshmen this fall will not qualify for student deferments once the law is passed.

Dr. Curtis W. Tarr, Selective Service Director, said: "Few incoming students are likely to be inducted in the near future because of the student deferment phaseout. Of the 1,034,000 incoming freshmen males estimated by the Office of Education, approximately 80% are 18 years old and only 20% are 19 years of age or older.

"The 18 year olds will receive their lottery numbers in 1972, and they will not be subject to induction until 1973, when draft calls should be low. The 19 year old freshmen received their lot-

(Please turn to page 2)

MIT losses top gains '71 draft ceiling set at 140 during 90-day freeze

(Continued from page 1)
 mary issued August 29, ostensibly abstracting all previous rulings, declared that increased charges were valid "if, before August 15, at least one (1) person paid (confirmed by a deposit) such charges."

There were payments received before August 15, according to Wynne, and thus the fees were exempt. (Surprisingly, the Registrar's letter to students clarifying the freeze, dated September 1, persisted in quoting the Economic Stabilization Circular, though it had been superceded. The true state of affairs was only hinted at in the letter's last paragraph.)

The matter of raises after a probationary period has followed a smoother but longer course. It is still not clear whether such raises can be granted since (1) some probationary periods last more than three months; and (2) the period is not invariably followed by a raise.

(Continued from page 1)
 tery numbers August 5 of this year and will be subject to induction next year; at least half should have high enough lottery numbers to preclude their induction. Of those remaining, approximately 50% will be disqualified on mental, moral or physical grounds.

"This means that a maximum of 50,000 men will be directly

affected in 1972 by the student deferment phaseout and one-half of these, or 25,000, will probably not be inducted because of enlistments in Regular, Reserve of National Guard units, participating in commissioning programs or because of procedural delays."

Freshmen may still file now for student deferments, but are strongly advised against it. The

2-S deferment extends a registrant's draft liability to age 35, and will be revoked anyhow once the new bill is passed.

College students will not be drafted in the middle of a term. If called while enrolled, they will be allowed to postpone induction until the end of the term; if in their last academic year, they will be able to postpone their induction until after graduation.

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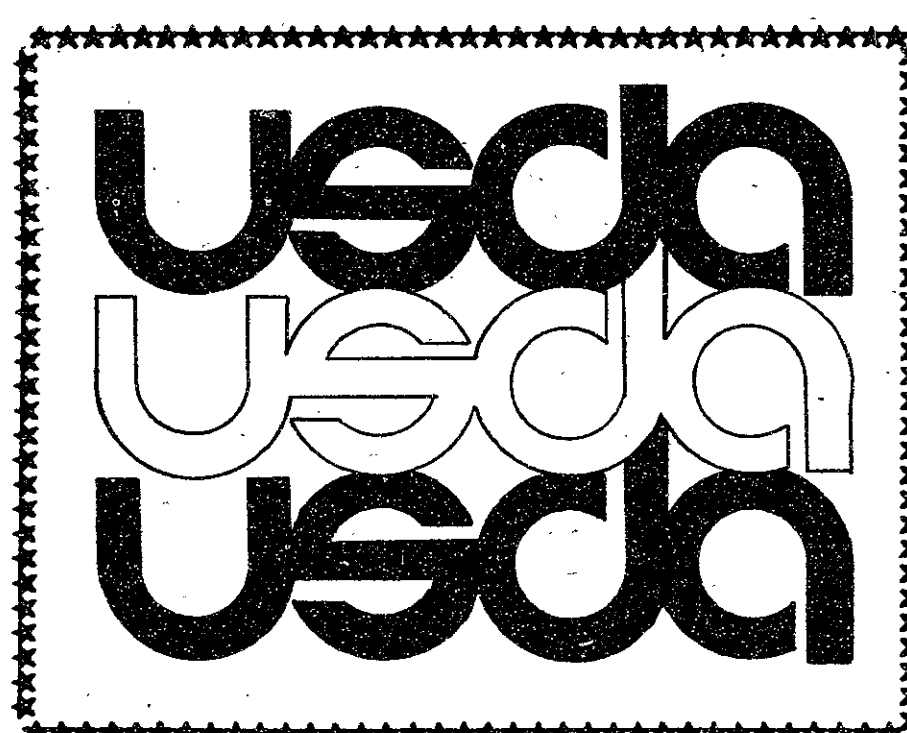
The Seventh Annual Tuition Riot will be held Tuesday, September 14, not September 21 as previously announced. It will commence spontaneously at 11 pm at the Great Sail and move from there to the President's House.

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The United Student Discount Association is an organization of over 125 merchants who offer member students discounts ranging from 10%-50% on each and every purchase made throughout the year.

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MIT rejected 'Papers'

By Lee Giguere

The MIT Press Editorial Board declined last July to publish a nearly-complete version of the Pentagon Papers.

Publication was rejected mainly on legal grounds, according to chairman of the Board Dean Robert Bishop, at a meeting of four members of the Board on July 26.

Bishop stated that while the Supreme Court had ruled that newspapers are free from "prior restraint" on publication, several of the Justices had explicitly noted it would be appropriate for the government to prosecute after the papers were published. Besides the possibility of legal action against MIT, Bishop claimed that printing the papers would be an act of civil disobedience and that the Board was "reluctant" to involve MIT officially in such an act. More simply, he declared that the Board didn't want to do something "that would be widely regarded as illegal."

The papers were brought to Howard Webber, Director of the MIT Press, by Dr. Leonard S. Rodberg, a fellow of the Institute of Policy Studies in Washington. Rodberg has become associated with Senator Mike Gravel after the Senator read parts of the study at a specially-called late-night meeting of his Subcommittee of Public Buildings and Grounds on June 29. He had been assisting the Senator in an attempt to get a complete version of the papers published.

On Friday, July 23, Rodberg contacted Webber, who reviewed the papers and determined that they were of "editorial interest." He said that at that time he believed that Senator Gravel's congressional immunity might also protect the publisher of the papers. Over the weekend,

Webber contacted seven of the eight members of the Editorial Board of the Press (a ninth position was vacant at the time).

Standard procedure is for the Editorial Board, a standing committee of the faculty, to review all material before it is published. The Press' professional staff, Webber explained, examines material and submits to the Board what it considers editorially interesting.

Under pressure from Gravel for an early decision, four members of the Board, including Bishop, Professors Gardiner Swain (V), Zennon Zannetos (XV) and Ernest Rabinowicz (II) (three others were traveling and could not attend the meeting) met with Webber on July 26th. Also present were Provost Walter Rosenblith, the highest-ranking member of the administration available at the time, and an Institute lawyer to discuss the legal aspects of publication. According to Webber, the three absent Board members had said that the project was of editorial interest, but had urged caution regarding the legal implications of publishing the papers.

Bishop stated that he had invited Rosenblith to attend the meeting "since the entire board

wouldn't be present" and because of the issues involved. Questioned about the BAD report which implied the MIT administration had a hand in the decision, Bishop claimed there was "no sign of his [Rosenblith's] trying to dictate a decision," and that Rosenblith had only posed questions about the issues involved.

Bishop explained that a number of Board members hadn't rejected publication "out of hand," but after a two hour discussion, he said a "fairly clear consensus" had emerged that MIT should not become involved in such a venture. There was no discussion at the meeting of the possible penalties MIT might incur.

Contacted after the Board's final decision, the three absent members, as well as MIT President Jerome Wiesner, concurred with the decision.

Webber stated that he was "disappointed" that the Press did not publish the Papers, and Bishop said that his "personal sympathies may have favoured publication." The Board, he said, felt "initial sympathy with the results" (publication of the documents) but was concerned over the legal issues involved.

Cambridge faces test on voter registration

(Continued from page 1)

Most registration activities here are being coordinated by the Cambridge Committee for Voter Registration, which was instrumental in bringing the case for student registration to Quinn's office. It is working for evening hours (an order allocating the necessary funds was to have been brought before the city council last night) and will give advice to anyone who calls (547-6767).

In any case, the decline of the voting age to 18 has in itself swelled the pool of potential voters, and stepped-up efforts at registration have shown impressive success.

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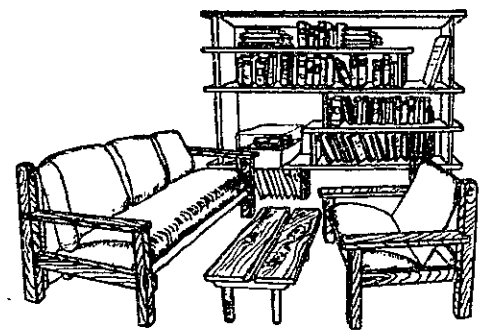
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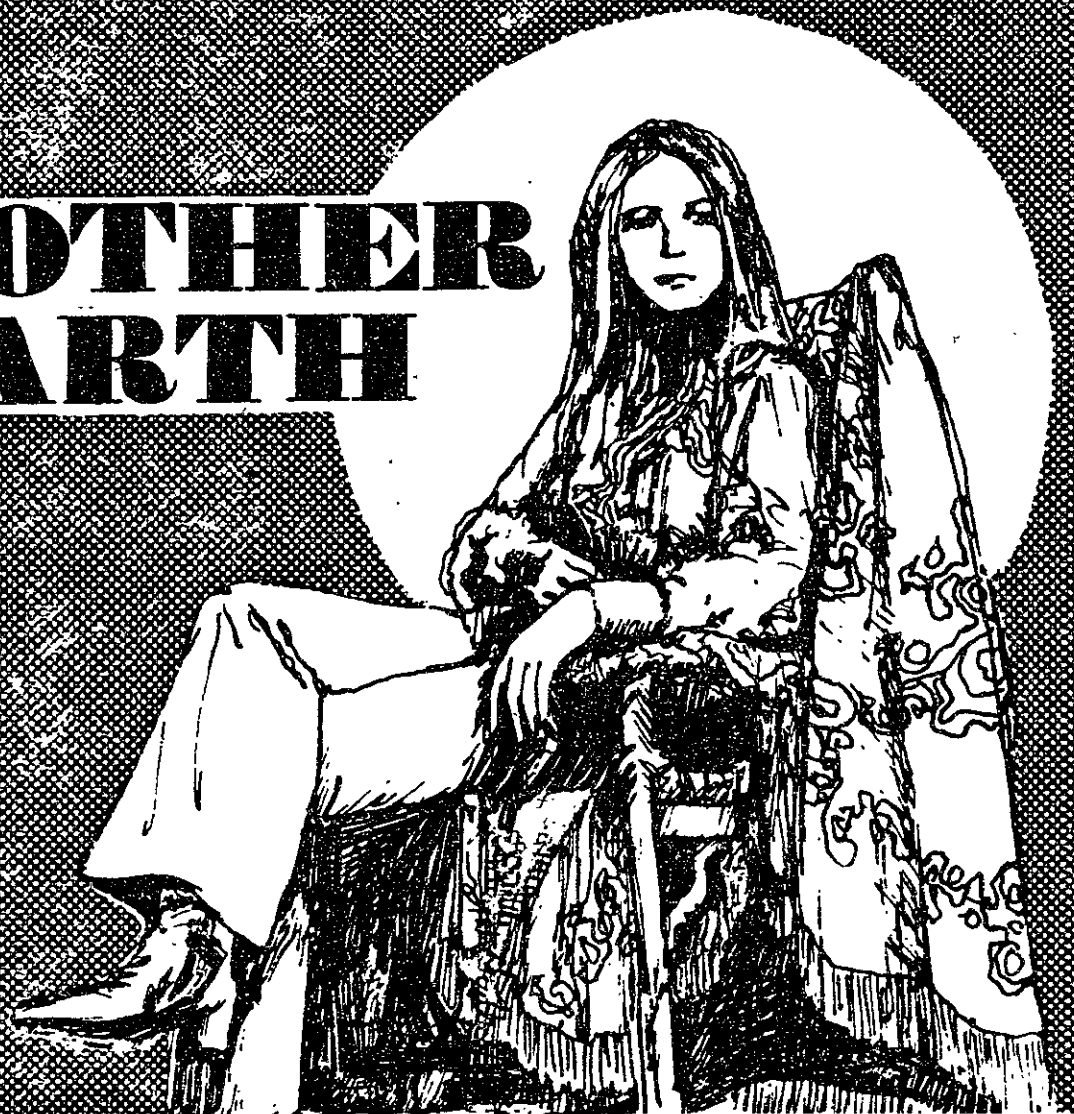
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NOTES

* The hours for 8.333 have been changed, to 2:30-4 pm Tuesday and Thursday. The room has also been changed, to 6-120.

* 7.01 will meet MWF in 10-250 instead of 54-100.

* Alpha Phi Omega's Book Drive will be held Tuesday, Sept. 14 to Friday, Sept. 17 in the Bldg. 10 lobby. Bring in your used books and put them on sale. Check in Bldg. 10 before buying your texts elsewhere and save money.

* Harvard-MIT Program in Health Sciences and Technology: Information on new courses and application forms for enrollment in Functional Anatomy and Human Pathology may be obtained from office of Director, 16-512.

* New informal course on elementary Spanish conversation, plus some art and music lectures. 1½ hours a week. If you'd like to sign up, please call Connie De Fusco (x7115) or leave your name and extension on the sheet on the door of 56-510.

* On October 16 the UNICEF Committee of Boston will present two benefit movie shows in Kresge Auditorium for the refugees of East Pakistan in India. The Committee is also soliciting donations through advertisements to be printed in a souvenir brochure which will be distributed at the benefit. To place an ad, call Laxmidas Popat at 434-5885 (office) or 729-5169 (home).

* Urban Action is once again looking for volunteers — their projects have been expanded and include tutoring, elderly services, transportation, legal services, research and a newsletter. If you are interested, please call x2894 or stop by at Room 437 in the Student Center.

* Auditions for Zamir, intercollegiate chorus specializing in Hebrew repertoire, will be held from Sept. 9 through Oct. 7. For information call 491-2944 or 354-6354.

* Application deadline for Fulbright scholarships for study overseas in October 8. Applications and further information are available from Dean Harold Hazen, Room 10-303, x5243.

* Educational Testing Service test dates: Graduate Record Exams, October 23 (application deadline October 5); Admission Test for Graduate Study in Business, November 6; National Teacher Examinations, November 13. For further information visit the Placement Office, E19-455.

* Notes are printed in this space in *The Tech* every Tuesday and Friday. Announcements of general community interest will be given preference; profit-making or political events will not be listed. The editors cannot guarantee the printing of any particular submission, and reserve the right to edit or reject copy.

Deadlines are Fri. 5 pm for Tues. issues, and Wed. noon for Fri. issues.

VOTE

To register to vote:

Cambridge: register at Election Commission, 3rd floor, 362 Green St. (police headquarters bldg., Central Sq.), from 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday. Bring proof of residence since May 2, 1971 (lease, listing in old phone book, letter from landlord); pending court ruling you must also demonstrate self-support (bring a paycheck), especially if you are under 21. For evening hours and information call 876-9828.

Boston: registration suspended until after primary elections today. Register at City Hall (Gov't Center) or neighborhood locations to be announced. Only proof of residence (same as Cambridge) required.

Quinn ruling: why you can vote here

Following are excerpts from Attorney General Robert H. Quinn's ruling on student voter registration in Massachusetts.

