

Hordes of book-hungry people crowd the Sala de Puerto Rico on the second floor of the Student Center, as the annual MIT Press Book Sale presents its wares to the world. Over 50,000 books are on sale, at prices ranging from 50 to 95 per cent off of the marked price. The sale, which started Wednesday, continues today through 4pm, and tomorrow, as prices slide toward rock bottom on the final day of the sale. The doors will be open from 10 to 3. Photo by Tom Klimowicz

News Analysis

MIT's privacy future: issues

By Mike McNamee

(Third and last in a series)

MIT, like most other American colleges and universities, was caught unprepared by the recently-enacted Buckley Amendment to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 — despite the fact that, three years ago, a faculty committee produced a report recommending many of the same actions made mandatory by the new legislation.

Administration officials admit now that many of MIT's problems in dealing with the Buckley amendment's measures — which open student files for inspection and correction by the student, among other provisions — could have been anticipated had the report, written by the Ad Hoc Committee on Privacy of Information at MIT, been acted upon.

Although the MIT administration started working in the fall of 1971, shortly after the report was accepted by the faculty, to appoint the Standing Committee of Privacy called for by the report, those appointments were not completed until just last week, too late to help draft the Institute's response to the federal legislation (which will be announced next week in *Tech Talk*).

But the committee is not too late to help shape MIT's future policies on privacy of information. Indeed, although committee chairman Professor Arthur C. Smith has stated that he does not yet know what the committee's role in the MIT administration will be, it is clear that the group, as the one body which combines faculty, students, and staff dealing with privacy, will have an important role in future policy-making.

A variety of opinions on what the committee should deal with and its role in the administration have been expressed. The original proposal for the committee, contained in the 1971 report, suggested a group "to gather information and develop experience about privacy matters with few operational or administrative responsibilities." Both Smith and Vice President Constantine Simonides, however, have said that they believe it might be wise to "update" this charter, allowing the group

wider responsibility for making policy decisions.

What issues will the new committee address itself to? Smith told *The Tech* that he felt the Buckley amendment would necessarily be "an important issue, but not the only issue" to be discussed in early meetings. Beyond that, he said, the committee must decide what it can do within the limits of the charter it is given.

Interviews with a number of MIT administrators and faculty in the last week reveal unanimity on at least one point — that the committee should serve "the location of the Institute consciousness on matters of privacy," according to Associate Provost Professor Hartley Rogers Jr. Beyond that, however, there is no general agreement on how much responsibility the group should be given, and what precise roles it should play.

Professor of Political Science Eugene B. Skolnikoff, who said he was "sensitized" to privacy issues by his work as the first chairman of the committee which wrote the 1971 report, presented a list of possible issues to which he felt the committee could address itself. The director of the Center for International Studies cited six areas which he felt should be taken up by the new committee:

— Expansion of the privacy provisions of the Buckley amendment to former students, faculty, staff, and other employees. According to MIT's

interpretation of the legislation, provisions opening files for review and correction only apply to currently-registered students. Skolnikoff pointed out that the original report on privacy "was not just directed at students," and said "the Institute should move ahead of the law on this matter."

— Development of standards for which information is challengeable or non-challengeable in files which are opened. "The line must be drawn," Skolnikoff said, "between information that is false and information which the person simply disagrees with."

— Development of procedures ensuring that challenged information is corrected in all pertinent files. "The person challenging the information is not likely to know how many files it appears in, or where those files are," he said. "Yet it must be corrected in all files. There have to be procedures for this."

— Continuing publicity of the problems of files security and the issues of disclosure of information. The committee should send out frequent notices, Skolnikoff said, to alert offices to security problems caused by personnel turnover.

— Clarification for faculty members of their rights and responsibilities with regard to release of information to third parties. "The central offices are well aware of the problems, but

(Please turn to page 2)

SHL declares 'Gay Wednesday'

By Gerald Radack

December 11 has been declared "Gay Wednesday" by the Student Homophile League (SHL) in an attempt to make the MIT community more aware of the presence of homosexuals on campus.

The SHL has been conducting a publicity campaign urging gay people to identify themselves by wearing blue jeans on that day.

According to SHL president Harry Ugol '75, the idea of a "Gay Wednesday" was originated by the Rutgers Homophile League and has already been tried on three campuses.

The reason for choosing blue jeans as the emblem for identifying homosexuals on "Gay

Wednesday," according to Ugol, is that "everybody owns blue jeans."

A spokesman for the Harvard-Radcliffe Gay Students Association, who identified himself as "Charles Bonnell," a pseudonym, told *The Tech* that his organization is also sponsoring a "Gay Wednesday" on December 11, in cooperation with the MIT SHL. Bonnell said that the purpose of "Gay Wednesday" is "to make it possible for gay people to identify each other."

Ugol complained of a lack of specific figures on the number of gay people on campus, but said that it could be as much as twenty per cent of the MIT student population.

Changes proposed in file-release law

By Mike McNamee

Amendments designed to modify "a number of areas that are not clear" in the Buckley Amendment to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 will be introduced in Congress next week.

The amendments, to be co-sponsored by Senators James L. Buckley (Con.-NY) and Claiborne Pell (D-RI), will exempt information written for colleges under the promise of confidentiality from the provisions of the original Buckley amendment. That legislation allows students to review files maintained by the colleges on students.

Under the proposed changes, confidential information written before a specified date — probably Dec. 31, 1974 — will be exempted from the files review. This is similar to the policy stated by MIT recently, except that MIT will allow review of the letters if the authors give written permission for their review.

