

"Continuous News Service  
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# The Tech

What's inside Senior  
House?

(See photo essay pages 4-5)

VOLUME 95, NUMBER 39

MIT, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1975



Guess who's coming to your Commons dinner. The state tax commissioner, that's who. Massachusetts is now applying the 8 percent tax to student contract meal plans — such as Commons — and it's costing MIT students up to \$85 this year in tax on top of already-expensive Commons charges. Enjoy your meal.

## Colleges fight meals tax

By Mike McNamee

Three Massachusetts colleges have filed a class-action suit against the Commonwealth to force exemption of college contract meals from the state meals excise tax.

The trustees of Boston University, Holy Cross and Mount Holyoke have asked the Suffolk Superior Court to keep the state Corporations and Taxation Department from collecting the 8 percent "old age" meals tax on Commons-type contract meals plans.

The suit, in which the three schools claim to represent all independent colleges and univer-

sities in the state, is part of a growing political battle centered on whether the financially-hard-pressed state government should be able to collect the tax from students whom the colleges say are "captive customers."

In addition to the legal maneuverings, the General Court's budgetary considerations have been part of the battle, as colleges have lobbied for a bill specifically exempting college contract meals from the meal tax.

At MIT, the political considerations boil down to whether some 700 students on Commons meals plans will have to pay up

to \$85 a year in tax on their meals. Commons rates here, set last March, were adjusted to take the tax into consideration as of Sept. 1, so many students are already feeling the pinch of the tax.

The fight began in July, when the legislature raised the meals tax from its old level of 5 percent to 8 percent while keeping the exemption for all meals costing \$1 or less. At that time, the Commissioner of Corporations and Taxation ruled that college contract meals, which had not been taxed previously, would be subject to the full tax rate.

"In past years, it was felt that if a meals contract was spread out over individual meals, most of those meals would cost less than \$1 and thus would be exempt," Nicholas Metaxas of the taxation department explained. "But in recent years it seems that the amounts charged are reaching such a level that any reasonable allocation of costs would bring the per-meal charge over \$1.

Taxation Commissioner Owen L. Clarke, in a memo sent to colleges dated Aug. 1, stated the new policy "any college, university, other educational or charitable institution... whether public or private, providing meals or alcoholic beverages" would be required to collect and pay the tax.

The colleges argue, however, that the ruling on contract meal taxation was improperly made and that they were not informed of the ruling until after it took effect on Sept. 1. "Because the contract prices made no provision for payment of the 8 percent meals tax purchased by the student, the added charge for a tax on students would now be unfair," a statement released by the schools states.

The schools are asking for a temporary injunction against the taxation department to keep it from imposing the tax on any college or university meals contract plan and for a ruling that the regulation governing such a tax was made illegally and therefore is invalid. Arguments in the case are scheduled for next Tuesday in Suffolk Superior Court.

Meanwhile, the tax status of  
(Please turn to page 3)

## Cause of Tang fire still not understood

By Mike McNamee

Investigation of the July 22 fire in Tang Hall has failed to discover the cause of the blaze which fatally injured an MIT graduate student living the building.

MIT officials and state fire marshals have completed separate investigations of the fires, which raged for about 30 minutes in the corridor on the 19th floor of the building, without reaching any conclusion as to what started the fire.

The state fire marshal's office has ruled the blaze a "fire of undetermined origin," after its investigation revealed no evidence of arson in the fire which injured three people and fatally burned Renato Ribeiro, an MIT graduate student from Sao Paulo, Brazil.

An MIT report prepared by the Office of the Vice President for Operations also failed to pin down the how the fire started.

"We haven't been able to determine the cause of that fire, despite all our tests, the tests done by the fire marshals and those of Factory Mutual's (MIT's insurer) laboratories," Special Assistant to the Vice President for Operations Richard Sorenson told *The Tech*. "We simply don't know how we got a fire of that intensity in that corridor that morning."

The 20-page MIT report, which Sorenson compiled from evidence submitted by the Physical Plant, Medical Department, Campus Patrol, Safety Office, Housing and Dining Service, and other MIT departments, has been sent to Herrick, Smith, Donald and Farley, the Institute's law firm, for review. Herrick, Smith will send the report to another area firm which is representing Ribeiro's family locally, but no legal action against MIT is expected to result.

The fire, which sounded alarms in Tang and in the Physical Plant Control Center at 11:24am July 22, started in a pile of cardboard boxes left near a trash

chute in the 19th-floor corridor of the building, according to the reports. Analysis of the remains of the boxes showed they contained some paper and other trash — "stuff that might have come from cleaning out an apartment," Sorenson said — but nothing which might have set off the fire.

Tang House Manager "Scotty" Thompson, and Physical Plant mechanic "Manny" Sopas suffered slight burns and smoke inhalation when they went to the 19th floor to investigate. Both were treated at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Ribeiro was found, clad only in pajama bottoms, on the floor in front of the elevator by firemen arriving at about 11:45. Contrary to earlier reports, Sorenson said, his death six days later was caused solely by external burns and respiratory damage from inhaling hot air. There was no evidence of inhaling toxic gases, Sorenson said.

"We can only speculate, but we believe Ribeiro was asleep when the alarm went off, and he wandered into the corridor sort of sleepy and disoriented," Sorenson said. "He then apparently was locked out of his room and trapped in the corridor. In the high-intensity heat, he was burned very quickly and very seriously."

Tests of the materials in the corridor showed that "everything in that corridor was within tolerable ranges of fire specifications," Sorenson said. Earlier theories that the vinyl wall covering used in the corridor had spread the fire were disproved, he said, when identical wall covering from elsewhere in Tang was mounted and tested in the Factory Mutual labs and failed to "flash" or burn out of control.

"The building performed very well in containing the fire and keeping it from spreading," Sorenson said. "When the firemen arrived, it was almost ready to go out by itself. This wasn't a spreading fire that was threatening the whole building."

## Bicycle thefts declining; compound use cited

By Charles C. Humphrey

Contrary to popular belief, the bicycle theft problem on campus is becoming less severe each year.

The number of bicycles stolen per year has dropped from 246 in 1971, to 119 in 1972, 107 in 1973, 102 in 1974, and 92 bicycles stolen as of October, 1975, according to Campus Patrol Chief Olivieri.

Olivieri attributed this drop in thefts to increasing use of the Campus Patrol's bicycle compound, located behind Building 13 and the Medical Department, which has an attendant to watch the bicycles stored there.

Olivieri said he is pushing for another complex to be built in the near future.

The areas hardest hit by thefts are the most "exposed" areas, Olivieri said, explaining that exposed areas afford the thief a greater distance to see an officer coming.

Fifty-six of the stolen bicycles were locked, according to Olivieri, who said that the thieves apparently conceal a chain cutter inside of a bag, sit down near a bicycle rack, cut the chain on a bicycle, and ride it away.

Out of the 102 bicycles stolen last year, Olivieri noted, 52 were stolen in broad daylight, 36 were stolen in the early evening, and only 14 were stolen overnight.

Olivieri suggested that students not buy more expensive

bicycles than they need. For going between classes only, he noted, a \$30 bicycle would do the job and be less likely to get stolen.

The Building 13 compound, in its third year of operation is run by students, and is intended to provide a safe place to park bicycles. Upon entering the complex, the cyclist receives a round disc containing a description of his bicycle. When he comes back he must show the disc. The hours of the compound are 6:45am to 5:45pm.

Olivieri noted that the practice of parking bicycles indoors is not as effective as it once was. He said it is commonplace for a person to leave a bike inside his office, go out for a cup of coffee, and come back five minutes later to find the bicycle stolen.

The Patrol is now trying to stop the widespread practice of bringing bicycles inside buildings, Olivieri said, because it is not safe for the bicycle owner and is dangerous for passing pedestrians. He cited cases of people tripping over bicycles, and being gashed in the leg by protruding pedals.

A memorial service will be held at 2pm today in the Chapel for Martin M. Phillips, '47, regional director of the MIT Alumni Association, who died Saturday in Miami, Florida.



Two months of investigation by MIT has failed to turn up the cause of the fire which turned this Tang Hall corridor into a blazing inferno, killing a graduate student and injuring three persons.