The questions relate to persons between the ages of 18 and 21, both students and non-students, who seek to register to vote in Massachusetts cities and towns where they presently live. The hypothetical situations which have been presented to me include the following: (1) students residing in dormitory residences who are supported by their parents; (2) students residing in dormitory residences who are self-supporting; (3) students residing in apartments or other non-college residence facilities, both dependent on their parents and self-supporting; and (4) non-students who have left their parents' homes and are either dependent upon their parents or self-supporting.

First, it is assumed in all cases that the student or non-student, as the case may be, seeks to register to vote in a community other than where his or her parents reside. Secondly, the cases which have been presented to me include persons whose parents reside within the Commonwealth and cases where parents reside in another state. For the purposes of the discussion which follows, it is immaterial whether the parents reside within Massachusetts or elsewhere. Finally, it is also assumed that the student or non-student, as the case may be, is a citizen of the United States either by birth or naturalization. The answers to these questions require examination of federal and state constitutional provisions, as well as of a number of court decisions and advisory opinions.

I. Minor Voters in General

The Twenty-sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, recently ratified by three-fourths of the states, provides in section 1 that "The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of age." The states, however, "have long been held to have broad powers to determine the conditions under which the right of suffrage may be exercised." *Lassiter v. Northampton Election Board*, 360 U.S. 45, 50; *Evans v. Rash*, 380 U.S. 89, 91. Under the Constitution of Massachusetts, "Every citizen of nineteen years of age and upwards . . . who shall have resided within the town or district in which he may claim a right to vote, six calendar months next preceding any election . . . shall have a right to vote in such election . . . and no other person shall be entitled to vote in such election." (Since ratification of the Twenty-sixth Amendment the number "eighteen" should be read in place of "nineteen"). The requirement that the applicant "shall have resided" in the town for six months has traditionally been construed as requiring that the applicant have established his "domicil" in the town. The concept of "domicil" is utilized for many purposes, including property tax liability and probate jurisdiction of wills and the custody of children. Some of the stricter requirements of "domicil" pertaining to those areas have not always been applied when the question concerns "domicil" for voting purposes. In general, "domicil" means actual residence in the town, coupled with an intention to remain indefinitely. The intention to remain indefinitely does not mean an intention to stay forever, but merely that there is no present intention of leaving.

The recent extension of the franchise to citizens between eighteen and twenty-one years of age presents some difficulty in establishing whether an applicant of that age is entitled to register. Although some disabilities of minors have recently been removed from those over eighteen, see St. 1971 c. 253 (lowering the age at which a person may make a campaign contribution in excess of twenty-five dollars to eighteen years); St. 1971, c.255 (males may marry without parental consent at age eighteen), they remain minors until they are twenty-one or otherwise emancipated. It is the general rule that ordinarily, "the domicil of a legitimate minor child is that of the father." It appears, however, that an unemancipated

minor may establish his own domicil with the assent, express or implied, of his parents or guardian. An emancipated minor of course has the power to establish his own domicil. If these principles were applied to voter registration, an unemancipated minor over eighteen would be restricted to his father's voting residence unless his father gave his assent to a change of residence.

As noted above, however, the rules pertaining to domicil for tax or probate purposes may not always prevail where domicil for voting purposes is concerned. The purposes of the domicil requirement are to afford the registrar of voters the opportunity to ascertain the qualifications of the voter, and to prevent the possibility of fraud through multiple voting. To restrict the ability of an unemancipated minor, over the age of eighteen, to choose his domicil for voting purposes would serve neither of these purposes. Moreover, to restrict a right possessed by voters over twenty-one years of age, would be to "abridge" his right to vote on "account of age" in contravention of the Twenty-sixth Amendment. Consequently, it must be concluded that, for purposes of registering to vote, a minor either emancipated or unemancipated over the age of eighteen years has the right to establish his own domicil with or without the consent of his parents.

II. Minor Voters Who are Students

The determination whether a student from another city or state, who has taken up residence at or near the college or university he attends, has made his new residence his domicil for voting purposes is, as in all cases of recently moved registrants, a question of fact, to be determined by all the circumstances of the case. As noted above, the basic elements of domicil are the actual establishment of residence in the city or town, and an intent to remain there indefinitely. Once a student living at or near a college or university has shown that he has resided in the city or town "in which he may claim a right to vote, six calendar months next preceding any election of governor, lieutenant governor, senators, or representatives, or any other state, city or town election," and has declared his intention to stay in the city or town for an indefinite period, he has shown himself eligible to register as a voter.

As in the case of any other applicant for registration, of course, the circumstances may be such as to show that the student applicant in fact lacks the necessary intent to establish his domicil in the town. However, the fact that he is a student, residing in the town for the purpose of pursuing a course of studies for a number of years should place on him no greater burden of proving his domiciliary intent. Whether he prefers or is required to reside in a college dormitory rather than in privately purchased or leased premises is of no real utility in determining his intent; and while in 1843 great weight was placed in the *Opinion of the Justices, supra*, upon whether the student's father was supporting him while

at college, this factor is of little relevance today. It is common for parents to contribute to the support of their children attending college. Yet it is also common today that students upon graduation do not return to their home towns.

There may exist fear that some small communities with a large percentage of students in the population may be "taken over" by student voters, who may then implement "radical" programs. The possibility of such a "take-over," however, would depend largely upon how many students are willing to give up their right to vote in their communities of origin. Moreover, the fear that student-voters would tend to take radical measures may be groundless. See legislative history on Twenty-sixth Amendment U.S. Code Cong. & Ad. News, 92nd Cong., 1st Sess., 364 (Adv. Sh. No. 3, April 25, 1971). At any rate, students over the age of eighteen years, if they have the intention of making the college town their home indefinitely, "have a right to an equal opportunity for political representation . . . 'Fencing out' from the franchise sector of the population because of the way they may vote is constitutionally impermissible."

III. Summary

There can be stated, certain general principles which may be of aid in resolving particular cases as they arise. First, the fact that a minor over eighteen years of age is not emancipated, financially or otherwise; from his parents has no bearing on his right to choose his own domicil for voting purposes. The fact that such a minor, whether or not a student, may be supported in whole or in part by his parents is in itself insufficient reason to refuse to register an otherwise qualified applicant. Second, the fact that a minor voter who is a student resides in a dormitory, fraternity house or other college residence, is of no relevance. The basic question to be answered is whether he intends to return to his former home as soon as his course of studies is complete. The fact that he may find residence in a dormitory or fraternity house more convenient or less expensive than renting an off-campus apartment does not answer that question.

In conclusion, the decision whether a minor voter in one of the above hypothetical situations is entitled to register to vote should be reached in the same manner as a like decision regarding an applicant for registration who is over twenty-one years of age and has recently moved into the city or town. And, although the 1843 *Opinion of Justices*, to which I have referred, does state that "stronger facts, and circumstances must concur to establish the proof of change of domicil in the . . . case (of a student residing at an educational institution)" (*Opinion of the Justices, supra*, 5 Met. 587, 590), that statement cannot be considered valid today in the light of the Twenty-sixth Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

Letter to the Editor

September 10, 1971

Dear Sir,

I must take strong exception to several comments made in the next-to-last paragraph of the article "Rogers report due for fall" on page 1 of *The Tech* for September 10, 1971.

In that article, the authors assert the existence of a view of a "large number of top faculty and administrators" that the MIT Commission failed to come up with workable recommendations. This is a view that I have not encountered myself, and it is at strong variance with my own knowledge and impressions. A number of Commission recommendations that have not yet been considered by the Faculty, will be considered by the Faculty this coming year. It is my own belief, and the belief of others, that these recommendations have substantial merit.

With reference to the Special Task Force on Education, your authors remark that the "Task Force has apparently

rejected outright its [the Commission's] proposal for a first division." This is not correct and does not represent the Task Force's own point of view. More specifically, I would comment as follows: (1) Far from rejecting this notion, the Task Force has built on the Commission's arguments and reasoning, and on the discussion and response to them by students and faculty, to reach proposals that are closely related to the First Division concept. (2) The operation and conclusions of the Task Force would have been impossible without the initial ideas, impetus, and discussion provided by the Commission. (3) These features of the Task Force's work and conclusions will be evident when the Task Force reports.

The coming years may see fundamental and beneficial changes in education at MIT. In my opinion, a major share of the credit for such changes will belong to the MIT Commission.

Sincerely yours,
Hartley Rogers, Jr.

Housing Office: ...and a profit of 60 dollars

By Michael Feirtag

I

The old-timers among the dormitory janitors can remember a different MIT:

It was not too long after the Second World War. MIT was newly famous for having developed radar and other devices of war, was slowly coming to acquire its vanity, its sense of producing the wizards of technology who would rule an automated utopia. The undergraduates were rich kids who came to learn how to run the old man's business, or perhaps merely from idleness supported by daddy's wealth. These young men knew how to have a good time; they partied, drank, and debauched on the strip of grass and trees dividing Memorial Drive. One freshman, on his way to MIT from somewhere in the Midwest, began to worry how he would support himself in the style to which he was accustomed. He robbed a few banks on his way east, and began throwing lavish parties and supplying his dormitory with nearly unlimited alcohol. No one believed him when he explained how he had come by the money, until, annoyed that so many thought him a liar, he produced a suitcase full of cash from under his bed. One of his friends went to the FBI.

The janitors chuckle, remembering the large tips, the liquor, the rich white kids' friendliness. The black janitors kept the dormitories and the rich kids' rooms immaculate.

But things had changed. Upper class had yielded to middle. The Institute's students were now from families of far lesser means; engineering was the only way in which the lower middle class could be almost guaranteed of good income and upward mobility in the society, until they would rank below America's blue bloods, and could climb no higher. The upper class friendliness, born of their knowledge that they would never earn their bread by the sweat of their brow, unless they wished to, was replaced by middle class dread. The janitors' tips decreased.

And finally, in the late Sixties, the filthy hippies arrived. No more tips, no desire to have porters clean their rooms, in fact, no desire to pay for porters.

Which was in a way all right. The porter's consciousness had risen as the tips sank. Now, those few of the old timers who went on smiling and working hard were disliked by the majority, who did what they had to and collected their salaries.

And finally, more than a year after porters had stopped cleaning rooms, word came down from the MIT Housing Office that porters were no longer to clean them. There had been no way in which supervisory personnel could determine if the porters cleaned the students' rooms anyway, Housing Office officials explained, and this managerial decision would eliminate a few porters and save the now cost-conscious students \$32 each per year.

A few years previous, unclean students had been celebrities: Filthy Pierre of East Campus was a legend, and had written a song book almost as pungent as the odor from his room. Now, the studly apartments of the rich were gone, and the number of hippies and/or slob was on the rise. Each dormitory had an ever-increasing number of rooms that porters gathered outside of, marvelling how students could "live like pigs in there."

The students were becoming interested in MIT employees' jobs; in many cases they had to be, the Institute having given them job "awards" — not even a euphemism, but a sarcasm: there was no guarantee of employment. In times of plenty, students could not be bothered with dormitory desk staffs; now, they wanted to be night watchmen, in fact, were even cleaning Westgate. And the agreement between MIT and Building Service Employees' Local 254 stated that "students... may at the discretion of the Institute be employed at any time and from time to time to perform work as a means of earning part of their expenses while studying at the Institute, and nothing contained in this agreement shall restrict the type or amount of work which may be allotted to students." The savings in employing students is often considerable: a regular night watchman earns 3.55 an hour, and 5.32 per hour of overtime, while a student night watchman receives 2.25 per hour, and has no chance whatever for overtime.

More, students were becoming interested in the employees in their buildings. Supervisors felt the heat, and tried, often without success, to induce the employees to work harder. One night watchman had his stations rearranged and a new clock was purchased, the result being that employers could ascertain that he had walked the required mile on each round where previously he had walked perhaps a quarter mile — this in response to agitation by students who learned that they would have to continue to pay for a night watchman to keep MIT's insurance. The night watchman, in some 19 years in the building, had "never had trouble from students before." In some dorms, the porters were instructed to work in teams rather than the previous system of allotting to each

porter an area for which he was accountable; in one dorm, the system seemed to make the porters' work more pleasant, but in another, each porter in a team went secretly to management and complained about the others not doing their shares.

The pay was low. Housemen (porters) received \$3.29 per hour, which was believed to be somewhat higher than the Cambridge-Boston average for such work. The union agreement is renegotiated frequently — the present one took effect on September 10, 1970, and will expire June 30, 1971 — and at those times future pay increases are planned. But otherwise, payrates are flat: all housemen receive \$3.29 an hour, regardless of seniority. What seniority can do is allow employees who have worked at the Institute for longer times to be first in line for promotions to job categories with higher pay: the hard workers have been known to have been promoted to maintenance men (\$4.19 per hour), and even supervisory positions over the men they once worked with.

The Institute had a reputation for infrequently if ever dismissing workers. But with some students loudly demanding that the housemen be made to work hard; and others, their indebtedness of several thousand dollars slowly convincing them that fewer porters were needed, convincing them that they could not afford the white middle class liberal guilt that kept many employees in the buildings and room rents high; and with still others becoming interested in term time jobs; with costs up, with the number of businessmen taking courses and living in dormitories during the summer down; the porters sensed an uncertain future, and increasing bitterness behind the sugary liberalism of the "MIT Community."

II

In the spring term of 1971, the MIT Housing Office's announcement that room rent would increase the following year from an average of \$533 to one of perhaps \$620 (exact calculations have as yet not been done) was greeted by students with a mixture of horror and a sardonic acceptance of the inevitable, as the acceptance of death. As justification from the Housing Office came the usual vague plea of "rising costs," which that office made little effort to explain.