The problem with confidential letters in files has been a major stumbling-block in colleges' attempts to implement the original legislation, which took effect Nov. 19. MIT, like many other schools, has cited "conflicting rights of privacy" in refusing to allow review of files containing confidential information.

News Analysis

Fac meeting hears student, prof views

By Stephen Blatt

Last Monday, the Faculty held a special meeting for the first discussion of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Grades.

For purposes of discussion, the thirteen recommendations of the committee were broken into four areas: registration, grade inflation, internal vs. external records and pass-fail. During the two-hour meeting, the first three areas were discussed, with pass-fail and presumably a vote on the proposal held over for the regular faculty meeting Dec. 18.

While many of the arguments heard at the meeting paralleled those examined in the report, several different suggestions were made by various faculty

No Hearings Planned

The proposed changes, which are not expected to pass Congress before it adjourns this month, come after colleges and individuals have "swamped" Congress with complaints about the law. "We've got boxes of letters from colleges about this," an aid close to Pell, who chairs the Senate Subcommittee on Education, told *The Tech* yesterday.

There will be no hearings in the subcommittee on the proposed changes, according to the aid, but he said he expected "a great deal of debate on the floor." Colleges are expected to lobby strongly on the changes, the aid said.

MIT, which announced Wednesday that its policies and procedures for dealing with the original files law will be released next week, will "volunteer information to let the Congress know how we feel about the changes," according to Associate Dean for Student Affairs James J. Bishop. Bishop said he knew of no formal lobbying by MIT on the proposed changes. Bishop declined detailed comment on the changes, saying he knew only what he had read in the newspapers. "It's pretty hard to comment on legislation when all you know is what you see in the paper," he said.

members. Faculty Chairman Professor Elias Gyftopoulos, speaking for the Committee on Educational Policy, suggested moving the drop date to the fifth week, allowing each student to drop one subject three weeks before the end of the term, and noting on the transcript that certain information has been deleted.

Other professors proposed a separate drop date for sophomores (on the grounds that they, coming off pass-fail the previous year, might not be able to anticipate as easily an overload), and charging additional tuition for each subject over an unspecified amount, while one faculty member stated that "keeping F

(Please turn to page 3)

There are "over 70" members of SHL, according to Ugol, who noted that SHL is open to all members of the MIT community. SHL serves as a "social outlet for gay people on campus — an alternative to bars," according to Ugol. In addition, he said, it "provides help to people who are confused" and tries to "better the situation of gay people on campus."

The Harvard-Radcliffe Gay Student Association has 25 regular members, according to Bonnell. This year it has 5 freshmen members, something which he described as "absolutely unprecedented."

Bonnell said that the purpose of his organization is "educa-

tional, political, and social." Its "political" activities include "dealing with the Harvard administration," he said.

During its publicity campaign, SHL has advertised at LSC movies and in campus media, and will place posters around the Institute announcing "Gay Wednesday." These posters feature the Greek letter lambda, which is "a symbol of Gay liberation adopted by the Gay Activist Alliance in New York City," Ugol said.

Ugol said that he expects "Gay Wednesday" to be effective but does not expect another one to be planned at MIT for "at least ten years."

Privacy: what plans for MIT?

(Continued from page 1)

many of the faculty have no place to go to find out what they should do," Skolnikoff said. He cited problems of dealing with federal agencies as an important example of such an area.

Monitoring and maintaining the process of student review of recorded information, as provided in the Buckley amendment. "I would predict," Skolnikoff said, "that 98 per cent of the cases which come up under this will offer no problem. But the other 2 per cent will probably pose some very tough issues."

Clarification of the "almost legal questions" of file usage involved in opening student files. The major issue which troubles future attempts at increasing privacy, Skolnikoff noted, are the "conflicting rights" involved — the right of privacy of the authors of a letter of recommendation, for example, versus the privacy rights of the person written about.

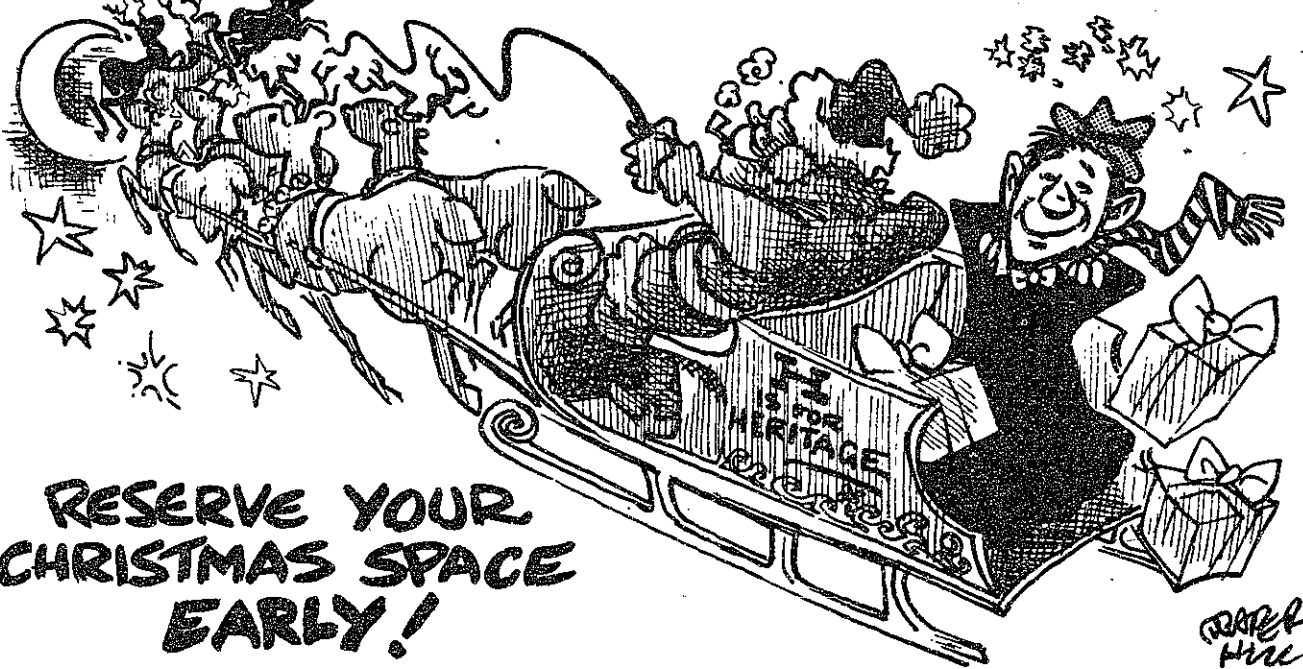
MIT "far ahead"

