

## in the news

### INSIDE

MIT students have a wide variety of choices when it comes to food — although all of them are inevitably expensive. *The Tech* examines the state of the culinary arts on campus.

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*Tech Talk's* reprint of a *Herald American* article which lauds MIT's outdoor sculpture and questions the artistic awareness of the student body adds insult to injury, in the opinion of Associate Arts Editor Peter Coffee.

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Dr. Isaac Asimov entertained a full house on Monday evening with arguments intended to show that science fiction is a realistic form of "escape literature." David Koretz discusses Asimov's observations.

p7

Both the MIT cross country and women's volleyball teams have received bids to important tournaments: the 7-1 harriers will travel to the NCAA Division III Nationals, while the 18-0 volleyball team has been invited to the Easterns.

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### OUTSIDE

Productivity in the private business sector in the third quarter of 1976 advanced 3.8 per cent (seasonally adjusted annual rate), according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the US Department of Labor.

HEW Secretary David Mathews called for "radical changes in the paper work reporting requirements" placed on institutions of higher education by the Federal government at the first meeting of the Interagency Task Force on Higher Education Reporting Bureau held at the White House last week.

The Utah Supreme Court has ruled that convicted murderer Gary Gilmore will be executed by a firing squad next Monday. Gilmore, who had requested to die "like a man," will be the first prisoner to be executed in the US since 1967.

## Lack of funds slows sports center

By Stephen Besen

Although pledging for the new athletic complex has been "slow," it remains "one of the principal development priorities," according to Director of the Planning Office O. R. Simha.

A total of \$2.1 million has been pledged to date to try to offset the total costs of \$6.8 million, stated Director of Resource Planning N. C. Lees.

Lees described pledging as "slow, because until you get two or three large donations it is hard to get the other donors." The largest donation so far has been one of \$1.5 million.

Lees added that within a year it should be clear whether those donations are forthcoming. He stated that the complex is "the single top priority among facilities for all the institution," and it is being "pushed hard."

The project has been approved and is only awaiting the necessary funds to start. These funds will be sought as part of the MIT Leadership Campaign fund drive.

The construction schedule for the complex, which will consist of a ground level indoor skating rink and a field house built above it,



Intramural hockey games such as this contest between LCA and Fiji/Baker may not be played for one or two seasons while a new ice rink is being constructed as part of the new MIT Sports Center

depends entirely upon the fund raising. Although Chancellor Paul Gray '54 has a final say on when construction can start, Lees thought it would begin when they had about \$5 million and were "within reach of the goal."

Simha stated that his department could be ready to begin construction before the end of the

academic year. He predicted that once started, the actual construction would take about 18 to 24 months.

The athletic complex will be built on the site of the present outdoor skating rink. Director of Athletics Ross Smith indicated that the present outdoor track will have to be moved 90 feet west

to make room for the new facilities. The varsity baseball diamond will also be moved west and the second diamond will be converted into a field for women's softball and field hockey.

The new center will include a field house which will have an eighth-mile banked track and will

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### In the wake of the '76 election

## Burnham explains Carter success

By Hillary Lust

Jimmy Carter's victory in the 1976 presidential election was so narrow that any one of many factors could have changed the outcome, said Walter Dean Burnham, professor of political science, in a discussion of the election results Tuesday afternoon.

Burnham declared that "if only eight thousand people had voted differently in states like Ohio and

Hawaii, Ford would have won these states and thus the election."

Carter's razor-thin victory was fashioned from a revitalization of the New Deal coalition, Burnham asserted. "The election was 'class stratified,'" he said, noting that Carter received his support from the "have-lesses" while Ford was backed by the "haves." He added, "The 'have-nots' did not vote."

Burnham described Carter as "the most conservative Democratic candidate since 1924. He is right of the Democratic platform and this helped him to win the election."

The 53 per cent turnout, higher than had been expected, unquestionably aided Carter. Burnham explained that working class and lower income Americans are less likely to vote than upper-class citizens. "If it had rained in New York City, Gerald Ford would still be President," he contended.

Carter will take office during what Burnham described as a "crisis of confidence." The new President's first task will be to "broaden his base of support." Carter must make the transition between the "politics of support" — which he used to gain office — and the "politics of power" — which he must use to govern effectively.

Carter must master the "fine and gentle art of selling out," maintained Burnham. This is necessitated by the President-elect's need to coalesce his support and to "restore public confidence."

Carter is faced with deciding between the "promotion of accumulation of capital versus the maintenance of legitimation through expenditures" on social programs, Burnham opined. "He can not both balance the budget and provide services, unless unemployment approaches zero or a satisfactory floor."

The Congressional results showed the "solidification of incumbency," Burnham asserted. There was a "faint ideological shift to the right" in the Senate, but the House of Representatives remained in virtually the same alignment as in 1974 — less than four per cent of the incumbents "bit the dust."

## Ireland: no solution?

By Gerald Radack

There are no easy solutions to the strife in Ireland, Ernest Evans, a graduate student in political science who has visited Ireland and studied the situation there, asserted at a CIS Seminar last Friday.

"There are two ways to settle the conflict," Evans maintained — political compromise and a military solution in which "one side beats down the other."

Evans asserted that "neither solution is feasible," since the "political center is too weak for compromise" and the British army cannot restore order militarily because the Irish Republican Army (IRA) has "a large base of popular support. People don't like it, but very few people would call the police and say 'Joe down the street is an IRA man' — anyone who does so is likely to get himself killed."

