UA elections postponed; Spring Collective disputed

By Howard D. Sitzer

The Undergraduate Association elections have been postponed indefinitely until after the spring vacation due to complications in the mechanics of the elections process. The tense situation was further aggravated by the possibility of Linda Tufts '74 and Derrick Vlad '74 consolidating their tickets and running as co-UAP candidates.

The elections period commenced three weeks ago when candidates began soliciting signatures for their nominations. Initially, Curtis Reeves and the Spring Collective were among the field of contenders seeking a place on the ballot. However, the Committee on Elections convened before the nominations deadline and declared both entities ineligible after having deferred to the Registrar's Office for a decision. The UA Constitution stipulates that only "an undergraduate" may serve as UAP. According to the Registrar, Reeves and the Collective did not meet that criterion as Reeves was not registered this semester and the Collective was more than one undergraduate.

The Collective disputed the ambiguity in the Constitution and set out to obtain 1200 signatures as opposed to the usually required 400 in order to legitimize their candidacy for three separate positions – UAP, UAVP, and the Executive Committee.

On Wednesday, March 14, the nominations deadline, Reeves met with all the candidates and the Committee on Elections to finalize the ballot. In order to overrule the earlier decision on the eligibility of the Collective, Reeves appointed himself as chairman of the Elections Committee. In response to this action, the Committee, which had previously disqualified Reeves from the race, resigned. Reeves then declared the Collective eligible on the rationale that it was a broad-based movement which deserved recognition.

Before confirming his decision, Reeves conferred with the other candidates to ascertain whether his resolution was a just one. There were no objections at the time to allowing the Collective to run. However, there were several developments at the GA meeting on Thursday. UAVP Steve Taylor presented the assembly with the possibility of the Tufts-Vlad proposal to run together. Two problems arose: Should the nominations criteria be changed after the deadline, and should collectives be authorized. (It was rumored that Baker House would run for UAP as a collective.) The candidates decided to discuss the issue formally with Reeves after the GA meeting.

According to Reeves, most of the candidates reconsidered their original stance and approached him in an effort to disqualify the Spring Collective. (Each candidate was contacted by The Tech, and all denied this allegation.) Reeves finally resolved to postpone the elections in order to reevaluate the fairness in the elections procedure. However, there was a breakdown in communication and only Tufts and Vlad were aware of Reeves' decision.

Most of the candidates were confused and tried to contact Reeves over the weekend in order to clarify the situation. Reeves was unavailable and Taylor exhorted the candidates to wait for his return on Sunday. By Sunday evening everyone was informed of the postponement.

Two of the candidates conjectured that Tufts and Vlad are the prime obstacles to holding the election on Wednesday. The confusion over the weekend resulted in the deferment of their campaign. Janice Benson of the Spring Collective asserted that the Collective had been operating under previous obstacles, yet no allowance was made. According to Benson, the delay will cost the other candidates in early publicity and momentum.

The other UAP candidates, Roland Janbergs '74, Larry Russell '74, and Jerry Wilkens '74, were disturbed by the recent events.

A low student-faculty ratio encourages student participation in research in Course XII, the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences The third part of The Tech's series on undergraduate courses is on page 6 of today's issue.   Photo by Craig W. Reynolds

Female engineers: they like the work

By Paul Schindler

A School of Engineering open house for freshmen women was held Thursday at 3 pm in the Bush Room.

The purpose of the meeting, according to its organizer, Sherry Grobstein '74, was "to encourage women to go into engineering." Placement Director Robert Weatherall, Dean Alfred Keil of the school of Engineering and Associate Dean James Bruce spoke to the group of 50 women about their chances in the field.

Keil began by saying that in English, the word engineer sounds like "engine," while in French it sounds like "ingenuity"; this, he claimed, indicates two different attitudes that can be taken. He also theorized that much of the work in engineering fields could be divided into applied science, new technological developments, and societal needs. People usually begin by concentrating in one of the fields, but according to Keil they soon discover and explore the many interconnections between these areas.

Weatherall then moved the discussion from engineering in general to engineering for women. He showed where MIT graduates of the school of Engineering work after graduation, and contended that none of the fields involved had any reason to bar women. He also cited statistics showing that male engineering graduates average $892 per month starting salary, while women average one dollar more.

A panel discussion followed the original presentations. Sheila Widnall, an Associate Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics spoke of her original determination to go into nuclear physics, which was followed by a diversion into a new field. Department members encouraged her to continue her education to the doctoral level; then the two professors who taught fluid mechanics (her specialty) left, and she became a faculty member.

