

Much of eastern Cambridge, including MIT, was covered by thick smoke from a three-alarm fire last Wednesday at the AAA Plastics Company on Valentine Street in Cambridge. The fire raged on

for almost 24 hours, as firemen from Cambridge and surrounding communities fought the blaze.

Photo by David Tenenbaum

## Committee reviews housing, dining rates

By James Moody

The Rate Review Committee is now in the process of reviewing next year's housing and dining rates. The student members of this year's group are Alex Aisen (East Campus), Marty Davidoff (MacGregor), Dave Katz (Senior House), Mike Kenedy (Baker), Chuck Peterson (Ashdown), Rinaldo Spinella (Bexley), Ed Dorchak (Burton), Yvonne Walkowski (McCormick), and Rick Goetke (Dormitory Council). Richard Sorenson and Ken Browning represent the Dean's Office. Gene Brammer, Director of Housing and Dining, his Assistant, Art Beals, and Dining Consultant Salvatore Lauricella represent the Housing Office.

Browning, in a meeting held last fall, asked each house president to select a representative for the group; whereas last year there were only four student representatives. They have held three meetings so far, plan to work hard during IAP, and have a final report by February. Browning expressed hope that students would provide input to the group through their respective representatives.

The job of the Committee is to set housing and dining rates for the coming academic year. Its goal, according to Browning, is to make a rate structure across campus that makes sense in terms of fairness, and according to Dave Katz, one of the student representatives, "to refine the rough tuning of last year."

In an attempt to make the final figures as equitable as possible,

the Committee has been carefully going over the budget, with each item being carefully explained. They are trying to determine the fairest distribution of house and system costs. House costs are unique to a given house, and can be controlled by its residents, since they consist of such things as desk service. System costs reflect "an equal level of service to all," or are "based on historical events." These include all expenses not covered as house variable costs, such as maintenance, housekeeping, finance charges, administration, etc. Student representatives expressed a desire to look at all the figures, to come up with a just distribution.

It is expected that there will be some changes in the division of these costs. Some other things that the Committee plans to at least talk about are the following: the abolishment of refrigerator permits, meal tickets, compulsory versus voluntary commons for one dorm, and the idea of a seven-day non-meal format. Under this last plan, weekend meals would be served over an extended time period, rather than on the regular "meal time" basis. The Committee welcomes any input on these or any other proposals.

The first Rate Review Committee was set up last year, in an attempt to make the system equitable. By historical practice, yearly budget increases were averaged over the entire system. But, with the new dorms, McCormick, MacGregor, and

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## Protests set for Saturday

By Norman D. Sandler

Workers at the Capitol in Washington are laboring to finish construction of the platforms upon which Richard Nixon will be inaugurated for his second term of office on Saturday, January 20, though at the same time, anti-war organizers are preparing to mobilize thousands of people to the nation's capital for massive demonstrations set to coincide with the inaugural ceremonies.

"Counter-inaugurals" are planned for many cities around the country, including Washington, Detroit, Miami, Louisville, Atlanta, and Seattle, taking place on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

In Washington, tight security measures are being taken to ensure that the demonstrations do not interfere with the inaugural festivities which will take place at the Capitol, and along Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House.

Bulletproof panels are being placed on the platforms from which President Nixon will take the oath of office and deliver his inaugural address, and a fence has been placed around the perimeter of the White House compound in preparation for this weekend's events.

The anti-war activity will be centered in Washington on Saturday, where three groups have announced plans for non-violent demonstrations. Jerry Gordon, coordinator for the National Peace Action Coalition (NPAC) disclosed several weeks ago that NPAC would hold a rally at the Washington Monument, less than a half mile from the White House, during the inaugural ceremony and parade on Saturday.

Similar plans for a rally at the monument were announced by the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice (PCPJ), and parade permits for the rallies have been granted to both NPAC and PCPJ.

The Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) are planning a march against the war through the streets of Washington near the Capitol building, ending up at Union Station. Thusfar SDS has not been granted a parade permit by the national and local authorities in Washington, though plans still call for the march to go on as scheduled.

In Boston, local protests have been set for Friday by a group calling itself the "January 19

Committee." The group has scheduled a rally and march for Friday, beginning at the Boston Common at 11:30 and proceeding from there to Government Center. Speakers for the event have not been announced, and the action has received the support of a number of state and local politicians, educators, and clergymen.

Congress

While anti-war activists across the country are attempting to

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## A-bomb contest planned

By Barb Moore

An anonymous group known only as the "Backyard Bomb Coordinating Committee" has announced plans to sponsor an IAP Atomic Bomb Design Contest, open to groups or individuals affiliated with MIT. The chairman, who is also the only member of the committee, denied any seriousness in the contest.

The first poster for the Backyard Bomb Committee announced that any student at MIT has at his or her disposal the "expertise needed" to construct an A-bomb. An MIT pro-

fessor quoted in *The Real Paper*, stated that, as well as having the knowledge available, the "materials are not that closely guarded."

The poster suggested a program for students to follow in order to make an A-bomb, recommending undergraduate and graduate courses that would be needed. It suggested that students with the skill and materials to construct such a bomb could "influence government policy."

The second poster to appear was the announcement of the IAP contest. The poster outlined the judging factors, which con-

sist of "minimizing materials, maximizing yield, cleanliness, simplicity, detonability, and mobility." An additional announcement of the place to hand in entries was promised. Hand written in the corner of the poster was a reference to the May 1969 issue of *Esquire*, which contains an article pertaining to the loose guarding and poor security involved in radioactive or dangerous explosives.

One nuclear engineering undergraduate confirmed the validity of the claim made in the poster. He stated that a simple A-bomb could be constructed with some expensive lab equipment, which is available at MIT. His instructions for making a bomb are: Start with about 1.25 critical masses of U235, which would be the approximate size of a grapefruit. This should be machined into two hemispheres, each consisting of one-half the material.

A thick shell of TNT is then built around each hemisphere. A blasting cap should be placed in the rear center of each, while keeping the U235 separated with some neutron absorbing material. Lead would be appropriate as the separation substance. Two wires must then be led from each blasting cap to a detonator. The lead is then removed, hopefully by remote control.

It should be remembered that removing the lead by hand would cause the immediate destruction of the person detona-

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## Nixon expels science advisory staff

By Paul Schindler

According to a story in Saturday's issue of the *Washington Post*, President Nixon will soon abolish the office of presidential science adviser.

In an article by Victor Cohn, the *Post* reported that a source close to the White House had said that the office would be dismantled in the next few days. The science adviser will be replaced by a system which downgrades the role of scientists in helping determine national policy.

The position was originally established by President Eisenhower because of the Sputnik scare, and the first man to hold the office was then-MIT president James R. Killian, Jr. Later, President Kennedy appointed Jerome Wiesner to be his science

adviser. Both men had heard of the impending abolishment of the position from other sources. Killian said, "I don't want to comment until it happens, and we can see what it [the science adviser] is replaced with." Wiesner simply said, "I think it's a mistake."

White House sources are also reportedly hoping that the lack of a science adviser will reduce the amount of obvious protest at high levels when the President cuts back aid to science in his 1974 budget.

Also due for revision, according to the reports, is the White House office of Science and Technology (which has a staff of about 50) and the 20-member President's science advisory committee.

The position has been on its

way out ever since the presidency of Lyndon Johnson, according to Washington sources, when the scientific establishment opposed the ABM and the SST. Nixon has picked good men as science advisers: Dr. Lee DuBridge of Cal Tech and Dr. Edward E. David, Jr. (who just recently resigned); but he did not pay them much heed. News of the abolishment of the office comes on the heels of David's resignation, and the resignations of a substantial percentage of the federal scientific community, mainly at the National Institute of Health. Dissatisfaction with perennially shrinking budgets and poor relations with the executive branch were cited by the *New York Times* as likely causes for the resignations.

As recently as September of 1971 (*The Tech*, September 10,

1971, p. 6) the President was calling for "new approaches toward insuring the maximum enlistment of American technology in meeting the challenges of peace." He appointed William MacGruder, his unsuccessful liaison man on the SST, to be congressional liaison on science and technology; he was also to work closely with David. His appointment was seen at the time by some as a bad omen.

After a month in office, MacGruder said he was "optimistic" about spearheading the president's legislative efforts in science and technology (*The Tech*, November 2, 1971), but spoke mostly of efforts to allow greater collaboration among industrial researchers. He didn't seem to have any plans for academia.

# Council studies dorm rents

(Continued from page 1)

Burton, this practice became highly unfair.

The Committee (last year) first considered how to meet rising dining service costs. They broke up the system into the contract houses (Baker, Burton, McCormick, and MacGregor) and the *a la carte* facilities (Ashdown, Walker, and the Student Center). Cost increases in the contract houses were met by closing the McCormick dining hall, and lowering the Burton and McCormick dining hall fees to \$40. Cost increases in the *a la carte* system were offset by closing Lobdell on weekends, price increases, and a \$10 increase in the fee for Ashdown, East Campus, and Senior House.

The policy of dividing up a resident's rent into house and system cost factors (described earlier) was also instituted. This not only allowed more equitable rents, but also enabled individual houses to save on their rents by reducing house costs, electricity, heat, water, desk service, and house tax. This policy will be continued this year.

Because of notable quality differences, the system costs were distributed over four groups: Senior House; Ashdown, Baker, and East Campus; MacGregor; and Burton and McCormick. This resulted in a spread of \$493-\$573. The house cost factor went from \$105 in Baker to \$194 in Burton. Total rents ranged from \$645 in Senior House to \$788 in MacGregor. This includes dining hall fees. Total room and board varied from \$1305 to \$1444, with an average of \$1368. See the table for a summary of the increases decided upon last year.

Two other changes last year were the abolishment of free linen in McCormick, and making 20 McCormick doubles into

triples. This added beds to the system, as well as adding to McCormick's base income.

The rate review process is taking place this year with some overcrowding still remaining in the dorms. Of the 60 overcrowdings at the beginning of the year, there are now 37 left (ten voluntarily) in the 1960-bed system.

This is a particularly rough situation, according to Browning, since he had to refuse some 100 applications for on-campus housing. Unless the class size is drastically reduced, or new dormitory space becomes available (not slated until the fall of 1976), this overcrowding can only get worse.

	Rent Fee	Commons	On Commons	Off Commons
Ashdown	627* 45	660	1332	672
Baker	612 85	630	1327	697
Burton	744 40	660	1444	784
East Campus	634 30	660	1324	664
Senior House	615 30	660	1305	645
McCormick	741 40	660	1441	781
MacGregor	703 85	630	1418	788
Average	665 52	652	1368	717

\*Adjusted as explained under summer housing.

# Kepes speaks on Art at MIT Club of Boston

By Paul Schindler

Using self-described "broken English to describe broken ideas," Gyorgy Kepes, Institute professor and Director of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies (CAVS) addressed the MIT Club of Boston Thursday, December 14.

He began by outlining his topic as "not what art is, but what art should be."

"We know what life is," Kepes went on, "and it is not what it should be." Art, at its optimum, should be interwoven with life; right now they are separate, so life is not life and art is not art, according to Kepes. There were times in the past when this was not so, he noted.

Kepes contended that "most people do not really like themselves," that they are scared of themselves and of others, and that in today's world, we have knowledge and power but no proper sense of the unity of all things in the world.

He then noted that in spite of a proliferation of "physical, sensuous" love, there is a paucity of any true combination of physical and emotional love in any single relationship. Kepes stated that some people have mastered the sensuous side, but not the emotional, while others engage

in a kind of "hero worship" sentimentality. Art should like love, he went on, a sir experience, a great union.

Speaking of art in architecture, Kepes noted that it possible to create buildings which do not give the appearance of "man sneaking into nature," but rather seen to interface freely with their environment. Some of the great architectural works of the past show an "insight into the quality of life which we don't have now he added. They did not go against the grain of nature, but were in harmony with it.

Kepes cited air and noise pollution as examples of what man has done to his world, and compartmented cubbyhole houses something he has done to himself. He then described what he characterized as the homeostatic processes on the societal or individual level which allow man to adapt to what he has done

When people are impaired in their ability to live as they would like, Kepes pointed out they find ways to compensate and correct, by juxtaposing imagination and actions in some manner. If they are lonely, they seek company; if they are overtaxed by modern society, they

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# Political conflict talks begin

On Tuesday, January 9, Alasdair MacIntyre, Professor of Philosophy and Political Science and Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at B.U. began the first of his four lecture series on "Political Conflict and Views of Human Nature" sponsored by the Technology and Culture Seminar. The talk, "Human Nature as a Political Criterion: The Radical Critique" was delivered to an overflowing and intent audience in 9-150.