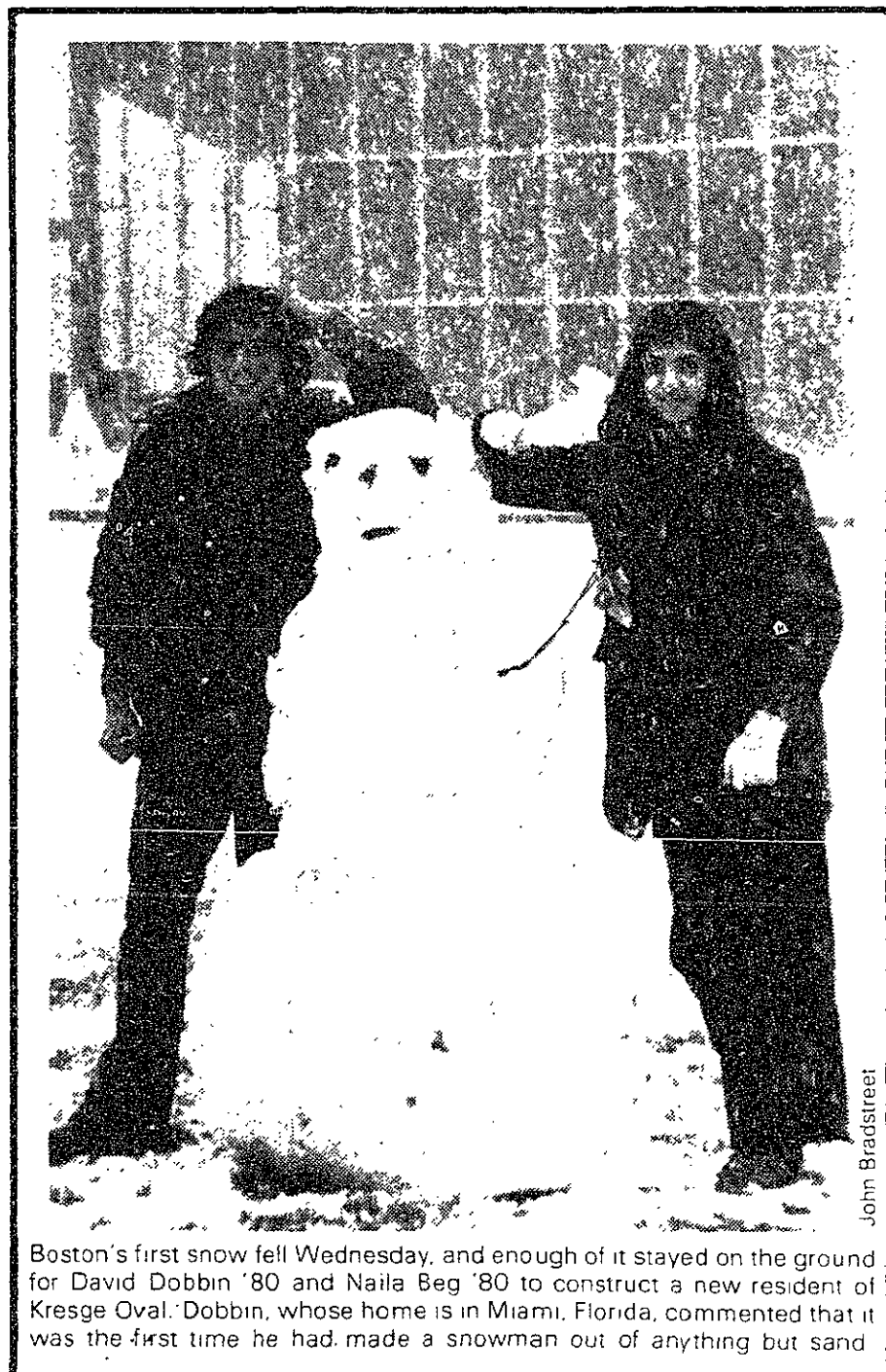
Evans said that the IRA might lose its base of popular support if the British army pulled out of Ulster, since the Catholics regard the British army as "the enemy" and its presence tends to polarize the population.

He warned, however, that "if the British get sick of Ireland and pull out," full scale civil war could break out, eventually resulting in a re-polarization of Ireland into a totally Catholic state and a totally Protestant state. Ulster is now predominantly Protestant and the Republic of Ireland is almost totally Catholic.

If the British pull out, Evans said, it is also possible that the IRA would be strong enough to win and impose its solution — a unified non-sectarian Irish state.

The struggle between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland, which has been going on

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Boston's first snow fell Wednesday, and enough of it stayed on the ground for David Dobbin '80 and Naila Beg '80 to construct a new resident of Kresge Oval. Dobbin, whose home is in Miami, Florida, commented that it was the first time he had made a snowman out of anything but sand

# notes

\* People interested in applying for the position of R/O Coordinator for next year should come to a meeting in 7-103 at one of the following times: Monday, Nov. 15 from 3 to 4pm, Wednesday, Nov. 17 from 4 to 5pm, or Thursday, Nov. 18 from 2 to 3pm. If unable to come to one of these meetings, contact the FAC Office (x3-6771) and leave your schedule. The salary for this position is \$1,000.

\* The MIT Brass Ensemble will give a performance at 8pm on Sunday, Nov. 14 in Kresge Auditorium, featuring music composed over a period of 340 years.

\* Follow Disco Dock to Simmons Chorale Disco Party from 9pm to 1am tonight at Simmons Hall, 255 Brookline Ave., Boston. Admission \$1 with college ID. Free beer. For information call Debbie at 731-4567 or 738-2415 eve.

\* The Harvard Graduate School of Design presents a lecture by Harry Seidler, Australian architect and visiting professor of architecture at the GSD, at 5:30pm on Tuesday, Nov. 16 in Piper Auditorium, Gund Hall, 48 Quincy St., Cambridge.

\* The Department of City and Regional Planning of the Harvard Graduate School of Design presents a lecture by Robert Gallamore, associate administrator for transportation planning, Office of Transportation Planning, Urban Mass Transportation Administration, at 5pm on Thursday, Nov. 18, in Piper Auditorium, Gund Hall, 48 Quincy St., Cambridge.

\* A two-hour symposium entitled "Christ and the City" will be held Saturday, Nov. 20, from 10am to noon, at Marsh Chapel, 735 Commonwealth Ave., Boston University. The symposium will feature persons involved in specific community action programs as a result of their Christian faith.

\* The Greater Boston YMCA, 316 Huntington Avenue, has special rates for students. Call 536-7800, x166.

\* "The Poets at Boston City Hall Plaza," photographs by Cynthia R. Benjamins, will be on view Nov. 3 through Nov. 29, Monday to Friday, from 9am-5pm. Reception: Tuesday, Nov. 9 from 6-8pm.

\* Stanford vs. Berkley Big Game Broadcast, Saturday, Nov. 20 at the Quaffers in the Hampshire House, 84 Beacon St., Boston. Admission \$3. Kickoff is 4:30pm, for Stanford Berkley Alumni and friends only.

\* A five-day Stop Smoking Program will be offered by the Medical Department to students, staff, employees and spouses on Nov. 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19. It will be held from 1pm to 2pm in the Vannevar Bush Room on the first floor of Building 10 except on Thursday, Nov. 18 when it will be held in Room W20-407. The cost is \$5. The program, a combination of education and practical directions for withdrawing from smoking, will be conducted by Rev. Walter Kloss of the New England Memorial Hospital, a founder of the five-day program which is conducted throughout the country.

\* The Black Rose/Black Circles Lecture Series will present David Wieck, speaking on "Anarchism in the 1970's," tonight at 8pm. Wieck was the editor of the magazine *Resistance*, an anarchist review.

\* Boston University Free School needs teachers for its second semester program being organized now. If you have a talent or some interesting tidbits to impart, please contact Kathy, 426-7595, or Lew at 783-2495.