Joseph F. Schuyler

# Opinion

## Editorial

### Taxing our food

The poor budgetary condition of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has led the state Corporations and Taxation Department to decide to squeeze students for whatever revenue it can get. Contract meals plans at colleges and universities, which traditionally have not been subject to the state's meals tax, are now being taxed at the full 8 percent rate which applies to meals in restaurants and other retail food-service outlets. To an MIT student on a Commons meal plan, that tax represents a cost of up to \$85 added to the more than \$1000 he may already be paying each year for his commons contract.

The justification for the meals tax is that it is a luxury tax, a means of raising revenue for the state without imposing upon the necessities of life, a way of preventing a high general-sales tax rate. When the tax was first imposed in 1941, it was reasoned that it would apply mainly to restaurants and "luxury" food service outlets. For that reason, and exemption for meals costing \$1 or less was included in the tax legislation. Student meals originally fell within the rubric of this \$1 exemption, meals on contract plans were thought to cost less than \$1, and therefore were eligible for exemption.

But now the state seems to have forgotten about the luxury aspect of this tax. Claiming that student meals cost more than \$1 each, even on contract, the taxation officials seem to be arguing that \$1 will actually buy a "non-luxury" meal anywhere in these inflated times — hardly a demonstrable proposition. Claiming that the \$1 limit is still the level of "luxury," just as it was in 1941, these officials want to equate Commons food with that of fine restaurants — to say that it is as much a taxable luxury to eat hamburger in Baker Dining Hall as it is to eat swordfish at Pier 4. Even if the \$1 limit still held as a standard for the luxury argument, the simple facts of the case do not make contract meals plans a luxury — that is, unless the state is willing to say that eating in and of itself is a luxury. For a student in Baker House, Senior House or East Campus, with no legal means of cooking regular, nourishing hot meals for himself, is it a luxury to eat Commons food, to take advantage of the only regular source of meals on campus? For a student working 60 hours a week on his studies, perhaps holding a job at the same time, is it a luxury not to have to cook for himself? When more than 300 people live in the same building with no facilities allowing them to cook for themselves — a building which was not designed to allow any of them to cook for themselves — is it a luxury to provide a centralized meal plan for them? The obvious answer is no.

The Tech has always supported the right of MIT dormitory residents not to be forced to take Commons meals plans. We have always felt that a student who did not like Commons food, whose schedule did not agree with that of the dining halls, who objected to the cost of Commons or who wanted to cook for himself, should be given the option of not taking Commons, of fending for himself. But for many students at MIT, Commons is an important, useful, and necessary service. We feel it is no more fair to tax those students for this essential service than it would be to force all dormitory residents to take Commons, and we resent the state's attempts to do so.

The Tech urges the MIT administration to continue to fight against taxation on contract meal plans for students. This fight can be carried on several fronts: by supporting the suit raised by other independent colleges which seek a chance for a fair hearing of their side of the story on this tax; by aiding legislation exempting such plans from taxation; by educating the public to the meaning of this tax, to the cost and hardship that this brings to bear both on students and on educational institutions. We also urge students to make their feelings known, to oppose this unfair taxation: to write to legislators, to lobby, to petition, to fight for the necessity of Commons.

The budgetary problems of the state should not fall upon the college students here. Taxation on students' meals should be stopped.

Editorials represent the opinion of *The Tech* as agreed upon by a majority of the members of the Editorial Board. Members of the Editorial Board for Volume 95 of *The Tech* are Chairperson John J. Hanzel '76, Editor-in-Chief Michael D. McNamee '76, Managing Editor Julia A. Malakie '77, and News Editor Margaret Brandeau '77. *The Tech* welcomes comments on editorials and expression of views other than those of the Editorial Board.

# The Tech

John J. Hanzel '76 - Chairperson  
Michael D. McNamee '76 - Editor-in-Chief  
Julia A. Malakie '77 - Managing Editor  
John M. Sallay '78 - Business Manager

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Mike Peters

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## Letters to The Tech

### Photocopying — An Author's View

To the Editor:

I am writing this note in regard to an article in the September 26 issue pointing out that many staff members at the Institute involved with photocopying oppose a new copyright law which would restrict unlimited photocopying. As an author of a monograph (*Friction and Wear of Materials*, published by John Wiley and Sons in 1965), as well as various textbooks, I feel strongly that systematic photocopying of books and journals without royalty payment to authors and publishers should not be allowed.

My monograph is 244 pages long and sells for \$17.50. It can readily be photocopied for less than the retail price (and on a recent trip to Japan, I saw such a bound photocopy that a Japanese engineer had made for his own use).

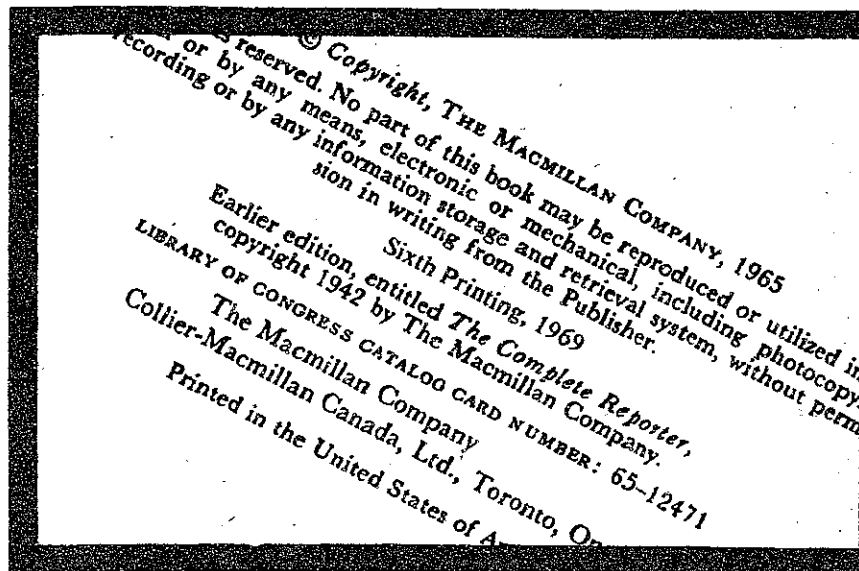
Extensive photocopying would cut into my royalty income, but this is not important to me (my book took me about eleven years and 2000

hours to write, and has brought me royalties of about \$7000, or \$3.50 per hour. If sales dropped by a third, I would feel just as underpaid). What worries me is that if sales dropped by one third, because of extensive photocopying, the publisher might decide he could not afford to publish books of this type at all. In that case all involved with books (authors, publishers,

readers and librarians) would lose.

It seems to me that if modern technology can perfect photocopying, it can perfect methods to make sure that authors and publishers derive equitable payment from the photocopying of their copyrighted material.

Ernest Rabinowicz  
Professor of  
Mechanical Engineering



### Police Blotter — reactionary?

To the Editor:

The column space *The Tech* wastes in printing the "Police Blotter" every week hints of reactionary journalism. An unfortunate fact of cities is that you can't leave things lying around. The "Police Blotter" only tends to heighten suspicion of our neighbors who don't look like MIT types, a view that is ultimately elitist. Besides, the "Blotter" tends to obscure the biggest rip-off around MIT — the tuition and MIT expansion into the community. "The guy who steals a loaf of bread so his family can eat ends up in jail; the guy who rips off the Third World of its resources gets his picture on the cover of *Time* magazine." Let's report what's important.

Mike Connor G  
(Editor's Note: It is an unfortunate fact of urban life that things get stolen; it's an even more unfortunate fact that many people, including MIT people, don't realize that this applies to them, too. "Police Blotter" is a cooperative effort by the Campus Patrol and The Tech to educate the community to the dangers of the MIT environment. The "elitist" suspicion Connor deplores is a result of the facts of urban life, not the result of publishing "Police

Blotter."

(As for bad journalism, The Tech prefers to stick to some reasonable basis for its reporting — i.e., to cover "rip-offs" like tuition and expansion into the

community when there are facts to back up the all too prevalent charges. The journalism of unsubstantiated sensational charges is far more "reactionary" than that of the "Blotter," we feel.)