MacIntyre prefaced his remarks with a reference to President Nixon's remark about Disraeli and "Tory men and liberal policies," saying that, among other things, he intended to discuss whether such a man as Nixon might resemble Disraeli or, as he believes, Queen Victoria. Having thus set out on an aggressive note, the lecture began.

Taking as his target the English philosopher Godwin, MacIntyre argued that the presupposition underlying the idea of "human nature" is the conviction that some universal moral standard exists. He suggested an example Godwin uses, of a great philosopher and his valet, both trapped in a burning house, from which only one can

be saved. To save the philosopher for utilitarian considerations necessitates a sacrifice of the principle of equality and *vice versa*. Professor MacIntyre thus concluded the utter impossibility of making moral judgements about which there is no doubt.

That there are so many differing moral conceptions suggests that those who are "human naturalists," Marxists for example, are forgetting that the "savage man" they accuse society of despoiling ceases to exist as soon as an organized society is got together. Whatever original simplicity there might have been is not merely submerged but rather drowned entirely. MacIntyre pointed out that the tone of this argument, that man is as much made by society as not, has a conservative ring. The attack he presents hits squarely at most radical reasoning in that it questions the availability of an "outside" criteria for judging the justice of political systems.

Tonight in the second lecture entitled "Human Nature As A Political Criterion: The Conservative Critique," Professor MacIntyre will begin the rebuttal of his own arguments, leading up to the final two lectures which at-

tempt a reconciliation. Morison and Professor Hayward Alker of the Political Science Department will lead tonight's discussion.

Some of these themes developing from a consideration of human nature will be carried on in the Technology and Culture Lecture Series *The Images of Man*, dealing with the multiple perspectives on human nature gained from various disciplinary approaches. This series began in November and will continue throughout the spring term.

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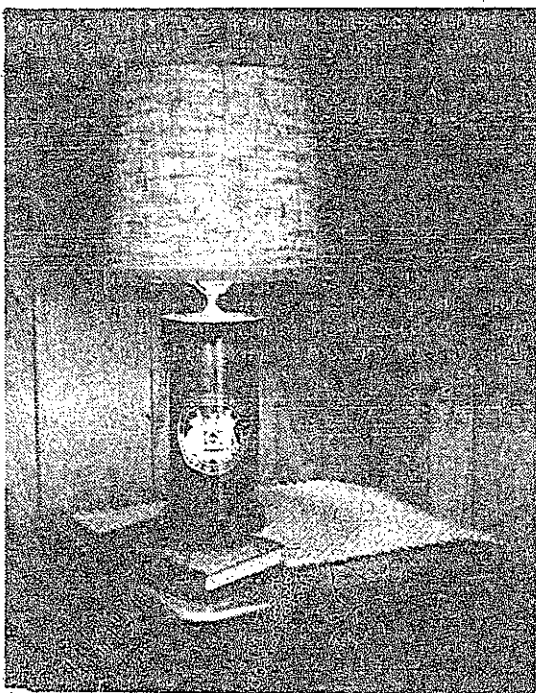
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# Pot still most popular in MIT drug scene

By Lee Giguere

Despite changing patterns of drug use in recent years, marijuana, the infamous "weed," remains the chief topic in discussions of drug use at MIT.

About a month ago, the plant made news (or more appropriately didn't make the news) when a "garden" was found in a dormitory closet.

Estimates of on-campus use vary widely. Captain James Olivieri of the Campus Patrol says "pot seems to be on a reduced scale." Two dormitory residents polled by this reporter differed in their estimations: one reported that "the use of marijuana is small but there;" adding that there "may be more people smoking than two years ago;" another stated that "smoking" is "something that doesn't start until the guy's a sophomore," and tied the amount of use to the time of the term. A member of one of MIT's 29 fraternities said he would be "willing to take bets that the direction is from more to less" in the system.

Outside of marijuana, the MIT drug market appears small. Olivieri claims that with regards to hard drugs, "we don't have a serious problem on campus." The acid scene, in particular, he says, has dropped off from a 1969-70 peak; since then the

number of "serious cases" seen by the Patrol has tapered off.

The chief market for speed is as an aid in studying; one student reported "I know people who would like to get speed to study on, but it's really hard to get." Another student commented: "I don't know of anyone in the house who speeds - a couple of years ago there were." Nor did he know of anyone using hallucinogens.

Dr. Alfred J. Kouman of MIT's psychiatric staff, however, pointed out what he felt to be two alarming trends in drug usage. Methaqualone, known as Qualude or sopor, is reaching the black market, he said, after being pushed on doctors by drug manufacturers. A non-barbituate hypnotic and cortical depressant, the drug produces a stupored, drunken state.

The use of marijuana doesn't attract much attention any more. Last spring, about 150 people gathered on MIT's Great Court one afternoon for what was billed as the "J. Edgar Hoover Memorial Dope Party." In spite of the blatant illegality of the event - it was reported that many people "blithely distributed cannabis products through the crowd" - no arrests were made by the Cambridge Police narcotics division plain-

clothesmen reportedly present. "It's come out into the open a lot," commented one senior in reference to grass. Four years ago, he said, "I only knew three or four people out of a group of seventy who were using grass, although there could have been more." Currently, about half the members of his 32-member living group smoke.

What does MIT's Campus Patrol see as the principal source of the campus "drug problem?" "The most dangerous situations," says Olivieri, "occur when persons from the outside community come into the dorms." Last year, in fact, sev-

eral arrests were made by the Patrol in such situations.

An equally dangerous situation, at least for students, he added, is the purchase, off-campus, of a large quantity of drugs for redistribution within MIT. Such a purchase, Olivieri explained, can leave a trail that will lead Cambridge officers to MIT. (A similar danger exists when people from outside MIT come on-campus to buy drugs.)

With MIT students, Olivieri said, the Patrol's theory is to avoid "repressive measures" in favor of educational programs aimed at making people aware of things that might endanger others.

Questioned about "busts" on campus, Olivieri commented, "I don't know of any pot parties of late that've been broken up." He quickly added, however, that neither MIT nor the Patrol have any "special arrangements with Cambridge that affords students special protection." There is no guarantee that Cambridge narcotics officers will confer with the Patrol before they move on campus, Olivieri explained; the fact that there have been no students arrested on campus in a number of years on drug charges is simply due to the good working relationship that exists between city police and the Campus Patrol.

## NOTES

\* There will be a meeting of the Association for Women Students, next Monday, January 22 from 4-6 pm in room 3-310. Pete Richardson, Director of Admissions, will be the guest. Everyone is invited, refreshments will be served.

\* APO Movies: January 21: "The Heroes of Telemark." January 28: "The Pawnbroker." All movies are at 7 and 9:30 pm in Room 10-250.

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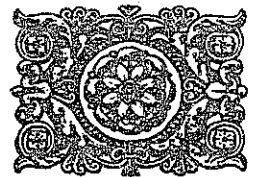
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proper legislation is in order to

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now!

# ACT NOW

Dear Congressman:

Please take action to save the Youth Fares and Discount Fares which have recently been abolished by the Civil Aeronautics Board.

I would appreciate it if you would also write the CAB and request that they delay enforcement of this decision until Congress has an opportunity to act on this important question.

Some 5-million students traveled using this discount fare in the past year. This contributed over \$400-million to cover fixed costs of the airlines. These carriers can be presumed to have a full grasp of the marketing considerations involved and are, at least, as interested as the CAB in dropping any useless discount fares. Yet, an overwhelming majority of the airlines who participated in the CAB investigation are in favor of these fares.

Millions of students have purchased their Youth Fare identification cards with the belief that the cards would be valid until their 22nd birthday. Now the cards are being abruptly cut off by the CAB's decision.

As one of millions of young voters, I respectfully request that you act to pass legislation that will allow the CAB to discriminate on the basis of age by keeping Youth Fares. I will be anxiously awaiting the results of the coming legislation concerning this matter.

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# Nixon's War

Richard Nixon has gone too far in his role as the executive war-maker. His reckless policies are reprehensible and indicate a gross misinterpretation of the mandate he received on election day.

That mandate, one of the largest awarded to a presidential candidate in this century, gave Mr. Nixon another four years as president, based on his first term performance. It was not a blind nod of approval from the American public for him to proceed on the course of devastation this country is pursuing in Indochina.

On December 18, 1972, on orders from the commander-in-chief, US bombers began the most intensive bombing in history of "selected military targets" in North Vietnam, above the twentieth parallel, around the Hanoi area.

Since then, the bombs have stopped falling above the twentieth. But throughout that short period of carpet bombing, embassies, hospitals, schools and other non-military targets were levelled by American bombs. In addition, as many as one hundred American airmen were killed, captured or are missing in action.

The bombing devastated Hanoi, military and civilian areas alike, due to indiscriminate use of giant B-52's, sixteen of which were lost during the two week escalation. Prior to December 18, only one B-52 had been lost to North Vietnamese anti-aircraft fire.

The 93rd Congress arrived in Washington shortly after New Year's, apparently ready to take on the President and call a halt to the Nixon Vietnam tactics. However, now it has become clear that it will be the American people, not Congress, who will be the first to challenge the President's continuation of the war — on Inauguration Day, January 20.

With his inhumane tactics, Mr. Nixon has succeeded in uniting a large section of the American public into opposing the war, and *The Tech* supports the actions of those groups and individuals organizing massive demonstrations to coincide with the inaugural ceremony in Washington this Saturday, and encourages people to attend.

For quite some time, Mr. Nixon has been challenging public outcry over the war, and has believed that the American public is no longer interested in a war which he asserts is nearly over. This time, we're going to call his bluff.

## What's Wiesner's job?

*These three job definitions were prepared for the internal use of the President-Chancellor's office, and were given to The Tech by Vice-President Constantine B. Simonides. Abbreviated versions appeared in the report of the President and Chancellor for the academic year 1971-72; the descriptions are printed in full here for the benefit of people who do not read the entire report, but are interested in the division of power at the top. — Editor*

### President

The President has overall responsibility for all of the Institute's policies and operations.

He provides initiative and leadership in the shaping of goals and priorities and plans for the development of the Institute. He exercises these functions in the context of a university structure — that is, recognizing the Faculty's role and responsibility in the advancement of these programs. He reports on the plan and progress of his responsibility and seeks concurrence and action where appropriate from the Chairman and the Executive Committee of the Corporation on a frequent basis and from the whole Corporation, as designated in the Bylaws of the Corporation. He presides as senior officer of the Faculty at the meetings of that body, and he chairs the several management councils of the Institute, including the Academic and Faculty Councils. He shares with the Chairman and the Honorary Chairman responsibility for fund-raising activity, and he is the principal spokesman of the Institute to the alumni and to the general public.

In the next year the President will be primarily concerned with formulation of policy and strategy for the future development of MIT, delegating to the Chancellor the general management functions. The President's activities will include the continuing responsibility for setting MIT's intellectual directions, for the development of new programs, and for the strengthening of the Faculty to pursue these directions. The President will also devote time to the external relationships necessary to provide new resources that will ensure the Institute's continued growth.

### Chancellor

The Chancellor is the President's deputy on all matters and shares the executive responsibility for Institute policies and operations.

He, working with the President, is responsible for the implementation of plans for the development of the

Institute, and for the ongoing operation of the management organization. In this regard, the Provost and Vice Presidents report, in the first instance, to the Chancellor and, through him, to the President.

In the next year the Chancellor will have all of the general management responsibilities for the Institute, including academic, research, and administrative activities. He will work through the Provost and the Deans on the academic program and Faculty appointments and with the Vice Presidents on administrative matters.

He will continue to have primary responsibility for the Institute's budget, working with the Provost, the Deans of the Schools, and the departments for the academic budget and with the Vice Presidents for the administrative and plant budgets.

The Dean for Student Affairs and associated activities, including the Freshman Advisory Council and the Athletics Department, will report directly to the Chancellor, as will the Special Assistant for Preprofessional, Non-curricular Programs, the Assistant for Minority Affairs, and the Director of the Information Processing Services.

### Provost

The Provost is the senior academic officer and has Institute-wide responsibilities for academic programs in education and research. The School Deans and interdisciplinary programs, including the nascent Divisions of Health Sciences and Technology and of Education, report directly to the Provost.

The Provost chairs the Educational Programs Group of the Academic Council, which includes the academic Deans and which is responsible for policy in the academic sector. The Provost shares with the President and the Chancellor responsibility for future directions in the Institute's academic program and for the associated concerns for Faculty development and educational policy. He participates with the President and the Chancellor in the allocation of internal funds, and he oversees the assignment of campus space.

In the next year, the Provost will continue to be particularly concerned with the development of new programs in Health, Education, Environment, Urban, and International affairs, both Institute-wide and within the Schools and departments. As the senior academic officer, he will chair a new Research Policy Board of which the President, the Chancellor, and the Vice President for Research will also be members.