Lita Nelson, a chemical engineer for Arthur D. Little, spoke of her determination to avoid the technician type work that many female engineers are expected to perform. She told the group that in spite of the hassles, she enjoys work as a professional engineer.

Monica Mihden '74 is one of the few women in the Electrical Engineering department. She said she liked being an engineering student, but then registered a complaint: male students seem to come to the Institute with certain skills many females lack. Giving soldering, machine shop work, and welding as examples, she suggested that some kind of seminar for freshmen be formed to teach these skills.

Grobstein thought another such seminar would be held next year because she felt "this one was successful."

Sha-Na-Na concert planned

By James Moody

This Spring's Kaleidescope will feature Sha-Na-Na, in concert at a major student-financed Spring Party on Friday, May 4 in Rockwell Cage.

Tickets for the party will cost $2.50 per person, in advance only. The admission price will include the Sha-Na-Na concert, performances by a D.J. and/or another live band, and all the beer you can drink.

Sha-Na-Na is known for doing all types of rock music. Best known for their "fifties rock," their metallic gold jackets, chains, slicked-back hair, and sunglasses, portray the stereotyped image of the fifties "greaser."

The party is being sponsored by a coalition of student groups, currently known as the Ad Hoc New Improved Informal Dance Committee. It is co-chaired by Steve Taylor '73 and Rob Hunter '73, and includes representatives from a variety of student organizations.

The money for the party will be student money, solicited from various student groups. The budget is approximately $11,000, including an estimated $3000 "loss." Sha-Na-Na will cost around $7500, including lights, sound and promoters' fees. The 4200 tickets (the seating capacity of Rockwell Cage) will go on sale the second week in April.

The Sha-Na-Na party is a focal point for a much larger celebration, Kaleidescope. The Student Center Committee is coordinating the event.

The festivities will begin late Thursday afternoon and will include an Ernie Kovacs film, a student-faculty-administration softball game, kite flying, frisbee throwing, and pie eating contests, the "big screw" contest, portions of All Tech Sing, and a roast beef picnic. Various student activities will be presenting demonstrations and exhibitions throughout the day and evening.

Plans are also underway for the Fiji Island Party, on Saturday, May 5. This is sponsored every other year by the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. Buses will take people to and from Fitchburg, where the party is being held. Admission is free; there will be a charge for bus tickets.

Student interest seems to be rising again in this activity. If the students' desire to participate in and monetarily support such activities is any indication, this spring will see the rebirth of a long dead institution.

One of the popular features of past Spring Weekends has been the exotic dancing of Beverly Seavey '73.   Photo by Sheldon Lowenthal

Fredkin discusses Project MAC:

"It was a very expensive and difficult project, and my feeling is that it will turn out one of the best investments the government ever made.

"For instance, every MIT student has taken calculus and learned how to integrate. It's our feeling that in the future that won't be necessary."

"I think MIT is one of the strongest universities in the world, in terms of the kind of research we do at MAC."

Photos by Roger Goldstein

By Paul Schindler

(Professor Edward Fredkin is director of MIT's computer oriented Project MAC. He is also one of the few full professors at the Institute who does not have a college degree; he is a Caltech dropout. Fredkin was the topic of a previous profile in The Tech in the spring of 1971: this time, the discussion centered on MAC. Suhas Patil, assistant director of the project, also participated. —Editor)

Is MAC strictly an MIT organization?

Well, no. We have visitors come from different countries and different universities. Last semester we had a visitor from Stanford, Professor John McCarthy, who is an ex-MIT professor . . . We've had a visiting professor from the Soviet Union, several from Japan.

Do you know the history of MAC, and precisely what MAC means?

Project MAC was started [about ten years ago] to both develop and exploit time-sharing. This was a new technological idea, and many early experiments were in progress, and an early system, CTSS [Computer Time Sharing System] was beginning to function. *That preceded MAC?*

Oh, yes. Project MAC was set up really both to further develop the ideas and to exploit them. It existed quite a while before it had the name, MAC, and while I wasn't at MIT I happened to be on what was called the Steering Committee, which met every week, and one of the things we puzzled over was the name. There were lots of proposals; one I remember particularly was "Plexus" — Doug Ross wanted to call it Project Plexus or something. He had a nexus of plexus, I suppose.

So, in any case, MAC was chosen as kind of an arbitrary name, but the letters had two interpretations. "Machine-Aided Cognition" was one, and "Multi Access Computer" was the other. "Man and Computer" was something someone thought up later. Once you have an acronym you can think of what it stands for easily.