\* Harvard's Radcliffe Grant-in-Aid Society is presenting "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" through Nov. 20 at the Agassiz Theatre, Radcliffe Yard. For tickets, call 495-2663.

\* Student discounts on tickets to the Boston Ballet's November 11, 12, 13, and 14 performances are now on sale at TCA, Room W20-450. College ID entitles you to a \$3 savings on \$12.50 and \$10.50 tickets, and a savings of \$2.50 on \$7 tickets.

\* Beginning with the Fall term, 1977, the CEEU, Brussels, will award a substantial number of cost-of-living grants to American and Canadian juniors, seniors and graduates who are accepted for study in Paris, London, or Madrid through the agency of Academic Year Abroad, Inc. Applicants must enroll for the full university year, and for France and Spain give evidence of some competence in French or Spanish; applicants for England must have at least a B+ average. Deadline for completed applications is Feb. 15, 1977. For further details and application forms, write: CEEU, P.O. Box 50, New Paltz, N.Y. 12561.

**Kole Kometh**

## SCIENCE NEWS

flash!!! #4

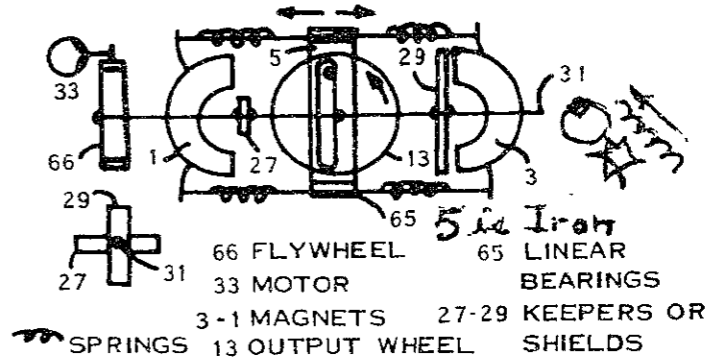
### PHYSICS TODAY

indirectly causes our energy crisis. How? The theory of relativity is in error and it encompasses the second law of thermodynamics.

Imagine Captain Kirk orders warp 4. Enterprise gets smaller than the head of a pin. Kirk, Spock, McCoy, etc., are reduced to the size of a speck of dust or else they get mighty crowded. Enterprise gets more massive by the same factor, it gets smaller, say a couple of million, where does all this mass come from in the vacuum of space? Dr McCoy must be a real shrink to keep

the crew and all that mass in a pin head. Maybe we're pin heads for believing such things.

The permanent magnets of patent 3,879,622 have infinite energy, but how can we extract energy from a static magnetic field? We can't. We have to interrupt the field by rotating the keepers. This causes magnetic waves and we know of no wave phenomena from which we can't extract energy. Note the keepers (shields) are attracted into the shielding position with a conservative force, thus a flywheel on the same shaft gets momentum. This momentum pulls the keeper out except for friction losses. Review SCIENCE NEWS flash on page 6 of *The Tech*, 2 Nov 76 —JW Ecklin

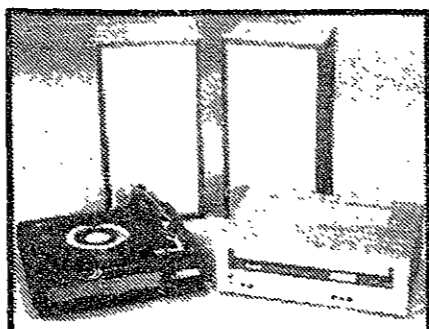


# How To Decide How Much To Spend For A Stereo System.

Before you go out and buy a music system, Tech Hifi would like you to know what you can realistically expect to get in return for your hard-earned money.

## What you can expect between \$200 and \$400.

If you want good sound, you should plan to spend at least \$200 for a complete component system consisting of a stereo receiver, two loudspeakers, a turntable, and a magnetic cartridge. Below \$200, complete systems (and especially all-in-one compacts and consoles) often present too many compromises to be considered true high fidelity systems. In addition, the kind of components you find at Tech Hifi are made with more integrity - and this is reflected in the manufacturers warranties, as well as our own.



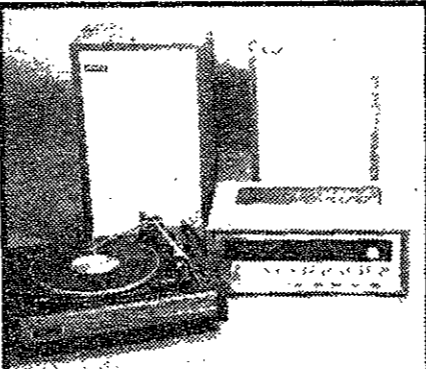
Typical of this price range, this system with a Technics SA-5060 stereo receiver, Studio Design 26 loudspeakers and a fully-equipped BSR 2260BX automatic turntable will smoothly reproduce all audible frequencies except the really deep bass ones (where little music is actually present anyway). The unusually high efficiency of the two-way Studio Design 26 loudspeakers and a powerful direct-coupled OCL amplifier section in the Technics receiver mean that this system will play louder than many others in this price range... with less distortion.

**Technics \$259**

Generally speaking, component systems in the \$200 to \$400 price range will do a good job of reproducing all musical material except the lowest octave of audible sounds. Volume capability in these systems will be more than adequate for small-to-medium sized room and perfectly acceptable in larger rooms if you don't usually listen to loud music.

## What you can expect between \$400 and \$600.

Between \$400 and \$500 you can really begin to custom design your own music system. By matching efficient loudspeakers with a moderately powered receiver you'll end up with a system that will play loudly, but might not deliver the deepest



Designed for people who go for really deep, accurate, bass response, this \$499 system with renowned Large Advent Loudspeakers, a Cambridge Audio 2500 stereo receiver, and a Philips GA 427 turntable with an Audiotechnica 90E cartridge will also please volume fanatics. That's because the Cambridge Audio 2500 offers more power than any other receiver in its price category. Another nice feature is belt drive in the Philips turntable, so rumble doesn't get mixed in with the good deep bass response of the Advent Speakers (rumble is created when vibrations from a turntable's motor aren't properly isolated from the tonearm).

**ADVENT Philips Cambridge Audio audio-technica \$499**

audible notes. Or, you can combine less efficient loudspeakers with a more powerful receiver and come up with a system that will reproduce all the notes you can hear but with some sacrifice in ultimate volume capability.

Above \$500, it's possible to get a system with really deep bass response and the ability to play loudly without distortion. You can also expect a turntable/cartridge combination that will flawlessly reproduce the music on your records with minimal wear. (In comparison, less expensive systems are likely to be a little harder on your records and may introduce some distortion).