# Deficit VII: cost accounting

By Paul Schindler

Perhaps one of the most complicated questions in the complicated area of MIT budgetary matters in general is the question of cost allocation. Resolution of the multitude of questions raised by cost-accounting can make a substantial difference in the end result of the budget process.

Increasing fixed costs over which the administration has little or no control are the major factor in spiraling tuition costs. According to Chancellor Paul E. Gray, "As long as wages are going up 5% to 7% per year, tuition will rise at a similar rate." Thus, the question of what proportion of these increasing costs is allocated to the educational process, as opposed to the research function, is a serious one. The question of cost allocation is not unique to universities: take an example from private industry, but don't take it too seriously. It is meant to point out the effects of distortion on cost accounting; it is *not* meant to imply fraud by the administration.

The Penn Central Railroad used very questionable cost accounting methods, as did several other railroads, to make passenger service appear to be losing much more money than it actually was. This was done through a very simple expedient: virtually all maintenance related cost items on any track which carried a passenger train were charged to passenger service. This was done irregardless of the relative number of freights using the same track, and in spite of the fact that freights, as a matter of simple fact, cause more wear and tear on the tracks.

This example may be very relevant to the question of cost-accounting at MIT. Costs are accounted in a manner acceptable to foundations and the federal government, as well as MIT's private accounting firm — Lybrand, Ross Brothers and Montgomery. This is especially critical in drawing a line between research-associated and educational costs. While such a division is legal, and thought to be just and equitable by them, it may not completely describe the total cost of education.

It could be argued that research causes more wear and tear on the Institute physical plant than instruction does, and that it should therefore bear a disproportionate share of the maintenance costs. Arguments of this type tend to be relatively rare, as most cost accounting is based on tradition. In any case, Stuart Cowen, the MIT comptroller, recently told *The Tech*, "[We] don't buy a neat division between research and instruction. At the graduate level, in fact, they cannot be completely separated." The case here is not as simple, it seems, as freight versus passengers.

It should be noted that research has been touted, time and again, as a critical factor in the quality of undergraduate education by the men who administer the Institute. On separate occasions, almost all of them have said that MIT would not be the school it is today if it were not for the strong research component which "keeps our faculty in touch with the real world." The questions that need to be asked are: what kind of school is MIT today, and what are the rules under which the cost of an MIT education is determined.

The first question cannot be answered here; it is beyond the scope of any single column. But the second question, within a range of error, is one of fact.

### Cost Accounting

Surely you must have wondered at the derivation of the nationally advertised figure that "tuition covers only one-third of the cost of a college education." At MIT, the figure is slightly more than 50%, but the derivation process for these numbers is seldom mentioned.

In a lengthy discussion with Cowen and Jack Currie, Assistant Comptroller, the process was described: tuition is set at \$2900. The cost of educational activities is calculated by taking the total MIT operating budget and subtracting Draper and Lincoln Labs. This leaves the costs associated with instructional activity and sponsored research on campus; subtraction of sponsored research money leaves the operational costs which must be provided by specified funds and general money (specified funds are gifts and

endowment which can only be used for certain purposes. General money is money spent by the central administration for overall support of Institute departments. Sources of these funds have been described in previous budget articles.) This amount, when divided by the number of full-time equivalent students (an equivalent student is a statistical entity which allows for part-time and special students) yielded a figure of about \$5700 the last academic year.

This is not the only method by which educational costs are measured, but it shows one way they can be derived. An entirely different derivation can be achieved by taking the costs of education, both material and salary, and adding them together with an appropriate overhead rate; the answer will be the same.

This does not account for the other two budgets which MIT also prepared annually, the capital budget and the fellowship-scholarship-loan budgets (more on these two in a later column). It also does a rather incomplete job of explaining the entire process and why it's trapped in an upward spiral.

For example, salaries of administrators, one of whose concerns may well be the instructional process, are paid in large part by the overhead charge attached to all sponsored research at MIT. All on-campus projects are charged, at the rate of 52% for all salary money in their budget, to help pay the costs associated with their share of running the Institute. This includes physical plant and administrative salaries; however, this percentage

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Continuous News Service

# The Tech

Since 1881

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# The Harvard Coop: is it better?

By Donald Steele

Mr. Steele is a former manager of the law school Coop, and currently has a suit filed challenging recent changes in Coop By-laws which govern elections. His petition to run for a Coop board position last year was rejected, according to Steele, "on technicalities." —Editor

Look in your new Coop book and you'll see the following: "The object of the Harvard Cooperative Society is to reduce the cost of living at MIT, Harvard, Episcopal Theological School, and Radcliffe. It exists solely for that purpose..." Now, I have been a member of the Coop since 1967; I have served on the Board of Directors of the Coop and I have also been a branch manager in the Law School store; and I am afraid that I have, unfortunately, had to come to the conclusion that the above statement of object is no longer true. So far as I can determine, the object of the management and executive board could be stated

roughly as: "... to run the Coop as near to Jordan Marsh as possible in goods, services and customer attitudes, with greatest emphasis on high mark-up items such as clothing, so as to increase profit (of which only about 70% is redistributed to members in rebate)." This shows a completely mistaken identification of rebate with net profit, something to be increased by increasing the mark-up if so desired. That was certainly not the intention of the founders of the Society. Originally the rebate was thought of as the distribution of any left over profit after all efforts had been made to give a good discount at the time of sale. Notice in the following what kinds of discounts were given on what items:

Business done during the second month of existence:

- (1) Sale of goods on hand — blue books (two or three cents), notebooks (two-thirds the usual price), stylographic (fountain-pen) ink, stationery

(at one-third to one-half off the usual price).

(2) Sale by order — books (10 to 33% discount), periodicals, and tennis equipment (\$5 rackets for \$3.75, if 12 persons left orders).

(5) Sale of furniture and second-hand books for members at a commission.

—from N.S.B. Gras Harvard Co-operative Society, pp. 11-12

When was the last time you saw textbooks discounted? notebooks? Bic pens? At the Medical Center Coop medical texts are discounted, but in the other stores everyone pays list, once again contrary to the intentions of the founders; i.e., in 1887 a letter was sent to all the professors, the source of the current near-monopoly on textbooks:

The Society will undertake to procure at its own risk the number of texts which any instructor thinks are needed for his courses for the ensuing academic year,

provided that the instructor will give the Society exclusive information as to the books he will use. A monopoly is obviously necessary to warrant the Society in assuming an engagement of this kind... The Society intends to sell textbooks at the smallest profits possible, making, in this case, an exception from its regular business.

—letter of June 6, 1887 quoted by Gras p. 20 of op. cit.

There are those in the top management of the Coop who, I think, would very much like to forget that the Coop is a college bookstore. Textbooks are to them of low priority because of their low profit margin. But the Harvard Sales Corp. can operate a little store in the Divinity School which discounts books and still survives. Why couldn't the Coop live without \$1000 executive dinners, high-priced consultants, etc. and reorient its fiscal priorities to selling cheaply the things students can't get elsewhere, textbooks and stationery? As for the things one can buy elsewhere, I would suggest that if a student seriously wants to lower his cost of living he should compare the price and service of the following local stores — typewriters, manual: University Typewriter, electric: Cambridge Typewriter; appliances: Lechmere Sales; notebooks: Nini's Corner; letter paper: Woolworth's; other stationery: Bob Slate; cigars (carton): Star Market; MacBaren's tobaccos: Martignetti Liquors, Allston; film development: Claus Gelotte; shoes: Hanlon's, Jamaica Plain; clothes: Filene's Basement.

Some of the many Jordan Marsh people who now run the Coop like to repeat Jordan Marsh's slogan that "we will not be undersold." That means if you fight hard enough you can get them to sell you, say, a TV at someone else's price. It does not mean the price will be reduced on all the similar TV's. And certainly no one in the store goes out looking for a price to beat. Everyone senses that the prices at the Coop are often too high, but they are high because the higher margin inflates the rebate. But, legally speaking, the rebate is only a delayed discount; so you must ask yourself whether you'd rather have 10% off at the time of purchase or 6% rebate after a year of, say, 4% inflation.

## The law school experiment

In this section I would like to discuss my attitudes towards retailing, its function in some future static economy, and certain applications in the Law School Coop.

At the time I set up the Law School Coop I had not yet read the Club of Rome's *Limits to Growth*, but I felt very strongly that the Coop's expansion and growth policy had been mistaken; service and profitability had both declined as sales increased.

The President of the Society once put the management's policy very succinctly: "If you're not growing, you're going down." But every Coop member of longer than five years standing knows that as the Coop has grown, it has gone down, not only in per capita rebate but in all those services like laundry, parcel delivery, check cashing, easy credit, which, though archaic in terms of modern retailing practice, had a certain advantage over fancy chrome and carpeted new buildings where, as they say at Yale, you pay a little more but you get a little less.

When I was on the Board I argued that the Coop should probably not try to take over the Law School store because their operating procedures precluded operating it profitably. But when much later the job of setting up the store was offered to me I accepted it as an opportunity to try out some of my ideas about the proper way to run a student store with break-even and not profit as the goal. I have always tried to live by the Greek axiom, "More cannot be a goal, only enough can be a goal."

Concerning the goals of the store, I agreed with the management that expenses had to be kept low. I argued for an even cheaper architectural layout, and I accepted a salary (lower than the current manager's) that would keep wages at 10% of gross (which averaged only \$350/day, mostly, it seemed, in \$1 charges). But there were at least two distinct areas of constant disagreement between myself and management. The first concerned

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## Deficit VII: accounting and control

(Continued from page 4)

cannot rise without limit, any more than full cost tuition can be charged. Why? Competition.

For every research dollar and every undergraduate applicant, MIT is in competition with the other Ivy League schools and such other places as Cal Tech and Stanford. In addition, they face private competition for the research dollar. As it now stands, over 70% of the people admitted to both MIT and Harvard choose to go to Harvard; non-competitive costs could only worsen that situation. In the same sense, the overhead rate reduces the amount of directly useful work per dollar invested by the foundations or federal agencies; if overhead gets out of line, there are plenty of other places to go.

Full cost tuition may, eventually, not be as impossible as it now seems; Yale is pioneering in this field. Over the next few years, the school is going to attempt to bring its tuition into line with its actual academic costs. MIT, according to Cowen, is not "actively exploring" the idea of full cost tuition at this time, at least partially for competitive reasons. Yale's tuition will go up some \$300 per year for five years to get them close to full cost; MIT's increases will not be "in that ballpark," under current plans.

MIT has even more monstrous disadvantages in its competition with other schools for the research dollar. According to Cowen, other Ivies support a much larger percentage of their faculty with endowed chairs, while even senior MIT faculty rely on sponsored research for a large portion of their salary. We thus have a larger faculty than our endowed professorships would allow; but if they find themselves unable to obtain research money due to fluctuations in the economy, their tenured status requires that MIT continue to support them. (Interestingly enough, according to Cowen, tenure does not mean you have to pay a professor, only that you have to continue to offer him a position. It has never been the intent that a tenured faculty member work without pay, but such a situation is theoretically possible.) Charging faculty salaries plus their attendant employee benefit and overhead costs pushes the research cost higher.

State schools are an even more looming threat, as the quality of their faculty begins to approach ours in many cases, for they have the nearly unlimited tax resources of the state to draw on for basic support.

Since many faculty members get half of their salary from sponsored research, this works to the advantage of costs on the instructional side. The quality of professors teaching at MIT is far higher than the salaries budget would indicate, in all departments. Across the board, salaries come 50% from research, 50% from Institute funds. The percentages vary by department, but even within these figures, there is "unsponsored research" funded by MIT which runs up to 20% of the total professorial salaries. Mathematics and humanities, for ex-

ample, are considered to be important departments, but the amount of sponsored research available in either is minimal.

There exists some question as to the legitimacy of the unsponsored research component: is it valid or just another cost item? "It's not a bad thing," Currie told *The Tech*, and he ventured the opinion that more of it might be good for instructional quality, if you can afford it.

### Pushing costs up

The largest factor pushing costs up at MIT is the same one that is affecting universities all over the country, and service industries in general: wages and salaries. All service industries are people intensive, rather than capital intensive. In manufacturing, it is often possible to make a large capital outlay which will reduce the number of people needed to perform a process, or to make the same number more efficient. Education has stubbornly resisted any such attempt for a number of years now: no one really knows how to make a university more efficient.