It was called a project in order to encourage participation by people who had other laboratory associations. In other words, in the early days, they wanted people from other laboratories to come in; they thought if they called it a laboratory, they might exclude people from different laboratories. Since then, it's kind of evolved into a laboratory; it's now considered a standard MIT interdepartmental laboratory.

Two questions: First of all, what is the emphasis, hardware or software; and second, who were some of the pioneers of MAC?

For your first question, the emphasis has always been on software and systems. Now, lots of hardware ideas got thought of, in the sense of modifications to computers to make the software possible, but the emphasis has been on software.

The other question: in my view, there are two pioneers of Project MAC, and they're both here, Professor Licklider and Professor Fano. At that time, Licklider was not at MIT, but was in the Advanced Research Project Agency [ARPA is part of DOD], and Fano was at MIT . . .

Project MAC was started by MIT in request to an initial probe that came from ARPA; in other words, the idea that time-sharing was an important research area and should be supported by the government really came from ARPA. Government support of time-sharing is due to Licklider, and when he became director of that office he started supporting time-sharing. He brought the idea of some large project to MIT, and MIT responded by creating Project MAC.

What have been the major achievements of Project MAC?

CTSS existed as a developmental and experimental thing before Project MAC was started; but, what MAC did was to make it a real computer utility, the likes of which could run all the time and was available and people could trust it. Also, many unsolved problems were handled later on by MAC, even in terms of CTSS. A good example was the file system; they started out with a very simple-minded file system, and redoing it turned out to meet the demands that time-sharing imposed.

How about the AI (Artificial Intelligence) Lab? Are they talking to computers yet?

Let me just say a little historical thing about the AI Lab; it's much older than Project MAC, by far. It existed in RLE for a number of years and originally was headed by Professors Minsky and McCarthy. Then McCarthy left, went to Stanford to form the Stanford AI Laboratory. After Project MAC was formed, it seemed the natural thing for the AI Lab to be part of its budget, more natural than otherwise. So it became associated with MAC in that sense, and then a couple of years ago it became an independent laboratory . . .

All we [have] mentioned [so far is] CTSS, and that was seven years ago; if that was our only accomplishment, things would be very bad.

Multics was another really enormous job to bring off, and for a while people felt it was almost like a white elephant, maybe wasn't so successful; it entered an era of bad feeling. What seems to be very clear is that the ideas in Multics are sort of leading the way in the minds of those people designing tomorrow's systems.

What are those ideas? What distinguishes Multics from CTSS?

Well, a whole host of issues, ranging from protection and security issues to the idea of having all kinds of programs written in different languages being able to communicate with other programs in other languages; the idea of virtual memory . . .

Is that original with Multics?

I think that about half the things were mentioned or done in simple-minded experiments, but were never brought to a point of actual reliable operation elsewhere. There are many original ideas in Multics; I think the "rings of protection" is an example of an original idea in Multics.

There are many original ideas in it; and another thing is, if someone comes up with an idea or demonstrates it in a quick and dirty demonstration on a little computer system somewhere, it's very different from integrating it into a usable, workable utility, like Multics is. Also, it turns out that the task of getting all these ideas to run in the same system at the same time is much harder than it is to do any one of them by itself.

How long did Multics take? How many years?

How many man-years, maybe? I don't know how many man-years, but it took a total of seven years . . .

It was a very expensive and difficult project, and my feeling is that it will turn out one of the best investments the government ever made.

The government paid for Multics. Why is Honeywell selling Multics?

[Patil] That's very complicated; originally, MIT, Bell Labs, and GE were three groups that were interested in seeing something like this develop. So they came together and jointly started work on Multics. I don't know the details of who was supposed to do exactly what, but you could easily see — GE was a computer manufacturer, their computer was to be modified to make a GE 635 into a 645, incorporating whatever would be necessary in order to have such a system as Multics.
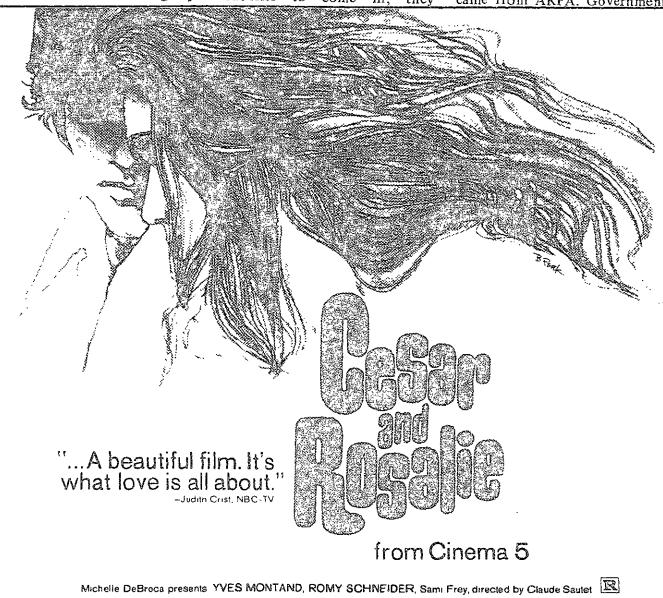
It turns out later that Bell Labs, whose interest was in the computer as a utility, got discouraged somewhere along the line, and they stopped their participation in this. GE sold its computer part to Honeywell, and that's how Honeywell got involved.