## What you can expect above \$600.

Above \$600, the most audible improvements are an increased sense of spaciousness in the music and even



Above \$600, you can expect an increased sense of spaciousness and even greater volume capability. This \$859 system with optimally-vented Ohm C2 loudspeakers, a Nikko 7075 stereo receiver and a Philips GA212 with an Audiotechnica 100E cartridge delivers that, and more! The unique scientific design of the Ohm C2's means that they provide dead-flat response all the way down to 27Hz with considerably less distortion than conventionally-designed speakers. The Nikko receiver features a superb tuner section and unusually sophisticated protection circuitry. The elegant Philips GA212 employs an electronically-regulated DC servo motor and an ultra-precise belt drive system for flawless reproduction of your records.

**NIKKO audio-technica Ohm Philips \$859**

greater volume capabilities. Often, systems in this price category offer considerably more control facilities

and such niceties as power output and multipath meters that appeal to people who like to see what the equipment is doing as well as hear it.

At somewhere around \$1500, you can enter the realm of separate amplifiers and tuners. The story here is even greater output levels, reduced distortion, and more control flexibility.

## Why Tech Hifi Can Give You The Best Value In Every Price Range.

Of all the places you can buy hifi, only Tech Hifi has the combined buying power of fifty-four stereo stores. We get a better deal on just about everything we buy, which means you get a better deal when you buy from us (we actually guarantee you the lowest price in writing).

When you come into Tech Hifi it's like walking into a hifi show. You'll find components from one hundred of the best names in stereo. And whether you plan to spend \$200 or \$2000, our selection improves your chances of getting the system that's right for you. (We also guarantee your complete satisfaction in writing).

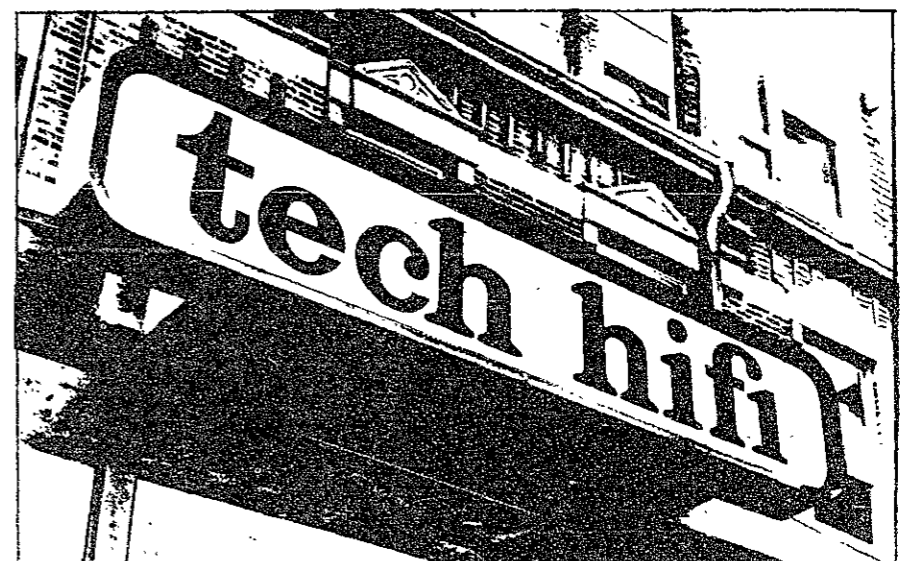
Maximum compatibility is the key to getting the best value in components. Our salespeople are specially trained to help you put together the components that perform best together...and they'll be glad to explain why in plain English.

Because of the massive buying power of our fifty-four stores, our comprehensive selection, and our considerable expertise, we like to think that Tech Hifi can offer you more for your money than any other place you can buy hifi.

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Stores also in New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan.

# Eating at MIT: no such thing as a free lunch

By Daniel A. Nathan

Of all the needs of students at MIT, food is one of the most essential and one of the most expensive. Options about what to eat and where are many and varied.

The most accessible means of on-campus dining is Commons. MIT offers three meal plans which provide unlimited seconds at any meal.

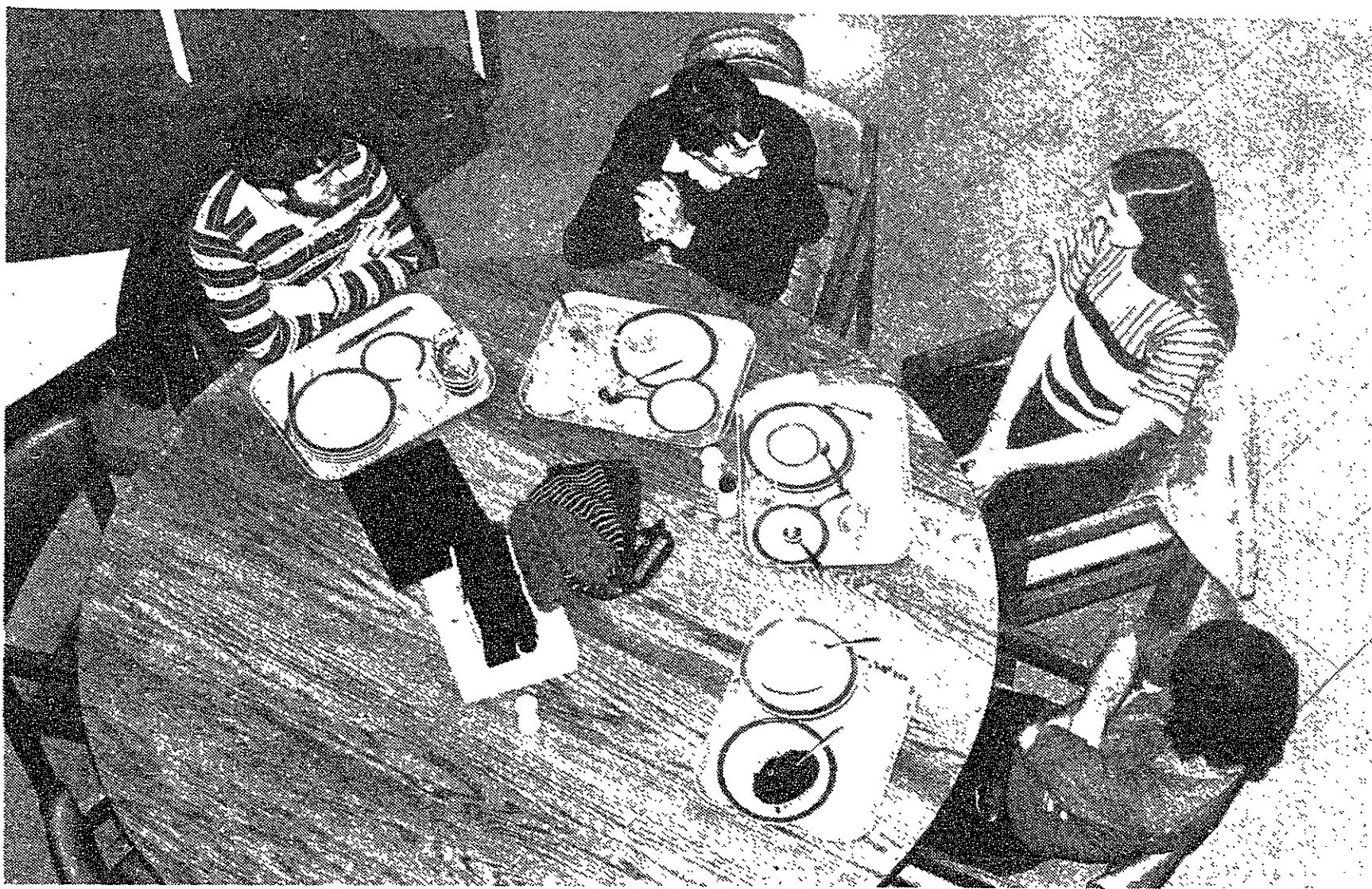
The point plan is the most elastic option, and the most expensive per meal. Under this plan, the student can eat dinner, or lunch and breakfast, every school day of the term. Dinners cost four points — equivalent to \$3.66. Lunches cost three points, or \$2.74, and breakfasts cost one point, or \$.91. An advantage to this plan is the recovery time allowed between exposures to the food service.