### Guns and Crime

To the Editor:

In the October 3rd issue of *The Tech* you reproduced a Mike Peters cartoon which strongly implied National Rifle Association approval of the John F. Kennedy assassination. This is irresponsible journalism at its worst, and is as ridiculous as implying that Anhauser-Busch (sic) approves of drunk drivers laughing 30,000 innocent people per year, or that the American College of Surgeons approves of a criminally negligent doctor who amputated the wrong leg. No organization which produces a particular product or sponsors a particular activity can be expected to approve of, never mind advertise on television, those acts which depict criminal misuse of their product or activity.

The NRA, and in Massachusetts, the Gun Owners Action League (GOAL), have long advocated the legal, safe, and responsible use of firearms for

sport and self defense. Both organizations have consistently urged far more severe penalties for illegal use of firearms, penalties which, it is abundantly clear, most judges and juries are unwilling to enforce. (Two cases in point are the drunk driving law and the new Massachusetts gun law. Both prescribe strict penalties upon conviction, yet often offenders are found "innocent" because many judges feel the penalties are too severe. Of the 120-130 people apprehended so far for illegally carrying a firearm only 18-20 are actually in jail while the rest were either acquitted or are out on appeal.)

The wave of violent crime, whether by gun, knife, axe, silk stocking, or baseball bat, will continue as long as it is profitable, and it will remain so as long as the public tolerates a legal system which coddles criminals.

Scott C. Munroe '76

# Tax on Commons opposed

(continued from page 1)

contract meals has become an issue in the legislature, where the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts (AICUM) has been lobbying for several months to have a specific exemption put into the tax bill for such meals. Although AICUM has introduced such a measure two or three times, its chances of passage are considered to be slim.

"Politically, you have a very tough exemption to try to support there," Jerry Delaney, counsel to the Joint Committee on Taxation, told *The Tech*. "People feel like helping students, sure - but what about old people and other people who haven't got many places to eat and who are taxed?"

Delaney said that a move to exempt student contract meals had failed in the House of Representatives, which voted out a budget-and-tax package last week, and wasn't expected to succeed in the senate's deliberations on taxes this week and next. There might be a floor move during the week of Oct. 20 to add such an exemption, he said, "but I just can't see it passing."

If the state senators follow their colleagues in the house, exemptions are likely to be removed rather than added to the tax bill. The house rejected a package offered by Gov. Michael Dukakis to drop the \$1 exemption and lower the tax back to 5 percent; instead, it dropped the exemption and left the tax at 8 percent.

"The shape this state is in financially," Delaney said, "you're not going to see them giving away tax money just for students."

MIT's role in shaping the tax bill and student meals exemption has been minimal. According to Walter Milne, Assistant to the Chairman for Urban Affairs, the Institute lobbied during the summer for the exemption measure, but has been "doing nothing" since then, and has made no move to support the BU-Mount Holyoke-Holy Cross suit.

"We wrote some letters to the legislators in July, when they were considering that measure, pointing out that the 8 percent tax would be a necessity tax - not a luxury tax - on students who didn't have cooking facilities," Milne said. "But the legislators really weren't listening."

MIT has been charging the tax since Sept. 1, having notified students that the tax was taking effect when school started, according to Arthur Beals of the Housing and Dining Service.

There has been "almost no student reaction," Beals said, leading him to doubt whether students cared about the tax at all.

"I haven't heard any complaints at all," Beals said, "but then I'm not sure that students are fully aware of the tax. I'm really not sure if it's had any impact on our students on Commons at all - it's difficult to get any kind of a handle on those kinds of things."

The Institute would refund any tax money which has been collected if there should be a move by the state or by the courts to invalidate the tax, Beals said. "It all depends on how the rulings or bills are worded - whether we would have to refund all the tax, or just part of it, or what," he explained. "It would be hard for us to keep money collected as a tax if we don't give it to the state."

It's Time...



March of Dimes Time.

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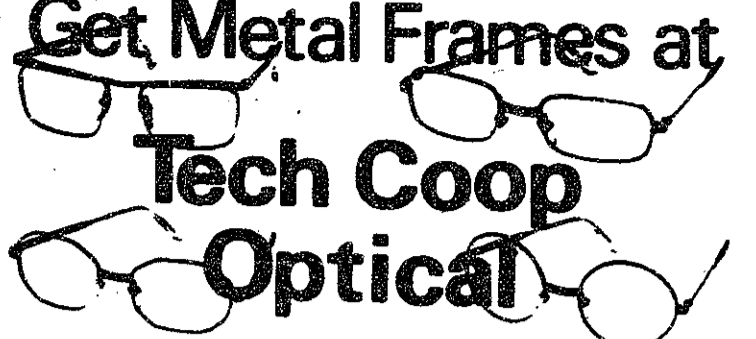


