"Senturia urges students to 'put aside rancor'"

By Norman D. Sandler

Associate Professor Steve Senturia has sent a letter to all residents of McCormick Hall, urging residents to put aside "personal rancor" caused last week by the Students Against Senturia (SAS) protest. Dean for Student Affairs Carela Eisenberg had been asked to remove him as McCormick housemaster (see The Tech, March 12, 1974)."Senturia said an effort is now underway to heal "rifts that occurred" in the house after it was learned that written complaints against Senturia had been turned over to the Dean's office for action.

In the letter, (see page 4) Senturia said he and his wife, Alice, have discussed the complaints brought against him with the McCormick Judicial Committee. "In an open and frank way," he told The Tech that during the meetings with the judicial committee members, "we talked over what was bugging all of us, although not all of us agreed. We thought the discussions would have any bearing on the decision facing Eisenberg.

Eisenberg said Monday the Dean's office is playing a mediating role in the discussions underway at McCormick, but added she is still looking into the charges brought against Senturia by the judicial committee.

The judicial committee transmitted written complaints against Senturia to Eisenberg's office, and first began talks on his removal as housemaster. However, in the letter the electrical engineering professor had praise for the way in which the matter was handled by the committee.

Senturia advised McCormick residents who were angry with the committee's actions to "temper your anger with respect for their courage in having pursued what has been to them a tense and difficult path." The Senturia added that they believed the judicial committee was acting not out of "malicious intent," but "with a conviction that they were serving best the long term interest of the residents of McCormick Hall.

The letter strongly hinted that the question of Senturia's tenure as housemaster would not be brought up before a larger body of McCormick residents for discussion. When asked about future discussions, Senturia would not elaborate on comments made in the letter.

By Margaret Brandeau
Development of communication skills is an important part of education. Often scientists and engineers find themselves lacking in this area when they get out in the business world. MIT has been trying to do something to remedy this. Through the elective Scientific and Engineering Writing (21.10), Professor Robert Rathbone tries to help students with writing problems they encounter, such as the writing of theses, term papers, journal articles, and technical reports.

"I don't think that students at MIT get as much help in writing as they could," Rathbone commented. When freshmen composition was done away with in 1949 it was thought that the new core subjects would teach writing. Although students do write in those courses, Rathbone feels that "something the teaching of writing was lost along the way." Rathbone has referred to any direct questions to this end.

"I offer an elective and help on as many fronts as possible," Rathbone noted. Rathbone that as engineers progress further in their work, they realize the need for writing skills. "Very few undergraduates seek out a course in technical writing, graduate students ask for such a course, and engineers beg for one," he said.

For his 10 students do a short piece of writing, they then discuss them in class. One of the assignments his students had to explain how a simple electronic device works, to someone who had never seen it. One student wrote on how to use a telephone. "This sounds like a very simple, childish thing to do, but it gives students the basis of organizing their thoughts properly," Rathbone notes.

Another assignment was to edit an actual manuscript written by a physician at Arthur D. Little Co. Rathbone feels that editing gives students an appreciation of the problems involved in processing and communicating. "It's important to understand how people read things, as well as how they write them," he said.

Students in the course practice writing to different audiences. They also do oral reports, for Rathbone feels that students generally do not have enough chance to do oral reporting.

The end of the semester, students are required to do a
First MITV news taped; Monitors put in bldg 7

By Dave Danford

"Do you know how to hang a light?..." "Don't tell me the mike just clanked on the floor!..." "This ought to be exciting at any rate. I don't know what I'm doing!"

Such was the scene last Thursday evening as a group of about twenty students applied their interest, creativity, and expertise to MITV news.

MITV staffer, Mike Thomas '74 said that the weekly videotaped news shows were to feature news of interest to the MIT community. Friday's program included such diverse items as interviews with Ken Browning on coed housing, and James Killian about his experiences as Presidential Science Advisor.

Although MITV made its debut on only one monitor in the building seven lobby, Thomas indicated that long range plans call for running cable all over campus to various viewing points. "At one time we planned to put on shows twice a week, but that probably won't happen for a long time," he said.