Well over 50% of the MIT budget falls into the same category. There is a persistent 5% per year push on wages, slightly stronger on the hourly employee side than on the faculty side, but present everywhere. Since efficiency increases are virtually impossible, there is only one place for this price rise to go: directly into the price paid by consumers; in this case, students and organizations that buy research. Gray has already stated that tuition will rise about 5% per year, in tandem with salaries, as long as such inflation continues. He, and a lot of other people, are hoping that the fires of inflation can be stamped out.

### Cost Control

A principle tenet of modern management is: "Even if you can't keep the costs down, at least keep track of them." It is closely followed in importance by the currently popular concept of "Putting the costs where the benefits are." MIT is moving in both of these directions.

Centrex, for example, is taking a long step towards putting the costs where the benefits are, especially with its feature of message unit charges for each individual extension. This eliminates the previous policy of "average pricing," under which a professor who made one local call per month subsidized another who made 200.

Another move in this direction was taken several years ago, when Audio-Visual started charging its educational users a realistic fee for use of AV equipment and personnel. It was a move that many (myself included) opposed because of the drastic drop in AV usage which seemed to occur. Yet, at the same time, it made people realize just what AV service was costing them. The costs had always been there: now they were out where people could see them.

Wherever possible throughout the Institute, this policy is being followed. Cost figures are being broken down and

distributed to middle-level management, the people who have to make the daily operating decisions. If they have the responsibility for these expenditures, the reasoning goes, they ought to have the accountability.

This leads to the other facet of cost control, the accounting information side. The whole field of university accounting is moving rapidly these days, according to Cowen, and is moving ahead under careful scrutiny. The federal government has eleven resident auditors at MIT who are keeping an eye on the books at all times; the Institute has six people whose full time job is to audit and check Institute procedures, and there is a large, permanent accounting staff.

The frequency with which MIT's financial position is checked has increased over the years, keeping step with the increasing pace of the university itself. There was a time when DSR, General fund, and Specific fund monies were officially reported only annually; now such monies are reported monthly, and there is a constant search for clearer, more concise ways of reporting this information to the people who need it.

There is also an extensive feedback system, according to Cowen and Curie, under which all sections of the Institute are asked to consider the differences between the budgeted and the actual figures. The Academic Deans get a monthly flow of such information, as do the department heads.

Line level responsibility for the maintenance of departments within their budgets usually lies with the departmental administrative officer, who should keep track of individual accounts, and who warns the faculty of any impending "over-drafts." These officers are supervised by DSR and their department heads, to make sure that they do not persistently step out of bounds. One officer who did so last year is no longer in his post, and a similar fate would, it seems, await any administrative officer who was careless about keeping track of the outflow of money.

### Conclusion

The factual material in this column has been checked by Curie and Cowen; the interpretations are my own. Obviously, the Institute is making an effort to describe and distribute costs fairly and equitably: it is in their best interests to do so. But due to a lack of time and resources, there are questions which this paper is incapable of answering itself, rumors which we cannot check out alone. Is the cost accounting fair to both instructional and research areas? Does the full-time faculty devote anything like full-time to instructional activity? Does the deficit result from cost accounting (that is, are the certain incomes which are compared with the certain costs reasonable)? Persons who believe they have information in these areas are invited to write to *The Tech*, W20-485.

# The Harvard Coop: is it worse?

(Continued from page 5)

what goods we would try to sell in the new store (given the severe space limitations) and the second the prices of various merchandise.

As I have said above, the present management is interested in pushing the merchandise with highest mark-up, i.e. clothing. So, over my objections, the store opened selling underwear, socks, belts, and ties. All these items have now been eliminated for lack of sales. On the other hand, no one thought much about the paperback books, almost all of which I wound up pulling by hand from the Square store stockroom. As any student could guess, these sold quite well. Otherwise, the only other contention arose around magazines. It wasn't just that people tend to read magazines on the rack and not buy them. But (what I considered to be) the highly suspect business practice of Greater Boston Distributors were enough to make me threaten to quit if forced to deal with them.

The price freeze complicated the sale of some items during the year. For instance, at the beginning of the year, law textbooks were sold with the proviso that there might be a subsequent price rollback and consequent reimbursement. Instead of the management actively fighting for these reimbursements ("to lower the cost of living"), which were entirely justified considering the skyrocketing prices of these items (one, I remember, had jumped from \$10 to \$17.50), I was told later to remove the price rollback signs surreptitiously.

In two other cases, not involving so much money, I took direct action.

The first case had to do with some stainless steel silverware. These pieces were not selling, for two reasons: The students could steal silverware from the food services upstairs, and the pieces themselves were marked at more than twice what they would sell for at Woolworth's (I checked). Therefore, I simply marked them down to the Woolworth price (after all, "the Coop will not be undersold") and they were gone within a week.

The other case is somewhat more complicated because it has to do with a price rise during Phase II. Our base price for certain legal pads read 59 cents, 18 cents - 2/35 cents. A shipment came through premarked at 65 cents, 20 cents, respectively. For a while we were instructed to sell these at the old price instead of the marked price. But eventually this was abandoned in the same way as the textbook rollback. I continued to sell at the old prices in spite of my contrary instructions, but when I left, the new mark-up did come into effect.

One thing more is worth mentioning with regard to the operation of the little store, namely, hours. There were, no doubt, many people who wanted us to extend our working hours beyond 8:30-5:30. The fact is, though, that, as everyone knows who's been to a "7-11" store, prices must be raised to pay the expenses of longer hours. As a matter of fact the Law School store's Saturday hours cannot be justified from the economic point of view. To give just one more example, the Divinity School bookstore only operated for two hours a day M-F, but the discounts were fantastic.

## Recommendations to the Board of Directors

I think the members have a right to know that they, in effect, pay their directors, and they can expect them to act on their behalf. The President, presently a professor at the Business School, receives \$10,000/year. The General Counsel, presently a professor in the Law School, receives \$4500/year. The General Manager, an *ex officio* member of the Board, whose salary is fixed by it, receives \$45,000/year. For attending monthly meetings, as well as committee meetings, Board members (students included) receive \$10/meeting. (Just for the record, as an Accounts Payable clerk I made \$6240, and as a branch manager \$7500/year.)

There are certain assumptions about the makeup of the Board that should not be entertained by the members. One is that there is a *we/them* division of the Board along student/non-student or liberal/conservative lines. For instance, it was one of the *student* members who, after our most disastrous fiscal year in

living memory, suggested to the Board that they raise the honorarium to \$15/meeting and vote themselves employee discount privileges, as well (the motion was soundly defeated). On the other hand, there are some very conscientious and humane non-student members of the Board, men such as professors Chalmers and Andrews.

Theoretically, the Board has very little power over day-to-day operations of the store. It can change management, but, for the most part, it only rubberstamps the actions taken by management. But, unfortunately, it has let some things pass which, although governed by a concern for economy, have proved disastrous for the employee. Some of these are: 1) abolition of the Christmas bonus, 2) approval of a new pension plan which has proved detrimental to the greatest number of employees (i.e., by reducing their benefits), 3) a sharp reduction in the employee discount. In any business with an effective union any one of these actions would have precipitated a strike. Unfortunately, no attempt at forming a union at the Coop has so far been successful. The latest attempt, a petition taken up over the summer to join the AFL-CIO is being given the same treatment as my non-student director petition of last year. I hope it fares better than mine. So remember, members of the Coop, that the clerk you're bitching at so lustily may be making no better than the Mass. minimum; and you wouldn't be too pleasant either with take-home pay of \$60 and being told every time you asked for a raise that you could always work in a factory and in any case there were always lots of other people, who also couldn't find anything else, to take your place.

Now, it seems to me that if the Board wanted to, instead of always acquiescing to what is "accepted retailing practice" elsewhere, it could take the lead in exploring more "humanistic" methods. They could forget all the retailing cliches, few of which are applicable to student stores anyway, and take out their gold Cross pens, and instead of writing a check to the United Fund to buy off their consciences, they could do some real good for their own employees (who will then have enough money to give to the United Fund themselves). Some good things, I think, would be:

Re: employees

1) Reinstatement of the Christmas bonus.

2) Adopt a new pension plan, preferably one incorporating employee-ownership (sale of stock in the profit from non-members [about 30%] which is not distributed to the members), such as that devised by Bangert & Co., a copy of which I have made available to management.

3) Ensure that employee discounts are given on all merchandise, including that which is already marked down.

Re: members

Reorient priorities so that goods necessary to student life, especially those of which the Coop has a near monopoly, are sold at a discount.

Re: world

It has yet to occur to a retailer that he could do more for the world by encouraging recycling than by giving his 5% to charity.

1) I think the clientele the Coop has would be more impressed with its bill-filler ads if they were on recycled paper, or non-existent altogether.

2) In the branch stores there are large sales in Coke products - aluminum cans and no-return quart bottles. No provision has been made by management to encourage recycling by members or demand returnables from Coca-Cola. On my own, I tried to get people to bring back the bottles, which I would take over to the Coke plant in Allston, but only one man ever brought any back.

3) The Coop, like all retail stores receives a large number of cardboard boxes every day, used for shipping. These are broken up and fed to the garbage truck. It would be possible to take a large number of these boxes each day to the Coop warehouse in Watertown. From there they could be picked up by H.L. Roiter Co. (waste paper) which is also in Watertown. (I used to take them the boxes from the little store.)

So! Do you think the Coop should become like every other department

store, with badgered workers and inflated prices? Or don't you think that Harvard and MIT could come up with something just a little bit better? The key lies in economic justice and not just economics.

## Reply by Mark Fishman

*Mr. Fishman, a member of the class of 1973 who is majoring in physics and philosophy, is a former employee of the MIT Coop. Although he is not a board member, he is an interested observer of the Coop scene and asked for a chance to refute some of Steele's points. -Editor*

Mr. Donald Steele has served on the Board of Directors of the Harvard Cooperative Society. Fine. As he says, "There are some very conscientious and humane... members of the Board." Mr. Steele has been a branch manager with the Harvard Cooperative Society. Excellent. There are some very responsive and even responsible men employed by the Coop in middle-management. Mr. Steele has been a Coop member since 1967; so have I, and it is only this late attribute of Mr. Steele's which, in my opinion, qualifies him to talk about how well the Coop fulfills its purposes or serves the interests of its membership.

A common practice, it seems, among those who seek "economic justice and not just economics" (a very pretty turn of phrase, I might add) is the creation of false dichotomies for the purpose of forcing the unwary listener into artificial choices. The "key," to use Mr. Steele's word, lies in not realizing that "just economics" is often just that: just. In this case, we are asked to choose whether we would like the Coop to serve its membership or be run as a business. My response is: if a business does not serve the interests of its clientele it soon ceases to serve any interests, be they business interests or others.

The Coop, if viewed either simply as a business or simply as a cooperative purchasing agency for its membership, seems to be spectacularly unsuccessful in either function. Viewed as a means of "reducing the cost(s) of living" for its members, however, it can be seen to do at least that, although how is not immediately obvious.

In any large city (such as Boston tries to be), it is always possible to purchase things at extraordinarily low prices - at bargain counters or on special sale. I do not think it fair to consider the Coop to be competing with, for example, Filene's Basement, which (just incidentally) exists primarily to unload stock not moved at higher prices upstairs and in other stores. On average, a little intelligent shopping reveals the (to some) astonishing fact that the Coop's pricing policies are comparable to those of most of the major stores in the Boston-Cambridge area.

Textbooks are exorbitantly priced, I know. Dealer cost is often five-sixths of retail (I have relatives in the business), which mark-up is barely sufficient to cover the incredible inefficiencies of keeping such bulky and varied stock. The Medical Center store discounts medical textbooks because - and only because - there is a nearby store which does so on a small scale, and as the school's official bookstore the Coop has an obligation to carry these items. In all such cases, the retail operations of the Coop reflect an intention - if poorly carried out, still it exists - to be competitive.

As a former employee myself, I will agree with Mr. Steele's contention that the Coop has some poorly treated - and generally poor - employees; and it is in this area that the top management needs most desperately to revise its thinking. A vast number of employees everywhere are underpaid, and know less than nothing about their jobs; and the Coop and Jordan Marsh differ little in that respect. But Jordan Marsh has satisfied customers and a healthy profit nonetheless, and there is no reason for the Coop not to imitate those aspects of their operation, too.

The argument could be made that the discount represented by rebates should be given immediately, rather than being deferred until the following November. However, as the Society does business not only with but also for members (with other people in the community), it is to the financial advantage of the membership to sell to nonmembers at competitive rather than discount prices,

thus reaping a higher return on investment for subsequent return to membership in the form of rebate. (If you are not a member, of course, you do not "reduce your cost of living" under this scheme. I think this to be eminently fair. TANSTAAFL.) The Coop is not a discount store, should not try to become one, and would probably lose its figurative shirt if it did. As with any other business, the Coop's prices will be as low as they need to be for sales to be reasonably good. I, for one, buy elsewhere if something is cheaper elsewhere; that doesn't happen too frequently.