Despite the Institute's current problems with privacy legislation, MIT is "far ahead" of the general public and the rest of the

country in regard to privacy issues, most administrators and faculty say. MIT's policies even before the 1971 report showed greater concern for privacy than most governmental bodies or private concerns.

Nonetheless, there is still "no general faculty consciousness on privacy," nor is MIT sponsoring research on privacy, according to Special Assistant to the Provost Louis Menand III. While parts of the MIT faculty are very concerned with privacy, "on the broader legal and civil rights issues of privacy," Menand said, "MIT still has some improvements to make."

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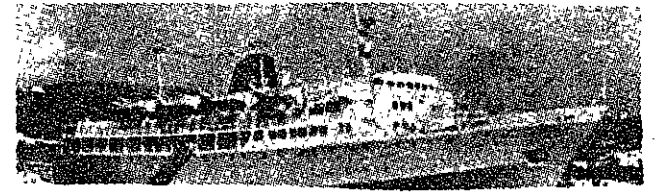
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Fac hears students on grades proposals

(Continued from page 1)
grades, getting rid of pass-fail and adding pluses and minuses to grades will reduce the amount of pressure on a student."

The proposals heard at the faculty meeting, even more than the committee's report, seemed, perhaps unintentionally, to create more bureaucracy which the average MIT student will soon need to find his way around. Student opinions at the meeting reflected this, as the student comments generally tended to find fault with many of the suggestions. The meeting was announced last week by letters to the faculty. However, the UA News Section in *monday*, which came out the morning of the meeting, gave a prominent position to the announcement of the meeting and probably accounted for the large student turnout (20 of the

100 people) at the faculty meeting.

The student presence was noticed enough that President Jerome Weisner, chairing the meeting, at one point invited comments from all the students present, in apparent violation of the rules regulating speaking privileges. Allowed to speak were the student members of the Ad Hoc Committee and of CEP, and UAP Steve Wallman '75, who presented questions suggested to him by the student contingent.

The controversial pass-fail proposals and a possible vote on the committee's report will be taken up again by the faculty at a time certain to decrease student attendance, the regular meeting of December 18, held on the Wednesday of finals week.