Last week's show marked the culmination of planning which dates back almost a year. "The first inklings of MITV," said Craig Reynolds '75, Production Supervisor of MITV, "were toward the end of second semester last spring. The idea sort of germinated over the summer."

According to Thomas, MITV is an educational experience. "We try to keep it unstructured," he said, "so everyone has a chance to do what they want to. We won't have it down to routine for a long time."

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Professor Richard Leacock

Leacock discusses films

By Bob Moore

"Film making is not nearly as difficult as writing an opera," and, according to Richard Leacock, Professor of Architecture, that may be one reason that his film making course enjoys such popularity.

Leacock teaches his film classes in building E-21, which, if you can find it, is the film section of the Architecture Department. "We're sort of isolated here, but there is a move to change that," Leacock commented. "We'd like to convert this whole area into an arts area," he continued, "along the lines of Harvard Square.

Before he came to MIT, Leacock had a film company with D.A. Pennebaker, and made several commercial films. They "got into a lot of trouble because we were taken over by a business type," and soon after leaving the company Leacock came to MIT. While with Pennebaker, the company made such films as "Monsiey Pops," which served as a model for many of the rock music films to follow. Looking back at it now, Leacock remembers that the theme song of that movie, "something about San Francisco and flowers in your hair" was about on a par with "White Christmas." That was the time of the flower movement, and although he was more interested in documentary films, Leacock considers "Montrey Pops" successful.

How did Leacock get from the flower movement to MIT? "Wiesner asked me what MIT could contribute to the art of film making, and I thought that was an excellent way to ask." So about four and a half years ago, Leacock joined the then six month old film section, which was begun by Edward Pincus, Associate Professor of Architecture.

Leacock was soon part of a research team, studying the possibility of developing inexpensive equipment to shoot sound synchronized film. At that time, an eight millimeter sound synchronized camera cost around $15,000, and Leacock hoped to reduce that price to around $1000. "We hoped to develop a whole system for $200-camera, editing equipment, recorder, everything, but it ran closer to $8000." Still, there is a camera which is now mass produced for $1500, and it is light and inexpensive enough that it can be used for more imaginative purposes.

One student of Leacock's took a camera on board a Texaco oil tanker, and did some community filming for the Sierra Club. "You could never take one of those luxuriously expensive models for something like that," Leacock added, "it would be thrown overboard or something."

Now, Leacock's attention has turned toward the practical use of the "super 8." Four of the systems have been sold to educational and television stations, who use them, "to do what they would do anyway cheaper." Some of his students' works have been aired, and although "it has usually been at 2:00am," the stations have been generally cooperative.

Leacock is interested in finding someone who wants to use film in relation to their outside knowledge, "rather than training an army of technicians." At MIT, Leacock has been successful in this goal. He actually has people involved in the technical end who are making films themselves.

"Actually, I'm sort of sick of super 8," Leacock commented. "Your name gets associated with a particular thing, and there is a tendency to get stuck in it. Someone calls you in the middle of the night -- it doesn't work."

After super 8, Leacock isn't sure what he will do. He is sure that it will be "something much more imaginative."

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In Case of Insomnia

Communication: a vital skill in any career

By Steven Kaufman

If you look at this issue, and at this column, you will probably come to one conclusion: we are beating this subject to death. As I've never been one to miss an opportunity to beat a subject to death, I'll accept this chance to consider a somewhat auxiliary idea.

First, I would applaud the proposal to eliminate the overly bureaucratic humanistic requirements, I do agree with the contention that the humanistic fields are of great importance. However, I've never understood what I would term "communications skills."

Working on a newspaper (as an editor et al), I have to spew out a good deal of writing per week. In other words, a substantial demand is placed on my majors writing skills. But, because of this need to produce merchants, I have become very much aware of the importance of developing writing techniques.

"But then, you know, not everyone who comes to MIT can write (haven't I proved that)? I have heard numerous complaints from professors that most of the students who write will play a vital role in their careers, be they in science or otherwise.