In other words, when Honeywell sells this for six to eight million dollars, they have it not because they bought it from us or got it from their government, but because their predecessor GE was co-developer of the system.

Right. Now, if Multics ends up being a very popular thing I'm not certain but we could check into this, but I believe that MIT could come into some royalties on it.

Could a six-million dollar program be popular?

First of all, it's not a program; there are hundreds of six million-dollar systems around. The IPC's present IBM installation is very expensive — I don'

"Computers can become your life"

know its value, you could find out. The 165 is a very expensive installation, about that value, I'm sure.

So there's CTSS and Multics...

Those are two easy-to-point-at systems. There are many technical ideas that have come out of Project MAC, that cover a whole spectrum from highly theoretical to more practical kinds of things. I think the Project has been quite good over the years at producing a good rate of return on research done.

What projects are they working on now?

The range goes all the way from having worked on helping develop displays for terminals on time-sharing, to coming up with important highly theoretical results.

A good example is in the AI Laboratory; research done [there] showed that the whole idea of devices, perceptrons, they were called, turned out to be based on certain fallacious ideas, in some instances. The point was many people kept asking, "how do you get a perceptron to learn to do this task, or that task." What was pointed out was, whether they could learn or not, the device was incapable of doing it. In other words, it's like saying how long does it take to teach a cat to fly? Well, you can teach a cat many things, but it isn't the trouble with the cat's learning that he can't fly. Everyone was focusing on the learning of the perceptron, when the device was mathematically incapable of doing the thing that they were trying.

This is an example of an important theoretical result, because all over the world, the US government was supporting a great deal of research at teaching these machines to do these tasks. It is quite important that these studies be stopped. There are many others – a list would take hours...

Just a few more brief touches... highlights.

The Mathematical Laboratory, which is called MAXIMA, is one of the most outstanding computer programs ever written. It's still very actively in development, but it does mathematics. For instance, every MIT student has taken calculus and learned how to integrate. It's our feeling that in the future that won't be necessary, this program does all that better than anyone, and it's very easy to use. We expect it to be universally available in the future.

There has been a lot of work done on networks here. A chess program – some of these things may have been done in the AI Lab while it was with MAC. It goes on and on – a long, long list.

Many students who work for MAC make it a second home; a burning love. Why?

That's exactly right. That has

nothing so much to do with Project MAC, other than the fact that we allow it: we actually don't encourage it. It has caused some very bright people to drop out of school.

That has to do with the field. For instance, the same thing will happen (or happened) with the EE PDP I, seven or eight years ago, or the TX O ten years ago.

The computer field can be terribly engrossing, and here's the reason why: whatever it is you expect to accomplish is entirely up to you in this field. If you're going to build something out of pieces of metal and motors and what-not, you get stuck because you need a gear and you don't have a gear, or you order a part and the part doesn't come. In the computer field, when you are building a program system, you are never stuck for anything, because you can do it all.

The steady and total lack of any impediment to accomplishment, other than your own capabilities can be very exhilerating, really. You can just start barreling along, making enormous accomplishments. Very often you will get stuck, but it's up to you to work and fix it. There's nothing else in your way; that's so marvelous. It's the nature of the field, I think.

Where is Project MAC going from here? What are you breaking open and pioneering in?

The one field we're breaking open and pioneering [now is] automatic programming. That is a major thing, as was the Multics effort. In other words, it's a new major important direction for Project MAC. Automatic programming is really an application of techniques that grew out of the field of artificial intelligence to the task of getting programs written automatically.

What we mean... is that

someone should be able to have a discourse with the computer in English, a natural language, as long as he talks about things the system is prepared to deal with. It should then write the programming system that is best for him.

Is that self-programming?