The fifteen meal plan offers three meals a day, Monday through Friday, for \$440 — \$5.95 a day. Using the 4:3:1 ratio of the point plan, one finds that dinners cost \$2.97, lunches \$2.23, and breakfasts \$.74. Saturday and Sunday are added to this plan for the 19 meal plan, which costs \$565 per term, an additional \$4.46 per weekend day.

In all, 1134 students rely on Commons: 127 people are on the 19 meal plan, 360 on the 15 meal plan, and 647 are on the point plan. Freshmen make up a large group of those using these plans: 38 per cent of the freshman class this year eats on Commons.

MIT offers the Commons plans at four dining halls: Lobdell, Walker, Baker, and MacGregor. Transfers are available for use at Pritchett Lounge and Twenty Chimneys, which offer more limited fare. The basic menus are the same each day at all four dining halls, with the exception that Walker and Lobdell serve sandwiches for lunch and a fish option for dinner in addition to the main menu. Menus are made up from Army recipe files and from those of a professional chef by an administrative dietician.

For many, Commons' greatest advantage is "infinite food," according to Steve



Gordon Hall

Horn '79. However, people with smaller appetites will not get their full money's worth. Another advantage is the time saved from cooking and shopping: an excursion to one of the local supermarkets can take over an hour, and meal preparation can take just as long. David Jacobs '80 knows another reason: "I'm too lazy." Still another advantage to eating at Commons is expressed by Scott Bernard '78: "I enjoy it as a time to be social."

Sharon Lowenheim '79 found more on the negative side of Commons during her freshman year: "I didn't like the quality of the food, I couldn't pick and choose. I couldn't go out and eat when I wanted to." And she says, "It cost me three times as much as cooking for myself."

An on-campus alternative to Commons for those who keep kosher, or for those who simply prefer to eat superior quality food, is the Kosher Kitchen, located in the Walker basement. The Kitchen offers five dinners a week, charging \$3.00 a meal, except on Friday nights, when it charges \$3.50. Meals are provided by a professional caterer, and must therefore be ordered days in advance. According to Stuart Scharf '77, the Kosher Kitchen Menu Chairman, ten to twenty people eat there on weeknights, while twice that number use this service on Friday evenings.

There is generally less variety for students in an independent living group, but the costs of eating can be considerably less. According to a survey by Spenser Pearson, IFC Financial Management Chairman, the thirty-one houses offer an average of 15 meals per week, ranging from SPE, which offers 21, to the Women's Independent Living Group, which offers none. Some houses such as ATO and SAE have "sign-up" meal plans, but most have obligatory plans, with the cost included in the house bill. Food quality also varies; some houses pay outside cooks to prepare lunch and dinner; in others, house members do all the cooking.

At PIKA, house members cook dinner for pay seven nights a week. The cost of eating works out to \$265 per person per term, or \$19 a week, which includes the use of an open, stocked kitchen at all hours, where one can make his lunches and breakfasts. According to house steward Teresa Costanza '78, "we don't have extravagant stuff, but we do eat meat most nights, with vegetables, rice or noodles, and salad or soup."

LCA has a cook to make lunch and dinner everyday except Sunday, and members are paid to cook breakfast. LCA's food bill amounts to about \$70 per month per person, which includes the cooks' salaries. The cost of snacks are added to a member's house bill. Their food is described by house steward John Jones as "pretty much standard, with possibly slightly larger helpings than at other frats." LCA's members dress for dinner in jackets and ties three nights a week.

ATO serves lunch and dinner five days a week. Lunches cost \$1.10, and dinners cost \$1.95. House members pay only for those meals they eat. DU has a paid cook six

days a week; and brothers wait on tables as part of their house chores. The cost comes to about \$11 per person per week.

KS has an obligatory meal plan offering lunches and dinners and an open kitchen for breakfast. House steward Steve Brigham '78, a nutrition major, asserts that each dinner "has at least 25 grams of protein."

The basic difference between fraternity meal plans narrows down to one between preparing one's own breakfasts and lunches in the house kitchen or having those meals prepared for you, between eating the meals cooked by an experienced professional or by a brother who may be majoring in chemical engineering or vivisection.

For students experienced in cooking, or adventurous enough to learn, "dining-in" seems to be the most attractive alternative. Of the seven on-campus dormitories only McGregor, New House, Burton, and Bexley are equipped with kitchens, although many students in Baker, East Campus, and Senior House have appliances such as hot plates, toaster ovens, broiler ovens, refrigerators, and "kitchen magicians" to facilitate meal preparation. However, cooking in spaces intended for other purposes can cause problems, as in Baker House, where several rooms may be wired on a single circuit, residents have to coordinate their dinner hours in order to not overload electrical circuits. In East Campus rooms plumbing has been known to back up and fill sinks with the previous night's dinner remains.