The figures which follow constitute the Housing Office's best guesses as to income and expenses for fiscal 1972; the guesses were made before February 11, 1971. Some figures are already suspect, as, for example, the cost of fuel. As shall be seen, the two major reasons for the startlingly abrupt rise in rent are the startlingly abrupt rise in the cost of fuel, and the sudden desire on the part of the Housing Office to raise funds for maintenance work — a desire perhaps to repair the results of neglect due to previous dormitory system mismanagement. Explanations will follow the figures:

MIT Campus Housing — Financial Projections

July 1, 1971 to June 30, 1972

Consolidated System (includes Ashdown, Baker, Burton, East Campus, Senior House, McCormick, and MacGregor)

INCOME		
1. Rent — summer		\$216,000
2. Rent — fall		672,020
3. Rent — spring		672,020
4. Rent — Faculty residents		123,890
5. Vending machine income		10,500
6. Linen receipts		16,000
7. Miscellaneous		0
8. Less: Vacancy loss		(13,000)
9. Total income		1,697,430
EXPENSES		
10. Salaries — cleaning labor hourly		271,400
11. Salaries — cleaning labor student		7,000
House-keeping		
12. Contract services		33,500
13. Cleaning supplies		22,300
14. Employee benefits		43,400
15. Total housekeeping		377,600
Student Services		
16. Desk operations: salaries hourly		48,500
17. Desk operations: salaries student		51,920
18. Linen operations: salaries		3,100
19. Telephone expenses		9,200
20. Linen supplies		9,700
21. Laundry charges		20,000
22. House tax allowance		0
23. Employee benefits		7,600
24. Total student services		150,020
Plant Operations & Maintenance		
25. Repairs and maintenance — labor		102,600
26. Dorm patrol salaries — hourly		73,500
27. Dorm patrol salaries — student		0
28. Physical plant		46,600
29. Repairs and maintenance		42,800
30. Major maintenance provision		103,750
31. Equipment provision		88,750
32. Heat		130,000
33. Gas		4,000
34. Water		19,650
35. Electricity		80,200
36. Employee benefits		28,200
37. Maintenance loan repayment		20,000

	38. Total plant operations & maintenance	740,000
	39. Salaries	114,300
Adminis- tration	40. Employee benefits	18,400
	41. Office supplies	3,500
	42. Administrative expense	26,400
	43. Trustee's fee of travel	1,500
	44. Total administration	164,100
	45. Total operating expenses	1,431,770
	46. Income after operations	265,660
Financial & Other Charges		
	47. Real estate taxes	0
	48. MIT investment amortization	155,000
	49. MIT mortgages or bonds: amortization	23,000
	50. MIT interest on mortgages or bonds	52,500
	51. Insurance	10,100
	52. Total financial charges	240,600
	53. Net profit	25,060
	54. Repayment of deficit	25,000
	55. Net profit after repayment	60

It should be remembered that budgets such as this one can often hide things; a person who searches the MIT Treasurer's reports for the cost of the Inauguration of Howard Johnson as MIT president will be unable to find it; even though the expense is believed to have been immense, the figure budgeted for "administration" showed no jump that year, nor did any other figure. In this projection, the figure at line 39, administrative salaries, refers to part of the salaries of Arthur Beals, Assistant to the Director; James Gross, Manager of Maintenance Services; Robert Shaw, Manager of Administrative Services; less than one half of Kenneth Browning, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, and Housing Office secretaries. The remainder is covered by Eastgate, Westgate, and Bexley budgets. The housing system also pays many middle-level administrators: five area managers, two housekeeping supervisors, one assistant area manager, and five clerks. What portions of these middle-level salaries are covered by lines 10, 25 and 26 is uncertain. A quick calculation can be made:

Consolidated System — Estimate of Costs, Lines 10, 25, 26, Neglecting Overtime

Staff Category	Number of employees 1971-72	Wage/hr. present-6/30/72	Total 40 hr. week, 52 week year	Budgeted estimate
10. House-keeping	34	3.29	240,668	271,400
25. Maintenance	10	4.19	87,152	102,600
26. Dorm Patrol	*	3.55	62,025	73,500

* 6 routes covered, approx. by 7 day week, 8 hr. day

The estimates are all considerably under the Housing Office's guesses, but our guesses have left out overtime. The correlation between the two sets of estimates is thus fairly reasonable. But we have yet to find the salaries of the 13 middle-level managers, and we are left only with \$48,500 on line 16, anything left of lines 10, 25 and 26, and whatever is left of line 39 after the top-level administrators and their secretaries are paid. The figure of 8% that will appear as administration cost begins to look suspect, unless administrators are paid rather less than one would think.

The point is only that some amount of scepticism is useful in dealing with these figures.

Those lines where explanation is useful:

Line 19: Telephone expenses. Basically for the dorm line system.

Line 28: Physical plant. Refers largely to services received from MIT's Heat and Vent: keys, some plumbing and electrical work, and frequent reading of meters in the steam system.

Line 29: Repairs and maintenance. Outside help, for elevator system maintenance and large painting jobs, which are contracted out, and some supplies, and so on.

Line 30: Major maintenance provision. Here is the hidden cause of the jump in room rent. Buildings grow old and come to require massive repairs from time to time. For this purpose, money is, or should be set aside from room rents and stockpiled until such time when outlays of several hundred thousand dollars are required.

For several years, MIT's Housing Office did not put aside sufficient funds; apparently, Housing Office management of as far as ten years ago until three or four years ago was so desirous of keeping rent remarkably low that, a few years ago, it was finally seen that the dormitory system was beginning to fall apart and sufficient funds did not exist to save it.

The decision was made to attempt to amass the necessary funds; the rents rose.

(Continued overleaf)

(Continued from previous page)

The Housing Office calculated that amounts of \$150,000 for the maintenance provision and \$50,000 for the equipment provision (line 31) were necessary, but that that rise in costs would be prohibitive. Instead, the figures on lines 30 and 31 were decided upon, and an additional \$85,000 was to be borrowed interest-free from MIT assets, \$20,000 of which would be paid back within the first year; that \$20,000 making its appearance on line 37. Thus, lines 30, 31 and 37, for a subtotal of \$212,500, and, when added to the remaining \$65,000 of the loan, a total of \$277,400 (minus, as will be seen, amounts set aside for eventual use in now new buildings) to begin to correct the effects of perhaps ten years of cheap room rent that would cost later students dearly.

Money is set aside from lines 30 and 31 in separate accounts for the remodeled Burton and new MacGregor, on the theory that the buildings are in excellent condition, and funds can be slowly stockpiled for major repairs many years in the future: the system that should have been used with other dorms beginning several years ago. A new building's major maintenance clause is set at 5% of the cost of construction; this amount to be collected from the major maintenance and equipment clauses and set aside each year. The older buildings in the system draw as needed from the maintenance account; the accounting of the charge per student for major maintenance is not done building by building, since that would result in charging students who live in dilapidated buildings more than those living in new ones.

The Housing Office has already spent in its collective mind over a million dollars from the major maintenance clause of their collective fantasy. Following is a list, by dormitory, of what the Housing Office would do with its money if it had it:

Estimate of Needed Repairs, Consolidated System

Dormitory	Proposed repair	Estimated cost (\$)
Ashdown	1. Point and silicone north side of building	100,000
	2. Replace bathroom lead traps (98)	73,000
	3. Stairwell lighting	2,500
	4. Lock cylinder replacement (280)	4,500
	5. Paint inside complete	43,000
	6. Wiring	40,000
Ashdown total		263,500
Baker	1. New roof	12,000
	2. Waterproof cantilevered stairwells	20,000
	3. Carpet all corridors	30,000
	4. Replace window sills	15,000
	5. Paint inside complete	60,000
	6. Refasten and seal all inside door frames	10,000
	7. Kick-plates both sides corridor doors	3,000
Baker total		150,000
Burton	1. Paint dining room inside and out	4,000
Burton total		4,000
East Campus	1. Repair spalling, waterproofing, lintels	40,000
	2. Paint outside	10,000
	3. Reroof Bemis, Walcott, Goodale	9,000
	4. Paint inside complete	55,000
	5. Lock cylinder replacement (385)	6,500
	6. Wiring both parallels	100,000
	7. Door replacement	35,000
East Campus total		255,500
Senior House	1. Reroof Holman, Nichols, Crafts	7,000
	2. Paint inside complete	25,000
	3. Lock cylinder replacement (130)	2,000
	4. Plumbing	25,000
Senior House total		59,000
McCormick	1. Paint west building inside completely	50,000
	2. Paint public areas east building	20,000
McCormick total		70,000
Total: Consolidated System		802,000

Estimate of Needed Repairs, Buildings Outside Consolidated System

Building	Proposed repair	Estimated cost (\$)
Bexley	1. Replace 36 bathrooms	72,000
	2. Replace basement water pipes	7,000
	3. Repair roof flashing and cap unused chimney	6,000
	4. Paint inside complete	18,000
	5. Renew screens	4,000
	6. Paint windows and frames outside	8,000
	7. Sprinkler apartments	25,000
	8. Emergency lighting	9,000
Bexley total		149,000
Westgate total		73,000
Eastgate total		37,500

For an overall total of \$1,061,500.

Returning to the estimated budget for fiscal 1972:

Line 32: Heat. This is the second major reason for increased rents, this one obviously, starkly unavoidable:

the law requires the use of low sulphur fuels that pollute less. More, the cost of oil has risen rather shockingly; a barrel of oil cost MIT's Physical Plant about \$1.85 a year ago. It now costs perhaps \$4.50. The Housing Office estimates that line 32, though larger than in previous years, may be low by some \$30,000.

Line 43: Trustee's fee and travel. MacGregor House was financed by a bond issue whose management and associated paperwork have been given to a bank. "Travel" sent management to conferences.

Lines 47-51: Financial and other charges, which can be broken down as follows:

Financial Charges, Consolidated Dormitory System

1. Insurance	\$10,100
2. Interest (MacGregor bonds)	49,200
3. Principal repayment (MacGregor bonds)	15,000
4. Interest (MIT investment)	125,000
5. Repayment (MIT advancement)	30,000
6. Interest (Burton mortgage)	3,300
7. Principal repayment (Burton mortgage)	8,000
Total financial charges	\$240,600

Line 4 here indicates funds borrowed from the MIT investment portfolio. The Housing Office pays 3% interest, and does not repay any principal currently, making the loan at least temporarily in perpetuity. This may change; with other investments paying far more handsomely than 3%, MIT has a bad investment in the Housing Office. Line 5 here refers to an advance made to the Housing Office by MIT when MacGregor House ran over budget. This loan is interest-free.

III

The Housing Office does not expect the budgets of individual dormitories to balance nor is its accounting on a dormitory by dormitory basis. Not only would there be the previously mentioned matter of charging residents of a decrepit building more than those of modern buildings; there would also be an inequity in that some buildings are constructed largely through gifts while others require the floating of bond issues; it seems unfair to charge residents of McCormick, which was almost entirely a gift, far less than those of MacGregor, which required a bond issue, and loans following its shooting over budget.

The rents for individual rooms are determined arbitrarily, based on tradition and a vague sense of what surroundings are more valuable than others. Bexley, which for some reason is outside the accounting convention of the consolidated dormitory system is charged the average of the system's room rents.

Thus calculations of how each student's room rent is spent are rendered almost impossible by the accounting system.

The closest the Housing Office comes to such a calculation is a somehow amusing breakdown of how a bed in the consolidated dormitory system managed to earn and lose a total of \$714 in fiscal 1971. Since the average student room rent paid in fiscal 1971 was \$513, or 75% of the total transacted over the bed, we have multiplied all the expenses by three-quarters to come as close as possible to telling the average student where his average \$513 went (if he believes the Housing Office) last year, while he spent nine months in his average bed:

Expenses and Income per Bed, Consolidated Dormitory System

INCOME	Dollars	%age
1. Housemaster & tutor rents	45	6
2. Summer guests	126	18
3. Student rents	533	75
4. Miscellaneous	10	1
Income total	714	

EXPENSES	Dollars	%age	Student cost (\$)
Plant operation and maintenance			
1. Physical plant	27	3.8	20
2. Dormitory patrol	36	5.0	27
3. Major maintenance & equip. provisions	46	6.5	35
4. Repairs and maintenance	74	10.2	56
5. Utilities	88	12.5	66
6. Other	1	0.0	

Housekeeping	Dollars	%age	Student cost (\$)
1. Supplies	10	1.5	7
2. Contract services	16	2.2	12
3. Cleaning labor	175	24.3	130

Financial charges	Dollars	%age	Student cost (\$)
	99	14.0	74

Student services	Dollars	%age	Student cost (\$)
1. House tax	12	1.8	9

2. Linen, telephone	19	3.0	14
3. Desk operations	51	6.2	38
Administration	60	8.0	45
Total expenses	714		533

The major differences between fiscal 1971 and fiscal 1972 would be the cost of oil, the major maintenance and equipment clauses' large increase, and a pay increase effective June 28, 1971: watchmen from \$3.29 to \$3.55 hourly, housemen from \$3.05 to \$3.29, maintenance men from \$3.88 to \$4.19.

Kenneth Browning would be moved from the Housing Office to that of the Dean for Student Affairs, thus removing the only link between students and an isolated dormitory system management in Building E-19. And Browning had been a poor link at that, according to some students' perceptions.

One former dormitory president could recall asking Browning repeatedly over a several month period for shower curtains. Browning smiled, explained that it was a complicated business, and tried to forget about the matter; this was apparently his general method for coping with problems. Months later, the dorm president had been at a meeting at which both Browning and Campus Housing Director Howard Miller had been present. Anything else, Miller had asked the president as the meeting ended. The president had recalled the shower curtains. Easy, Miller said, they were cheap, and besides, they were laying in a storeroom. Browning had looked uncomfortable.

The curtains had been installed the next day.

Browning was made an Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. Housing pays perhaps half his salary, since he is concerned with dormitory room assignments; the Dean's Office budget pays for the remainder.

At the first presentation of the "Institute Screw" in many years, the recipient, Kenneth Browning, smiled broadly and gave every indication of being pleased. Perhaps he shared the syndrome of MIT administrators who think it is a mark of affection when students protest rising costs and their lack of power in an amusing way. Perhaps he, and others concerned with student housing and food services, would follow the lead of academic bigwigs and yell foul if their smugness ever forced students to protest more emphatically.

This writer was present at a meeting called ostensibly to post-mortem Alumni Weekend, but which soon degenerated into a sharp discussion of how much trash the students left behind them in June. One of the student desk captains gleefully proposed the rental, every spring, of a truck equipped with a long chute, which would be positioned on Memorial Drive, the snout entering each window in turn to suck up the garbage the filthy students left behind. The administrators were somewhat more restrained; they merely made notes that additional garbage bins would be required. But one almost gloated when he remarked soothingly that, after all, the Housing Office would have a fifty dollar deposit from every resident next year, and they could dip into that.

Sitting there watching them, it suddenly occurred to this writer that at least one housing administrator had perhaps become infatuated with running lifeless buildings; he was pleased that they could get alumni to pay large amounts to live in dorms for a few days, they could get businessmen by the hundreds to pay \$11.00 a night to stay in a building where students (ugh) paid about a fifth of that per day. It almost seemed that he had forgotten that the exorbitant rates that MIT charged businessmen were meant to make this possible. The Housing Office ran the buildings at a distance, aloof from the students who lived in them, seemingly without knowing the buildings at all (they had attempted to charge some Baker residents, for example, for twenty-year old beds which had been replaced, their lame excuse being that they thought the beds had been built in, which they weren't). Perhaps they considered the dormitories to be zoological gardens that contained specimens of a repulsive but valuable animal, and they were doing their best to keep the cages clean.

One student tells this apocryphal story: there had been a morning during the summer when an area manager had gone to a summer desk captain to request that his student staff clean up their corridor. The captain had argued that the corridor was a dead end and restricted to the staff. The manager agreed, and admitted that he had made the request because he was "sure that Bob Shaw (Manager of Administrative Services) would show up soon, and he'll say the place is a shithouse."

"Oh, all right," the manager said, smiling wanly, "forget it. Don't worry about it."

The next day, Robert Shaw showed up.

Shaw walked immediately to the corridor. He sniffed about for a moment, then suddenly turned on the area manager, who stood one foot behind him.

"You know," said Shaw, "this place is a shithouse."

"Yes, sir, it certainly is," the area manager energetically agreed. The two men turned and walked rapidly from the building.

(The hard data in the preceding article are derived from projections and financial analyses by the MIT Housing Office. Other material, largely in sections I and III, represents an attempt to distill the perceptions of employees and students.)

Noreascon 1: Science fiction and science

By David Searls

"... For although in a certain sense and for light-hearted persons non-existent things can be more easily and irresponsibly represented in words than existing things, for the serious and conscientious historian it is just the reverse. Nothing is harder, yet nothing is more necessary, than to speak of certain things whose existence is neither demonstrable nor probable. The very fact that serious and conscientious men treat them as existing things brings them a step closer to existence and to the possibility of being born."