It's not self-programming. You can think of it as self-programming in the following sense: what all programmers do today is tell the computer how to solve the problem, step by step. No matter what programming language you use, you tell it all the steps to solve the problem. Now, as programming languages got more and more advanced, you began to not have to tell it certain things that were peculiar to the machine you were using, such as how to allocate the registers of the machine to the variables, and so on. But you still had to lead it through the steps of how to solve the problem.

In automatic programming, you tell it about the problem, not how to solve it. You describe the situation and tell it the goals and so on, as you would another person; as a manager would tell a programmer, except in this case, the manager would tell the automatic programming system. He would only be able to do that, in the system we are designing now, in the limited areas in which this program has knowledge, as we call it.

Do you believe that any problem that a person can solve can be solved by a computer, if you know how people solve it?

I think that's true. We've gotten many things into computers that people don't know how to solve. In general people don't know how they solve things. They just do it. In the

old days, people would ask, "How do you do integrals," and people would say "I think for a long time and finally the answer pops into my head."

That's baloney is what we have learned. There are lots of different processes going on.

The first computer integration program worked very much the way people do integration. Much more powerful ones are running now that don't do it anything like the way people do, and they're much better.

Let me put it this way: when people were thinking about the first airplane, they decided that the main problem would be the manufacture of feathers. Leonardo daVinci made the statement a long time ago that we ought to try to emulate the bat and not the bird, because the feathers looked like a hard problem. The SST, if there was going to be one, doesn't have any feathers, and manages without them. So, this idea of finding out how we do it, and emulating it, sometimes helps. Very often, the computer does things more directly and better.
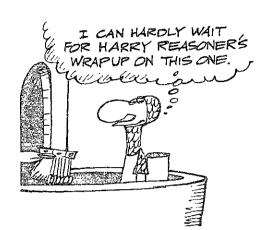
Are budget cuts falling on ARPA?

We're struggling for funds, if that's the question. I think we're being successful in that we don't have an immediate crisis. We're trying very hard to generate new sources of funding.

Our original idea was to try

to get new sources of funding outside of the DOD. With that in mind, we went out and got a contract from the National Science Foundation. We also have hopes of getting sources of funding outside of government money.

I think MIT is one of the strongest universities in the world, in terms of the kind of research we do at MAC.
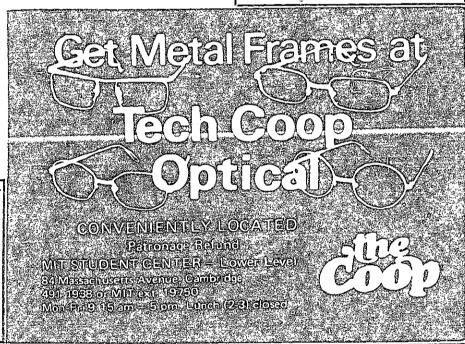

I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR HARRY REASONER'S WRAP UP ON THIS ONE.

Editorial

The Undergraduate Association Presidential election, originally scheduled for tomorrow, has been postponed. Why? Because some members of the current government have tried to be all things to all people.

Curtis Reeves is at least partially responsible for the current fiasco. He held a meeting Wednesday night (reported in last Friday's *Tech*) at which it was decided to allow the Spring Collective to run. Prior to this meeting, the current Election Committee either (depending on whose version you accept) was dismissed or quit, for "lack of historical perspective." Reeves took over their powers.

The next night, the whole situation came unravelled, and it was decided by a small group that the election would be postponed. This information was not disseminated very widely, and there were persistent rumors (even as late as Saturday afternoon) that the election was back on for Wednesday. Indeed, one candidate who called this office Sunday night had not yet been informed about the postponement.

The point of this editorial is not to quibble with the manner in which the postponement has been handled; rather it has been to chastise those involved for further sounding the death knell of popularly elected student government. The credibility of the entire structure has reached an unprecedented but predictable low, and further obvious public politicking such as this can only serve to undermine what little faith in the system the undergraduates retain.

These manuevers indicate an incredible insensitivity: this delay has sapped any enthusiasm the election might have generated. The caution those involved should exercise in public actions related to the election has been sadly lacking. Maybe Larry Russell, the "No-UAP" candidate who wears an aluminum foil nose, has the right idea.

A closing note; *The Tech* has been treating the elections as serious news. This is in line with our concept of professional news coverage in regard to MIT events. It is not in line with our opinion of how seriously the election should be taken.