In fact, one of the "recruiting" gimmicks that come from various departments of the students who write is extremely vital in big business in people with proven communications skills. This has become increasingly important for those in the technical fields. You have to learn to communicate clearly and effectively.

The faculty tends to respect the hard work that goes into the drafting of proposals that come before it. It can be considered that the importance of this requirement will not be modified too much at the meeting. But the amendments and changes that might be made will have a profound effect on the directions that the new requirement takes when it is implemented.

The most basic controversy that has surfaced is the revision of the old requirement for the humanities in the liberal arts, in the literature, history, and the social sciences. The humanities have maintained that the present distribution requirement does not stress such desirable educational goals as the teaching of writing, and the importance of interaction in small classes, and the importance of writing. Several times during the discussions, the faculty members who have proposed the new requirement have maintained that specific language should be written into the proposal establishing the priority of the humanistic fields, especially in the distribution subjects that are presently free from humanity courses.

The final proposal takes some of these objections into consideration. The proposal is that the humanities, and specifically the aims and objectives of the program in Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics, are: (1) dissemination of knowledge in communications. (2) Knowledge of human cultures, past and present. (3) Awareness of concepts, ideas, and systems of thought that underlie human activities. (4) Understanding of the social, political, economic and cultural framework of our society. These concepts can be brought into the meeting of literature in February that would go far beyond this in specifying the areas from which the Distribution subjects could be drawn.

The debate here seems to be fairly basic: are humanities subjects the way to go, or even the only way to impart liberal education (or, in MIT's case, a liberalized education) to a student? The most important members who have proposed the restriction of Distribution subjects to the humanities seems to feel that MIT students are given too much of a "humanistic" education to continue on this path. I don't think that either of these questions have been answered yet. Although the faculty members who have scored the wrong in the past (for instance, the assumption that MIT students already have the knowledge of the humanistic fields that they are in high school, I don't think that any more concern has been given to the importance of the humanities in the structure of the Institute requirements.

Fortunately, the committee that will be established by the new proposal will be able to bring to light the fact that distribution subjects are not just a liberal education - hopefully without having to make our changes out.

Letters to The Tech

McCormick debate

To the Editor:
The following letter is being distributed to the Residents of McCormick Hall.

As you are now well aware, the debate at the McCormick Judcom has lodged with the Dean for Student Affairs a series of complaints about our actions. We present these as Housemasters at Housemasters of McCormick Hall. Please understand, it is our duty to voice our concerns with Housemasters, and the Judcom members were acting within their rights when they brought the complaints to the Dean.

Many of these complaints should not be debated in open forum for a variety of reasons. We have now discussed the issues with the Judcom in an open and frank way. We have tried to provide the students with the information from these discussions, and we expect that there will be improvements in how we relate to the residents in the future.

Many of you are angry about the manner in which Judcom conducted the complaints, and with the secretiveness which surrounded their actions. We would like to ask, however, that you also support our anger with respect for our courage in having pursued what has been a sensitive and difficult issue.

The fact that Judcom did not raise these complaints with malicious intent, but with a conviction that they were serving the long term interests of the dorm. The reason the complaints went to the Dean's Office is that the complaints did not feel that we could comfortably confront us directly. We understand and acknowledge, in fact, one of the complaints has been that we had difficulty in approaching certain residents with the complaints.

For this reason, we ask that all of our efforts to be devoted to helping those which have occurred, and that we attempt to put aside the personal recriminations. A complete and comprehensive article in The Tech and the accompanying disclosure of Judcom's efforts will have generated from these discussions. As always, we are available to you in the house for discussion of any problem.

Steve and Alice Senturia
Housemasters, McCormick Hall

The Tech since 1881

PAGE 4 TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1974

Through the Looking Glass: Humanities: let them eat cake...

By Mike McNamee

News Editor

Tomorrow, if all goes planned, the faculty will vote on the future of the Institute requirement in Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics. This vote, the end product of a long and arduous discussion, will set the broad outlines of humanity education at MIT, if not for ever.