— Albertus Secundus
(from the epigraph of
Hermann Hesse's *Magister Ludi*)

Last weekend, the Sheraton-Boston hosted Noreascon, the 29th World Science Fiction Convention. The annual event is the most important of the year for an unlikely conglomeration of science fiction writers, critics, artists, and people who unashamedly call themselves Fans (their realm is known as Fandom). A Worldcon is a thing of cult, faction, and dialect — it shuns old wave-new wave, hard-soft core, fantasy-science fiction. With a widely-mixed representation by race, creed, color, and hair length, it is difficult to determine with any certainty whether any given person is a SciFi Fan — until he begins to speak.

What does one do at a World Science Fiction Convention? If one is interested in the theory and practice of science fiction in general, one can attend the series of lectures, panels, and dialogues that are offered in profusion and which attract the most popular SciFi writers to offer their opinions. If one is fascinated by the field of science fiction art, one

can attend any of several exhibits and shows, not to mention the numerous auctions. If one is captivated by science fiction movies, one can show up at the midnight-to-dawn film program, and see anything from 2001 to *It Came from Beneath the Sea*. If one is enthralled at the prospect of assuming the form of his favorite extraterrestrial being from half a century of science fiction, one can attend the Masquerade and Costume Competition, and appear on everything from the pages of the *New York Times* to the whimsical wrap-up spot on the late news. If one enjoys eating and clapping one's hands, one might buy a plate at the Hugo Award Banquet (Veal: \$9.55; Broiled Scrod: \$7.75).

If one is bored by it all, one can inebriate oneself at the conveniently located hotel bar.

The young lady was a bit heavy but vaguely attractive. The young man was earnest and very precise.

"This is my first convention," he ventured.

"This is my second," she replied cooperatively.

"It's really great to be around people who all read science fiction, isn't it? I mean, usually if you go up to someone and say, 'I read science fiction,' they think you're weird, but around here everybody reads science fiction."

"Yes."

"I mean, people who read science fiction are really unique, aren't they?"

"Yes, I guess they are."

"Like, for instance, a lot of great scientists read science fiction... or at least some people who read science fiction are great scientists."

"Well, I don't know if you can general-

ize..."

"Well, what I mean is, a great scientist has the kind of mind that would appeal to science fiction, or vice-versa... If you stop and think, there are really two kinds of scientists; there's the kind that spend long hours in the lab and are very thorough and compile a lot of uninteresting data, and then there's the kind with brilliant minds who sit down and think very analytically about a problem and attack it systematically until, suddenly, the answer occurs to them. They're the ones who really account for the great advances in science. That's the way Einstein worked." The young man, who had been leaning further and further toward the young lady as he pressed his argument home, now leaned back.

"Well, I'd have to disagree with you there. It's the compilation of data that makes up the foundation of all that progress... you've got to remember that Einstein had a rich heritage when he started — there had been advances in instrumentation and physics was a very pregnant field. And the footwork just has to be done... take the discovery of the structure of the insulin protein, for instance — Sanger worked for years to find it, and it was a crucial step in the development of modern biology... uh, don't you agree?"

"Yes, I guess that's right," said the young man, distractedly.

The cult that surrounds Isaac Asimov, the acknowledged dean of SciFi writers (at least the ones that come to the conventions) borders on the fanatic. Known throughout Fandom as "the Good Doctor," he is the author of well over one hundred books on subjects ranging from all aspects of science, mathematics, and medicine to Shakespeare and

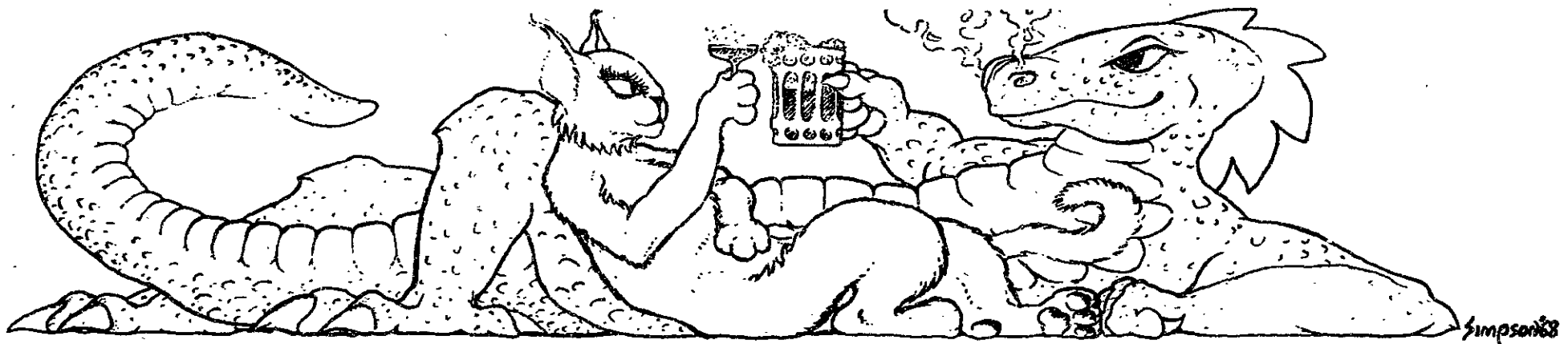
even the Bible, all in addition to his hefty output of hard-core science fiction. The non-fiction works take the form of comprehensive surveys (*Asimov's Guide to...*) of the field. They would probably make good correspondence courses; as Fans often say, it's hard to believe one man can be so competent in so many fields.

Like a latter-day sophist, his appearances draw his own personal Fandom in flocks where, even in auditoriums, they give the impression of sitting at his feet. While his uproarious jokes draw enthusiastic laughter, his witticisms incur waves of murmurous admiration that create a positively eerie effect.

In appearance, Isaac Asimov looks like the person of whom Jerry Lettvin is a caricature — but he seems to lack some of the latter's presence and character. (In fact, the two were to have appeared together in a panel on "The Implications of Genetic Engineering," which was unfortunately rescheduled at the last minute to the beginning of the convention, causing late arrivals to miss it.) As a speaker, he is amiable, witty, charming, and very fond of anecdotes.

Cliff Simak is the perfect foil to Asimov's effusive wit. A grandfatherly figure, Simak has been a writer of repute since nearly the very beginning of science fiction (as we know it). As guest of honor of the convention, he and Asimov served together on a panel somewhat ambitiously entitled "The Robot's Place in Society," the first twenty minutes of which was occupied in mutual praise and affirmation of long-standing friendship.

When the panelists did arrive at the point at hand, it was clear that it was all Asimov's show. While the format was to



Noreascon 2: Science fiction and fiction

By Adrian Moncrieff

By the reading public, World Science Fiction Conventions are most to be noted as the source of "Hugo" awards, supposedly citing the best writing in the field during the previous year. Within the inner world of science fiction, however, Noreascon served as an airing, as it were, of current problems.

Actually, though several "current problems" were apparent, they essentially collapsed into one question: what is — and what should be — the status of "science fiction"? Although no doubt this has been a major concern since the realization that SF was a distinct field, it has become much more intense during the past six or seven years.

A hundred years ago various sorts of "scientific romances" began appearing. Of these, we remember only those of Jules Verne, and those not for any stylistic merit or for being "works of art," but simply because (a) they are famous, (b) the stories are pretty good, and (c) we are struck by the number of things he successfully prophesied. The only other figure who remains in the minds of the English professors is H. G. Wells, who, as we all know, began his career with *The Time Machine*, *The War of the Worlds*, etc., before moving into the "mainstream." And it was for his work in the "mainstream" that Wells became renowned in the days of good King Edward, even, at one point, becoming the protege of the Master, Henry James himself.

But time passes, and critical fashion changes. *Kipps* and *Tono-Bungay* have not worn well. The English professor still speaks respectfully of Wells, but when we press him, we find that the only works of Wells that he really respects are his early romances. And thus science fiction, for

once, has become respectable.

With the advent of the "pulp" in the middle twenties, SF became more declassé than ever — or, to be more accurate, it became "classed," but classed in the same sense that "westerns" or "true confessions" or "doctor and nurse" stories are classed: it became a distinct genre, quite sub-literary, to be read solely for the purpose of entertainment, published in magazines with such names as "Weird Tales" and "Astounding." The stereotypes of SF one meets today are the offspring of this period: the hero with space blaster destroying the enemy fleet, the hero with sword saving the luscious wench (revealed in startling detail on the cover) from either a Martian waving tentacles or a mystic necromancer's zombie, the hero with toolkit in the back yard building a spaceship to get himself to the moon.

If, offhand, this situation does not seem to be one in which great works of art were likely to be produced, it nevertheless did give rise to some fairly competent artificers, as, for example, E. E. "Doc" Smith and his "Lensman" series. Perhaps the best known of these was Robert Howard, whose series of stories on Conan was recently quite popular, being dragged in on the wave of enthusiasm for fantasy which followed the success of Tolkien's trilogy. What possibly is not generally recognized is that Robert Heinlein, Clifford Simak, A. E. van Vogt, Issac Asimov, etc. — the "old guard" — grew up with the pulps, and published their first stories in them.

With the "old guard," however, came change. In their day, they indeed were the "new guard," the first writers (according to Issac Asimov) who took science fiction as a serious literary genre, and who devoted themselves solely to it. They

to some extent de-emphasized the adventure, replacing it with both "realistic" science (i.e., not blatantly contradictory to known science) and strong characterization and plotting. It is their work which is accepted (at least within "science fiction") as the norm, the archetype of a "good work of science fiction."

Further change has occurred, of course. In the late forties and the fifties came a concern with social problems, exemplified by Kornbluth & Pohl's *The Space Merchants*. But this still used the traditional storytelling techniques, and still was not considered to be the same as "mainstream" fiction. It was not until the middle of the '60's that a serious attempt was made to bring "science fiction" and the "mainstream" together.

This attempt was made by a loose group of writers known collectively as "the new wave." One got varying names when one asked for a list of the new wave, but a few writers were mentioned fairly consistently: Harlan Ellison (at 37 the enfant terrible of the new wave), J. G. Ballard, Brian Aldiss, Judith Merrill and Michael Moorcock (associated, at one time at least, with the British avant-garde magazine of SF, *New Worlds*), Tom Disch, and Roger Zelazny. It is to be presumed that few (if any) of these writers would be altogether happy at being called "new wave." Certainly some of them have, at times, written "traditional" science fiction. It appears to be the case nevertheless that they may serve to represent the new wave's central characteristics.

They are not unchallenged. That the old guard exists still — with a vengeance — was proven at the convention. Upon wandering around the second and third floors of the Sheraton, one discovered that there were approximately two-and-

a-half sources of life. One of these was the ball room, filled with seats, in which the set programs — talks, debates, discussions — were given. The one-half was the art exhibit: a source of diversion, it is true, and an area which one could profitably re-examine, but nevertheless not exactly a lively arena. The final one was the set of small rooms devoted to various activities. In two of these movies and video-tape series were shown; two more were occupied by organizations (the Science Fiction Writers of America and the National Fantasy Fan Federation); one was the "Alien Environment Simulation," a depressingly familiar and banal combination of strobe lights, aluminum foil, and supposedly "weird" electronic music. The remaining rooms were given over to the "hucksters," those having anything to sell.

The hucksters' rooms were, I confess, at least a source of novelty. I have, during the past few years, spend many pleasant afternoons and evenings browsing quietly amidst the dusty shelves devoted to science fiction in the bookshops of Cambridge and Boston. From time to time I have even been known to purchase next month's issue of "the Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction" (inevitably a month early in appearance). I had felt that these forays into the field had given me some idea of the whole.

I was wrong, in two ways. At tables in the hucksters' rooms were representatives of various "fanzines" (one sees why they are so-named, but one is sorry nevertheless) and specialized publishing houses, both of which implied the existence of strong, tightly-knit groups to whom they catered. Some of these groups are specialized, as, for example, the "Hyborian Legion" (which held a "muster" I was

Noreascon I: SciFi & science

take turns speaking, Simak's talks were for the most part embarrassingly short and not too profound, while Asimov enlivened his speculation with all the ingratiating, anecdotal devices of a good speaker.

Still, it was curious to observe their supposedly logical and objective derivation of the consequences of automata undergo great leaps of faith — the discussion quickly advanced along precisely the lines delineated by forty years of science fiction, without consideration of less exciting eventualities. Perhaps this was dictated by the mood of the audience, whose impatience with scientific rigor would have been assured. At any rate, it was distressing, at times, to witness these quantum jumps of imaginary technology; at one point, for instance, Simak decided that he thought that any robots to be developed in the future "must look like man, and must have emotional ties." Asimov, perhaps himself taken slightly aback at this, at least rationalized it a bit, by resorting to some impromptu psychology: he theorized that man would antropomorphize robots because he "likes to give machines human proportions." Simak promptly affirmed this by confessing that he had given a human name to every single automobile he had ever owned.

One wonders if there is not some yearning among SciFi writers to "escape from freedom" and at least partially renege on their vast privilege of imagination. There is evidence of this in Asimov's three robotic rules — a set of regulations supposedly governing the behavior of future automatons which have become standard for not only him, but a great many other writers. More than anything else, perhaps, this could be merely symptomatic of the aura of hero worship surrounding him, even though he spent a good deal of time during the discussion attributing the actual cataloguing of the robotic rules to another writer.

But what redeems Asimov through adulation, standardization, and oversimplification is the suspicion that his tongue is in his cheek throughout. One realizes the possibility of this when, in discussing robotic morality, he makes the pronouncement that "in this modern age of enlightenment, marriages between humans and androids are perfectly alright." And even over and above this, there are occasional glimmerings of reservations in his manner as he discusses such topics, as if the science were gaining temporary dominance over the fiction. An instance of this might have occurred during one of the wilder, improvisational moments of the panel, when one sensed a certain backtracking, even a reluctance in his manner. Whether this was imagined or not, the spell was broken when he threw the floor open to questions or comments, at which point a short, energetic man of white beard stood up impatiently.

The gentleman was Lester del Rey, another noted writer of the old guard. Asimov rendered him the floor, after a few personal comments by way of introduction, and del Rey was launched upon a long, involved, frenetic exposition on the state of the robotic art. He began by pointing out some facts of life: that "we will build a robot to build a better robot when the economic necessity is felt, because after all, necessity is not the mother of invention, but economic necessity. And that will come with space exploration, when we come to realize that robots can do jobs that it is impossible for men to perform."

Del Rey continued by describing in detail how robots would be superior to men in the extremes on the various planets. Then, replying to a point made

by Asimov on the size of a robotic brain that would be necessary to equal the capacity of man's, he plunged into a rather disjointed monologue on computer science and electronics in general, which culminated in the following syllogism: since the ratio of masses between transistor equipment and integrated circuit equipment is on the order of 10,000 to 1, and since there is no reason for us to expect the boys in research to slow down the pace, it is perfectly valid for us to expect another 10,000 to 1 reduction before long, which is about the size we'd need for a robot's brain to equal a human's. Del Rey ended his speech with a melodramatic, "Isaac, we'll have robots," and sat down.