Elections and finance

The Graduate Student Council elections are forthcoming. Positions are available to represent each of the academic departments, Courses I-XXIII, with the exception of Courses VI and XV which each have two seats on the Council. In addition, there is one representative from each of the following groups: Westgate I, Westgate II, Eastgate, Ashdown House, and the Foreign Students. Petitions for seating on the Council are now available in the GSC Office, Room 50-110, x3-2195.

Education financing

Graduate Education Financing Policies continue to dominate the GSC activity scene . . . with the much debated merit vs. need argument receiving the most attention. Discussion over the Draft Resolution concerning graduate student grant payment policies ensued, this being the draft resolution originally intended solely to stimulate constructive comment and criticism on graduate student policy in general. The need for a possible telephone survey in support of these discussions was raised, and possibilities for appropriate questions and topics of comment were discussed. A committee was assembled to organize and oversee the data collection process as well as the overall opinion research effort. The Medical Advisory Committee reports progress toward finding ways of bringing the health insurance programs more into direct line with the actual needs and financial capabilities of graduate students. Primary discussion centered around the insurance protection vs. the "emphasis on medical services" argument, and the resulting diseconomies that propel the cost of adequate and/or complete coverage out of the reach of some students. Incidentally, there are presently funds available to finance new programs of benefit to the educational life and advancement of this overall general welfare of MIT graduate students. Serious proposals for any new programs should immediately be directed to the GSC Treasurer and Finance Committee in the GSC Office, Room 50-110.

Finally, a Technology Community Association (TCA) delegation is in the process of soliciting GSC support for participation in such TCA activities as preparation of HoToGAMIT and the completion of the TCA Course Evaluation. This is an excellent opportunity for any graduate student interested in making useful and meaningful contributions to graduate student life through the channels set up by the GSC. Support is also sought for some of the activities of the Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP), including the upcoming Education Symposium and investigation into the general issues of Degrees and Grading. In addition, Academic Project representatives are sought for the Division of Academic Projects, a new activity designed to develop, support, and maintain projects which improve the academic, curricular, or educational life of the MIT students and which coordinates existing projects in TCA and SCEP. Graduate students with experience on project work, educational studies, or survey design technique, or who are just interested in academic projects are invited to contact Robert Sacks at 15-F Westgate II or c/o TCA at W20-450, 494-8889 or x3-4885, respectively.

—GSC

...LET'S PUT OFF BURNING OUR UNDERWEAR UNTIL SPRING.

When is a guest not a guest?

By Mark Fishman

The residents of McCormick Hall — which is partly to say the parents of some residents of McCormick Hall — have recently confronted their Judicial Committee and the office of the Dean for Student Affairs with a dilemma. In the words of Housemaster Steve Senturia, "There are two conflicting rules on the books at MIT. There is a legal limit to the number that can reside in McCormick. There is also another rule which allows visitors 24 hours a day. The Dean's office is embarrassed by this contradiction. They would like it if all the guys at McCormick would suddenly vanish." (*The Tech*, March 9, 1973)

House President Horton and Dean Eisenberg seem to be of the opinion that a girl who is inconvenienced by another's male guest should seriously consider moving away from her current room. "Horton summed things up by saying, 'If you don't like where you're living, there's no sense in staying there.'" (Ibid.) "Eisenberg continued to say that girls who are having any sorts of problems with habitual male guests . . . should not wonder why they 'can't adjust,' and instead concentrate on finding a place where they fit in better." (Ibid.)

There seems to be some confusion in the Dean's office over who causes problems by living in McCormick. To my way of thinking (and I will be the first to admit it is only that of a mere male), McCormick is an all-female dormitory: if permanent male guests are causing consternation and inconvenience, then they and their hostesses should be moved, and not the girls who complain.

It has been quite a long time since anyone seriously suggested that the Dean for Student Affairs concern herself with "protecting" students from each other or from themselves; at least with regard to the male population on campus, it has been generally accepted that the students can handle their own business if the Deans will run interference for them with the outside world. But, in this age of the media-publicized liberated woman, it is enlightening to note that the outside world still views with horror the notion of exposing their "little girls" to their "little boys," whose unnecessary antics they encourage nonetheless. For the Institute, then, this is primarily an image problem. But that is not quite all of the problem.

There are undoubtedly some people who are seriously upset by the situations in which they find themselves. It is not merely a question of "excessive sensitivity," nor is it without precedent on campus. It is only the surprising degree of seeming unpreparedness which is new and embarrassing.