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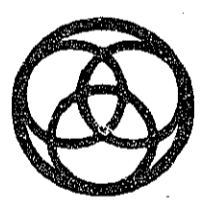
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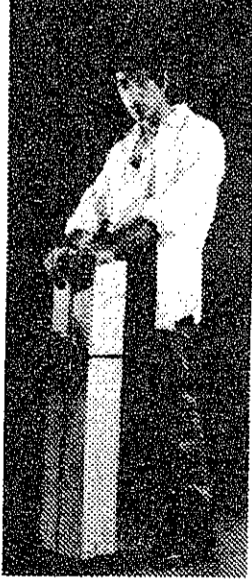
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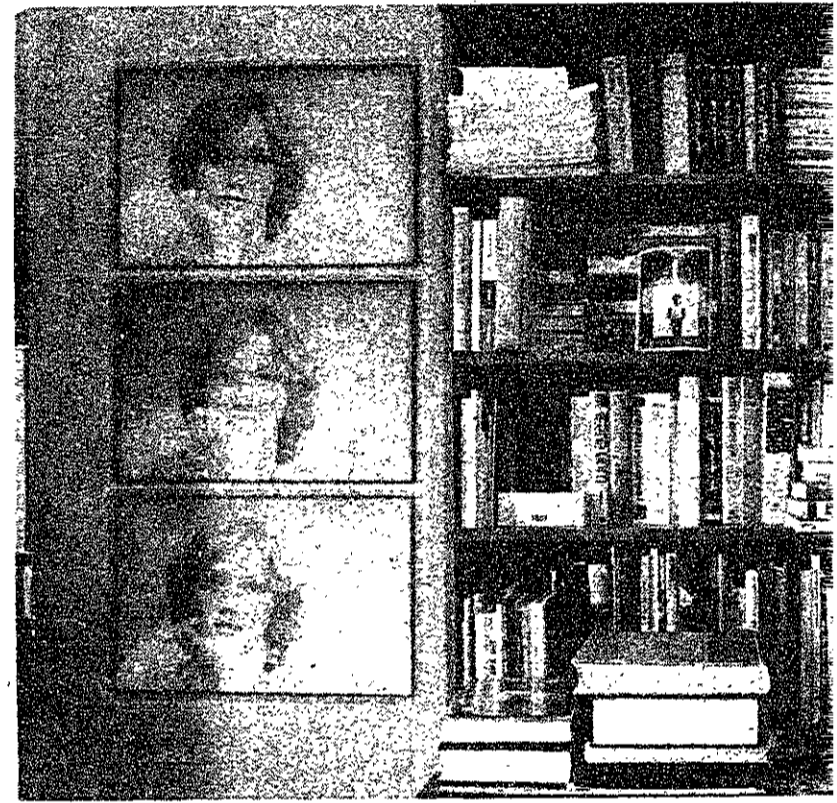
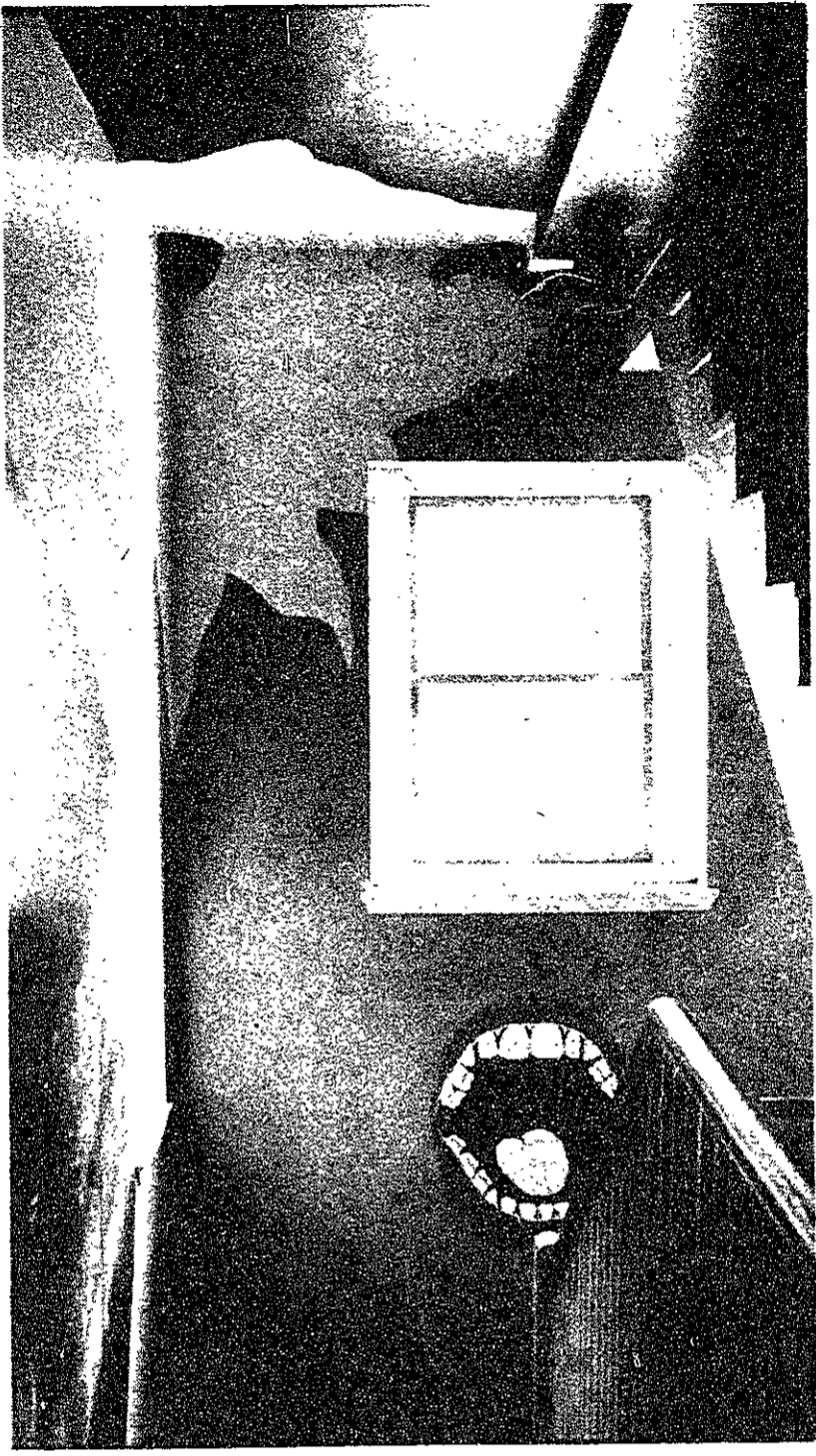
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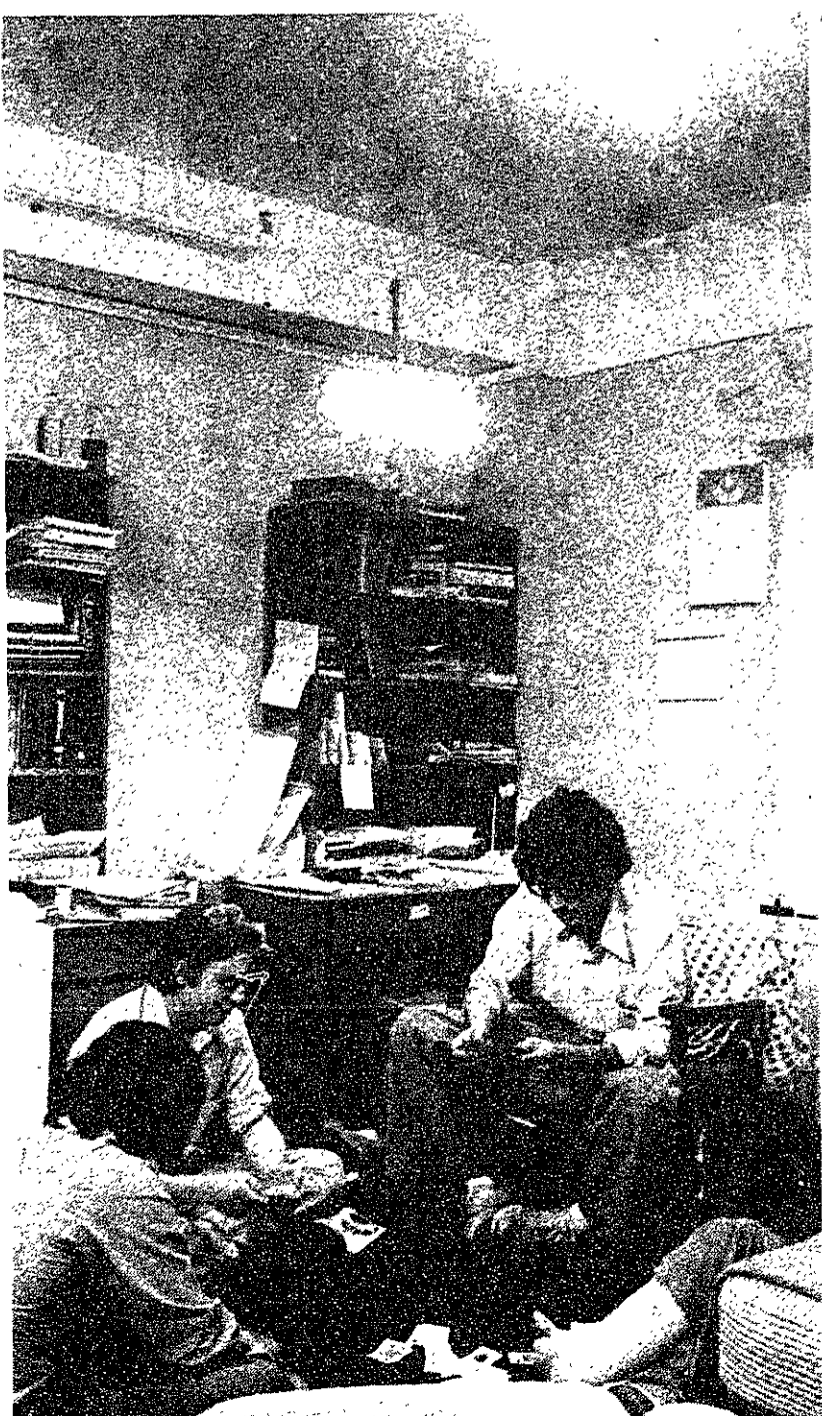
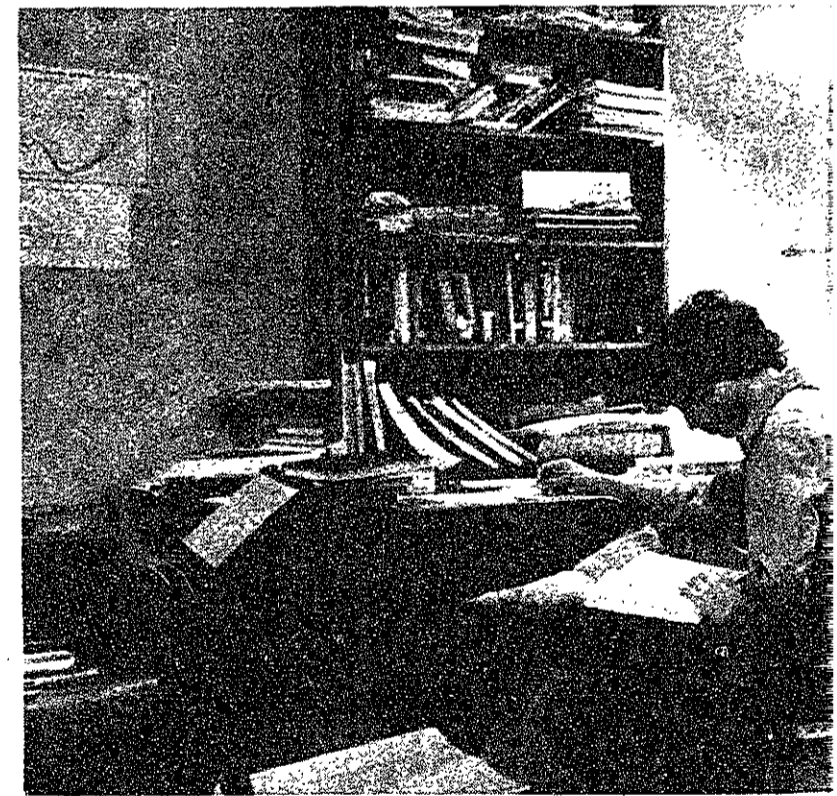
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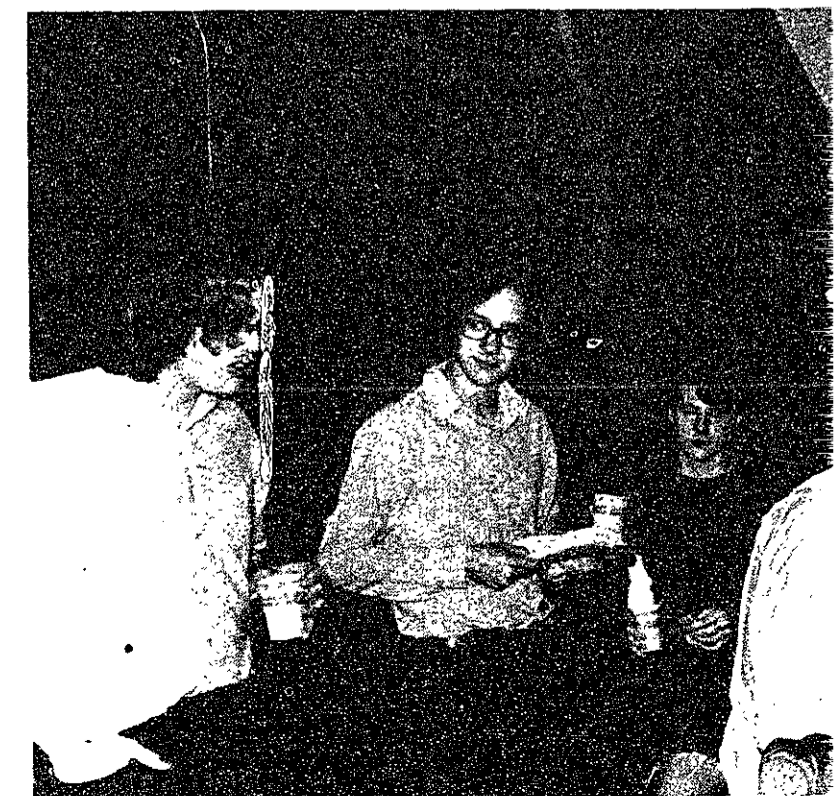