There was a mild but tangible shudder of excitement in the crowd at these optimistic and inspirational words. The

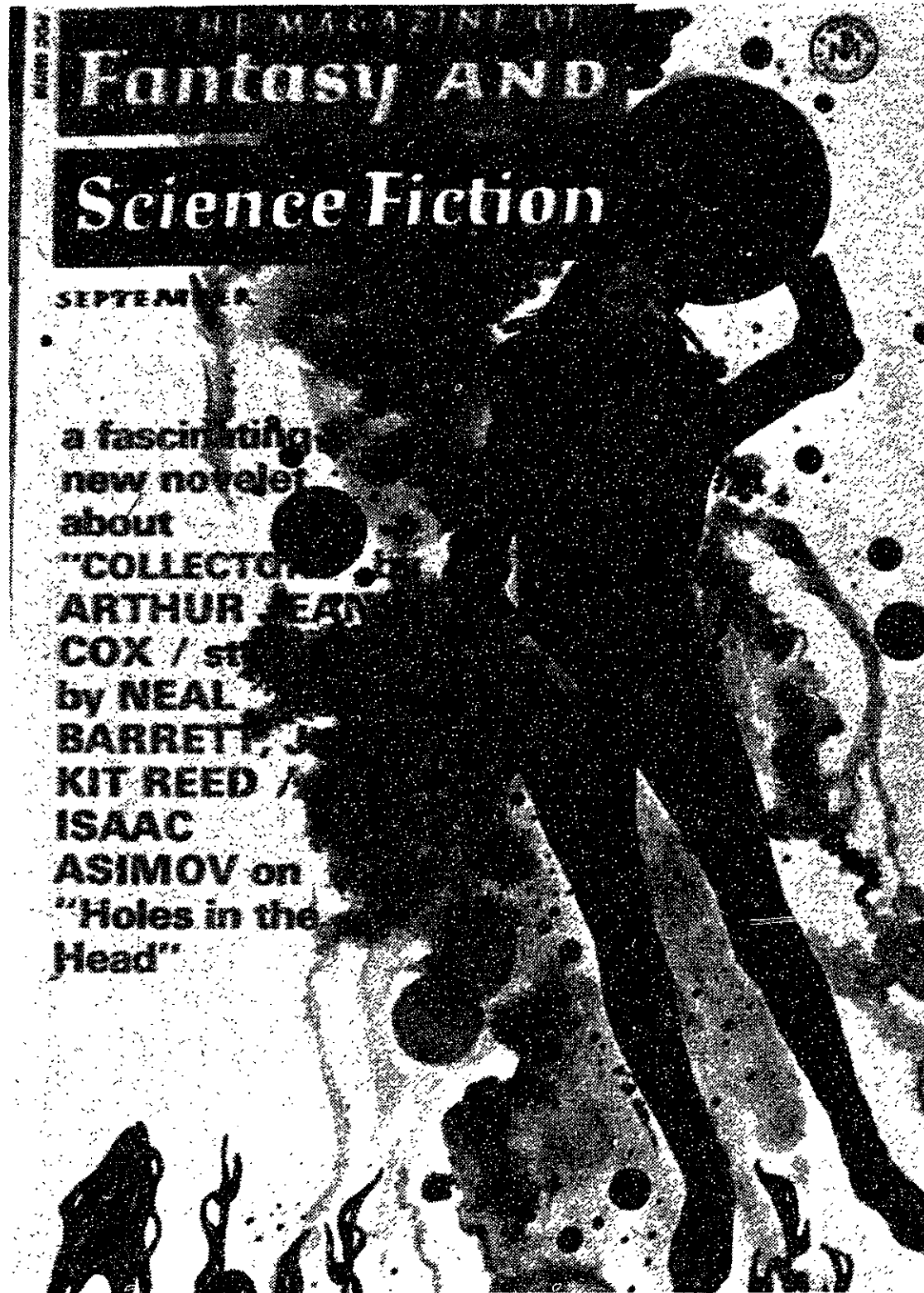
other man mumbled, and began fumbling with a pen and his program booklet.

He finally succeeded in conveying these to the Britisher, who was a rather well-known writer. He leafed furtively through the pages, and found that most of the blank spaces were filled with Best Wishes already. The elevator door opened on his floor, and he backed off, still flipping pages. Finally, he reluctantly handed it back.

"Oh... can you get me later? I don't want to hold these people up, you know," he said hurriedly.

The man nodded and grabbed his booklet as the elevator door shut. He looked around, smiling proudly.

"That was John Brunner... a British writer," he confided to the woman next to him. "I met most of them at the writer's party, but I missed him."



reason Lester del Rey knows so much about robotics, explained Isaac Asimov, is that he's been writing robot stories for a long time — almost from the beginning.

The elevator was not only jammed with people, but they all seemed to be headed for the top floor. Somewhere near the 10th floor, an intellectual-looking, bearded man squeezed his way in, causing the familiar restless shifting of load. During the process, a fidgety gentleman near the center of the elevator stepped on the foot of the lady behind him. As he made his profuse apologies, he heard the bearded man say a few words to someone else in a British accent, and snapped his head around eagerly.

"Aren't you John Brunner?" he asked. The bearded man craned his head around and nodded.

"What a place to meet you..." the

He leafed through his program booklet, smiling boyishly.

In the program for the day after the Asimov-Simak-del Rey affair was inserted the modest entry "Artificial Intelligence talk." This turned out to be a lecture-demonstration by MIT's and Project MAC's own Seymour Papert.

The contrasts between Papert's talk and the discussion of the previous day were striking. Papert began with a low-key investigation, asserting that "nobody really believes truly in his heart of hearts that machines can have intelligence" — a comment which doubtless caused a little soul-searching among those present. But he went on to say that mankind will eventually have to choose between allegiance to the flesh and allegiance to the mind, since the development of automata could be seen as advancing the evolution-

ary process in terms of the latter.

Still, his typically scientific reservations were positively Cartesian in comparison with del Rey's optimism. "We cannot be sure of anything," he said. "We're embarking on something so different from anything we've done before that predictions just aren't possible... in his science fiction, that great man, Isaac Asimov, showed that you cannot see the consequences of automata in advance."

It was here that Papert seemed bound to pay some tribute science's being transcendentalist, as opposed to mechanist. These two views, he said, have represented relatively distinct approaches to the problem of artificial intelligence. It was also his contention that the mechanists were following a dead-end path, in that they held too simple a concept of machines, a concept that systematically distorted the idea of knowledge. He used as an example the problem of translating Russian — early attempts were busts, Papert said, because the programming was not designed for understanding of what was being translated, whereas more recent projects in the problem of language comprehension were incorporating the concept of *micro-worlds* — small areas of real understanding that make knowledge functional. Conceivable, these micro-worlds could be juxtaposed, cascaded, or otherwise manipulated to create a real form of knowledge.

Papert's main point was that "all knowledge is artificial" — not a matter of the number of neurons or logical construction, but rather dependent upon its organization and patterns of assimilation. One of the science fiction fans, who might perhaps have had in mind the previous day's dialogue between Asimov and Simak and monologue between Lester del Rey, asked the obvious question: does this mean, then, he wondered, that the key to knowledge is in the program and not in the hardware?

"Absolutely," replied Professor Papert.

But even this was not the most obvious difference between the two presentations. The most obvious difference was the fact that, while the science fiction writers packed the auditorium, it was a relative handful who stirred themselves to see the real thing.

Some examples of SciFi graffiti:

Anyone with an extra psi-dimensional hyperspace warp synthesizer, please call Galactic 857-A4309 Sector 7 gamma 9. Ask for 785 nickname "8". (The good doctor needed mine to revive his waning powers) G.D.

Wanted: one (sensual) dirty old man. Must have written over 100 books. Contact rm. 2437.

The Viking-Student Alliance will meet during the next full moon at the Inn of the Silver Eel.

WANTED: 2 single girls (18-25) to share room tonight (Sun.) Phil & Ken rm. 528.

Another of the not-so-heavily attended panels was entitled "Technology for a Liveable Earth," which included several scientists from industry discussing possible new sources of energy and such. One presented a scheme for orbiting a satellite that would transmit the sun's energy to the earth in the form of a beam of microwaves, to be received by large fields of special antennas; another talked on magneto-hydrodynamics and its applications.

It was fascinating to see how the audience warmed to the latter speaker when he produced a drawing of a hypothetical design for a flying vehicle operated by MHD. It was round, and in fact was shaped very much like the traditional flying saucer of both science fiction fable and apocryphal photograph. One fan interrupted to ask if he had been doing any experimentation up in New Hampshire.

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to consider the most important difference between the two a matter of *technique*; for it certainly is the case that the new wave uses devices hitherto employed only in mainstream fiction: e.g., blocks of prose forming an *image* of the scene metaphorically, rather than giving a simple, direct description; or the treatment of experience as being not a smoothly flowing narrative, but a set of separate fragments which must be unified (if at all) by the reader; or, perhaps most important, although to some extent an antique in the mainstream, the employment of "stream-of-consciousness."

Mr. Gunn agreed that the employment of "experimental" technique was one of the distinguishing criteria, but that it was less important than the general philosophical approach, the *Weltanschauung*, introduced in the new wave. This he called the "new romanticism": the supreme concern, not for "society" and "the future of mankind," but for the individual, his independence, his internal flux of experience, emotion, sensation. SF has traditionally been optimistic, since there seems to be no particular reason for believing that technological progress (which it of course postulates) will cease. The new wave, concerned with the toils, pains, and troubles of the individual — hence not given to taking a "long-term" view, but instead to treating the individual experiences as the only criterion for determining how comfortable one should feel with existence — tends to be pessimistic.

Such comments might be reduced to stating that new wave stories both do not read like and do not have the same "tone" as traditional SF. Both of these explanations offer reasons for not liking them, perhaps, but not for judging them "bad." Yet there is a third mode of distinction, furthermore the strongest point of attack. This is that the "speculative fiction" of the new wave leaves out the science, which is what distinguishes SF from other kinds of fiction. Therefore, any judgements of "speculative fiction" within the context of science fiction are simply irrelevant.

Mr. Gunn pointed out that many new wave writers haven't the same technical training that generally prevails amongst the older writers. As a consequence, many of the "old timers" (a phrase Mr. Gunn did indeed use) condemn the "speculative fiction" for the wild inaccuracies and contradictions which occur with unfortunate frequency. If "speculative fiction" is part of anything, Mr. Gunn described them as claiming, it is part of fancy; it is certainly not part of "science."

This line of reasoning, with which Mr. Gunn appeared to be in some agreement, depends, obviously on one's being able to draw the necessary distinctions between genres. He felt that science fiction and fantasy are indeed two different things, with differing criteria. It was purely by chance that they came to be linked together; the conjunction holds no logical force. But then he spoiled his structure by stating that one could consider the genre sciencefictionandfantasy a spectrum, with, at one end, "hard science fiction," at the other, fantasy, and somewhere between, fillin up some of the holes, the new wave's "speculative fiction." One gathered that, in an ideal universe, the two would be different, but that Mr. Gunn found very difficult at times to state definitively in which genre some story would belong.

Since the question of criteria had arisen, I asked Mr. Gunn whether he felt that SF and the mainstream should be critically judged according to the same standards. His answer was, no, they should

not, for they do different things, there are different criteria for judging the merit of a work in each. Immediately, however, he negated his assertion by stating that there are, of course, criteria for "good fiction," which apply equally to science fiction and to the mainstream.

To my great sorrow, at this point in our discussion Mr. Gunn had to cease in order to tape an interview, the cameras for which were being prepared behind us as we talked. There were still several questions which might profitably have been considered: was Mr. Gunn aware of the ways in which he had contradicted himself, and, if so, what were his resolutions to these antinomies? what are the differences between fantasy and science fiction, and with what criteria would he test these? and most interesting, what differences exist in comparison of mainstream and science fiction which would justify valuing certain traits in some of science fiction that are not valued in mainstream fiction.

Miss Jean Ann Berman, a Simmons student who was responsible for Noreascon's sundry informal "discussion groups," perhaps inadvertently suggested a solution, at least to the problem of distinguishing SF and mainstream. If we look at what science fiction has hitherto been, she felt, we will see that it depends upon a balance existing between two indispensable elements: science, and a "story". Neither one of these is necessary to mainstream fiction, although both of them are, of course, possible in it. Science fiction, therefore, is a subset of the mainstream, and should, even though now greatly superior to the products which once appeared in the "pulp," still be considered a "genre," like westerns. (The claim that SF is a "genre" was often to be heard at Noreascon.) But, since SF is a genre necessarily connected to these elements, it is by an author's success in developing the science and the story that he should be judged, and only by that. Sometimes, of course, an author is successful in developing both science and story and in meeting the requirements of "good (mainstream) fiction" (whatever they may be); in such cases, a book receives acclaim both within the world of SF, and in regular critical discourse (eg, 1984, *A Canticle for Leibowitz*); but these cases are exceptions, and we should not demand, within SF at least, that to be "good" a work have qualities outside these two.

The problem, one feels, with such an attempt at a solution is that it has ceased to recognize the state of the art. For it is still concerned to define "SF", in this case as being that which has "science" and "story". But the fact of the matter is simply that, as Mr. Gunn pointed out, no such definitions are really valid today: too much is being done in too many different fields, normally not considered scientific (one thinks of Brunner's *Stand on Zanzibar*, an excursion into prophetic sociology, or of Zelazny's *Lord of Light*, into religion), to limit SF to "science" alone.

Further, such a definition still limits SF; it is still not to be considered "good" for whatever qualities the novels may themselves have, but only because it is "good" in these particular terms of reference. By erecting such clear distinctions, one feels, the SF connoisseur is ignoring the world outside his own small coterie. Rather than showing how SF novels are in themselves "good," he shows why it is that, although they are not (in general terms) "good," he should still be permitted to appreciate them. And any such endeavour is, one senses, doomed because of its own defensiveness, its character of being a "rear-guard action."

I met with a rather more liberal view, however, at a discussion group entitled "Critics and Criticism." I was shown the concluding essay in the book *More Issues at Hand*, by "William Atheling, Jr." (who turns out to be James Blish). I had little time, at that moment, unfortunately, and could but skim the essay; its suggestion that the "new wave" as a group had ceased to exist, that each author had now splintered off into (to use a cant phrase) doing his own thing, and that there was, within such a field as SF that is concerned with any possible state of affairs, ample room for any experimentation, seemed eminently reasonable. And if, as he pointed out, the kinds of experiment that the "new wave" had introduced into SF are rather ancient in the mainstream that would not seem to deny their validity, nor deny their efficacy in forms of fiction that occur outside the mainstream.

Strangely enough, a somewhat similar set of suggestions was offered by Clifford Simak at the Hugo awards banquet, where he was the "professional" guest of honour. He began by noting that he wished to say some good things about all of SF, including the splinters from it. What, he asked, of the old "sense of wonder," which seemed to have disappeared? Well, that was, he answered, always within ourselves not within the stories themselves. If it has disappeared for some of us, then that is because we have lost it: the fact that there are always new fans entering SF is enough proof that for newcomers, as even he had once been, the "sense of wonder" still existed. There always were, he went on, bad stories, even in the good old days. It is true, he said, that some stories were now being written that he could not appreciate, yet which received critical acclaim; but surely the fact that some people found them good was adequate proof that they had some merit. (One felt this gentle old man was turning out to be a radical subjectivist, rather than a dogmatist like Mr. del Rey.)