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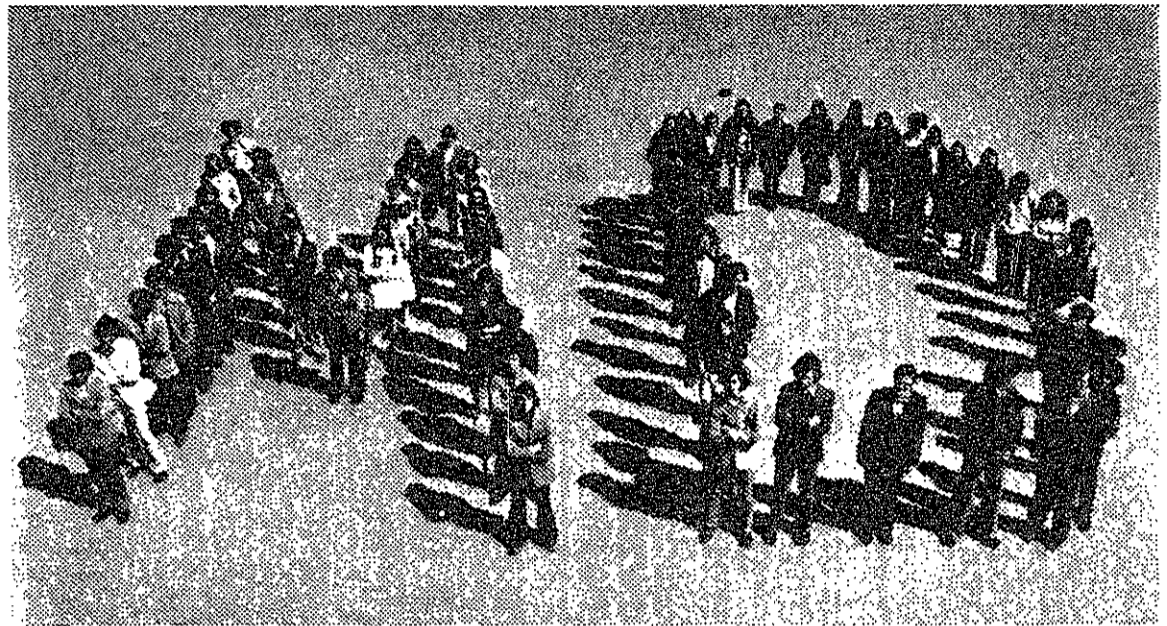
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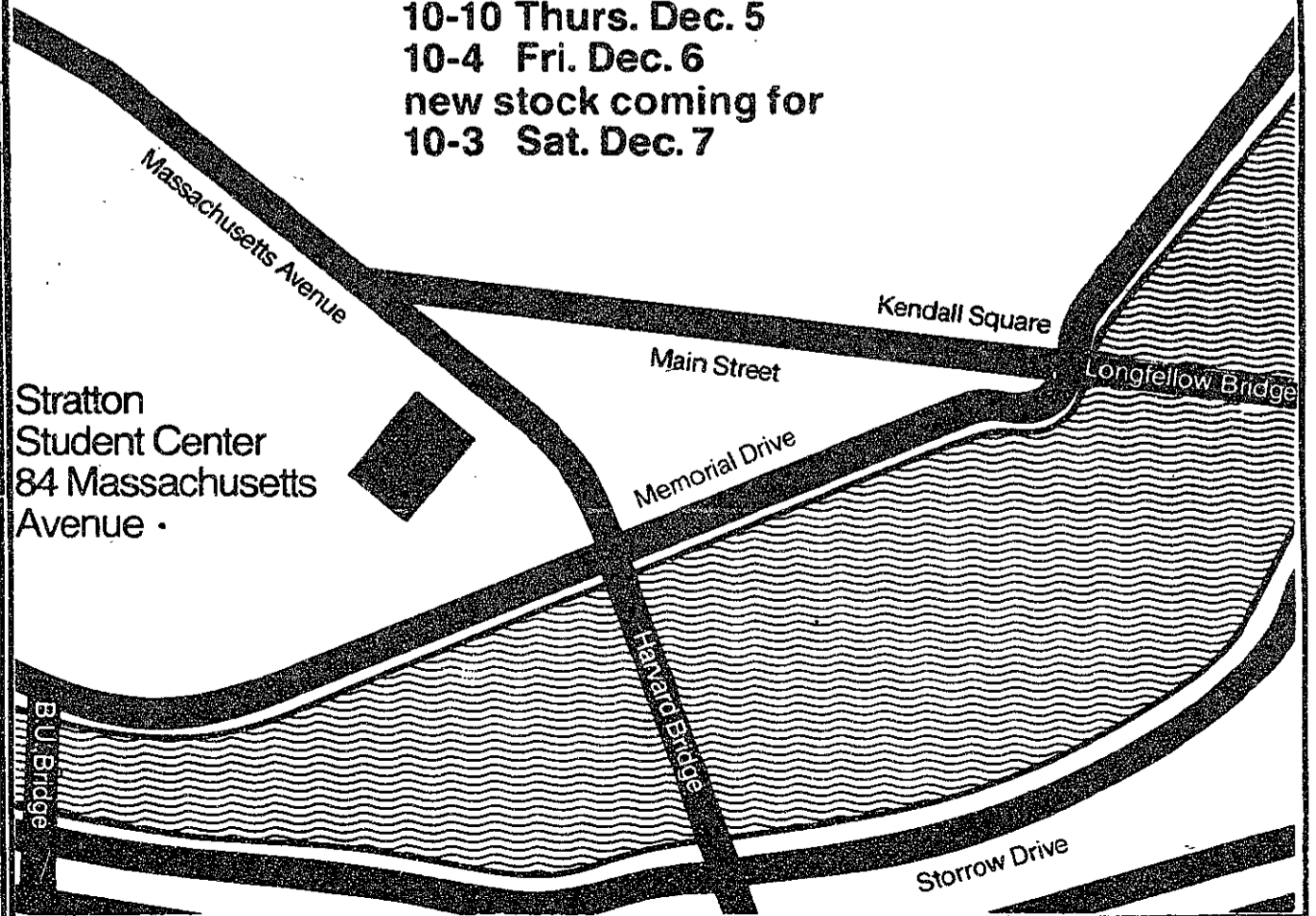
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**In Case of Insomnia -
Grades 2**

By Storm Kauffman

With the conclusion of last Monday's faculty meeting, some of the faculty's opinions on the grading system have come to light. I will take this opportunity to further elaborate (my column, Nov. 15) on my suggestions, and I urge students to make their views known by talking to their professors, to members of the CEP, or to their department heads and school deans. If you are going to be around next year, you certainly should have some input into the decision of how the grading system may be reorganized.

First, we can look at one grading experiment which has been made permanent (subject to review). This is freshman pass/fail. There was an immense amount of discussion about this issue when it came up for renewal in 1972 and 1973, and problems included overloads and hidden grades for pre-meds. The final program called for continuation of freshman p/f, with institution of a credit limit. The p/f idea is a good one in that it encourages experimentation in the freshman year and permits students of varied background to get through many Institute requirements in a low-pressure atmosphere. However, the credit limit is not as worthwhile - it limits the very experimentation that p/f is intended to encourage. Also, it postpones the discovery of personal work thresholds (maximum credible loads) until the student is on grades and in a department.

Along these lines, the recommendation that "No Record" grades replace "Fail" grades for all students is good. In 1972 the Committee on Evaluation of Freshman Performance suggested adoption of a no-record system as recognition of the fact that it already existed in principle (in the form of the late drop). From a student's standpoint, no-record will take away some of the drop pressure, will encourage taking more difficult subjects, and will eliminate a painful point of grade reports. The Grades Committee reasoning that transcripts should be a record of a student's positive achievement is valid: a class in which you probably learned nothing (why fail otherwise) should be of little interest to outsiders.