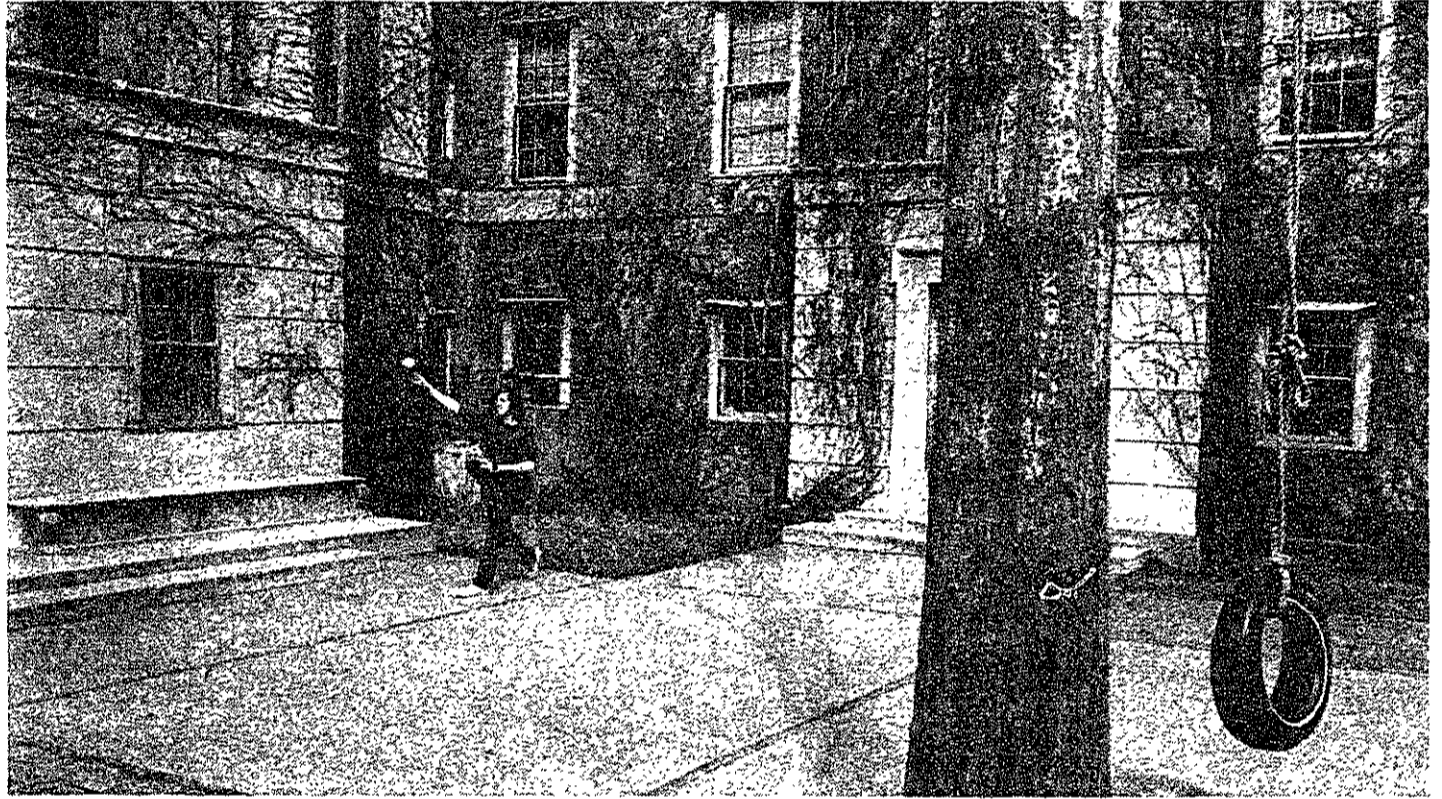
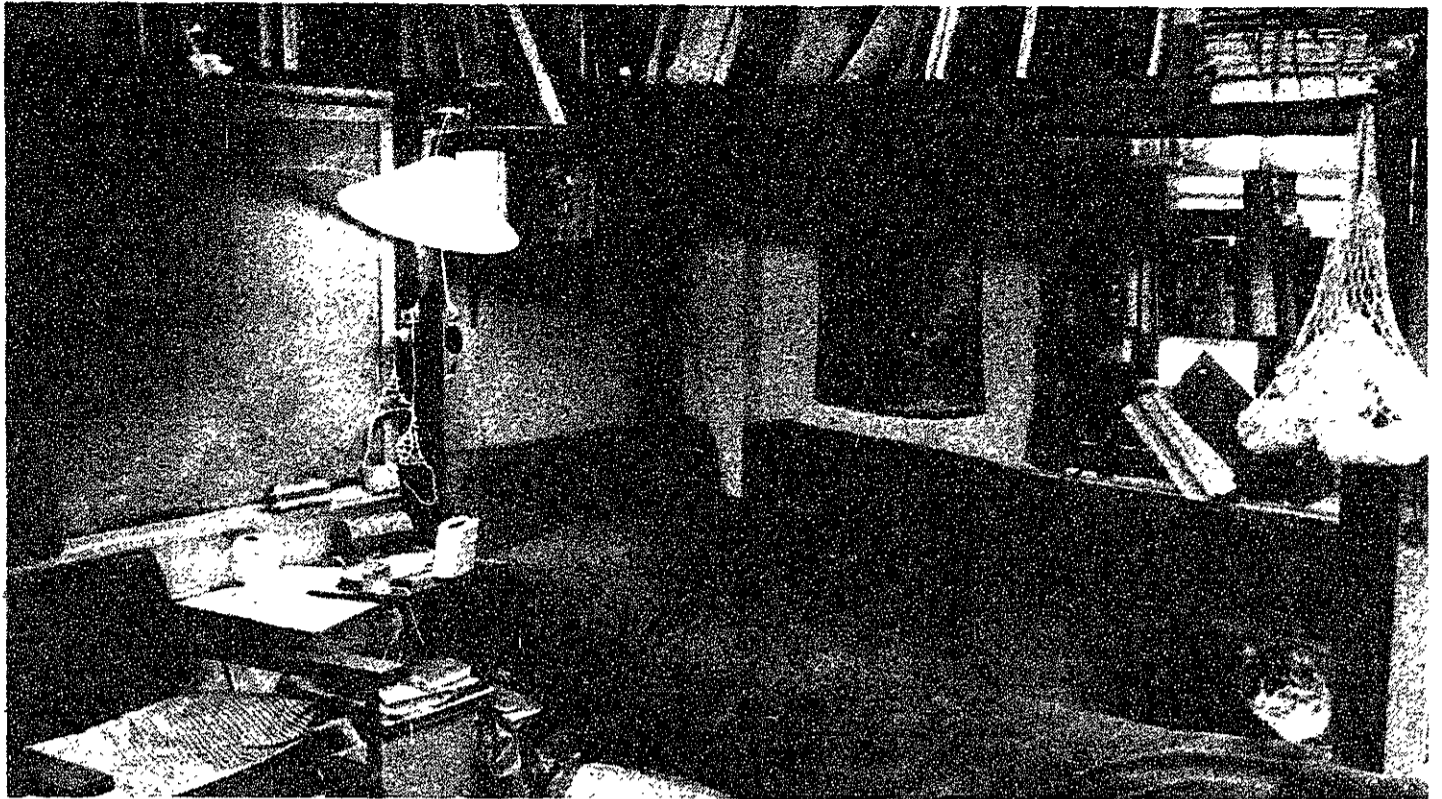
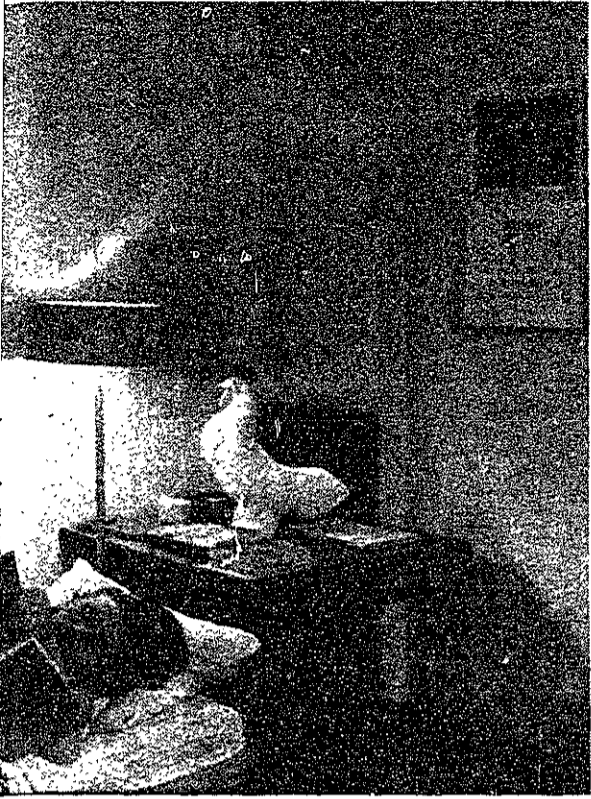
# Inside Senior House