Yet for many students the joys of cooking outweigh these disadvantages. "I enjoy cooking because I can eat what I want when I want it" is the opinion of Laurie

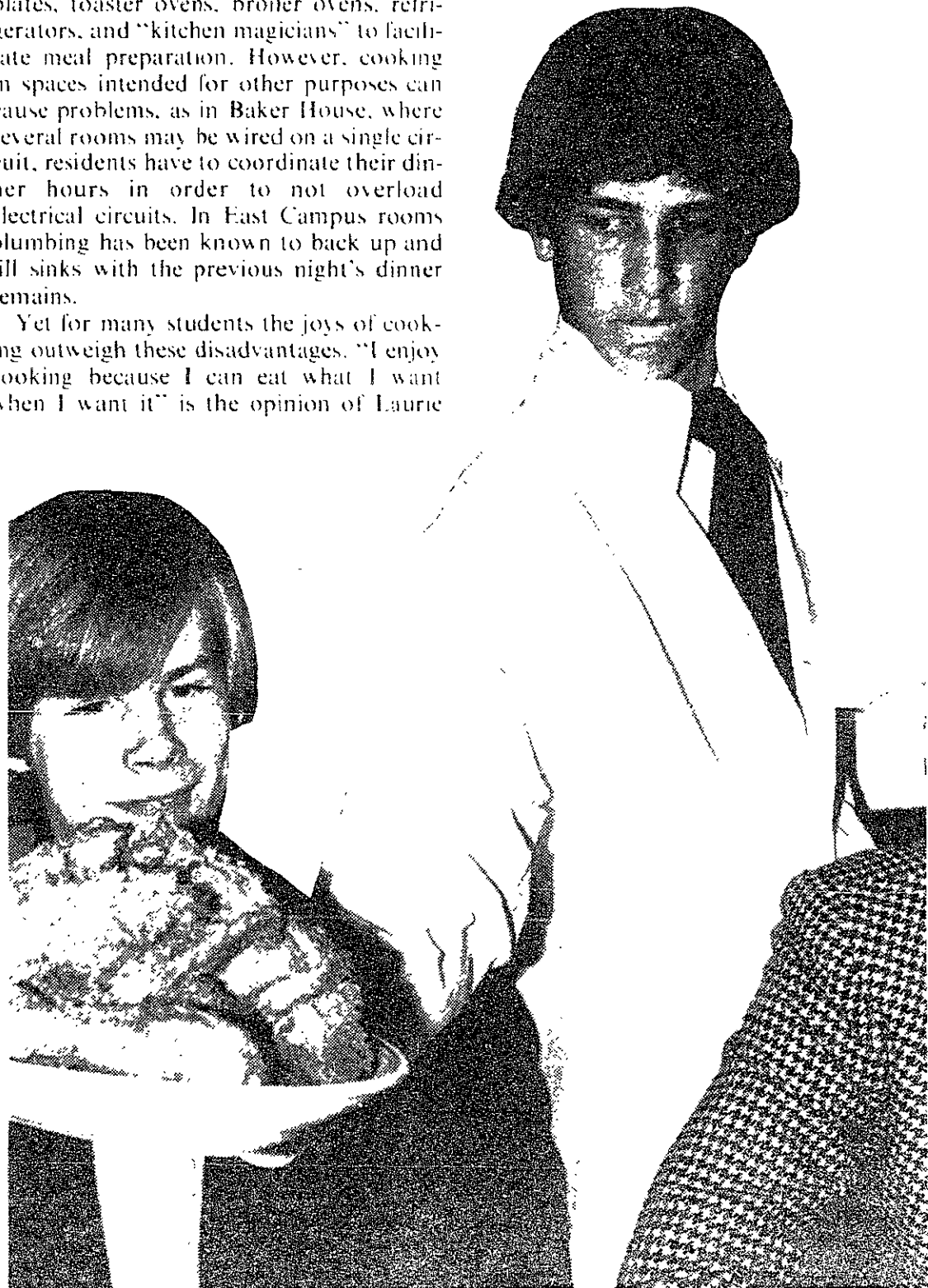
Turkanis '78. "It's also a good excuse not to study." Jose Cisneros '78 asserts that he cooks "because the effort makes eating more enjoyable." He spends about \$15 a week on food, which falls in the range of typical food costs. Of a large number of people surveyed — both those who do all their own cooking, and those who allow the point plan to bear part of the meal burden, all spend somewhere between \$10 and \$25 a week, which clearly represents a saving over the \$39 per week one pays on the Commons 19-meal plan.

Finally, the value of eating on some systematic plan, be it institutional or self-imposed, can be seen from a comparison with a restaurant of dubious quality, such as McDonald's. Dining in that style would cost at least five dollars per day, or \$35 per week.

About the only thing universal to eating at MIT is its high cost, and the 8 per cent Massachusetts meals tax makes many of the options even more expensive.



Mark Munkacsy and Gordon Hall



## Looking at the funnies, from Pogo to Doonesbury

By Glenn Brownstein -

Ask the average MIT student which parts of the daily paper he/she reads, and you'll get the answer, "the front page, the edit page, the sports page, the comics" (with maybe an Ann Landers or Ask Beth thrown in).

The well-read, erudite MIT student would be expected to glean the important items from the day's news and sports pages in order to remain informed although some students can use the advice found in Ann Landers or Ask Beth (especially the latter).

But the most intelligent, scientific minds spend minutes of every day following the progress of "Doonesbury" or "Wizard of Id?" Hard to believe, but it's true. In fact, the *Boston Globe* received literally hundreds of phone calls last year when it dropped "Tank McNamara" from the comics page. The complaints turned out to be premature, though, as "Tank" took its place at the top of the "Scoreboard" section of the sports page, where it remains today.

Indeed, there are millions of comic page devotees across the country. When Joanie Caucus, the middle-aged runaway housewife in the "Doonesbury" strip, applied to law school, more than one thousand Boston University students presented a petition for her admission to BU's dean, who approved it.

A group of comic buffs are presently mounting a campaign to honor the "father of the comic strip" Richard F. Outcault, with a US postage stamp in 1978. While this is representative of more modest efforts made by comic fans, it's clear that marketing novelties and other items based on comic strip characters is big business.

For example, take "Peanuts." This strip, created by Charles Schulz over 25 years ago, has the unmatched record of having never been dropped by any newspaper that started to carry it. Books, games, toys, shirts, lunchboxes, and hundreds of other items have been sold bearing Peanuts caricatures and cartoons; one dozen television specials have been made featuring Charlie Brown and his gang.

Another popular example of a strip that made it was "Pogo," discontinued last year after the death of its creator, Walt Kelly. "Pogo" was the "Doonesbury" of the 1950's; its sharp political satire attracted college students who mounted a nationwide Presidential campaign for the legendary possum in 1956.

The Sunday funnies have been with us far longer than 20 years, however. New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia read the Sunday comics over the radio to anxious children (and adults) during a severe winter-long newspaper strike of the 1930's. But well before that, in the early years of this century, the Sunday comics section was as important a part of the newspaper as any.