Some years ago, before the advent of co-ed residence at MIT, East Campus voted (in a house-wide referendum and at the instigation of then-Dean Wadleigh) to abolish parietal regulations. The institution of 24-hour visiting privileges, although only a *de jure* change which recognized the *de facto* state of affairs (no pun intended), was foreseen to create potentially troublesome situations. Whereas before the change complaints about female guests could be handled by removing the guest, this did not seem justifiable under the new (nonexistent) regulations.

"When he is a jar . . . "

The solution was simple, and I recommend it to the McCormick House Committee and Judicial Committee here. All hosts in East Campus have always been held responsible for all actions of their guests, male or female. Under the very elastic regulation concerning "disruption of study conditions," any reasonable complaint about guests can result in judicial warning, probation or (ultimately) expulsion from the dormitory for the *host* (and guest). The exact sanction, of course, depends on the seriousness or duration of the offense.

The major part of this problem of guests is not, I think, the so-called "moral issue." Undoubtedly it *is* the problem for some; but it is not the most widespread difficulty.
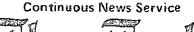
It is not my intention to suggest that these problems are of a type which lends

itself at all well to structured or legalistic solution. They are, in fact, frictions of a highly individual nature and attempts to resolve them on any other than a case basis are at best doomed to failure and at worst certain to create deep distrust and animosity among residents. However, in the absence of previously agreed upon procedures for securing the universally-desired objective of considerate and cooperative suite-mates, the less outspoken or self-assured residents will grow unnecessarily to harbor resentment of their inadvertently thoughtless friends.

What must be made abundantly clear is that the hostess does, in some sense, cause a disruption of normal use-patterns of suite or floor facilities by imposing an additional load on such facilities in the form of a guest. There is, additionally, the consideration that the sex of the guest may influence the determination of just what constitutes "disruption of study conditions"; but in principle the remedy should be the same regardless of the sex of the offending party's guest.

No one should lose sight of the fact that it is not the guest who bears primary responsibility for the inconvenience: (s)he is merely the tool of some people's lack of consideration.

In any event, unless the popular mind has altered drastically in five years, common sense would dictate that the victims of willful social irresponsibility not be made to suffer further. Suggestions of room-swapping and other such activities (if any) ought to be directed at the offenders, not the offended.

Police Blotter

Police Blotter is a compilation prepared by Campus Patrol to report crimes occuring in the MIT community.

3/1/73

Attempted break-in on fourth floor of E52. Lock cylinder partially damaged but entry was not gained. Locksmith repaired damage.

Larceny of a violin in Building 54 during the day from 9 am to 5 pm. Label: "Antonio Mariani." Information dispatched to outside agencies.

3/2/73

Larceny of furniture and table lamps from the Green living room at McCormick Hall between 1 and 7 am this date.

Larceny of a small hand calculator from a desk drawer in a chemistry lab in the Building 2 basement.

3/3/73

Larceny of a coat valued at $300. Complainant left his office on third floor of Building 14N for a few minutes to visit another office. Coat was blue leather with a belt. No suspects observed.

Reported illegal entry into Westgate II. Small auto battery charger taken from counter top in kitchen. Separate rooms not entered.

Student locked inside Dewey Library released by Patrol — subject was unable to hear warning bell and was overlooked at closing time.

3/6/73

Larceny of a wallet. Wallet taken from open locker in Dupont while complainant was taking a shower.

Disturbed person: 9 am. Subject drove motor vehicle into Great Court area, upstairs to Building 10 area. Extensive damage to motor vehicle. Sprinkler system and grounds damage. Subject removed to a local hospital with difficulty. One Campus Patrolman injured.

3/5/73

Fire alarm at Burton House first floor. Accidental alarm believed to be result of prank.

Public safety problem. Complaint to headquarters concerning a very strong light beam flashing from Baker House into the eyes of motorists on Memorial Drive: could cause serious accident. Matter resolved through assistance of house officers.

At 8:30 pm two windows of the Fairchild building on Vassar Street (EE Building) broken by rocks hurled from railroad track area. Damage $150.

Broken glass at Kresge Auditorium. Student running in lobby crashed into glass door. Subject slightly injured, assisted by patrol.

3/7/73

Report of two wallet thefts from main buildings. One handbag on table, one wallet in unlocked desk drawer. Investigating officer located wallet in trash container in nearby men's room. Wallets intact, minus cash.

Attempted larceny of motor vehicle on Memorial Drive between 1 pm and 5 pm; entrance gained through right front window. Ignition damaged, personal property taken valued at $75.

3/8/73

Larceny of hand calculator. Complainant purchased unit at MIT Coop. Left it on his desk in NW13, still in bag. Departed from office from 12 noon to 4 pm. Unknown person entered room and removed bag with calculator.