With the encouragement of students' attempts to improve their performance, the recommendation of taking a class a second time to improve the grade is fitting. For the grade-conscious it is a chance to perfect their cum; for the knowledge-thirsty it is a chance to pick up those points which could not be grasped the first time around.

So p/f for freshmen, no-record grading, and subject retake are all innovations which do or should help students improve their learning experience, and they should be retained or instituted as part of the revised system.

However, disturbed rumblings issue from some faculty. With a suggestion that the last date to add a class be made several weeks into the term, some call for a concurrent drop date. An early add date is reasonable: joining a class in mid-flight is not easy, and students should be encouraged to finalize their registration as early as possible. However, the drop date must not be made so early in the term. The faculty cannot realistically expect a student to make his drop decision weeks before he has taken his first quiz. With many instructors not giving their first quiz until as late as the sixth week, a student may not be able to recognize that he does not belong in a class before an early drop date. An early add date and early finalization and notification of registration status are workable (and well worth the elimination of roll cards), but advancing the drop date counters, in effect, the very intention of adopting a no-record system.

Jack Anderson

Food for Politics

By Jack Anderson

© United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

WASHINGTON - The United States does more to feed the world's hungry than any other nation on earth.

But we have little reason to be smug. For the truth is that our leaders use our food, not for humanitarian purposes, but to serve America's political and strategic interests.

The starving nations of Africa, for example, receive relatively little US aid. A food assistance request from the desperate nation of Sierra Leone is now languishing on the desk of some Washington bureaucrat. Meanwhile, that nation is forced to buy rice from Egypt at commercial rates.

But Egypt gets plenty of food aid from the United States, primarily because of its strategic position in the Middle East. Syria, too, benefits from its location in the Middle East tinderbox. It has just received a \$22.5 million loan - at a piddling two per cent interest - to buy food from us.

The bulk of our surplus food goes to East Asia - mainly South Vietnam and South Korea - where other strategic considerations are involved.

A starving child of the Third World knows little about international politics. Most are fortunate to know the name of their nation. But they have a much better chance of getting a meal if the United States wants to buy the friendship of the government.

Pampered Poohbahs

With the Christmas recess just weeks away, the State Department is beginning to feel the pressure from congressmen with a yen to globetrot.

Although Congress pays its own travel bills, the State Department serves as Capitol Hill's travel agency. Most of the striped-pants bureaucrats resent having to pamper the itinerant congressional hordes, but the top officials at State actually encourage the lawmakers' wanderlust.

No fewer than 25 State Department employees work full time ministering to Congress. Their annual budget exceeds half a million dollars. The sole rationale for this congressional "liaison" operation is to win enough votes to support the department in its annual budget fight.

State Department insiders have told us privately that congressional travel is a vital part of the lobbying effort. "We have no organized constituency," one official said, "so we have to line up the votes ourselves."

Thus, the State Department carries favor with congressmen by riding herd over the smallest details of their junkets. The diligent diplomats make hotel reservations, arrange flight schedules and fret about a host of other trivialities.

Internal cables, which we have obtained, notify foreign outposts that Sen. James Abourezk, D-S.D., for example, is a vegetarian. Other telegrams flashed

word that Rep. Edward Hutchinson, R-Mich., wanted tickets for the opera "Aida" during a junket to Austria.

The State Department is so grand-motherly that legislators occasionally ask the department not to assist them with their plans, so that the diplomats will not get underfoot.

"Nyet!"

There is a strong possibility, as we have reported, that the cold war between the United States and Russia will be renewed in Europe. Economic and political chaos in Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Greece has made the Continent ripe for revolution.

President Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger fear these nations may fall like dominos to the Communists. The Soviets, meanwhile, are beginning once again to speak of worldwide Communist revolution.

U.S. intelligence analysts, however, are convinced that the world will be spared another cold war. The reason: European leaders, both capitalist and Communist, do not want to be dominated by any superpower.

Take, for example, the West European Communist parties. By and large, they are more concerned with domestic problems than in getting along with Moscow.

The one exception is Portugal. The Communist party there is strongly pro-Moscow. Italian Communists, on the other hand, have been badgering their European comrades to break away from the Kremlin's grip. And the traditionally independent French Communists have been following the Italian lead. They, too, think that too close an association with the Soviets would be detrimental to their cause.

The Spanish Communist party has been at odds with Moscow since Russia invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968. Soviet and Spanish Communists recently patched over some of their differences. But it was Moscow that had to knuckle under, not the Spaniards.

In Greece, the Communists are deeply split between pro- and anti-Moscow factions.

In short, the United States and Russia may well be girding up for a new cold war. But their European allies are proving to be reluctant participants.

Henry's Hangup

Secretary of State Kissinger, who has a fine eye for a pretty ankle, took special notice of the foreign minister from Uganda at the UN a few weeks ago. The African diplomat is the striking Elizabeth Bagaya, who once modeled for Vogue magazine under the nom de plume "Elizabeth of Toro." Each foreign minister Kissinger met for days thereafter was greeted with a comment along these lines: "It's nice to meet you. But I have seen prettier foreign ministers."

Saxbe Sacked?

Some of President Ford's most powerful associates have urged him to fire Atty.

Gen. William Saxbe, whom they view as lazy and loose-tongued. But Ford promised Saxbe months ago that he could have the job as long as he wants and the President is a man who stands by his word. Even though Ford, too, has soured on Saxbe, our sources say the President will patiently wait for him to quit of his own accord.

Eulogy

Four years ago, a young priest named Father Tito was mercilessly tortured by the Brazilian government. He was beaten, burned with cigarettes and live electric wires were stuffed into his mouth. Fearing he would eventually betray his friends - all political enemies of the military regime - he attempted to cut his wrists.