Whether or not the number of people present will be sufficient to really settle the problem is of little importance at this (although the problem has probably settled more important issues with fewer members than will be present tomorrow). The process that was started by Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, William Hahn when he came to MIT last June will be finished, and a new requirement will take effective next term.

There is no quick and easy way to sum up the proposal in a few words (for proof of that, see the reams of material in The Tech has already printed trying to explain it). The latest document, the proposal that will be presented to the faculty tomorrow, is essentially the same as the one presented at the last Judcom meeting, with changes being made to the Prin-eady of the requirement to set forth more specifically the aims and content of the requirement.

The faculty tends to respect the hard work that goes into the drafting of proposals that come before it, it can be considered that the importance of this requirement will not be modified too much at the meeting. But the amendments and changes that might be made will have a profound effect on the directions that the new requirement takes when it is implement-ated.

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Letters to The Tech

Feminism

To the Editor:

As a female, I have been heartened by the continuing news of various efforts to advance the roles of women. MIT is currently seeking applications from women for a visiting research position. I have even nobly by not offering a freshness a chance at a seat for papal patronage at the expense of ensuring a freshness at the best seat (by refusing to offer his wife's first name). I asked my wife if she thought we should be interested. Both are women, one black, one white.

Finally, the only circumstances in which "special seating privileges" seem justified are 1) in the case of someone who has worked very hard to bring the event about and 2) when the event is newsworthy, in which case the press (or better yet, a single press representative) should have first-time access to the event. Therefore, at the Ellsberg lecture, a few (2-3) good seats (not best seats) should have been assured for those SCC members responsible for this lecture and for reporters from the campus newspapers only on the grounds that they could truly be considered "first-hand coverage of this event worthy of first-hand courage." Scott W. Rohly '76

Ellsberg lecture I

To the Editor:

Michael D. McNamara seems to think that one of the main flaws of the lecture which drives Ellsberg was the way in which the press was treated by the SCC. The SCC apparently decided that they "felt that Ellsberg was rather insular" and so asked nothing about the applicant's mother, father's name and occupation but asked nothing about the applicant's mother, father's name and occupation but asked about the press's relationship to Ellsberg. I ask you to reflect back to the speech which was raised by the Vietnam war, which Ellsberg gave here three years ago. It was a "topic of the research. Hence, the "few" people who stayed for the question and answer period afterwards would have at least in the original audience, or about 500 people.

In sum, then, if McNamara wishes to disagree with the SCC's handling of the lecture, that's certainly his privilege. He certainly had some legitimate grievances. But when those objections degenerate into childish frustrated and vilification of a distinguished speaker, they are unpardonable. Whether or not one agrees with Ellsberg's political views, he certainly had many interesting things to say, and his remarks seemed to be strongly appreciated by the vast majority of the audience.

Jim Adams '77

Steve Tobin '77

Ellsberg lecture II

To the Editor:

Re Mike McNamara's article on the Ellsberg speech, in The Tech of March 15, serves the best interests of this student community - demands which often confront the School of Humanities and Social Studies, and which were raised by the Vietnam war, which Ellsberg gave here three years ago. It was a "topic of the research. Hence, the "few" people who stayed for the question and answer period afterwards would have at least in the original audience, or about 500 people.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1974 PAGE 5

The right- to know, as Daniel Ellsberg spoke of it, is on privilege which re- spect is due to the upholders of our democratic society. Unfortunately, I do not feel that Michael McNamara's column, Ellsberg's MIT lecture: March 15, served the best interests of this student community - demands which often confront the School of Humanities and Social Studies, and which were raised by the Vietnam war, which Ellsberg gave here three years ago. It was a "topic of the research. Hence, the "few" people who stayed for the question and answer period afterwards would have at least in the original audience, or about 500 people.

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Jim Adams '77

Steve Tobin '77
Grad student funding "going up modestly"

(Continued from page 1)

- House tutors, which encompass about 50 students who receive room and board in return for dormitory tutoring service.