If students and others (in that nonstudent community so beloved of the liberal members of the Board) do not want lines of merchandise enough to pay for them, those lines will disappear. You have the power of the pursestring and that is all you need.

I think Mr. Steele will find that, by being as profitable a business as possible, the Coop will be best able to serve the interests of its membership and "lower (their) cost of living..."

## Reply by Robert Longair

*(Mr. Longair, a member of the class of 1973, is a student director of the Harvard Coop. He lives in MacGregor and is majoring in computer science. Unlike Mr. Fishman, he does have official standing to reply. -Editor)*

As one of the student directors of the Coop, I have been very interested in Mr. Steele's articles, and have spent a great deal of time following them up. This has been most productive since the search has led me to a greater understanding of the Coop, as well as providing more insight into the day to day problems of operating a 17 million dollar retailing chain.

Unfortunately, many of the incidents mentioned occurred during Mr. Steele's term as a student director, and are far from being current problems. These incidents reflect neither on the present Board of Directors, nor on the present management. On the contrary, by observing some of the crises which the Coop went through in the past, I admire the job Howard Davis has done to put the Coop back on its feet. He has not only addressed the immediate problems which he inherited, but he has also addressed himself to the causes of these problems. This is better done in the hope that when he leaves, the Coop will be in a better position, where some of these problems will no longer exist, and others will be dealt with in a more effective way.

This is why the Board of Directors hired him, and this is why they continue in their support of his policies. If we were not satisfied, it would be our duty to seek a replacement; but it would not be our place to try to involve ourselves in the daily operation of the store. This duty belongs to the general manager, and him alone.

The responsibility of the Coop to its members is an issue which has been discussed repeatedly at directors' meetings. This can be a very complex problem, when our membership includes undergraduates, graduates, alumni, and professors of MIT and four different graduate schools of Harvard, as well as Harvard college.

Shortly before Christmas, I spent a late afternoon with a *Tech* reporter and Howard Davis going over the issues raised by the articles of Mr. Steele and Mr. Fox. We spent a lot of time re-hashing articles which had appeared in *The Tech* and the *Harvard Crimson*, and talking about some of the present problems of the store. It was felt that writing detailed replies to every future letter to the editor would not be of great interest or usefulness. In fact, it was felt that such replies could give a distorted view of what are the important problems presently facing the Coop. Rather, the greater service to Coop members could be realized by a series of articles dealing with some of the important problems facing the Coop.

In the meantime, if you are really concerned about something, talk to one of the directors who are supposed to be representing you; we'll do the best we can to answer your questions.

*(The MIT members of the Coop board are Longair, dl 9390, David Bernstein, 262-0846, Francis Hughes, 266-6576, and James Ziegenmeyer (grad student), 862-9287. -Editor)*

# CAVS head describes Arts

(Continued from page 2)

dream of a monk living miles away from it all. Artists assist this process, according to Kepes, by performing a kind of "cultural homeostasis."

One of the problems facing man, according to the CAVS director, is a loss of the sense of scale which, at one time in his past, enabled him to know everyone in his neighborhood. He illustrated his point with a slide depicting a painting of a small village scene, and then compared it with a photograph of Times Square, pointing out that, in such places as New York, no one knows his neighbor, and all feel a sense of detachment from those around them; people in each little room of a modern office building are "unaware of what is going on five feet away, or who is doing it."

"A sense of community can hardly exist anymore due to the urban environment," Kepes said. People in places like Los Angeles, he noted with a slide of LA freeways, lock themselves into steel caskets, hurtling from nowhere to nowhere.

This is the kind of world the modern artist is given to respond to, Kepes stated. Some artists, therefore, express the self-dislike all around them by creating works which evoke a man who is lost, flailing about at things all around him.

Our modern world is an expanded and growing world, in Kepes' view, and this scares some people; in the main it does not scare artists, who view it as an opportunity.

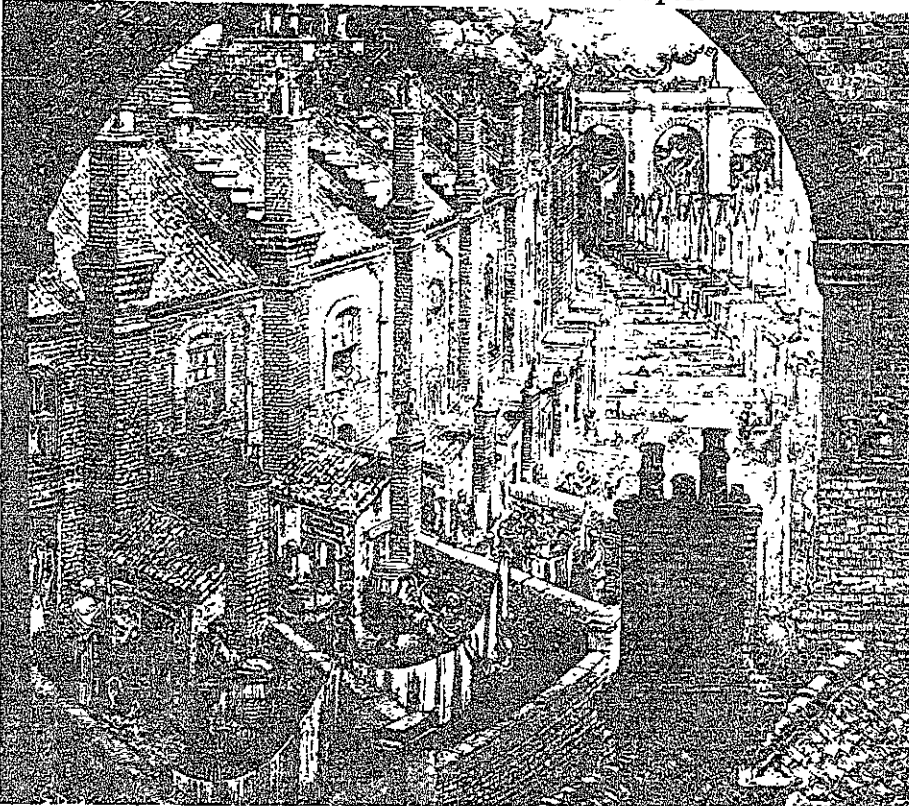
The street, according to Kepes, is our shared world, common to all, as many things should be but not enough are.

Kepes concluded with what he termed a "justification for the existence of the CAVS." He began this by noting that "life has some joys if you know how to tape them," adding that these have much to do with the "rich promises of nature." Artists, he said, have turned to nature as an artistic means because of the corrosion of life.

CAVS, according to its director, is looking very seriously

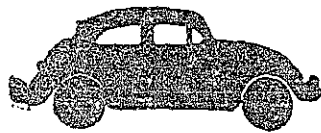
right now at civic art, which is emphatically not just acrobatics, not just a merger of art and technology, and not a new blind alley, but a whole new idea of art. This art would not particularly be the result of the desires of a well-to-do patron, or the expression of some individual artists' ego.

"Art," Kepes said in closing, "has great potential as a life or conscience shaper."



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## THEY HOLD THEIR TONGUES

Some day, some intellectual day, when Satire revisits our madhouse, an entertaining book could be written about this war. Its title might be *They Hold Their Tongues*, and it would be a ballet rather than a book. The scene will be laid in the Ministry of Decontamination, in the Announcer's Parlour, and at the signs of the Walls Have Ears and the No Bird Sings. The enemy will also be shown, listening to us listening to him listening to us listening to him in an infinite series of sandbags, and the strain will become so great that the military mind will collapse and be unable to distinguish objective from base. Truth and falsehood will be disintegrated into particles which are so equally useless, and action will become so indirect as to be indirigible. Armies march in the correct direction in order to deceive their generals, airmen drop lethal messages wrapped around dud bombs, clergymen pray for evil lest their congregations be led into it, donkeys bark, dogs mew, cats mew too because cats are subtler than dogs. Enter the experts, for the military mind is conscious today of the existence of the mind. Enter the Science of Psychology. Officially installed in a cellar, it abolishes the art of knowing what people are like, and ensures that they are incomprehensible to themselves as well as to others. Frankness is as fatal as kindness, so all hold their tongues. Yes — it might be an amusing entertainment. But it will not be a genial one, and it will not end with an all-round laugh and a kindly apotheosis of the average man. It will have a touch of the rancid flatness which is a part of true satire — for Satire does not merely bite the victim, it lets down the reader too. A few grim survivors, aristocrats, may appreciate it. Swift might contribute. Blake even:

*I was buried near this dyke  
That my friends may weep as much as they like*

Dante too. Dante the fantasist — how wickedly he would have described the folk who have held their tongues so well that their

tongues come off in their hands. There, beyond Phlegethon, he would place them, and at the base of each tongue would nestle an atrophied brain. Their enormous ears are sewn against their scalps, so that they listen in with a vengeance. Virgil points at the horrible posies, gathers his mantle around him, and registers historical disgust. "here," says Virgil, "is the recompense of those who have gagged their countrymen for their country's sake, instead of praising their God. Here are the chiefs of police and the card-indexers, and the takers of fingerprints, and Creon, King of Thebes, who issued the fatal edict, and the silencers of Lorca. Look at them, and take warning from those dribbling gullets and, while speech is yours, speak." Far away, beyond the other bank at the river, in Paradise, Beatrice, who is the divine wisdom, echoes the secular warning: "Speak, speak," she cries, "for in the beginning was the Word."

The light shineth in the darkness, and the light comprehendeth not the darkness. It was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world, but it has had to be put out. There is no place in a modern war for spontaneity, and never before has the spirit of man been so menaced and insulted. The cloud of his inventions has thickened, descended upon him, blacked him out. He is dazed by darkness. Night is right, and if he holds up so much as a candle to the naughty world, the airwarden reports him for beckoning death. One natural gesture, and he may destroy himself and his friends. If indeed he still has friends. Old intimacies may survive the censorship, but what new ones can grow up under it? In this scientific mist, this skilful and deliberate disintegration, what place can be found for the camaraderie and love that have sweetened wars in the past? Blood used to get warm before it was shed. Now — coldness, depression, suspicion, loneliness. Courage — abundance of courage, but it is the courage that dares not be neighbourly, lest the enemy smell out the place. "When two or three are gathered together . . ." As if by the

intervention of Satan, all old religious and moral tags work out wrong. When two or three are gathered together, they are more readily detected by hostile aircraft, so they must be prohibited.

Those of us who were brought up in the old order, when Fate advanced slowly, and tragedies were manageable, and human dignity possible, know that that order has vanished from the earth. We are not so foolish as to suppose that fragments of it can be salvaged on some desert island. But since it is the best thing we knew or are capable of knowing, it has become a habit which no facts can alter, it has gone underground like the subterranean Nile in the Book of the Dead. Love, peace, speech, light — these four are the columns of the Temple of Osiris, which no longer stands upon earth. Descending with Dante and the old Egyptians, we seek subterranean streams, we adjust in some spiritual region the balance which has been upset for ever here, we rejoin our friends, we punish our victorious foes, and most important of all, we see face to face, and know even as we are known. This is sometimes called faith. The honest word for it is habit. It is no more than remembering a tune, it is carrying a rhythm in one's head after the instruments have stopped.

We hope of course that a new tune, inaudible to ourselves, is now being played to the young, and that one day it will re-echo and give them the strength which certainly keeps us going now. But on that point we can get no evidence, and never shall get any. We do expect though that those who chronicle this age and its silliness, and look back from their intellectual day upon us, the tongue-holders, will accord us not only pity, which we full deserve, but disdain.

— E.M. Forster, 1939

(From *Two Cheers for Democracy*)

THIS AD PAID FOR BY  
Institute Professor Emeritus Jerrold R. Zacharias.  
Who Asked that No Editorial Comment be made.

# Thefts on the rise at MIT

By Ken Davis

In this issue, *The Tech* initiates a new weekly column, *Police Blotter*, which will report on crimes committed in the MIT community.

The connecting factor in most thefts that occurred at MIT last week was the unlocked door or the unattended handbag. In six cases, unattended items ranging in value from a purse to a television set were reported stolen between January 6 and January 10. The television, stolen from a room in MacGregor House on the afternoon of the 10th, was valued at over \$100. The owner reported that he left his room unlocked and unattended during a party.

In other incidents, a wallet was removed from a woman's handbag in the Carr Memorial Tennis Bubble; a coed lost a handbag when she left it unattended in a Building 56 lab; a wallet was removed from under a coed's coat in the Sala at a meeting of the square dance club; and a Cambridge resident using the Dewey Library had a wallet stolen while he left it on a table and went to look through the stacks.