One cannot go far in most college dorms or business offices without seeing some strip pasted onto a room door or wall — such is the universal magic of comics. It's often been said that television is a mirror of reality. Well the comics are the *humorous* mirrors of reality, a chance for us to think about the trials and tribulations we must deal with every day and sit back and laugh at them.

Do MIT students really care that Frank Barto married Janice Brooks in Apartment 3G after they sweated out the story line of the strip for nine months? Or does it matter that Ginny Slade pulled out of her Congressional race in order to help defeat incumbent Philip Venture, whose reputation suffered after it was revealed that he hired secretaries to read nuclear arms treaties to him in motel rooms?

My answer is this: some people get off on movies and shows, some on soap operas, some on solving quartic equations (although I can't see how), and some on comic strips. Neither method is any less healthy than the other. However, comics are cheaper and quicker to digest than the other media, which is probably why they do so well at MIT. It's hard to believe, though — I can't see any fiction being stranger and more absurd than the usual things that happen around here.

# The Tech

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Volume 96, Number 45  
Friday, November 12, 1976

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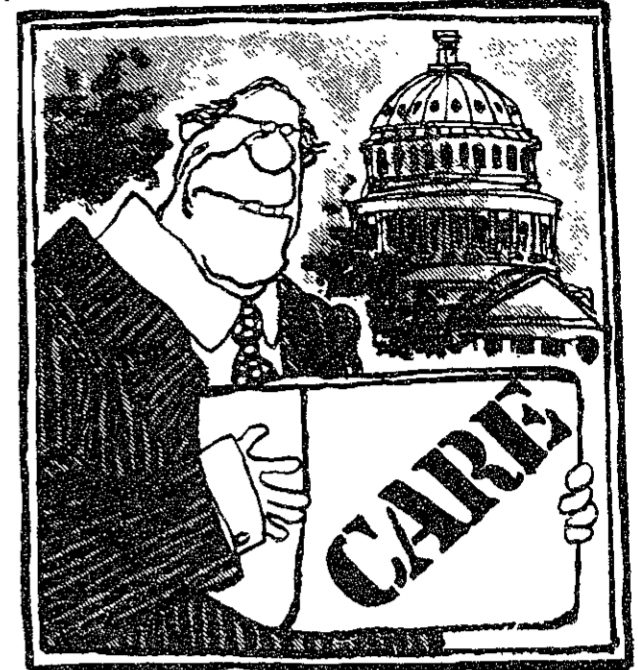
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Commentary

## Understanding avant-garde

By Roger Kolb

To the everlasting glory of avant-garde art, another remarkably simple exhibit has just opened in Hayden Gallery. A couple of months earlier, the verdant symmetry of the Great Court was spoiled by the installation of a large, avant-garde Henry Moore sculpture. What with the daily pressures of problem sets

being hip to the latest thing (*le dernier cri*, as the French call it) meant that mankind had now arrived at a couple of ideas essential to the concept's emergence.

The first saw man coming around to the view that modern art was as good as, or even better than, that of the past.

This was a relatively recent development. Throughout most

of the past two thousand years, men have felt that the art of some earlier time was superior to their own. Even the ancient Greeks looked back wistfully to some vaguely-defined golden age in their prehistoric past. A sharp break in man's attitude towards contemporary art occurred late in the seventeenth century in the literary battle between Ancients and Moderns, waged largely in France. Arrayed against the Ancients, the champions of antiquity, were those who felt that Cicero, Plutarch, et al must now

bow to the excellence of contemporary literature. Theirs was the Age d'Or, the high noon of the Sun King Louis XIV; of Racine, Corneille, Moliere and the palace at Versailles. It was, they felt, an era of magnificent artistic achievement, and they didn't hesitate to let people know about it.

The second assumption necessary to give birth to the avant-garde art concept was that there was a link among man's social, economic and artistic progress. Before the eighteenth century, art was usually viewed as an isolated phenomenon created independently of social and economic events. During the Enlightenment, however, The Arts were now said to be joined to the others in a common rhythm. What one did, the others were believed to have done. If one was thought to have progressed during a given period, the others were said to have done likewise. When Enlightenment philosophers, notably Condorcet, argued that society was in a continual state of progress that would ultimately lead to perfection, it followed that The Arts would do the same. Gradually modern artists were assigned the didactic role until now occupied by the authors of antiquity. Where society had looked to Cicero, Plutarch, et al for

(Please turn to page 5)

The true artist was now to be regarded as . . . a sorcerer performing a secret rite revealed by time to the dull-witted masses.

and term papers, a number of MIT students are still unfamiliar with this increasingly common term. Avant-garde. What does that mean? What is avant-garde art, and is the opposition it has aroused here justifiable?

Examining the term in its historical and contemporary aspects is desirable not only as a way of enlightening the uninformed, but of gaining insight into the mentality that is dead set on foisting art works on a campus that, by and large, does not want them.

According to *The American Heritage Dictionary*, "avant-garde" is to be defined as "a group, as of writers and artists, regarded as pre-eminent in the invention and application of new techniques in a given field." The term is also used as a noun to signify admirers of that group and as an adjective to describe its art works. Avant-garde art fans have traditionally viewed their interest in a medium as absolutely essential to the continuation of stylistic progress. The art works they encourage, it is now commonly believed, will some day become popular in the larger world by the same standard that Raphael and Beethoven are now said to be popular.

'Avant-garde' was first used in a recognizably modern sense early in the nineteenth century, in what were still the formative years of the Romantic movement. Emphasis upon the importance of

of the past two thousand years, men have felt that the art of some earlier time was superior to their own. Even the ancient Greeks looked back wistfully to some vaguely-defined golden age in their prehistoric past. A sharp break in man's attitude towards contemporary art occurred late in the seventeenth century in the literary battle between Ancients and Moderns, waged largely in France. Arrayed against the Ancients, the champions of antiquity, were those who felt that Cicero, Plutarch, et al must now

→ feedback

## Recycling at dorms

To the Editor:

I noted with interest and amusement *The Tech's* article stating that there was no recycling effort being made at MIT's dormitories since I am in the final stages of organizing such a program. The target date for the first pick-ups is Saturday, November 27, the Saturday immediately after Thanksgiving.

The system I have set up will employ the labor of Cambridge Council Boy Scouts in transferring recyclable paper from a central location point in each residence hall to a campus-wide collection point where it will be

picked up by a junk dealer. The scouts will be under the supervision of their adult leaders and MIT students while they are at work. They will use the proceeds to finance their units.

I will be meeting with dorm presidents or their representatives this coming Monday to work out the final details. I hope that dorm residents will communicate their interest in recycling by urging their presidents to get their houses involved and to attend the Monday meeting.