Further, he saw hopeful signs for SF: (a) there were many good young writers; (b) there were many good critics who were accepting and assessing SF very carefully, even in the universities; (c) SF had proven itself capable of responding to ferment, of not staying in a dead end.

Controversy is good, he concluded, for it proves that we aren't complacent. But he would wish, he said, that the voices raised in the controversy were less shrill, for SF is a large field, one which can hold all styles, all types.

The roar of applause, the standing ovation with which this speech was met, made one feel that there was hope within the field which belied the ingrown bitterness which has otherwise been almost the entire experience of Noreascon.

*

And so, finally, they handed out the Hugos. For the record, the interesting awards were: (a) short story: 3rd, "Jean Dupres" by Gordon R. Dickson; 2nd, "Continued on Next Rock" by R. A. Lafferty; 1st, "Slow Sculpture" by Theodore Sturgeon; (b) novella: 3rd, "The Region Between" by Harlan Ellison (yet!); 2nd, "The Thing in the Stone" by Clifford Simak; 1st, "Ill Met in Lankmar" by Fritz Leiber; and (c) the novel: 3rd, *The Tower of Glass*, by Robert Silverberg; 2nd, *Tau Zero*, by Poul Anderson; and 1st, (Isaac Asimov, announcing the awards, called it "the least unexpected award in recent years") *Ringworld* by Larry Niven.

I do not propose here to review all of these; rather, I wish to consider rapidly the three novels (since they are easiest to

procure) in the light of the concerns which were expressed at Noreascon. It is easy to see that these concerns are two in number: (a) are these novels "new Wave"? What is their connection (if any) with the "new wave"; and (b) what is the status of these novels with respect to the mainstream? It is disappointing to note that, with respect to first of these, none of the three show any influence of the new wave at all. Mr. Silverberg's *Tower of Glass* ("Welcome," Mr. Silverberg said, as the master of ceremonies at the Hugo awards banquet, "to the tower of grass" — which led one to wonder what one had been missing) is a conventional "the androids are going to destroy humanity" novel. It is, perhaps, to be distinguished from those which has gone before (e.g., Isaac Asimov's "Robot" series) by a certain pessimism and a judicious admixture of religious themes (the androids worship Krug, the "creator"), but is distinguished neither technically (there is little effort at experimental technique) nor thematically.

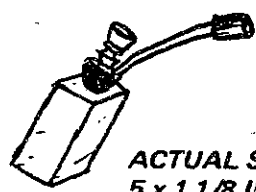
Mr. Anderson's *Tau Zero* has a blurb on the front cover by James Blish: "This is the ultimate 'hard science fiction' novel. Everybody else who has been trying to write this kind of thing can now fold up his tent and creep silently away." This is a fair estimate: but it does not mean that the novel is exciting in any way. A starship is built: it suffers a couple of disasters, cannot stop accelerating; inside, the time passes for the people normally, outside, eons pass (Einstein strikes again!); the universe collapses: the starship survives: the new universe is charted: the people settle on a new world: humanity survives again. Big deal. It is written in, if possible, a less interesting fashion than Mr. Silverberg's work; one is tempted to say that the transitions between scenes are so abrupt, the characters so unconvincingly delineated, that it is almost incompetent. The only relief is the sex (which appears in all three novels).

This leaves Mr. Niven's *Ringworlds*. With the competition so weak this year, it is easy to understand why it garnered so much enthusiasm. For, even if it too is "hardcore" (as its blurb suggests), the concept it proposes is (to my knowledge) new: that an entire world be built around a sun, rather as if one built a band on the path of the Earth's orbit around the sun. Such a "world" is a rather staggering conception. If one adds to this a couple of interesting extra-terrestrial aliens, a girl bred for her luck, a hero of some character, and a fallen civilization on the "ringworld" which our four go to explore, then the novel is rather more than passable. But stylistically it shows no advance in SF writing. Com to John Brunner's *Stand on Zanzibar* it is passe; nor does the theme seem new, important, or interesting in the same way that Ursula K. LeGuin's *The Left Hand of Darkness* (the winner last year) was. The lasting sense one has is distinctly one of entertainment, not of a serious attempt to deal with "the way things are" or "the problems towards which the human condition must resolve itself."

And in this sense, one understands why the convention-goers, the fans, were distinctly defensive about being asked to consider SF as "literature". If SF does have successes, if it does, in the case of marginal SF as *The Andromeda Strain* or *Slaughterhouse-Five*, even make the best seller lists, it is not because of the kinds of interests which were expressed at Noreascon.

One ends up, then, quoting to oneself the indeed appropriate motto of the MIT Science Fiction Society: "We're not fans: we just read the stuff."

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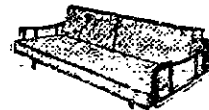
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Noreascon 2: SciFi and fiction

sorry to have missed), more or less centered around the "Conan" series mentioned above. Some are more general, as the National Fantasy Fan Federation, taking in one and all. They all provide a means by which enthusiasts can follow their interests. At least two of the small, specialized publishers have had their work in local bookstores recently: one, the Centaur Press, issuing reprints (as do some other houses) of old, rare novels and tales, some taken directly from the pulps where they had their first and last appearance; the other, Advent Publishers, issuing works of criticism on science fiction.

But while I at least had had some vague intuition of this first way I was wrong, of the second I had had not a clue. What this second way is, is just a certain bibliographic mania for ancient science fiction. Many of the hucksters' tables were covered with issues of "Astounding," "Weird Tales," etc. Some, certainly, were to be bought by fans suffering from acute nostalgia, from a recognition that present SF differs radically from that which prevailed before 1950. But advertisements of "rare, limited editions," of "fine conditions," of "with original dustcovers" gave one at times the feeling that one had somehow wandered into the bibliophile's paradise. One gentleman confessed to having bought the only issue of "Astounding" needed to complete his collection. I didn't feel it necessary, somehow, to inquire what stories were in it, although I felt sure he would know, and had any discussion of *merit* intruded, it would, no doubt, have been met with the contempt it deserved. Also available were back issues of comic books, antique, out of print hardcovers, and random collections of paperbacks.

One would, however, be wrong to attribute this attachment to what has gone before solely to that dread disease, "bibliophile's mania." True, it can strike anyone, including some of the younger generation, who engaged equally enthusiastically in frantic buying and selling. But the majority of the buyers and sellers were old enough to suggest that they were the "old guard" of "fandom" (once again, one is sorry such a word was created), looking backwards, as well as occupied by an engaging hobby.

One is tempted to suggest that this desire for "the past," or at least the past in terms of science fiction styles, is evidence in favor of asserting the genuine existence of the "new wave." Even if this suggestion is valid, however, there is still further evidence that need be considered. For, to at least one of the well-known writers of SF, such authors' classification of their own work as "new wave" is unjustified.

*

"The main program" (so ran the "General Comments" in the conference program) "is divided into three segments." Of these, only the third was concerned solely with science fiction. As the "General Comments" had it: "Finally, we consider science fiction itself both as a tool and for its intrinsic values, literary and otherwise: SF, THE WRITING ON THE WALL - PROPHECY OR GRAFFITTI?" One of the events derived from this was a panel on "the next five years in SF," which was begun by showing a film of Harlan Ellison (who did not attend the convention) talking to a class at the University of Kansas about science fiction. Ellison, possibly the most vocal exponent of the new wave, was quite willing to talk energetically for the class - and the cameras. He suggested that the essence of the new science fiction (or, as he seemed to prefer, "speculative fiction") is the undertaking of disturbing contemporary problems, applying to them, if not solutions, at least imaginative resolutions. He talked about some of the series of books he has edited of "far-put" science fiction, entitled *Dangerous Visions*; his claim was that he had asked his authors to write on hitherto taboo themes, and had received in response several completely new, brash, important writings on man and his society. In effect, he claimed for the new science fiction the greatest "relevance," as it were, to be

found anywhere today, including the "mainstream." It is "street fiction, fiction of the people."

In the panel which followed, it became clear that Ellison is relatively unpopular with some people. James Gunn, president of the "Science Fiction Writers of America," and Bob Shaw, an Irishman, were ambivalent, a trifle obscure. There is something in what Ellison says, they suggested, but perhaps the break with the past is not quite as radical as he suggested, perhaps the next five years will be ones of evolution, not, as Ellison had implied, revolution. The other two members of the panel were the better-known Clifford Simak and Poul Anderson. Mr. Simak, the guest of honor at the convention but self-effacing nevertheless, felt that science fiction was still entertainment. Mr. Anderson, one of the nominees for this year's Hugo in the novel, felt Ellison had created the term "speculative fiction" in order to eliminate from serious consideration those who did not choose to write as he (Ellison) was convinced they ought.

A minor eruption occurred on the

confusion, error, and (one gathered) the loss, somehow, of the good repute of science fiction: all of which, del Rey said, he "resented."

As it happens, this was but the first example I observed of a theme which was sounded over and over again. It was not limited to Ellison, although he was the principle scapegoat, but rather extended to the whole of the new wave. Put concisely, it stated that the new wave is, in effect, rot.

The most vivid example of this, if not its most rational statement, occurred in the early hours of Monday, at the free movies. That evening, the principle attraction was *2001*, a flick not covered by my otherwise general anathema for SF films. Further, the Hugos had just been awarded, and I shared the general sense of well-being (perhaps due more to relief from the tension which had been commonly felt than to approbation for the awards). So it was with interest, and even some pleasure, that I watched the first film, which showed Issac Asimov speaking of the history of science fiction - part of the same series as the one with

A somewhat similar, if less emphatic, crowd response to the new wave occurred during the Hugo awards ceremony. It is true, of course, that the stream of jokes by Silverberg and Asimov against Mr. Ellison were greeted with applause and cheers. But more interesting was the response to the announcement of the winner of the "professional magazine" category, "Fantasy & Science Fiction." One learned, from more than one source, that three of the major professional magazines present differing overall attitudes. "Analog," the successor to the old "Astounding," prints principally fiction in the vein of the 1940's: heavy emphasis on "real" science, "good" plots, "believable" characters. "Galaxy" represents the trend toward stories concerned with science and society of the 1950's. "F&SF," although founded about the same time as "Galaxy," has tended to be more interested in "literary" qualities than the other two, and hence has printed many of the new wave stories. "Analog" won second place, which was met with some dismay by those attending. "Galaxy" won nothing, although nominated (third place went to "Amazing").

The reaction to the success of "F&SF" might have been called almost dismal. Many people attending the convention must have voted for it, since the awards are granted by popular vote, but, except for a faint hand, they remained silent. Equally faint, but more impressive because of the large number of people engaging in them, were the negative responses, the soft boos and hisses.

*

If one has gathered thus far that the convention was made up of emotional maniacs engaged in hating the new wave, one has been unfortunately misled. Certainly when accosted individually - or in small groups - the participants were eminently sane and reasonable in expressing their likes, dislikes, and beliefs about and in SF. If they tended, perhaps, toward showing more interest in discussing the minute details of certain books (someone once defined a "fan" as "one who can quote by heart, word for word, the 'three laws of robotics,'" these three laws having been promulgated by Issac Asimov in his late '40's series about robots), they were quite willing to discuss the trends within SF, and its status within "literature." Yet, for the most part, they held the same attitudes, if less vehemently expressed, as Mr. del Rey.

Basically, these attitudes formed two groups: those concerned with how the individual felt about the personalities of the writers of the new wave, and those concerned with what the individual thought was the place of the new wave within science fiction. Commenting on Mr. Silverberg's frequent barbs at Mr. Ellison during the banquet, one participant detected a love-hate relationship between them. One sees how this is possible, since Mr. Silverberg, who is something of a stylist, could hardly help being interested in the technique, if nothing more, of the new wave, yet might well find Mr. Ellison's behavior in somewhat less than the best of taste at all times. A story was told (admittedly on hearsay) of how, in convention after convention, Mr. Ellison would at some point stand and state that since conventions were worthless, he was never going to attend another one. (He did not, remember, attend this one.)

Yet not all the tales told about the new wave are about Mr. Ellison. One, showing the paranoid version of history, stated that one evening some six or seven years ago, Judith Merrill, J. G. Ballard, and others associated with "New Worlds," gathered together. "Let's," one of them said, "create a new movement." There was general approval of this suggestion. "But what," one of them asked, "shall we call it? 'How about the 'new wave'?" The implication is that the new wave is a farce simply, put on for the benefit of a few writers alone. Even James Gunn, president of the Science Fiction Writers of America, noted that one reason for the broil between the older writers and those of the new wave was the "arrogance" displayed by the latter in their dealings with those who had gone on before.

Mr. Gunn was, however, as befits a professor (he teaches literature at the University of Kansas), quite analytic in discussing the genuine issues of the controversy. My own first impulse had been



floor when question-time arrived. A shrill lady asserted that it was completely unnecessary to use all those dirty words and talk about that dirty sex, as had been done in *Dangerous Visions*. A gentleman suggested that Ellison had not defined everyone else out of science fiction, but had instead defined himself out of it. (One had rather the impression that Ellison had just been reduced to the ranks, if not excommunicated.) And Lester del Rey gave a fifteen minute diatribe against Ellison, saying, (a) that Ellison was a liar, since Ellison had been willing to take any story he (del Rey) had had to offer for *Dangerous Visions*, even if it finally turned out not to be "taboo"; and (b) that Ellison was a liar again, because sex, politics, and ecology had been published in science fiction since its beginnings, so that when Ellison claimed that a new step had been taken in freedom he was just spouting. In short, the distinction between the "old guard" and the "new wave" did not exist, had been created by Ellison only to make a few quick bucks, and had resulted in

Harlan Ellison mentioned above.

The second film, "The Orchid," was "experimental," produced by Samuel R. Delaney, a rather well-known young writer. Precisely how experimental it was, however, might be debated. It seemed to me somewhat commonplace, although not devoid of interest. The crowd - consisting mostly of the younger "fans," - felt otherwise. There were soon signs of restlessness, betraying, I felt, a complete lack either of understanding or of willingness to attempt understanding. When the predictable nude shots appeared, there was at first shocked silence, then vociferous outrage, which, so loud were the cries of "Take it off!" managed to drown out the most interesting part of the film, the music which formed the soundtrack. One might justly have said that Mr. Delaney's film was not appreciated. The "Roadrunner" cartoon which followed, however, was greeted with yips of delight. When, two films later, "Gene Autry Against the Phantom Empire" was greeted with similar glee, I left, unconvinced that *2001* would appear in the reasonable future.

The next program on the schedule was entitled "The Uses of the Future," which consisted of dialogue between Frederick Pohl, a writer of note, and Dr. Sidney Feinleib of the Arthur D. Little Company. It seems that think-tanks have added to their list of inexplicably semi-successful follies the employment of staffs of science fiction writers to construct scenarios of the future, or some chunk of it, and apparently the planners of the convention thought it would be nice to provide a gloating session.

Pohl, a mustachioed, intellectual-looking man with thin black hair, opened the discussion with a description of SciFi as a "tool for investigating the future for fun and profit" and, further, by expressing a light-hearted indignation at the territorial infringements of the think-tanks and scientific progress in general.