In two apparently related thefts, secretaries in Building 13 had wallets stolen when they left their offices momentarily. One of the secretaries reported seeing

a white male, about 25 years old, loitering nearby. These incidents took place on Monday the 8th and Tuesday the 9th, respectively.

On the 8th, a resident of Random Hall reported the theft of \$204 from his room. The thief entered the room by forcing the door lock. Also taken from a closed room was the wallet of a coed living in Burton House. Other valuable items were not taken.

Officers of the MIT Campus Patrol prevented the theft of a 1967 Corvette Stingray from the Herman Parking Garage early on the morning of January 7. A watchman observed three men attempting to break into the car. He called Campus Patrol, and a possible robbery was averted. The Patrol also found a Volkswagen on Ames Street which was identified as having been stolen in the Brighton area of Boston.

During the last two weeks of the fall term, a Cambridge traffic policeman was patrolling the crossing at 77 Massachusetts Avenue. Captain James Olivieri of the Campus Patrol explained that after the accident that took the life of a Simmons coed and seriously injured an MIT undergraduate, the scheduling of the traffic light was re-evaluated. It was decided that the timing should be changed so that pedestrians would be given more time to cross the busy street. The purpose of the policeman was to

aid pedestrians and motorists in getting used to the new schedule.

Captain Olivieri reported that the officer may return at the end of IAP and the beginning of the spring term. This precaution was paid for by the Campus Patrol.

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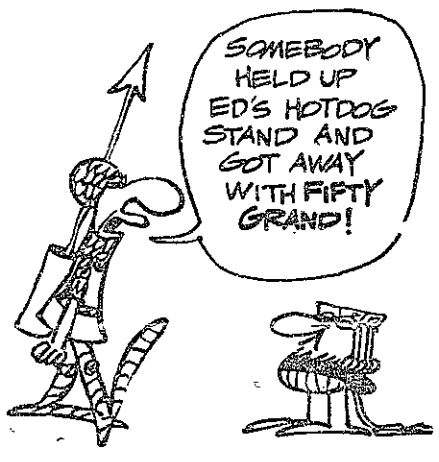
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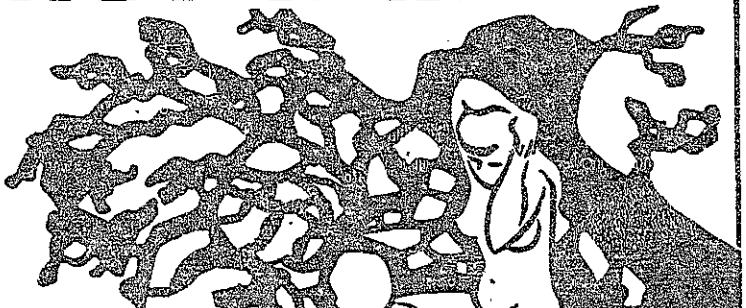
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# the tech arts section

## Bromberg- a demon

by Wanda Adams

*Demon in Disguise* — David Bromberg (Columbia)

Don't let the glasses fool you — meek-looking David Bromberg is a wizard in his own right. David's guitar magic, aided by his passable vocals and a little help from his friends, brings the demon out from his disguise. The result is something very much like having David Bromberg and his magic fingers right in your speakers.

The majority of the songs on this album were recorded live. Two of the cuts, in fact, were done at Passim's coffeehouse in Cambridge; "Hard Working John" features Bromberg on lead guitar and vocals, Ken Kosek on fiddle, Andy Statman on mandolin and Tom Sheehan on Bass. "Hard Working John" is a nifty little piece because the words lead directly into the instrumental breaks. Bromberg, Kosek and Statman trade off instrumental work in a sometimes whimsical, sometimes serious manner with a very pleasing overall effect.

Bromberg displays his guitar wizardry most effectively during the instrumental pieces on *Demon in Disguise*, "Medley of Irish Fiddle Tunes: Rodney's Glory, The Rights of Man, The First of May" and "Sugar in the Gourd," "Medley," also recorded at Passim's, is solo Bromberg at his best — just David, his guitar and fingers. "Sugar in the Gourd" is a little flashier, with David and friends Kosek on fiddle, Statman on mandolin, and Steve Burgh on bass, playing a country-style, rollicky instrumental.

David and many friends, including Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead, do two electric-oriented numbers that are basically fun songs. One is "Sharon," about a belly dancer in a carnival that charges no admission to see her — "you gotta pay with your heart." "Sharon" is somewhat of a production-type number that features heavy back-up vocals, slow, hootchy-kootchy electric guitar work from Bromberg and Garcia, and intriguing saxophone work by Andy Statman. The chorus wails, "Oh Sharon, what do you do to these men? You know the same

rowdy crowd that was here last night is back again."

The other whimsical electric-sounding song is "Demon in Disguise" in which David himself warns you, "Don't let the glasses fool you... I've been a wizard since childhood... I rule the spirits that live in the wildwood... I am a demon in disguise..." Again, there is a sort of carnival flavor about "Demon in Disguise" with the combination of Bromberg on acoustic guitar, Garcia on electric guitar, and Statman on saxophone.

The exceptional piece of *Demon in Disguise* is a song called "Diamond Lil," a Bromberg composition that philosophizes, "A man should never gamble more than he can stand to lose." Bromberg's lead guitar playing is excellent, his vocals are meaningfully sung, and the back-up vocals are handled nicely by Tracy Nelson, Andy McMahon and Jack Lee. "Diamond Lil" is slow, sorrowful, pleading, philosophizing, almost like David is when you look at his cleverly "disguised" (he's a demon) face.

Bromberg also does two relatively familiar songs, "Mr. Bojangles" and "Tennessee Waltz." Bromberg talks on the record about how he played guitar behind Jerry Jeff Walker for two years and how Walker came to write "Mr. Bojangles." Bromberg again exhibits his magic fingers on "Bojangles" with some nice lead guitar work. "Tennessee Waltz" is a fun cut, half sung, half spoken, half in jest to make it schmaltzy, with some nice fiddle work by Ken Kosek.

The only song left is "Jugband Song," which is very reminiscent of a song on David's first album ("You Gotta Suffer if you Wanna Sing the Blues"). "Oh Mama, you treat your daddy so damned mean — when I ask you for water, you bring me gasoline..." The song itself is just fair, and even Bromberg's magic fingers don't transform it into a good piece.

Generally speaking, though, *Demon in Disguise* is a fun, sometimes amusing album complemented by excellent musicians and arrangements to support the guitar wizard. Bromberg's singing is not the best but it is not obnoxious and somehow has a tendency to grow on people. It can grow on you, too. Then, someday when you least expect it, you might find yourself singing that age-old question, "Oh, Sharon, what do you do to these men?" Then you'll know that his spell has worked. Don't let the glasses fool you. He's a demon in disguise.



Photo by Wanda Adams

David Bromberg

## Rock/folk circa 1972

by Neal Vitale

The year of 1972 has drawn to a close, and now comes the time when all rock writers get a chance to delve into the meglomaniacal exercises that pass for end-of-the-year wrap-ups. I'm no exception, so herein I'll be offering up my "Best of..." and "Worst of..." lists, along with a few bits of commentary mixed in. Your comments, congratulations (fat chance), and criticisms are welcome.

The following is a list of the best/my favorite rock albums of 1972; the first five are far and away the cream of the year's rather sour overall output, what follows them is a group of "honorable mentions" which are themselves in no order other than alphabetical. Those latter albums marked highlights that were not nearly as glittering as the initial quintet, but which rose far above the sludge of 95% of rock circa '72.

*Fragile/Close to the Edge* — Yes (Atlantic) These two albums by Messrs. Anderson, Bruford, Howe, Squire, and Wakeman are superb; they offer a shimmering oasis and refuge from the extremes of rock, from the metaphysical masturbation of the Moody Blues to the hayseed-infused pseudo-rock of the Doobie Brothers and America.

*Ziggy Stardust* — David Bowie (RCA) Bowie has emerged as the nouveau superstar of the 70's; this excellent rock/sex/life chronicle (on Jimi Hendrix?) is just one reason why. He is the best writer in all of rock; it might not be too presumptuous if I call David Bowie a genius, an anomaly amidst the cliches and sterility.

*Electric Light Orchestra* (UA) Formed as Roy Wood's extension of the classical/cello-centered influences in his shamefully ignored band, the Move, ELO has since become fellow Move-er Jeff Lynne's braintrust. In the process of conversion (Wood has since formed a new group, Wizzard), this delectable record was left on the public's doorstep. Give it a home.

*Trilogy* — Emerson, Lake, and Palmer (Cotillion) Everything ELP seemed to be hinting at and suggesting in their first three records has been fused into a marvelous concoction — the best talents (themselves, awesome in scope) of Keith Emerson, Greg Lake, and Carl Palmer come together splendidly on this album. If your stereo could use a workout, the way this trio pushes music to its outer limits might well provide the exercise.

*The Slider* — T. Rex (Warner Brothers) Marc Bolan's preoccupation with the enchanted and mystical has moved from focusing on druids and unicorns, with a background of fragile acoustic guitars and hand drums, to centering on cars and the lore of rock 'n' roll, made perfectly electric by Bolan's unique brand of boogie. *The Slider* is the penultimate in torrid, massive, ripping rock; it'll make your ears sizzle.

*Clear Spot* — Captain Beefheart (Reprise)

*Machine Head* — Deep Purple (Warner Brothers)

*Wind of Change* — Peter Frampton (A&M)

*Thick As A Brick* — Jethro Tull (Reprise)

*Jo Jo Gunne* — (Asylum)

*Led Zeppelin IV* (?) (Atlantic)

*Sittin' In* — Loggins & Messina (Columbia)

*The Inner Mounting Flame* — The Mahavishnu Orchestra (Columbia)

*A Good Feelin' To Know* — Poco (Epic)

*Never A Dull Moment* — Rod Stewart (Mercury)

Very similarly, the same thing can be, and summarily will be, done for the

softer, acoustic, folk releases of 1972. It comes down to there being just about five exceptional records in this genre, and about seven albums deserving "honorable mentions." So here.

*Jackson Browne* (Asylum) Jackson Browne has long been one of the foremost writers out of California; this record, often erroneously called *Saturate Before Using*, places him amongst the best singers/musicians. The songs on this disc would be excellent done by most anyone; performed by Browne and friends, they are even better.

*A Tear And A Smile* — Tir Na Nog (Chrysalis) This Irish folk duo of Sonny Condell and Leo O'Kelly combined their first two English releases into this, their American debut. Each import is superb, so it seems only appropriate that culling the best from each should be even more enchanting. It is; *A Tear And A Smile* is nothing less than a magical delight.

*Give It Up* — Bonnie Raitt (Warner Brothers) Ms. Bonnie Raitt has matured and developed from her days of making the rounds of the Cambridge/Boston clubs into one hell (Continued on page 10)

## Henry David in jail

by Dennis Mill

A play, like a soap opera, too often presents only a minuscule portion of its characters' lives. In at most three or four acts, the playwright and actors attempt to portray their characters in such a dramatic style that an audience can begin to understand the motivations and rationale for what it is seeing. Yet much too often the segments of life that the playwright chooses to present are overly idiosyncratic, in the sense that they are too few in number and too highly specific for an audience to understand those characters. None of us really starts to understand a person until we see him or her reacting in a variety of situations, no small number of which would suffice to allow us this insight.

Yet the dramatic medium usually takes two or three situations and expands them to the point that what we see is often boring, but more often merely wasteful of dramatic space. One exception to this trend is the musical *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, in which the playwright, although having inherently beautiful material and characters to work with, has put the scenes together in what a purist might call "fragmented," but which is, at its best, a joy for an audience to experience.

This same technique is presently being used in portrayal of Henry David Thoreau by the Boston Repertory Theater in the play, *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*. The play is a fascinating series of incidents from Thoreau's life (with the usual dramatic license to embellish here and there), held together beautifully by recurring scenes from that eventful night in jail, the result of Thoreau's refusal to pay the Mexican War tax. The acting is superb, especially that of David Morse, who plays Thoreau. In the play we see — among too many separate events to even mention — two incidents of Thoreau's struggles with love, the first an unrequited rowboat confession to the sister of one of his young pupils, the second a more mature but more tragic love for the wife of his idol, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Put much too simply, it seemed that one of Thoreau's recurring personal problems was in how to reconcile his decidedly individualistic philosophy ("How can I be lonely when I have the woods, the lakes...") with the fact of his actual loneliness.

But go see the play. The theater is so very small that the audience is at some times almost a real part of the play, and at all times is missing none of those well-constructed sentences of that Harvard man, Henry David.