Course XII: close student-faculty relationship

By David Olive
and Richard Parker

"The department is very stratified," stated Jeffrey Star, a sophomore majoring in Earth and Planetary Sciences. "With the meteorologists on one floor, the oceanographers on another and everyone else each on his own floor, the daily coffee house get-togethers are an important way of bringing people together, and unifying the department. I think they have been a great success."

The faculty of the Earth Science Department is dedicated to the idea that student-faculty interaction is very important to the success of a student. There are only two undergraduates per professor and the faculty feels that they can double that ratio and still provide the interaction and research opportunities that are so important.

"The size of our department allows us a great deal of freedom in dealing with students," stated Frank Press, Chairman of the Department.

"Knowing the students on a personal level enables the faculty to help their students in choosing courses," explained Press. MIT graduates achieve a strong background in math and physics simply because of the Institute requirements, and according to Press, that, combined with the reputation of the department makes MIT's graduates in Course XII especially appealing to graduate schools.

Press added that faculty members who know students well can and do call their colleagues at other schools to recommend students.

The advisor-student relationship is critical to the success of the student in Course XII. For that reason and others, majors in XII often have two advisors. "Each undergraduate is encouraged to have two advisors," stated Richard Naylor, Course XII Registration Officer for the class of '74. "The Registration Officer is responsible for the entire class and does the legal work, signs all the forms. The student can choose another advisor with whom he can confer on a more creative level. While the Registration Officer has to worry about students meeting requirements, the second advisor deals with the rest of the student's growth."

The second advisor is frequently the student's research advisor. Each student is required to do at least twelve units of research. There are over 60 students participating in UROP-type research, although not all are from the department. Last year undergraduates were paid over $60,000 with funds from department projects.

The degree requirements for Course XII consist of four courses (5.60, 8.03, 18.03, 12.101), a research project (12.091) and 84 restricted elective units. During the student's junior year, a proposed list of those restricted electives must be given to the Course XII Undergraduate Committee which consists of four professors and two undergraduates.

Two-thirds of the students follow the department's suggested guidelines for degrees in geology, geochemistry, planetary chemistry, physical oceanography, meteorology, or other disciplines within Earth and Planetary Sciences. The other third of the students devise their own programs. "This system allows important freedom in course selection," Naylor stated.

Freedom in course selection is necessary in a department as varied as Earth and Planetary Sciences. The field spans the wide spectrum from astronomy to ecology, from the evolution of the planets to the application of science in solving today's problems.

The interest in ecology and today's environmental problems has led to a new environmental degree in the department. "Degrees related to dealing with the environment exist in the School of Engineering. However, our approach to the problems of the environment differs in that we are concerned with the scientific aspects, especially the study of natural systems," said Press.

Next year John Kanwisher, a biophysicist from Woods Hole, will teach a year-long course in environmental ecology. It will be an undergraduate course with no prerequisites. It will describe systems and structures and trace these systems through history.

The department is oriented to meeting the needs of the students. This is reflected in the flexibility of course requirements, the daily coffee house meetings, the emphasis on student research and the comments of the faculty members.

Almost without exception the students were very happy with the department and the opportunities which are available. The only dissenting opinion came from a student majoring in geophysics, who did not see himself as part of the department. However, he stated that his discipline required such a strong math and physics background that most of his courses were not in the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department.
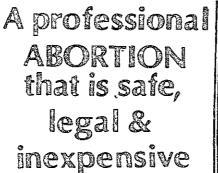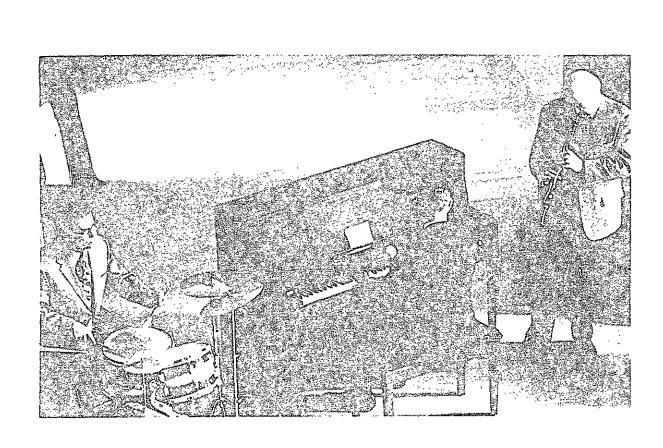
Lobby 7

*Photos by Roger Goldstein
and Dave Green*