By David Herwaldt

The photographs here do not claim any documentary totality, but only to visually describe a few aspects of what it is that makes Senior House what it is: the people studying and relaxing, and the building, built around a courtyard, a building so old that MIT does not seem to care about it — a very positive factor giving free rein to any decoration and almost any construction. For a different, more anarchic view of this same place see the 1975 *Undergraduate Residence Guide*.





# Police Blotter

**Calculator and drill stolen**  
A portable calculator and a hand drill, together valued at about \$75, were reported stolen from the workbench of a busy and often unlocked shop in Bldg. 20.

**Cars vandalized**  
Two vehicles parked overnight Monday in the West Garage were reported to have been vandalized by unknown persons in the early morning hours in apparent attempts to steal them.

**Room burglarized**  
A student's unlocked room in the Number Six Club was entered by an unknown person on the weekend, who removed from it a camera and lens, and other items, the total value of which was approximately \$400. The student had closed, but not locked, the door in question.

**Tape recorder theft foiled**  
A valuable tape recorder was recovered in the bed of an open truck parked near 77 Mass. Ave. on Thursday, where it was apparently left by the person who had stolen it before it could be picked up by an accomplice. Officers were able to locate the owner of the machine in short order, as he had had the foresight to engrave his name on the front of it with an engraving tool made available via the "Operation Identification" program. He was informed of its recovery even before he realized that the machine was missing.

**Bicycle stolen**  
A 10 speed bicycle valued at \$150 was stolen from the front of the Student Center area, where it had been left secured by a lock and chain.

**Wallet stolen**  
An unlocked room in Bexley Hall was entered by an unknown person, who from it removed a wallet containing \$75 cash and assorted personal papers. The theft took place while the student victim slept in an adjoining room.

**Valuables stolen from Faculty Club**  
A Nikkormat camera and lens, prescription drugs and some business papers were stolen along with the briefcase in which they had been locked when the case was left in the coatroom of the Faculty Club on Thursday. A nearby suitcase was searched as well, but nothing was removed from it. Meanwhile a hand calculator and an airline ticket were removed from still a third case left at the Club.

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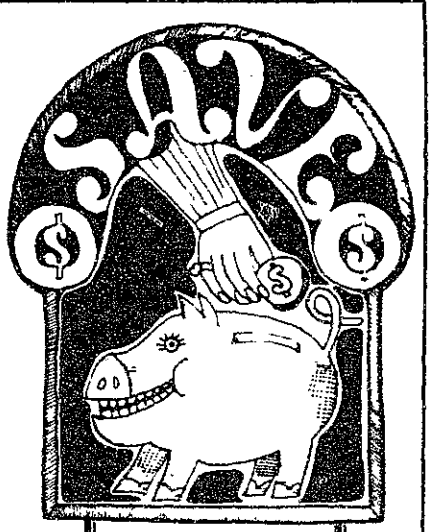
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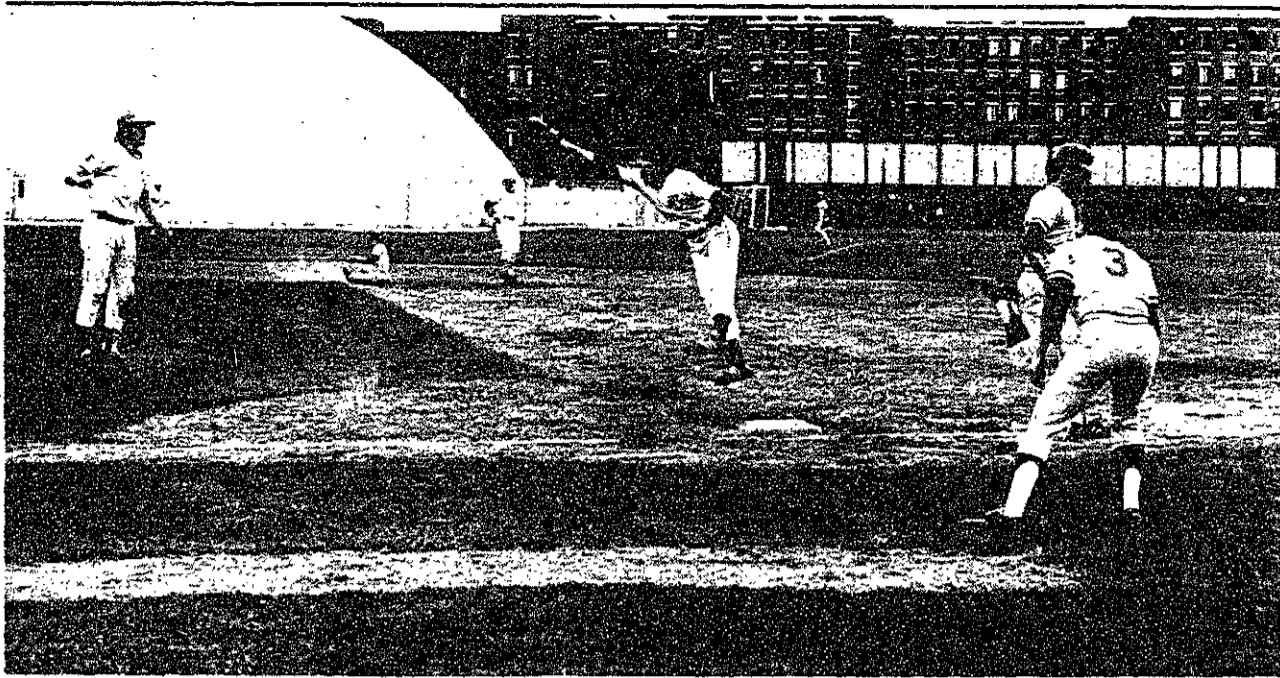
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Rich Reiff