# kiss this

## mark astolfi

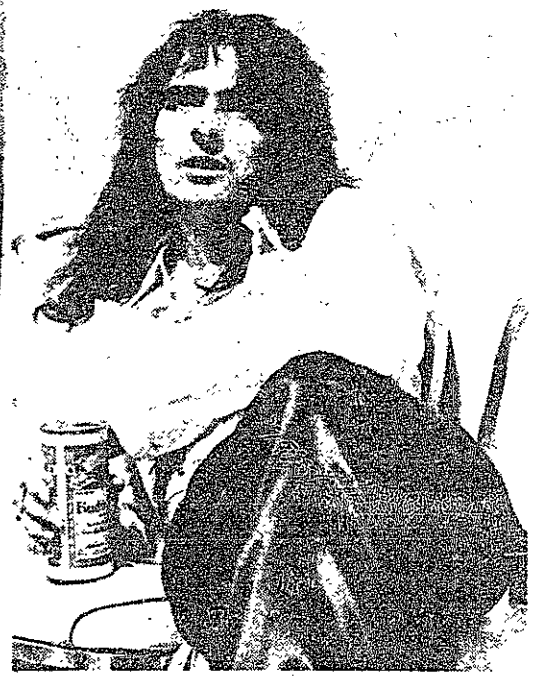
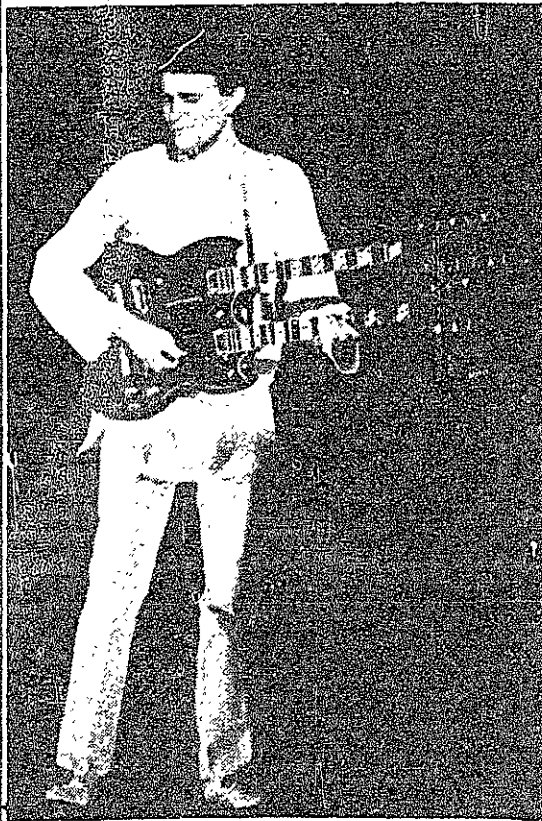
Let's let rock 'n' roll rest for a week; today's column is a review for a new book on Science, which is being hailed in all corners as the ultimate source book on the subject of Space. The author is the world's foremost Space authority, Dr. Malomar K. Outer, discoverer of Outer Space, which bears his name, and the manuscript, the previously unwritten *Thinking About Space*, is one which you literally cannot put down, owing to magnetic factors too complex to go into here. Unlike many of his past books, *Speaking Of Gas and Rocks As Vegetables* spring to mind, Dr. Outer's latest work is quite readable, due no doubt to the increased use of nouns and verbs. This new-found clarity is compensated for, however, by the book's blatant lack of organization: the chapters are numbered incorrectly, Chapter 1 is called "Chapter 12," Chapter 7 is "Chapter 5," etc., and paragraphs often end in mid-sentence, only to re-appear in the middle of the voluminous index on the inside back cover.

But these minor problems aside, the subject matter covered is enormously engrossing, to scientist and layman alike. One of the key ideas which Dr. Outer put forth is that the Earth, as we tend to forget, is continually moving through Space, and therefore we not only come in contact with physical objects, but also with the Space they occupy. Says Dr. Outer, "Nothing can be said to exist without occupying Space, and yet, every physical object is constantly occupying different Space, Space which was previously occupied by something near the object, either in front of it, above, or behind, depending on the Earth's path through Space." The sentence never resumes, but the point is well taken. Another fascinating question raised by Dr. Outer is how Space can remain uncontaminated by the objects which successively occupy it.

While these concepts and others related to them are handled in the most discrete, illuminating fashion by Dr. Outer, it is in the three Appendices where he truly sparkles. The first two are totally unrelated to the rest of the book, discussing two of Dr. Outer's most recent theories. One is the hypothesis that objects exist only as far away as we can see them, and as you move towards them, the limits of your field of vision change, and the "Curtain of Existence" accordingly recedes from you, at an equal velocity; Dr. Outer goes on to suggest that if you could move faster than light, you ought to be able to approach the "Curtain of Existence" faster than it could withdraw from you, and in this way you could reach the "other side," while at the same time being able to see things behind you! Appendix B deals with the postulation of a new elementary atomic particle, the so-called "getiton," which has the unique property of being able to move in two directions at once, giving rise to the generalized "omnitron," which, according to Dr. Outer, should be able to "go everywhere at the same time, goddammit!"

The third Appendix is quite entertaining, as it is a series of physical and mental exercises designed to give the illusion that the Earth is moving, the actual sense of motion being obliterated by gravity. One, for example, is to run up a down escalator backwards.

All in all, *Thinking About Space*, by Dr. Malomar K. Outer, is not to be missed. It is profusely illustrated with pictures of Space, including ten color plates and a starter set of silverware. While the tone of the work might best be summed up as "a hand-shake instead of a kiss," it still ranks among the top 500 scientific works of the past week. If there's no space on your bookshelf for *Thinking About Space*, make some.



Faces of 1972 — (clockwise from left) John MacLaughlin, Joni Mitchell, Alice Cooper, Electric Light Orchestra, and Peter Frampton.

John MacLaughlin photo by Roger Goldstein, Alice Cooper photo by Dave Tenenbaum.



## music

(Continued from page 9)

of a strong, polished singer. The boozey/barroom/free-wheeling style of this record gives her vocals and guitar-work a perfect backdrop. From beginning to end, *Give It Up* never does. The album proves, without a doubt, that Raitt is a name to be reckoned with and one perfectly suited for a place in the same breath as the names like Ronstadt, Mitchell, Simon-Taylor, Collins, Driscoll, Denny, and Bell.

**Aztec Two-Step** (Elektra) The two steps of Rex Fowler and Neal Schulman produced the best album of '72 by totally unknown artists. The potential shown on this record and in a couple of nights of performing bodes nothing but good for the pair, if talent determines fame (wishful thinking). *Aztec Two-Step* should have been famous three months ago.

**For The Roses** — Joni Mitchell (Asylum) Picking up the end of the year, this album marks Joni Mitchell's best effort ever. It is the most cohesive effort she has ever produced, a beautiful tapestry of thoughts and emotions. Enough has already been said and written about her enormous writing talents; for seemingly the first time, her musicianship and singing match that stellar quality.

**Dingly Dell** — Lindisfarne (Elektra)  
**Solomon's Seal** — Pentangle (Reprise)  
**In Search of Amelia Earhart** — Plain-song (Elektra)  
**Below The Salt** — Steeleye Span (Chrysalis)  
**Grave New World** — Strawbs (A&M)  
**Third Down, 110 To Go** — Jesse Winchester (Bearsville)  
**Together** — Jesse Colin Young (Raccoon)

And now, to wrap up my saying good things about the records of 1972, I will indulge in another "Best of..." This time, it will be a "Top Ten" of sorts, my choices for the ten best songs of the year, whether they be singles or album cuts, insisting only that they were released within the calendar year of '72 (excluding tunes like David Bowie's "Space Oddity," originally released in the mid/late sixties). The list itself will show clearly that success had nothing to do with a song's inclusion or exclusion, either.

1. "Do Ya" — The Move
2. "Roundabout" — Yes
3. "All The Young Dudes" — Mott the Hoople
4. "School's Out" — Alice Cooper
5. "Take It Easy" — Eagles
6. "Suffragette City" — David Bowie

7. "Hold Your Head Up" — Argent
8. "Day and Night" — The Wackers
9. "Tumbling Dice" — Rolling Stones
10. "Rocket Man" — Elton John

Now it comes down to the badies, the real losers of 1972. I can't really talk about the worst, because then I'd wind up with a list of records that no one has (justifiably) ever heard of or ever will, by groups like Arthur Gee-Whiz Band, Ursa Major, and Eggs Over Easy. That wouldn't serve much purpose, so instead I'm going to deal with the five albums I consider most disappointing and/or obnoxious. In a year like the one just past, which was seemingly fraught with big names or previously excellent musicians putting out second-rate music, this seems only too appropriate.

A very random order seems most fitting.

**America** (Warner Brothers) Phony and obnoxious; I hate Neil Young impersonations.

**School's Out** — Alice Cooper (Warner Brothers) So disappointing; after *Love It To Death* and *Killer*, I wanted another great album. I got a pair of panties instead. And they don't even fit.

**Exile On Main Street** — Rolling Stones (Rolling Stones) Boring; sounds like it was "mixed in a blender."

**Some Time In New York City** — John & Yoko & Friends (Apple) One of the all-time pinnacles of obnoxiousness and pretentiousness; I hate New York City because of John Lennon.

**Manassas** — Stephen Stills (Atlantic) I tried to give this double-record set away to five of my friends; two have not talked to me since, and I've received one death threat and an Osmonds album in return.

And to wrap things up for '72, we get down to the worst songs of the year. My "Top Ten" of the lousy tunes may wind up reading like WRKO's Top Ten of good numbers; but it could be worse — I don't even include re-releases of old songs by the Moody Blues and re-issues of winners like "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes." So, with a final spit in the face to 1972:

1. "How Do You Do?" — Mouth and MacNeil
2. "Horse With No Name" — America
3. "Taxi" — Harry Chapin
4. "Sylvia's Mother" — Dr. Hook
5. "Clair" and "Alone Again, Naturally" — Gilbert O'Sullivan
6. "I Am Woman" — Helen Reddy
7. "Without You," "Jump Into The Fire," "Coconut," and "Spaceman" — Nilsson
8. "Black And White" — Three Dog Night
9. "Witch Queen Of New Orleans" — Redbone
10. "Candy Man" — Sammy Davis, Jr.

## drama

### Play Strindberg at the New Theater

by Joe Kashi

*Play Strindberg* is a modern comedy adapted from August Strindberg's Victorian tragedy *Dance of Death*. It is a most effective and entertaining parody of the gothic tales of middle class marital horror that lately seem as prevalent and tiresome as 'pop psychology' articles in mass-circulation magazines.

All three actors in this Theater Company of Boston production handle their parts well. The dialogue is waspishly witty and stands on its own; few distracting dramatic devices are used and none are needed.

Situated on an isolated island, Edgar (Paul Benedict) and his wife Alice (Stockard Channing) have spent the twenty-five years of their marriage totally ignoring and deceiving each other. Edgar, a truculent fellow so desperate for human company that he lashed out against everyone, has succeeded in alienating every person on the island while at the same time deluding himself that he remains a famous military historian. His wife, Alice, is a spiteful bitch, who seems happiest when she is tormenting Edgar for leading her away from the Copenhagen stage and into the isolation of his home. Enter Kurt, Alice's suave, rich, brother-in-law, whom Edgar considers a bastard since he is responsible for Edgar's marriage.

Though Edgar and Alice initially play up to successful Kurt, the facade of their happy marriage quickly breaks down through a series of deceptions and delusions that would confuse a master double-agent. In the end, everyone gets theirs, which is to say that they are all exposed as louts or phonies and they are all financially and spiritually impoverished. Kurt is exposed as a petty embezzler who loses his money when his true identity becomes known. He has a moment of triumph, though, when he succeeds in seducing his old flame Alice away from Edgar, but leaves her when he is forced to flee the island. Edgar in the meantime has a crippling stroke, but no one believes his illness is real, since he has feigned seizures many times in order to hear what Alice really thought about him. And Alice? Well, now that Kurt is a mumbling wreck completely at her mercy, Alice believes that she loves him and feels compelled to spend the rest of her life on an entrapping island nursing Edgar.

That this improbable melodrama can become an intelligent and enjoyable farce speaks highly of the playwright and the actors and reminds us how smugly amused all of us can feel when three self-deluded people actively seek their self-imposed torments.

# A-bomb contest planned

(Continued from page 1) ting the bomb. When the lead is removed, the U235 slams together, thus causing the desired atomic explosion.

It should also be noticed, added Storm Kauffman of *The Tech*, that as large an amount of unshielded radioactive U235 as would be involved in making an atomic bomb would not only cause the precipitate demise of the possessor of the material, but also likely sterilize his entire living group.