A few days ago, at the age of 28, Father Tito died in Paris, where he had gone for sanctuary. In Brazil, Father Tito's brothers celebrated a mass for his soul, thus risking the same kind of torture that Father Tito suffered.

Continuous News Service

The Tech

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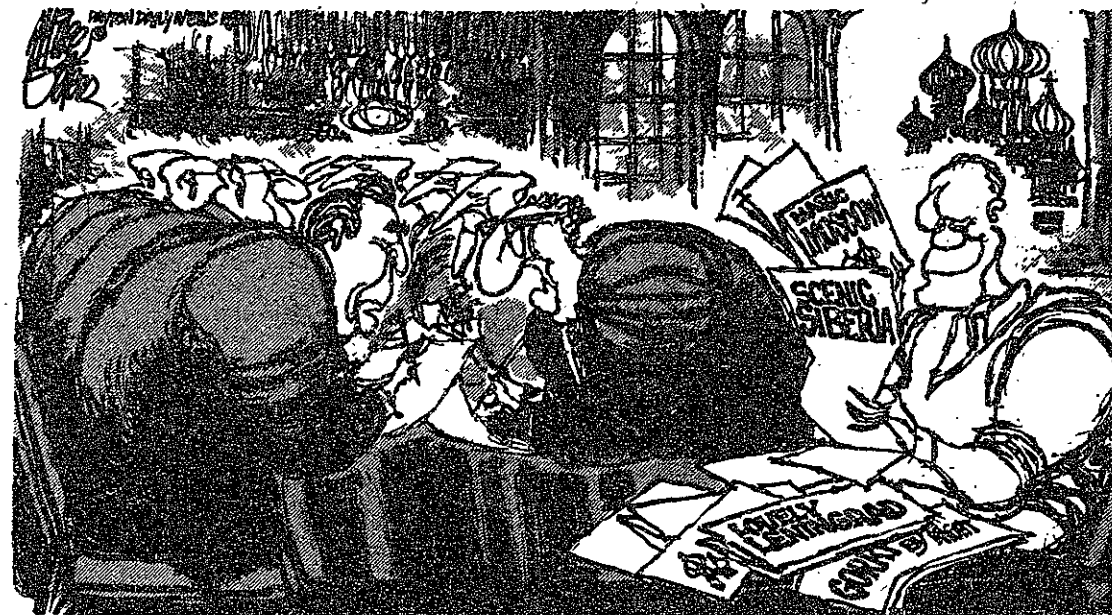
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Police Blotter

Police Blotter is a weekly compilation of Campus Patrol Activities on and off the MIT campus. Items for the Blotter are selected by the Patrol.

Students who plan to be away for the upcoming Holiday/IAP periods, and who lack adequate storage facilities for safeguarding valuable personal property such as stereos, typewriters, etc. may leave such items at the Campus Patrol headquarters (Bldg. W31-215) for safekeeping. Items should be boxed or packaged where possible.

11/26/74

The Patrol has been notified of the larceny of a typewriter from Building 5. This is a Smith Corona - 220 Automatic Portable machine. Information on this machine has been forwarded to the local departments for a check of the pawnshops.

11/28/74

The Campus Patrol, while conducting a routine check of the West Garage, observed a vehicle with an unlocked door. The vehicle had been observed in the same location on the previous days. Papers had been strewn on the floor and property to the value of \$40,00 had been taken. Members of the community are advised to check their

vehicles. Unlocked doors are an invitation for larcenies.

11/28/74

The Campus Patrol received a report of a suspicious person in Building 7. The patrolmen were notified that this subject was found in one of the offices. An arrest was made after the person refused to identify himself. This person failed to appear in the Third District Court, and a Default Warrant was issued against him.

11/29/74

A report was received from the Student Center of the larceny of some change left on the table by one of the students. A check of the vicinity produced two youths who were identified by the student as the culprits. The student was informed that he could obtain a complaint in court against the thief but declined.

11/29/74

As the result of information the Campus Patrol stopped a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed in the vicinity of Amherst Alley. Five occupants of the vehicle, none of whom had any

affiliation with MIT were taken to the office and checked out. Students are urged to report any suspicious vehicle, especially during the late hours, to the Campus Patrol for a check.

The Campus Patrol reports close to 1,000 ambulance assistance calls as of December 1, 1974.