A high throw pulls the Brandeis first baseman off the bag in MIT's 6-2 loss to the Judges Monday afternoon at Briggs Field. The Beavers finished the season at 6-5 by outslugging Mass. Bay C.C. 12-9 Tuesday, and surprising strong Holy Cross, 3-1, at Worcester Wednesday.

## IM football scores

Weekend of Sept. 27-28

### A-league

SAE 12-9 Delta Upsilon  
LCA 'A' 7-0 Trojans

### B-league

Delta-Tau Delta 16-14 Plumbers  
Zeta Beta Tau 19-0 SPE  
Sigma Chi 6-0 SAE 'B'  
FIJI 'B' 19-0 LCA 'B'  
New III Stooges 1-0 Chem./Nucl. E (OT)  
Span. Inquis. 40-0 Chi Phi  
Metallurgy 21-0 TDC Champions  
PLP 9-0 PDT

### C-league

Sloan Bombers 18-6 Bexley  
Math 38-0 MacGregor A  
Jack Florey 49-0 Navy  
MacG H Turkeys 12-0 MacGregor F  
FIJI 'C' 18-0 Burton I  
PBE 38-6 MacGregor C  
ATO 9-0 SAE 'C'  
Smokers 26-6 PKS  
Baskirbaiters 6-0 Economics  
Org. Chemistry 28-0 TEP  
Kappa Sigma 12-8 NRSA/Student Hse.  
Theta Xi 8-6 Burton 3rd  
Senior House 8-6 Baker Blowers

### D-league

Phi Mu Delta 6-0 EC '5W'  
TXi Superfishes 21-0 McCormick  
Baker Breakers 12-8 PiKA  
Chelates 8-0 WC 4 Players

Weekend of Oct. 4-5

### A-league

LCA 13-2 BSU  
SAE 19-0 Trojans

### B-league

Plumbers 7-6 ZBT (OT)  
East Campus 24-0 PKS  
Theta Delta Chi 26-12 Chi Phi  
Metallurgy 19-0 PDT  
SAE 'B' 31-0 SPE  
Sigma Chi 21-13 DTD  
Span. Inquis. 47-0 PLP  
FIJI 'B' 48-12 New House  
Theta Chi 8-7 Chem./Nucl. Eng.  
BTP 6-0 LCA 'B'

### C-league

Held's Hackers 13-0 Number Six  
Burton 5 Smokers 1-0 SAE 'C' (forfeit)  
Third East 12-0 Epsilon Theta  
ATO 6-0 Economics  
Org. Chemistry 19-0 NRSA  
PBE 42-0 PSK  
Burton I 6-0 MacGregor C  
MacG H Turkeys 13-2 Navy  
MacGregor A 12-2 Zeta Beta Tau  
Math 6-0 Fenway House  
BLOS 6-0 Bexley  
PDT 4-0 MacGregor C  
Jack Florey 6-0 FIJI 'C'  
Conner 3 14-2 Baker 6th Dicks

### D-league

PiKA 27-12 Chelates  
Phi Mu Delta 57-0 McCormick  
East Campus 12-0 Virjins  
Burton 5 Smokers 21-20 Baker Breakers

## IM soccer scores

### A-league

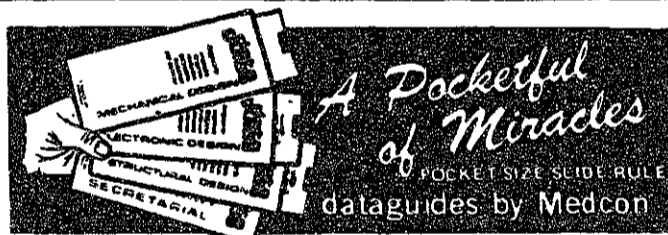
Africans SA 1-1 Math

### B-league

1169 1-0 Sigma Chi  
MacGregor E 1-1 Sigma Chi  
Economics 1-0 TDC  
Baker 'B' 2-0 PLP  
Chem. Eng. 3-1 LCA  
SPE 0-0 PDT  
SPE 2-0 DTD  
PBE 0-0 Theta Chi  
Number Six 1-0 PDT  
East Campus 3-0 DU  
Nuc. Eng. 'B' 2-1 Biology

### C-league

SAE 4-0 PSK  
ZBT 1-0 ATO  
Theta Xi 1-0 Burton 5  
Baker 'C' 1-1 MacGregor B  
Burton I 4-0 McCormick  
MacGregor C 3-0 MacGregor H  
Conner 3 1-1 Russian/New  
Burton 3rd 1-0 PKT



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# Sports

## MIT Sports Insight

### Introduction to Rugby: Part I

By Charles Cox  
(First in a series)

Ask anyone, "What's rugby?" The answer is always the same. "Well, it's kind of a cross between soccer and football." Forget it.

In 1823 William Webb Ellis picked up a ball and ran with it. He wasn't supposed to do that, as he was playing soccer at the time. In those days, some people really liked soccer. Some didn't. The people who didn't liked Ellis' idea.

The students at Rugby School in England (which Ellis attended) who liked his idea started playing his game, which allowed ball handling. The game caught on in the schools and local clubs were formed as interest grew. The game was called "rugby" after Ellis' alma mater.

American football had a rather shoddy and unobtrusive birth from rugby, very much unlike Ellis' mad dash. Was it Rutgers and Princeton? No, the first football game involved our neighbors, the Crimson of Harvard.

Harvard scheduled the first international rugby match with McGill University of Canada. McGill came to Cambridge with eleven players, but fifteen are normally needed to form a complete rugby squad.

The Crimson very cordially agreed to play with eleven men if the match was played by Harvard rules. Harvard's rules

were just different enough from any other rules in existence to allow the Crimson to say that they also played the first American football game against McGill, yet another first.

Those who relate soccer and football, therefore, can refer only as far back as Harvard's initial effort in 1868. The elements of rugby existed long before, in games like *folliis* and *harpastum*, played by the Romans, and a game popular in Ancient Greece, *episkyros*.

Equipment consists of short pants, a long sleeved T-shirt, knee-high stockings, and cleats. Some ruggers (rugby players) choose to wear protective cups and shinguards. Scrum caps, which resemble wrestling headgear, and mouthguards are sometimes too much to worry about but the added protection is often helpful. Tape abounds.

The pitch (field) is usually 75 yards wide and 110 yards long with end zones or "in goals" about 15 yards deep. Lines run parallel to either goal line or "try line" at the 25-yard line, midfield, and ten yards away from the midfield stripe. Lines also run parallel to either touchline (sideline) at five and 15 yards into the field.

Goal posts are set in the middle of the try lines, are 18 feet, six inches apart and have a ten-foot-high crossbar connecting them.

The game is played in two

halves of forty minutes each with a five-minute halftime.