"Of course," he admitted, "not all science fiction is a reliable forecaster of the future... with prediction, you can say something like 'sometime in the next million years, the earth will be visited by creatures from another planet' and you can be pretty sure you'll be right. But for the most part, the SF statement is not meant to come true. However, there is such a thing as cautionary SF - things that may happen if you don't watch out." Pohl's one good point was that the attempt at "a rational approach to the future implies ways to prevent it - it's the conservative interests who want predictions." Feinleib, who was young and rather bushy-haired, seemed slightly taken aback at this.

On the whole, though, Feinleib must have been somewhat of a disappointment to the SciFi crowd, despite their initial delight at the prospect of subsidizing starving writers. He told an introductory anecdote, said a few things about

"sources of imagination," and made several generally unanswered appeals for advice in accurate prediction. But a consensus was soon reached that there would be "no good way to apply knowledge of the future" anyway, which left him in a rather awkward position. But the biggest disappointment was probably the revelation that science fiction writers were not the only type of group used as experimental prognosticators, and that they hadn't really done much better than the group of office secretaries, anyway.

Throughout the convention, small groups were meeting in individual's rooms for discussion of more esoteric topics of science fiction - criticism of individual authors, for instance, or the area of film-making and viewing, as well as the more lofty, philosophic arguments. Deciding that the latter would be safest for the uninitiated, I opted for a discussion of "SF and Future Society."

Room 2414 in the Sheraton-Hilton is of a size that permits coziness without intimacy - just right for a small seminar, in my estimation. There were a bed, several chairs, and five or six people in the room; I took a seat on the floor, near the door, trying to assume the aspect of a non-participant observer. One of the other newcomers was zealously distributing some literature of doubtful relevance, while the MC (it's his room) tried gently to return to the topic at hand.

Several more interested parties appeared at the door, and the MC welcomed them and directed them to sit on the windowsill. As they clambered over me, it became apparent that the young lady who had been speaking was not willing to yield the floor. Her voice rose in a steady crescendo as the newcomers made small talk with the MC, and she ended by

driving home her rather minor point with a vehemence that seemed to startle her. But no one took much notice, as there were now more late arrivals clamoring at the door. Some attempted to squeeze by me, while another gentleman loudly suggested that they all search out another room sufficient to their needs. Several suggestions and counter-suggestions were shouted at once; one person favored poolside, which another said was too noisy, and several more argued on whether a certain room was being used.

The MC, however, thought it best to wait, in hopes that there would be no more arrivals. The first gentleman replied with a courteous insistence that a topic of such general interest as "Future Society" would surely draw more participation still.

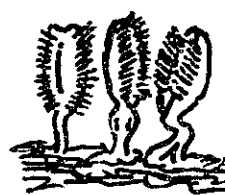
There was a general air of stalemate. But things were getting more and more hectic at the door, and with the sudden appearance of another large clump of people, the suggestion of a new locale carried the day by sheer weight of numbers.

I managed to be contained in the first elevator-load to descend. But the pathfinders hesitated at the first floor, and I took the opportunity to detach myself. It was getting late, and I decided I probably wouldn't want know about "Future Society" anyway.

The attitude of SciFi fans to the future (the actual, real future) is curious. Prediction has long been its forte and, for some, its only justification. But, at the same time, there seems to be a strained effort to escape to the modality of the pulp magazines of the early days of science fiction, when the imagination was still unfettered by partly fulfilled prophecies. Some thrive on the pursuit of

phenomenological scientific details (to quasi-logical conclusions) and on various allegorical and actual Utopia/Armageddons by way of extrapolation, but even these embrace not so much what is probable as what is, simply, possible. That science fiction has become less literal in its evolution from pulp magazines and B movies does not necessarily imply an advancing sophistication of technique, or even a widening reconnaissance of the future. Rather, as one leaves Fandom, there is the impression of mild desperation, of an uncatalogued future shock that belies the pride that writers and fans often express for Science, as the surviving son of countless speculations. And neither is it a bemused disgust that they feel for the exploitation of SciFi by think-tanks, but rather a fear of the possible, even though doubtful, validity of the premise. Instead of a steady advance into the unknown, science fiction is beating a retreat from its own actuality. It is not probability, or even possibility that Fandom yearns for; rather, it clings to the frail Tolkeinesque fantasies that have always been its basis, verisimilitude added for its tantalizing effect. The veil is not falling without a struggle, but eventually it must reveal SciFi in its true nature, not as the pathfinder, but as the mystifier of future reality.

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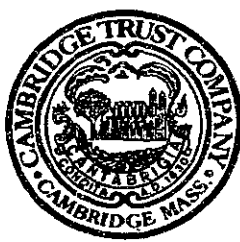
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Aquarian Engineer: people technology

By Eric Raimy

Alternative Features Service

In high school, Bruce got interested in science. He was one of those kids who built rockets that would blow up in the basement. But he was never won over completely by the powerful forward thrust of American technology.

Other kids who built their own rockets in the 1960s moved on more or less automatically to the military or the corporations. Bruce studied electrical engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. He let his hair grow, read Marx, and helped "reconstitute" the university in the wake of the Cambodian invasion.

He became something that no one dreamed could exist: a radical engineer. Today the most interesting thing about Bruce is that he is alienated from society, but not from technology. A few months ago he got together with half a dozen students and former students with backgrounds in architecture, physics, computer science, biology, and civil engineering. They formed the Aquarius Project.

Like other counter-technology projects beginning to take shape around the country, the Berkeley group argues that the movement must use technology, turning it to new ends. Bruce believes that proliferating urban and rural communes will pave the road to a gradual revolution. But communes often fail.

Theorizing that economic weakness is the chief cause of the failures, Aquarius Project is studying relatively simple automated production techniques that a commune could use to set up a small textile factory or automated bakery.

Its data on hydroponics show an urban commune could grow its own food both economically and organically, Bruce reports.

Bruce's last name does not appear here because the project has another interest — "technological guerrilla warfare" — and wants to stay partly underground.

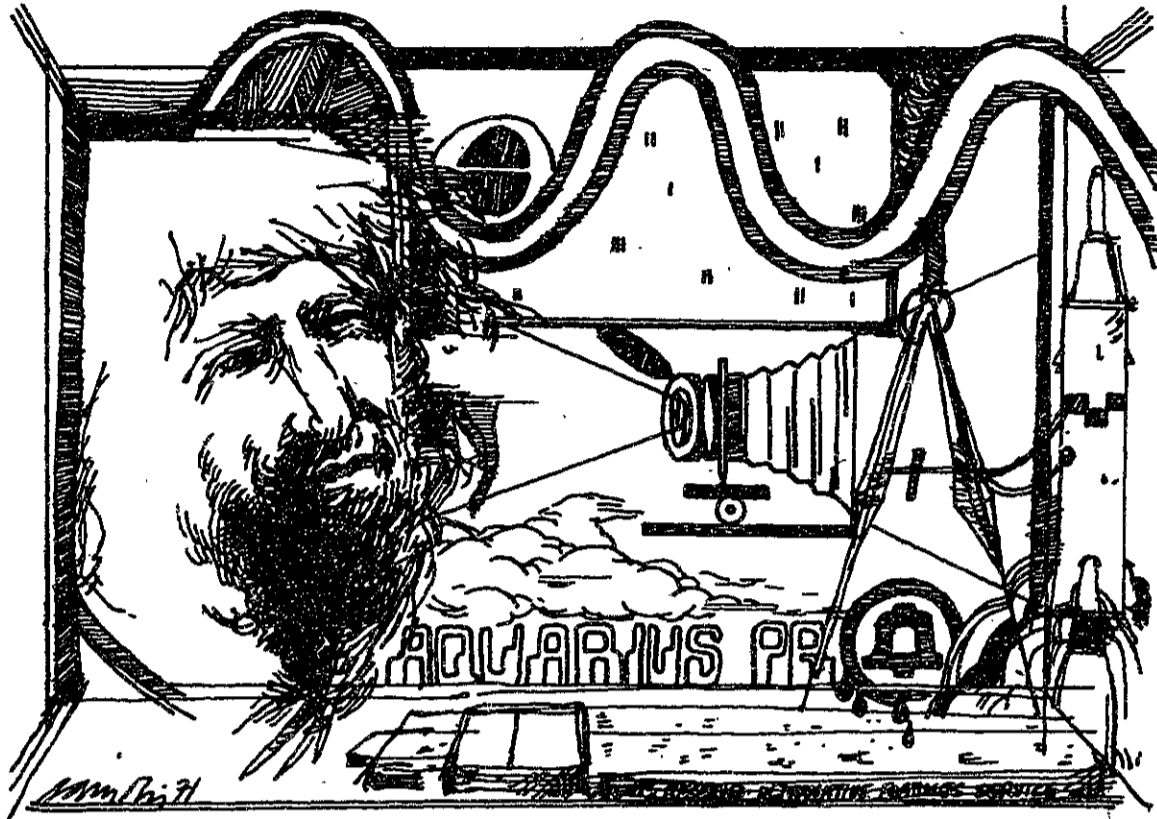
Abbie Hoffman's little device for ripping off the phone company "is an example of the type of thing that guerrilla counter-technology involves," Bruce says. As another example, he notes that the movement's new technicians want to find ways of coming to grips with the government's computerized dossier banks.

On the opposite coast, the Center for Movement Research lists its address as the Department of Sociology at Queens College, Flushing, N.Y. "We are a collective whose orientation is communications, multimedia and technology," a center announcement said. "We are interested in video, lasers, holograms, organic food, geodesics and inflatables."

"Wholesale rejection of technological and scientific methods is dangerous to the movement and removes us from tools and techniques which we must understand and use in developing alternatives," the working group contends.

"Technological people are only beginning to turn on, to get involved," Bruce observes. "For a long time there is going to be a shortage of them."

But potent forces are shaking their traditional role as servants of the corporate state. Unemployment has brought a deep malaise to the engineering ranks. At the same time, engineers have begun to relate to the ecology movement, which confronts them with the consequences of misused technology.



BC evicts student paper

Boston College officials evicted *The Heights*, a student newspaper, from an office in the BC student center Friday evening.

The eviction appeared to be the result of a long-standing dispute between the paper and the BC administration, which had earlier resulted in withdrawal of recognition of *The Heights, Inc.* (the publisher of *The Heights*) as a student activity.

Boston College authorities contend that *The Heights* had

"illegally seized" the office, entering the previous night and changing the locks, and have informed its staff that anyone entering the office would be considered a trespasser.

While admitting that *The Heights, Inc.*, is not a recognized student activity, Bob Ruff, *Heights* editor, argued that the university "acted against the student newspaper, not its publisher." The newspaper, he stated, "is recognized as a stu-

dent activity by the Undergraduate Government of Boston College." BC, however, contends that "*The Heights* is not recognized by the University and as such, is not entitled to any space on University property." The use of the room, it claimed, was "a serious invasion of the University's rights."

The eviction came when *The Heights* refused to surrender a key to the office to College officials.

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recordings:

Poco, inside & out

By Neal Vitale

The sound of Poco has finally reached the point Richie Furay sought since he first gathered the group together in 1968. With Paul Cotton, ex- of the Illinois Speed Press, replacing Jim Messina on guitar, the right earthy balance has been added to a sound that has approached pristine purity.

The difference is noticeable in Poco's latest album, *From The Inside* (Epic KE 30753). As a guitarist, Cotton is more than competent; though, in comparison to Messina, not that obviously. But when it comes to vocals, it's another story, as his voice is lower and more bluesy than either Furay or Tim Schmidt. Singing harmony, he adds a whole new dimension to the group, tempering their previous angelic qualities. And Cotton's own songs—"Bad Weather," "O! Forgiver," and "Railroad Days"—come off sounding unlike most anything Poco's done before; particularly the latter song, which is just plain rock 'n' roll.

The record is very fine overall, technically and artistically, and Rusty Young's incredible pedal steel guitar work is worth special note. *From the Inside* is not as up-tempo and bouncy as, maybe, *Poco or Deliverin'*, as many of the songs are on the

lines of ballads. This doesn't reflect on the contents, though, as one of the best cuts on the album is a slow one, "What If I Should Say I Love You."

Less than a week prior to the release of their new record, Poco appeared on the Boston Common. They had been in town in late spring, at the Music Hall, and their line-up of songs differed only in that more new ones replaced the older, such as "Kind Woman" and the "Grand Junction" medley. The group ran through "Hear That Music," "A Man Like Me," the "Child's Claim To Fame" (about Neil Young?) medley, "It's A Good Morning," and several others. The concert ended with "C'mon," which brought everybody to their feet.

Poco, on the basis of their new sound, as evidenced by *From The Inside* and their live gigs, can finally accept the names of "rock 'n' roll" and "band," in the truest sense of each.

*

The Bangla-Desh benefit album, taken from the Madison Square Garden concert last month, is nearing completion. The 3-record set is in the final mix-down, unfortunately at the hands of Phil Spector, and should be released within the month.

books:

Future Shock

By Robert Fourer

FUTURE SHOCK, by Alvin Toffler. Bantam, \$1.95.

Pick up the new tangerine-colored buck-ninety-five paperback, 40 weeks in hardcover on the best-seller lists, and read: "Ten thousand years for agriculture. A century or two for industrialism. And now, opening before us — super-industrialism."

Or grab the new yellow book and be told: "prostitution... reveals a paucity of imagination and a lack of technical resources that will be remedied in the future."

Or the pink one: "Were Shakespeare suddenly to materialize in London or New York today, he... would be a semi-literate."

All three are Alvin Toffler's *Future Shock* (also available in blue, white and lime). The excerpts barely hint at the revelations about the present, and extrapolations to the future, which literally fill every page. But, drops in a sea of prophecy, they're as well representative as any others — and while provocative individually, overwhelming *en masse*.

To save us from drowning, Toffler has taken pains to organize his 500-page tract around easy-to-grasp concepts. First off, we are given "future shock... the shattering stress and disorientation that we induce in individuals by subjecting them to too much change in too short a time." It's analogous to culture shock — the response to being thrust into an unfamiliar culture — except in this case the victim never leaves his homeland but merely watches in horror as it changes around him. It is to be revealed as the cause of rioting colleges, dying ghettos, debilitating drugs, and numerous lesser evils, as well as the profound

uneasiness permeating our society and others. (Toffler would no doubt have seized on recent polls showing an unprecedented majority of Americans convinced their country is "on the wrong track.")

These changes overwhelming us are found to fall into three types. They are detailed at length.

First, transience. Transience of things — we throw our possessions away, for new ones. Transience of places: we desert our old homes for unfamiliar ones. Transience of people: we lose track of old friends, are reluctant to invest in new ones. Transience of organization: business and government create new positions only to destroy them. Transience of information: popular taste and scientific knowledge are increasingly impermanent.

Second, novelty. Novelty of science, which will change the species of man, or combine him integrally with machines. Novelty of experience, to be expanded through the efforts of new "experimental" industries. Novelty of relationships, in a rapidly mutating family structure.

Third, diversity. Diversity of choice, diversity of subcults and specialists, diversity of life styles, giving the individual an individuality he never bargained for.