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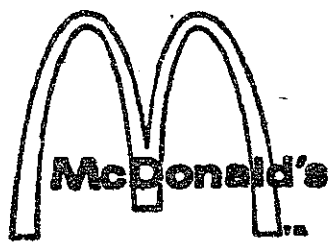
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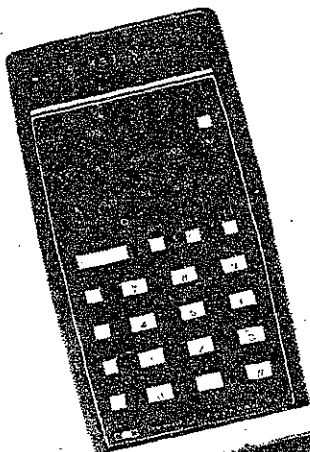
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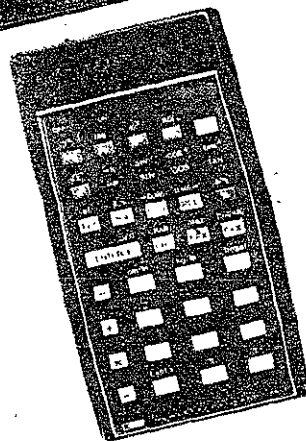
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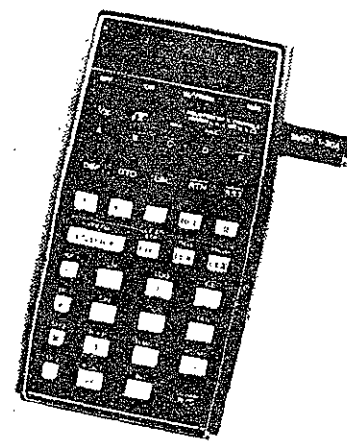
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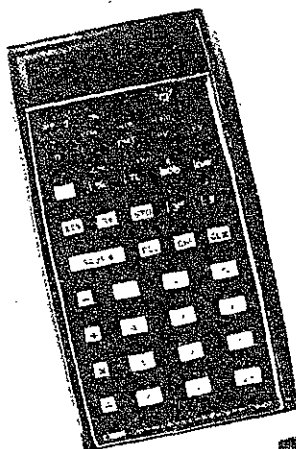
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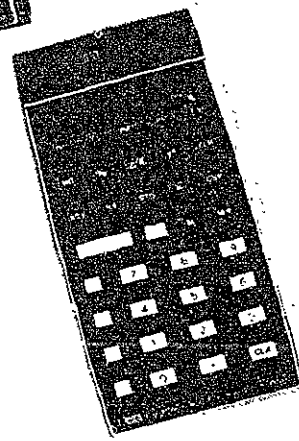
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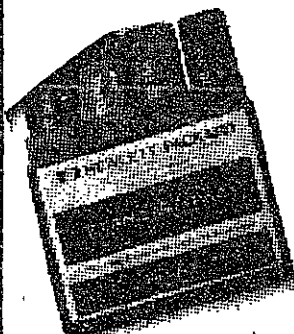
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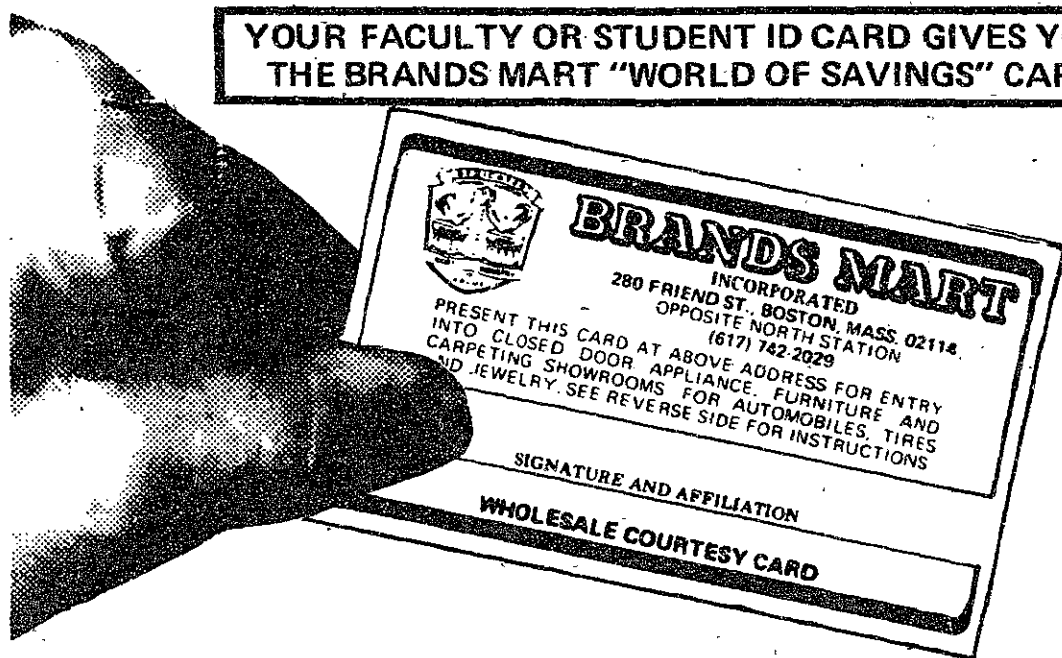
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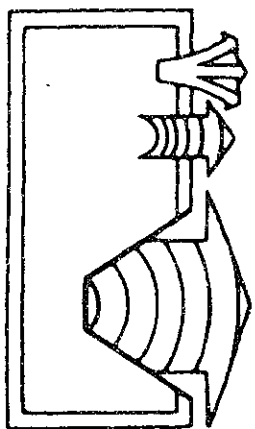
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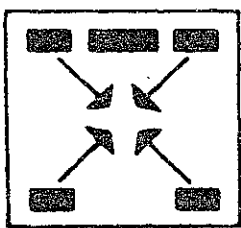
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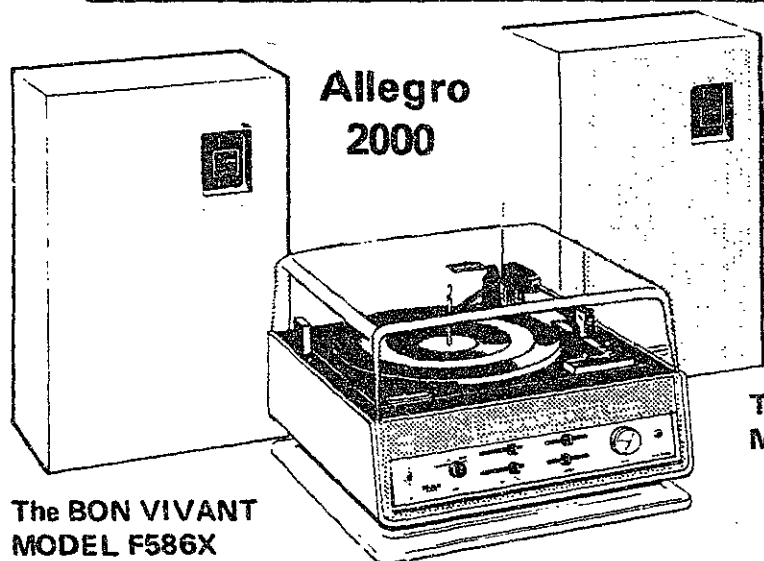
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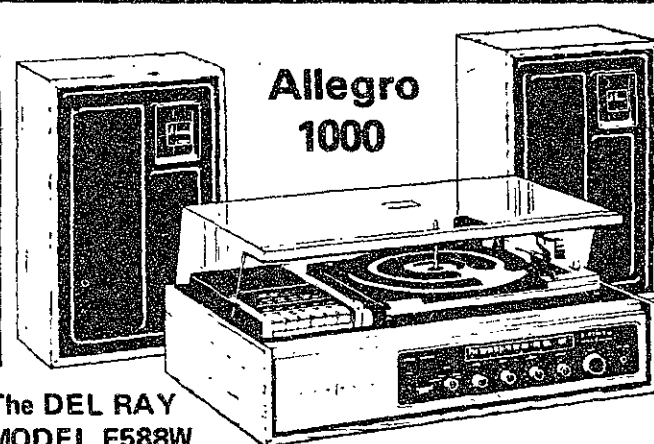
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Allegro 2000