In rugby, there is one referee and what he says is necessarily final. No backtalk is permitted. Since there are no substitutions at most higher levels of play, every man is valuable and tempers are kept hidden for the team's sake.

Two touch judges keep track of the touchlines and raise a flag when the ball goes "into touch" (out of bounds). Their decisions may be overruled by the referee, who has full control of the game.

A referee may decide not to halt play for a rules infraction if it is to the offended team's advantage to continue to play. This disadvantage rule (some-what like soccer) makes the referee's whistle the only signal to stop play.

(Next week: specific rules, strategies, positions)



Barbara Belt '77 and crew Sally Husted '78 sail in the Emily Wick Lark regatta at MIT last Sunday. Belt and Husted finished second, losing by three points to Boston University.

### Women second in Wick regatta

By Chris Donnelly

The men's sailing team placed fourth last weekend in the Danmark Trophy at Coast Guard. The women sailors finished second in both the Emily Wick Lark Championship at MIT and a Three Crew Team Race Regatta at Harvard.

The Danmark Trophy is one of two major New England intercollegiate regattas sailed in the fall. MIT sailed against fourteen schools, five of which are ranked in the top twenty nationally. Fifteen races were sailed through the two day regatta on the Thames River.

In B-Division, Gary Smith '78 with George Orlov '78 crewing sailed exceptionally tying for low point honors in the regatta. Skippers Paul Erb '76 and Wally Corwin '78 with crew Steve Gourley '77 combined for eighth place in A-Division. Tufts, ranked first in the nation, won the regatta followed by URI, Harvard, and MIT.

Sunday, the women hosted the Emily Wick Lark Championship on the Charles River. Seven schools participated in the single division regatta, named for the former Dean of Women Students at MIT.

Through seven races, the competition in Larks was very tight for the top three positions. Barbara Belt '77 with crew Sally Husted '78 finished second with eighteen points. BU won the regatta with fifteen while Wellesley finished third, one point behind MIT.

Four schools, MIT, Radcliffe, BU, and URI, sailed against each other in the team races at Harvard on Sunday. In every race, the total score of three boats from each school is counted.

MIT's team was comprised of Alanna Connors '78 with crew Barbara Biber '79, Carole

Swetky '78 with crew Marla Eglowstein '79, and Audrey Greenhill '79 with crew Robin Newmark '78. Overall the team finished second to Radcliffe.

A learning regatta for women was also held at MIT on Saturday. Nine schools participated in the informal races.

All candidates for freshman, JV, and varsity men's basketball should report to Rockwell Cage at 5:00pm, Wednesday, October 15 for the season's first practice. All players should report dressed and ready to play. Managerial candidates are also welcome.

### Eight straight Brown goals send water polo to defeat

By Glenn Brownstein

The MIT varsity water polo team's record dropped to 1-3 Wednesday night at Alumni Pool as the Engineers lost an 11-5 decision to Brown University.

MIT appears to have improved substantially over its playing level in last weekend's tournament, as the Engineers

worked a hustling defense well against the Bruins, keeping them off the scoreboard entirely in the third quarter (Brown did not get a shot at all) and holding them to two goals in the final period.

MIT's passing also appeared to be more accurate and the team ran its offense much more successfully.

After giving up the first goal, the Engineers converted shots by Mike Kowtko '79 and captain Mark Thorne-Thomsen '76 to take a 2-1 lead.

The Bruins roared back, though, scoring eight consecutive goals (three in the first period and five in the second) to open up a 9-2 lead. Bob Dobbin '79 and Kowtko then scored to bring MIT within five at half-time.

Although Brown could generate little offense in the second half, MIT's reluctance to shoot and inability to get inside against the Bruin defenders netted the Engineers only one more score.

High scores for Brown were forwards Brookwell and Salhanick, who each scored four times. Thorne-Thomsen and Kowtko each had two for the Engineers.

In the JV game that followed the varsity contest, Brown topped MIT, 6-3. Gary Simpson '78 scored twice for the Engineers.

MIT's next game is against last week's tournament winner, UMass, at Alumni Pool tonight at 6:30.

## Howl Shots

By Glenn Brownstein

It can be done. World Series tickets can be acquired, assuming one is industrious, not easily frustrated, and blessed with a large amount of patience.

The standard procedure to get playoff tickets was to visit a large local post office very early on the designated postmark date and hope that the letter arrived at Fenway the day it was mailed. As the Sox had over twenty times the number of applications that could be filled, even the most diligent effort often resulted in a returned application.

Some viewed the ticket-buying process as a great lottery, and sent in tens of envelopes for the Series, figuring that at 20-1 odds, twenty envelopes would get them two tickets to one game (actually, Series odds were about 12-1, due to a different ticket policy and more games). Since unfilled orders would not cost very much to send initially, many with, say, \$1000 on hand, sent in fifty orders and in most cases, got five or six sets.

Unfortunately, most Red Sox fans do not have \$1000 lying around for Series tickets, and single entries were largely unsuccessful again.

One final chance remained. Yesterday morning at 9am, all remaining (i.e., standing room) tickets were to go on sale at Fenway. Many people stood on line for nearly a day in hopes of winning this last gamble.

Although local papers did their best to dissuade fans from coming to Fenway, grossly exaggerating the early evening turnout, I (frustrated twice by mail) got up early (about 5:30am), hustled over the bridge with a friend, and waited in line.

As time went on, a three-block-long line compressed into one occupying only about eighty yards. The two or three thousand fans gathered in the very small space must have looked like the inside of a Friday night rush-hour New York subway train (it certainly felt like it).

After nearly five hours of waiting, moving up slowly (in "ripples," as the people around us called it - picture the way a long line of people, once stopped, begins to move again), and inching closer and closer to the ticket kiosks, we got in, bought two standing room seats for games two and seven, and got quickly away from the mob of people, clutching our precious tickets, yet still not believing we had them at all.

So, although thousands of dignitaries, politicians, athletes, and other personalities will have their box seats, and the lucky mail-order winners will have their reserved or bleacher seats, the "real fans," as the press calls them, some of whom waited over twenty hours to buy standing room tickets, will be there too. They may not have seats, but for them all that matters is having a chance to see their beloved Sox perform in a World Series for only the third time since 1918.

My pick - Red Sox in seven (mostly because of my effort today - otherwise I'd be tempted to say six). Can emotion beat what appears to be a slight edge in talent? Tune in starting tomorrow, and we'll soon find out.

### IM soccer standings

A-league				PBE			
	W	LT	PTS				
Math	1	0	12	Number Six	1	1	10
Hellenic A.C.	1	0	9	Delta Tau Delta	1	2	8
Africans S.A.	0	1	4	Phi Delta Theta	0	2	3
Aero/Astro	0	1	0	C1-league			
Nuclear Eng.	0	1	0	Zeta Beta Tau	2	0	16
B1-league				SAE	1	0	9
Baker 'B'	2	0	15	Kappa Sigma	1	0	7
1169	2	0	14	ATO	0	1	0
Sigma Chi	1	0	13	PKS	0	1	0
MacGregor E	0	1	4	PSK	0	2	0
Pi Lambda Phi	0	2	1	C2-league			
Food & Nutrition	0	2	0	Theta Xi	2	0	15
B2-league				Burton 5 Smokers	1	1	7
Lambda Chi Alpha	2	1	19	Baker 'C'	0	1	4
Chem. Eng.	1	0	12	MacGregor	0	0	4
Economics	1	1	10	Senior House	0	1	0
TDC	0	1	0	C3-league			
Mech. Eng.	0	1	0	Bexley	1	1	11
Chi Phi	0	0	0	MacGregor	1	0	10
B3-league				SH/NRSA	1	0	9
East Campus	3	0	25	Burton H. Tooley	1	0	9
FIJI	2	0	18	Burton 3rd	1	2	7
AEPi	1	1	10	PKT	0	1	7
Nucl. Eng.	1	2	8	C4-league			
Delta Upsilon	1	2	7	MacGregor C	3	0	26
Biology	0	3	1	Conner 3	1	0	16
B4-league				Burton I	1	1	14
SPE	2	0	19	Russian/New	1	1	13
Theta Chi	1	0	14	MacGregor H	0	3	1
				McCormick	0	2	0