- The newly created energy traineeships offered by the National Science Foundation to 150 students at 15 institutions. These use federal funds to provide $3600/year stipends plus tuition for graduate students in the energy field. "We just sent off a huge petition for some of these funds," said Sizer, "and we think we're in a pretty good position to get more than our share of them."

Sizer said black students "in general" had more trouble getting support. A black student "may have a very high IQ, but his actual record in competition is not that good," he explained, pointing to a bias in the standardized tests used to award many of the fellowships. Sizer added that funding problems persisted for women, too.

MIT does well in competition for grants, since it is rated number 1 nationally in engineering, number 2 in architecture, and number 6 in management. "We're playing the quality game," Sizer said, "we're trying to become the best in whatever we do."

Leacock: what next for the film section?

(Continued from page 3)

more personal," maybe watching all the "bit of peculiar things we all do."

He has just made a film of "various friends eating soft boiled eggs," and another recent film involves himself taking a bath. "I'm interested in the subjects that you couldn't film when movies had to cost $100,000," he added. "What was the subject matter of photography painting?"

Documentary films are his main interest, and Leacock does not see himself as a movie fan. With both he and Pincus loving started in documentaries, "there is a documentary bias here (the film section), but it is not total." He didn't think much of "The Exorcism," but added "I was as hell scared the hell out of you. But he (the director) had his fun, and he sure knows how to make money." Leacock sees the film section as the "photographic, film, visual aspect" of the Architecture department. When asked about its inclusion in that department, Leacock noted that it "makes more sense than the Chemistry department."

Thursday, March 21

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Sports

Although unable to match the team scores of the University of Maine, MIT's varsity rifle team performed admirably in both the National Rifle Association sectional and the New England College Rifle League finals held at MIT over the past two weekends.

MIT, with scores of 2033 and 2047, finished far behind Maine's 2208 in the NRA competition. Jesse Villagran '77 was the Engineers' bright spot, finishing fifth among individual shooters with 104 points. MIT's team score of 1054 marked a noticeable improvement over earlier season marks.

The road racing team is part of the MIT Automobile Club, the oldest college sports car club in the nation. The team is now in its third year and has been the New England Intercollegiate Road Racing Championship for two consecutive years against minimal competition. The team also holds two track records and has started from the pole position five times in the highly competitive showroom stock sedan racing category.

The road racers' season will begin on April 27. The race, part of the New England Road Racing Championship, will be at Lime Rock Park, in northeastern Connecticut.

The Burger King Corporation has agreed to provide the team with funds to meet their expenses. The Burger King Corporation has agreed to provide the team with funds to meet their expenses. The team will finally have a racing season optimistically since looking forward to the 1974 season.

MIT road racing team secures a sponsor; preps for '74 season

By Jeff Colbert

The MIT road racing team is looking forward to the 1974 racing season optimistically since the team will finally have a sponsor to help them meet expenses.

The Burger King Corporation has agreed to provide the team with funds to meet their budget. Atamin Ford will sell the team parts for their two Ford Pintos at cost. In addition, Semperit tires will be purchased at cost. The sponsor is the result of a five month long drive by Joel Bradley G., the team's sponsorship chairman.

"The sponsorship will allow us to continue our past level of involvement, which included 24 starts in 17 races last year, in spite of increased costs," said Auto Club President Dave Ziegelheim '75.

Because of the high costs involved in maintaining race cars, sponsorship has been an integral part of auto racing for many years. The sponsor receives publicity and advertising in return for money, parts, or services. The MIT team's sponsorship is the result of a five month long drive by Joel Bradley G., the team's sponsorship chairman.

The road racers hope to augment their racing with instrumentation to improve evaluations of the drivers, cars, and tires. Information will be gained by timing the car's performance on specific sections of the track, and by obtaining plots of speed and lateral accelerations around the track.

Although the gas shortage has severely cut back on recreational driving, the team foresees only minor inconveniences. The sanctioning organizations will probably provide gasoline for competitors at the track, and arrange for nearby gas stations to be open. The number of separate race events have been reduced by 25 percent.

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