After intricately outlining it, Toffler attacks the evils of change. He explores adaptability — physical and psychological — whose inability to keep up with change results in future shock. Finally, he offers advice on coping with the problem, in chapters for education, technology, and his "strategy of social futurism."

theatre:

Community Players

By P. E. Schindler, Jr.

Coffeeshouse Theatre is a very intimate and personal offspring of the theatre. It can be sampled, in the form of a trio of one-acts, at the Thirsty Ear Pub (basement of Ashdown) tomorrow through Saturday, done by the MIT Community Players.

The choice of plays was fair: Pinter's *Slight Ache* and two by MIT professor Floyd Barbour. The Pinter was not enjoyable by comparison with the other two plays on the bill; he captured the essence of "real people" and "real" conversation, and thus creates a play which is just as boring as "real" life. Barbour, on the other hand, is an excellent wordsmith, and we are here provided with examples of both his serious side (*Anthony and Cleopatra*) and his tragi-comic ability (*Day Work*). Both serve as brief, one-act efforts to put across some small aspect of the Black Experience, and combine entertainment and good pacing with a literate message. Pinter's message, to my best determination, was to "go to sleep," which I came close to doing.

music:

Aquarius—Coming of age?

By Alex Makowski

Last December ShaNaNa played to the Tea Party's last audience. A victim of the rising entertainers' fees, the concert "hall" with the bare concrete floor could no longer deliver the profits needed to make it a going

proposition. When the doors closed Boston lost its only forum for weekly rock entertainment.

Now another set of promoters is making an attempt at selling regular, live music. The old Orpheum Theatre, downtown in the Filene's-Jordan Marsh district, has been renovated to provide a weekend showcase for well-known rock, comedy, jazz, opera, ballet, and drama. For weeknights the management plans a variety of less polished programs featuring local talent, college groups, and the like. Aimed at the college market, the Aquarius Theatre hopes to fill the gap left by a declining number of campus concerts and the closing of the Tea Party.

Inside, the theatre has undergone quite a face-lifting since the days eighteen months ago when the patrons could catch a double-feature of *Midnight Cowboy* and *Alice's Restaurant* for just two dollars. Thousands of yards of red carpeting were laid, all the interiors were painted a soft blue, and a tape and record shop was added in the foyer. Perhaps most important, a new sound system was added to do justice to the talent the promoters hope to bring in. The number of seats dropped from 2900 to 2800, and all of them afford a good view of the stage.

Whether the theatre will prove a success remains to be seen. Even at five or six dollars per ticket, there aren't enough seats to provide for concerts by the big-name groups that charge upwards of \$15,000 for an appearance. But the management expects that a regular program of performers carefully selected to attract the college and post-college people will prove feasible. Additionally, the Aquarius Theatre policy includes cultivating strong ties with local community groups leading, perhaps, to the grass-roots support of some of Boston's neighborhoods.

*

The first concert, held this past Saturday, was a performance by Spirit in Flesh. Chief breadwinner for the Brotherhood of the Spirit Commune in western Massachusetts, the

tempted to re-light that historic relationship as being one of a haughty white Roman soldier to his black concubine. Several factors prevented its success: notably an uninspired performance by Philip Mendenhall as Anthony which even Claire Wilerson's Cleopatra could not carry completely. Mr. Mendenhall suffers from the common complaint of the amateur actor, over-enunciation, which makes his speeches ring slightly unreal. Also, he was wearing make-up which would have been appropriate for a stage performance, but which was badly out of place in the more intimate coffeeshouse. Ms. Wilerson, on the other hand, was done up impeccably, and gave a most believable performance.

Music for the play, mostly xylophone with a little percussion, was provided by Ted Lagadmos. It was not over-done or pretentious; it was careful and appropriate, and on occasion necessary to help keep the eyes propped open. Not that the performance was dull, but the atmosphere is close in the Thirsty Ear.

group features a heavy rock sound of original material — the lyrics are written to spread the essence of life the community has discovered.

The central figure of the music, group, and community is Mike Metallika (the spelling is only a guess). Metallika is the engaging and compelling personality who provided the "founding force," as one member put it, for the commune several years ago. His were the ideas discussed by members of the group with the audience from the stage during the intermission; of him was composed a song of revelation the Spirit included as one of their numbers. I even heard one of the commune members referred to "Mike" (though there may be someone else) when he asked if there was room on the bus back after the concert. Having no musical experience himself, he serves as the group's lead singer.

Mike's philosophy of life embraces a theory of consciousness that vaguely resembles the over-soul of Emerson and Thoreau transcendentalists. There is a universal energy pervading the world, he argues, that everyone could draw from by adopting, among other things, a more receptive and positive state of mind. The effect he predicts resembles the community spirit of the early California drug culture he grew into after leaving the east coast during high school. Mike admits using LSD during his days in California, but now he no longer finds acid necessary.

His sincerity is hard to gauge. Swallowing his belief in reincarnation is some feat for the first-time observer, particularly when Mike launches into a discussion of his prior life as the apostle Peter.

Mike described the Spirit music as the aural form of the community's philosophy of energy. "When I'm singing," he explained, "I can see the ether, see the light and sparks." Together for the past seven months, the Spirit, said Mike, didn't really draw inspiration from any other group. He expressed a personal preference for Steppenwolf — "John Kay was very sincere" — and Joe Cocker.

Future Shuckin', or, A profit in his own hand

(Continued from page 13)
rected (literacy requires knowing only a small fraction of the total possible vocabulary); and opinion not fully explained by fact — Toffler finds his distaste for "Hippies, Incorporated" hard to hide, though it helps his point none. In addition, the huge data-filing operation required for such a work can't help but miss some intriguing cross-references — the vastly increased use of the oceans examined in one spot, for instance, is not tied to the rapid acceleration of power consumption mentioned elsewhere, though the latter might create enough heat to melt the polar ice and enlarge the oceans.

Future Shock isn't much of a sourcebook, then — just an intriguing conglomeration, an oversized magazine story.

And also, it must be noted, a fine example of the very trends its author perceives. The writer-plus-researcher dichotomy displays the emergence of "modular man" in modern organizations. Indeed, the present-day group journalism set-up is not far from the "ad-hocracy" of Toffler's future.

The modular trend also shows itself in the way the book was written. Each of the five parts is a module which could stand on its own with minor changes. It thus becomes a suitable magazine article. By no coincidence, portions of *Future Shock* first appeared in *Playboy*, *Horizon*

and *Redbook*, in the process supporting Toffler's assertion that "many books are no more than one-shot magazines." That could be the book's epitaph — selling a million copies today, it will all but vanish in a few years as time passes it by. Time, Toffler emphasizes, is speeding up.

And things are changing. That is his message, and one suspects, his self-justification. Certainly the short biography just inside the back cover does justice to Toffler's man of the future — it associates him with nine organizations, numerous periodicals, even two homes. Moreover the tone of the book throughout leaves little doubt its author expects to be a "super-industrial man" in the future he foresees.

How well he foresees is another matter. Perhaps the politics of the future, which he all but ignores, has an essential part to play. How will future man share his power? How will he arrange for super-industrial death? We can only guess how recent wars fit Toffler's scheme of things — are we to assume they're anachronisms doomed to die out along with bureaucracies and the family?

We still don't know. "To prophesy is extremely difficult — especially with respect to the future," Toffler quotes a purported Chinese proverb. He is but a minor prophet, revealing only the present, only guessing the future.

UROP

New opportunities and openings not listed in the UROP Directory are listed below. As additional openings arise, they will be posted outside the Undergraduate Seminar Office, 7-105, and listed with Department UROP coordinators.

Students interested in participating in a research opportunity in the Psychiatric Department should contact Dr. Merton Kahne, Room 11-203, X2917.

Students interested in joining a research project at the Charles S. Draper Laboratory should contact Professor Wallace E. Vander Veld, Room 33-107 or Room DL5-137, X3759 or X3956.

The Admissions Office is particularly interested in three general areas where under-

graduates might make special contributions:

1) Statistical analyses of relationships between students performance at MIT and the admission inputs;

2) "Market Analysis" types of study to evaluate communication to the secondary schools in helping to formulate first impressions;

3) Investigation of secondary school students' decision-making process in affecting college choice;

Students interested in these opportunities should contact Professor Roland B. Greeley, Room 3-108, X4791.

Professor Irwin I. Shapiro, Departments of Physics and Earth and Planetary Sciences,

Room 54-622, X5734, would like to work with undergraduates interested in "experiments and analyses in general relativity, solar system dynamics, and very-long-baseline interferometry".

Undergraduate Policy Seminars which have been cancelled are 41.04, 41.06, and 41.14. All the others are open!

Students interested in joining an undergraduate seminar should check for openings in the Undergraduate Seminar Office, Room 7-105.

The following departments have new UROP coordinators: Mathematics — Prof. Arthur Mattuck, Room 2-239, X4345; Chemical Engineering — Prof. Leinroth, Room 12-184.

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876-4226 Thru Tues. Bergman's THE PASSION OF ANNA 6:45, 9:45, Wknd Mat 3:50 Chaplin's THE CIRCUS 5:30, 8:25

CENTRAL 1

864-0426 32nd week. De Broca's KING OF HEARTS 6:30, 9:45 GIVE HER THE MOON 8:15 Wknd Mat 4:55

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Clear sailing over summer

By Randy Young

Although the MIT sailing teams' regular season schedule ended in May, Tech sailors remained active throughout the summer, competing on both the intercollegiate and the club levels. They garnered several impressive victories, including three National and North American championships. Two especially noteworthy achievements were Terry Cronburg's capturing of the North American Inter-club Match Racing Championship, and the women's team's victory in the Women's National Intercollegiate Championships.

The women's finals were sailed on June 11 and 12 at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, in what were, to quote one team member, "light, rotten winds." Kathy Jones '71 sailed in A-division for MIT, with Karen Giroux '73 as crew, while Maria Bozzuto '73, with Shelley Bernstein '74 and Lynn Roylance '72, represented the team in B-division.

At the end of the first day's action the Tech women stood in third place in the ten-school fleet, behind Boston University and Radcliffe, who had won the title for the three previous years. Two first places, five seconds, and one third on the second day,

however, moved the girls into the lead and the title, followed by BU and Radcliffe. Both Kathy and Maria won their divisions.

For Terry Cronburg, two years of eliminations ended two weeks ago with his winning of the Prince of Wales Trophy, symbolic of the North American Inter-club Match Racing crown. Terry represented the MIT Nautical Association (MITNA) in the P-O-W series, which is a club rather than an intercollegiate event.

The elimination heats began last summer with races sailed in Cape Cod Tech sloops on the Charles River, pitting the MITNA against Community Boat Club. Cronburg, with Ed Shaw and Tom ("Hutch") Hutchins as crew, won this first encounter, and earned the right to compete in the Massachusetts Bay finals.

Sailing 210's at Cohasset, Massachusetts, Terry, with Shaw and Kathy Jones, captured the MassBay title, and advanced to the New England finals, sailed this past August 16-18 in Ynglings at Prout's Neck, Maine.

Sandy Warrick '72 and Steve Cucchiaro '74 crewed for Terry at Prout's Neck, and by winning there, the trio moved on to the North American finals at the

Southern Yacht Club in New Orleans, Louisiana. The final series was sailed in Solings from August 30 to September 2, with eight participants from all over North America.

Match racing is competition between only two boats at a time, with the object being to obtain the lead and then cover your opponent. In the championship series, the preliminary heats were on a best three-out-of-five basis, while the finals were four-out-of-seven.

In the first round, the MITNA entry was matched against Mac Goodwin of Michigan, and took the series in three straight races.

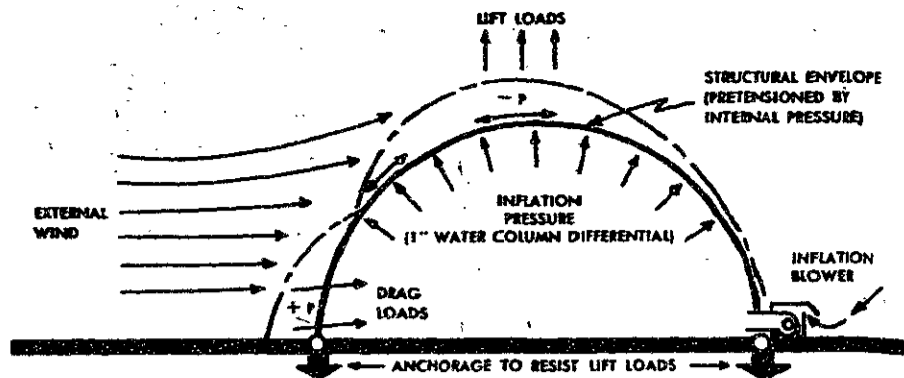
Cronburg and company then met Bob Burns of California, seventeen years old and a regular Soling sailor. Burns provided the best starting competition of the regatta, but Terry won the series by a 3-1 margin, with Burns' only victory subject to a protest that was not heard when Terry had already won three races.

This victory advanced the New Englanders to the finals against Ed Sherman of St. Petersburg, Florida. At the end of one-day's racing the tally stood at 3-3, with the championship to be decided with one race the next day. A banquet and festivities that night served to ease the tension somewhat, and the next morning Cronburg went out and defeated Sherman by a sizable margin to take the series and the North American title.

Also this summer, Cronburg, with Cucchiaro and Sally Lindsay as crew, won the Massachusetts Bay Senior Men's Championship, and placed third in the New England finals.

Larry Bacow '73, of Pontiac, Michigan, added another National title to the list of accomplishments by MIT sailors, as he captured the Wayfarer crown for the second consecutive season. This spring, Bacow was the highest-finishing sophomore in the New England Intercollegiate Singlehanded championships, and he is a mainstay of the MIT men's varsity squad.

This month MIT will be hosting the British Collegiate All-Star sailing team which has been touring the United States and has been winning impressive victories on the Pacific Coast and in the Midwest.



Above, aerodynamic stresses on a typical inflatable structure. High winds put undue stress on MIT's indoor tennis center, causing its downfall, below. Photo by David Searls



Tennis bubble bursts; new inflation try soon

By David Searls

MIT's inflatable Carr Indoor Tennis Center is due for re-installation within two weeks.

The structure, which split open and deflated on August 28, just two days after inflation, has been shipped back to Buffalo for repairs. The manufacturer was Birdair Structures, Inc., Walter Bird '34, president.

Ron Kinnius, Assistant to the President, was reached in Buffalo by *The Tech*. According to Kinnius, there have been "no other such failures... not of this type."

"The industry has minimum standards for product design, and these were followed in the construction. The failure of the structure was due to an unfortunate stackup of factors."

"In the first place, there was a strong wind coming directly into one end of the structure, so that there was a large amount of stress there. In addition, this was a new design, with square ends, and the sectionalizing caused some areas to be much more highly stressed than normal."

The end result of all this, according to Mr. Kinnius, is that "one end will have to be completely rebuilt."

Birdair, which has been in business for 15 years, built the structure for \$51,000.



Members of MIT's National Champion Women's Sailing Team are, from left: Gail Baxter '74, Karen Giroux '73, Kathy Jones '71, Jane Matrisciano '72, Lynn Roylance '72, Maria Bozzuto '73, Shelley Bernstein '74, and coach Stu Nelson. Jetphoto

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