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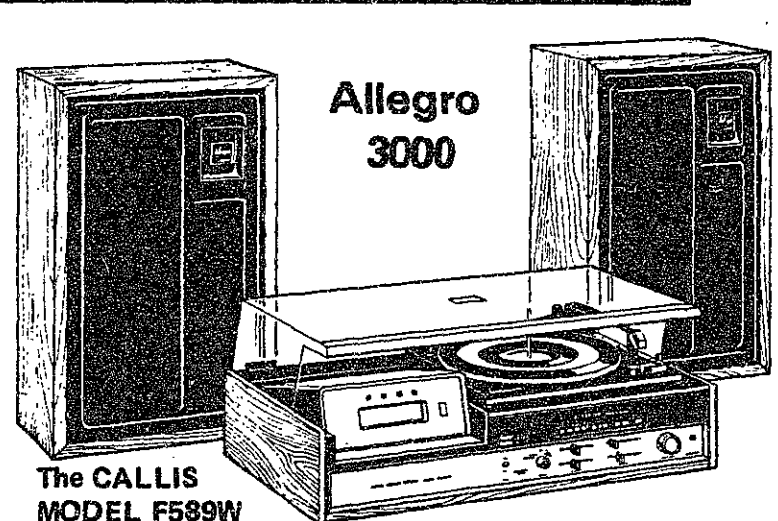
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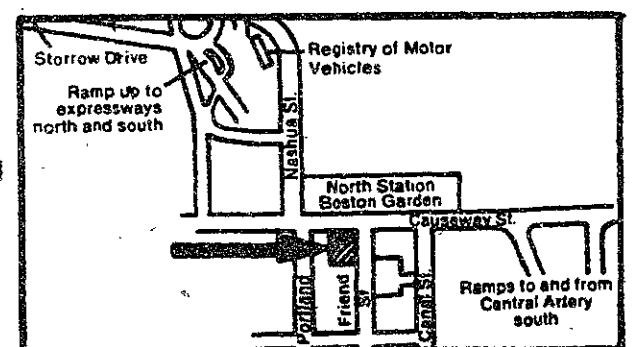
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NOTES

* Spring 1975 Wellesley-MIT Exchange. Information available in living groups, department headquarters, libraries, and Exchange Office, Room 5-108, MIT. Applications due Monday, January 6, in person or mail in by December 28.

* 4.051 Creative Photography I No lottery for Spring term. Just sign up in W31-310. For information call 3-4424.

* Handcrafted pottery, ornaments, jewelry, toys and baked goods will be just a few of the items attracting holiday shoppers at the TWO Holiday Art & Craft Sale in the Building 10 Lobby on Thursday, December 12, from 8am-6pm. The event, sponsored by the Technology Wives Organization as a fund-raising effort, is open to the public.

* New York photographer Paul McDonough, visiting lecturer in photography at the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn has an exhibition of his work at the MIT Creative Photography Laboratory, Nov. 27 through Dec. 19. McDonough is a former student of Garry Winogrand. His work has been exhibited in numerous group shows in the East. Besides work as artist and teacher, he is also a commercial free-lance photographer. Open daily, the MIT Creative Photography Gallery is situated on the third floor of duPont Gymnasium at 120 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge.

* The Suitcase Circus, an entertaining musical and mime theater, a visit by Santa Claus and holiday goodies are the treats in store for the

kiddies at the "Holiday Frolic" (Children's Winter Party) sponsored by the Technology Wives Organization on Saturday, December 14 at 10:00am in the Sala de Puerto Rico of the Student Center. The event is open to the MIT community. Admission: 50 cents - children (under 1 year free), 75 cents - adults. For more information and reservations, call Gloria Feves, 232-4892.

* The Wellesley College Theatre will present *The Game of Love and Chance* at 8pm in Alumnae Hall on December 6, 7, and 8, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings. Written by Pierre de Marivaux, the 1730 French comedy is directed by Paul R. Barstow, Chairperson of the Theatre Studies Department. Designer for the production is Eric Levenson. Tickets are \$2.00; admission for high school students is 50 cents.

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