When contacted for com-

ment, the committee explained that his motivation for the contest came from acute boredom with studying for exams. After reading the *Esquire* article, he decided that the contest would be an appropriate and plausible idea. He also stated that Institute professors have predictably denied the possibility, as well as the course of suggested study.

The reaction of the Institute authorities is understandable, in light of a similar prank several years ago in which some MIT students secured and assembled

a nearly complete atomic missile from surplus parts. The Federal Government was not amused. In order to avoid further contact of this sort with the Government, the Institute would like to discourage further such assembly.

The present Backyard Bomb Committee would also like to avoid taping and telephone tapping, which he seems to feel his contest might merit. His closing remark was, "It's not me who's paranoid, it's everybody else..." which trailed off into maniacal laughter, said one observer.

# Congress acts to end war

(Continued from page 1)

mobilize for January 20, there has been constant lobbying on Capitol Hill to persuade Congress to act to end the war by Inauguration Day, which was set as an unofficial date for ending the war by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield.

A number of strongly worded resolutions have already been passed by caucuses of House and Senate Democrats, though thus far none of the resolutions have been brought before open sessions of either House.

Recent developments, however, may have taken some of the bite out of the Congressional plans for cutting off funds for the war. Last week, Nixon's Advisor for National Security Affairs, Henry Kissinger, met with North Vietnamese negotiators in Paris for the first time since the bombing attacks of December 18.

Kissinger and his former aide General Alexander Haig, met for six days with the North Vietnamese, and by the end of the week, there was a great deal of

speculation that Kissinger and the North Vietnamese had come to an agreement.

The speculation heightened on Sunday, with Kissinger's return, whereupon he briefed Nixon on the progress of the Paris talks. Later that day, Nixon dispatched Haig to Saigon to meet with South Vietnamese President Thieu, probably in an attempt to iron out differences between the terms that the North Vietnamese have agreed to, and those for which Thieu is holding out.

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### CENTRAL 2

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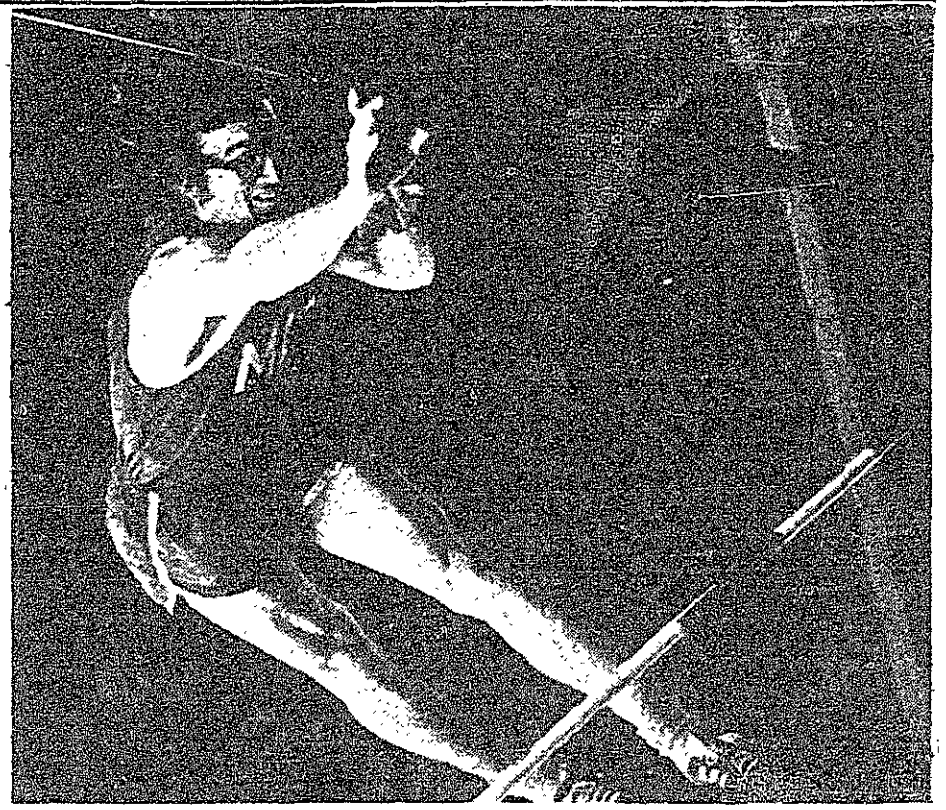
Jerry Lettvin  
Denise Levertov  
Ngo Vinh Long  
Philip Morrison  
Carl Ogleshy  
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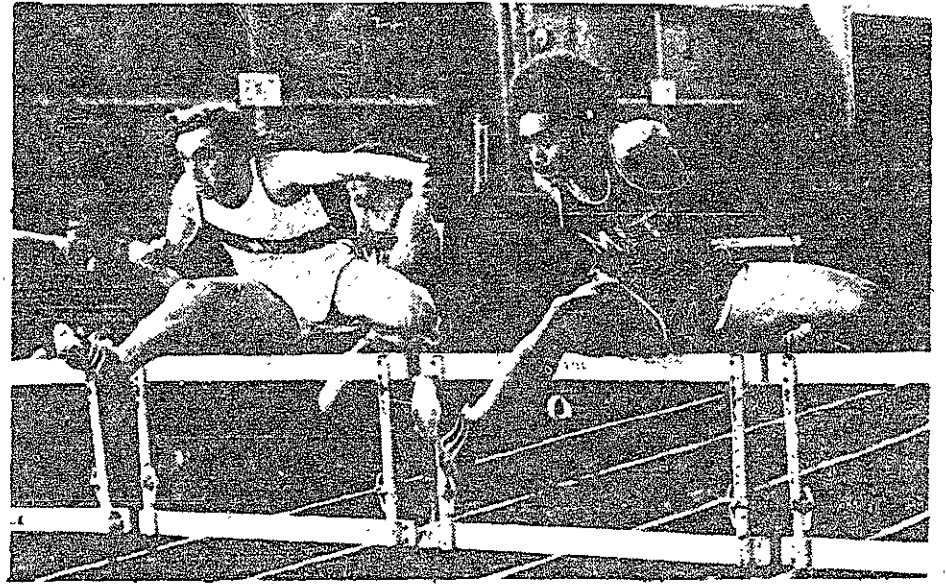
# SPORTS

## Trackmen trample UNH

MIT vs UNH		Pole Vault		50 Yard Dash	
35 Pound Weight		Wilson, MIT	14'6"	Drews, UNH	5.7
Moore, MIT	53'7"	Winsberg, MIT	13'0"	Wilkes, MIT	
Pearson, MIT	52'5"	Walter, UNH	13'0"	Chiesa, MIT	
Rawski, UNH	44'1 1/4"				
Long Jump		Mile Run		1000 Yard Run	
Wilson, MIT	21'0 1/2"	Kaufmann, MIT	4:38.9	Baerman, MIT	2:24.7
Killough, MIT	20'8 1/2"	Vogel, UNH	4:45.0	Vogel, UNH	2:27.7
Maddox, UNH	20'6 3/4"	Hurd, UNH	4:49.2	Puffe, MIT	2:30.3
Shotput		600 Yard Run		Two Mile Run	
Moore, MIT	49'2 1/2"	Borden, MIT	1:17.5	Carlson, MIT	10:02.8
Sauchelli, UNH	42'1 1/2"	Paige, UNH	1:18.2	Bassett, UNH	10:07.5
Rawski, UNH	41'0"	Coughlin, UNH	1:19.3	McCraken, MIT	10:30.8
High Jump		45 Yard High Hurdles		Mile Relay	
Collins, UNH	6'0"	Wesson, MIT	6.5	MIT	3:39.8
Purinton, UNH	5'10"	Marczak, UNH		Chiesa, Hansen, Borden, Wilkes	
Maddox, UNH	5'10"	O'Connor, UNH		UNH	3:43.4
				Denehy, Sieberg, Coughlin, Paige	
FINAL SCORE		MIT	64	UNH	39



Two of the highlights in Saturday's meet against the University of New Hampshire, which MIT easily won 65-39, were the victories of Don Wesson '74 and Captain David Wilson '73. Wilson, shown above, won the pole vault at 14'6", and Wesson, pictured below, won the 45 high hurdles with a time of 6.5 seconds. Photos by Dave Green



## Kelly, Close new coaches

By Sandy Yulke

Gordon V. Kelly, the Assistant Track Coach who has been responsible for MIT's success in the field events for the last eleven years, will become the new Head Track Coach, succeeding Art Farnham, who has retired.

As Head Coach, Kelly will be assisted by Peter M. Close, Director of Sports Information, who will join the coaching staff as Assistant Track Coach and Head Cross Country Coach.

Kelly came to MIT in 1962 from Monmouth Regional High School in Eatontown, N.J., where he coached football and track. Before coaching at Monmouth, Kelly attended Springfield College, where he co-captained the track team. In the spring of 1960, at the end of his senior year, Kelly capped his competitive track career by winning the New England outdoor pole vault championship.

Since he has been at MIT, the field contingent of the track team has broken nine MIT varsity records and won five New England individual championships. Largely because of their field strength, the Engineers have won 86 dual meets and two Eastern Small College Championships in indoor/outdoor competition in the last ten years. As Head Coach, Kelly will continue to concentrate on the field events, hurdles and sprints.

Pete Close came to MIT at the same time as Kelly to become the first full-time Director

of Sports Information. He has been very successful in that position, and is currently president of the New England Sports Information Director's Association, and he will continue in the job while taking on the added responsibilities of coaching.

Close, who hails from Manchester, Connecticut, is not new to running. While an undergraduate at St. John's University in Jamaica, Long Island, he won the I.C.A.A.A. indoor mile championship in both 1958 and 1959, as well as ten metropolitan middle distance titles. Besides being a two-time All-American, Close was named to the 1959 All-American Outdoor Track in the mile.

The peak of Close's career came in 1960, for while he was serving as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps, he qualified and competed in the 1960 Rome Olympiad in the 1500-meter run, and then won national championships competing in Greece, Ethiopia, Tunis, Morocco and Canada.

Coaching is not new to Close, as he and Kelly filled the same positions to which they have just been appointed on a temporary basis in 1964 when Art Farnham was on an AAU tour in Africa. Close also coached the freshman baseball team in 1965.

When interviewed, Close said that he was glad to be returning to competition and that coaching is especially inviting as it involves working with students.

Close also commented on the MIT sports philosophy. He said that when he first came here, straight from ten years of competition, he had to adjust to the MIT attitude towards athletics; to regard athletics as one part of the total curriculum, and also to de-emphasize some of its importance (there are no athletic scholarships, etc.). Close noted that other schools, which previously scoffed at the MIT system, are increasingly trying to achieve a situation like ours, as it is a more stable and balanced situation. He thinks that this trend helps to show that the MIT philosophy is a good one, and was ahead of its time.

## Bridgewater ices skaters

By S. Voorhees

Bridgewater State's varsity hockey team invaded the MIT rink Saturday night, and handed Tech its third loss of the season, 6-3. The score, however, was not indicative of the play as the Engineers gamely skated with Bridgewater throughout most of the game.

Wide open, free skating highlighted first period action. With just over a minute gone, Bridgewater rammed home a bouncing puck in the crease for a 1-0 advantage. MIT's George Kenney '74 countered with a goal on a centering pass from the left side. Richard Casler '74 and Pete Shanahan '73 picked up assists. Bridgewater regained the lead at 7:37 on a beautiful rush, as the left winger, going around the defense, hit the center breaking through. The Tech goalie never had a chance. A power play goal stretched the lead to 3-1, until Matt Goldsmith '73 slammed in a rebound at 16:08, assists coming from Steve Book '73 and Kenney.

Bridgewater upped the lead to 4-2 in the second period, again registering a score on a loose puck in front. That was the only defensive lapse, though, as both goal tenders turned in some outstanding saves in the period, marked by a slowdown in the tempo of the game.

A minor penalty against MIT at 3:02 of the third period led to the fifth Bridgewater score. Tight checking was the rule from then until late in the game, when passes from Rob Hunter '73 and Steve Warner '73 set up Kenney for a good slap shot from the

left, his third point and second goal of the game. A Bridgewater score on an open net closed out the scoring and provided the final margin of victory.

Tech returns to action Thursday night in a game at home, against Babson College.

Bridgewater	3	1	2	6
Tech	2	0	1	3



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 Jan. 23, 5:15 Politics as Drama.  
 Jan. 30, 5:15 Politics as Tragedy.

Respondents: Prof. Elting E. Morison, Humanities  
 Prof. Hayward R. Alker, Political Science  
 Miles Morgan, Philosophy and Political Science

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Tuesday, January 16, 1973