Yale M. Zussman G  
November 7, 1976

# opinion cont.

## feedback

### No playoffs, few referees: how not to run IM soccer

To the Editor:

It is a well-known fact that MIT's extensive Intramural Program is here for the benefit and participation of the entire MIT Community. While this "universal" participation differs somewhat from that of many American sports (including professional), the many levels of sport usually share two important things in common:

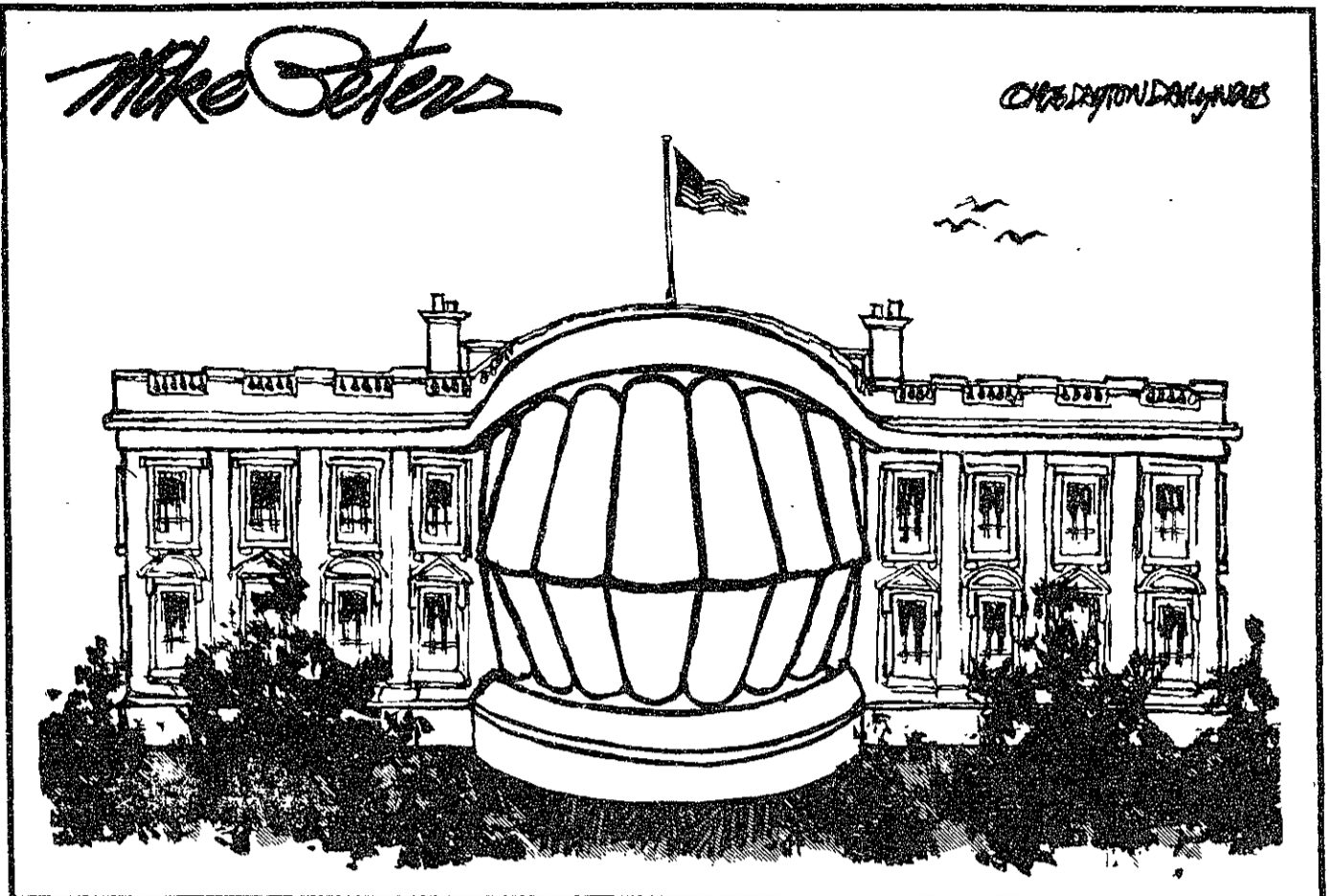
- 1) the individual's exuberance in athletic competition and the 'team' experience, and
- 2) the anticipation of post-season play for those teams fortunate enough to qualify.

In my four years of IM play, I have found that many sports have been adequately managed and have included playoffs (A, B League) in their structure. Usually, playoffs were omitted due to lack of space. However, this year's IM Soccer program is what I must take exception to. Last year, for instance, even though there was only room enough for a four-game schedule, a very adequate playoff structure for at least A and B leagues was arranged. Everybody was happy.

This year, it seems to me that the program is (was) very shoddy. If a person assumes the important position of managing an IM program, a complete, and not a half-ass job is needed. It is a service to the whole community being done, and therefore should not be taken lightly. Here are some examples of what I mean:

- 1) although there are two teams from my fraternity (thus reducing the chance of being overlooked), we did not receive a copy of this season's schedule — a minor inconvenience
- 2) the schedules posted in duPont were gone after two weeks — a major inconvenience
- 3) the rained-out games of Saturday, October 9 were not rescheduled (although promised that morning)
- 4) the refereeing was highly variable.

While most did a commendable job, there is one glaringly bad example that must be mentioned. During the second half of what my team considered to be an important game in the standings, the



IM Soccer manager was our lone official. During that time, he stayed mostly at one far end of the field, observing much of the game from a very impractical distance. While I admit it is hard to be the one ref, his total lack of effort to even be in the center of the field influenced the outcome of the game. A very poor example to others, indeed!

Finally, there is the fact that

only A-League playoffs are being scheduled. For myself and many other disappointed B-Leaguers, I cannot possibly understand why B-League (and possibly C as well) playoffs have not been scheduled, unless it was pure laziness on the part of those involved.

Certainly, it could not be for lack of space, because A-League playoffs couldn't possibly take up more than half of a playing day. If weather was a problem, braving the cold and wind of Oct. 23 can't be much worse than anything else. If money for refs was lacking, I'm sure each team involved would have been glad to come up with a ref for the opportunity to play. Lastly, it couldn't have been

for a lack of enthusiasm, for my team (I'm sure others as well!) played their hearts out in the last game in order to gain a possible position in the playoffs that we all assumed would occur.

I don't want this letter to sound like sour grapes, because I would have been very upset at the whole situation even if my team was out of contention. I just hope that the IM Council takes note of this letter and takes proper action to insure that the MIT Community gets the quality IM programs that it deserves. After all, there is enough screwing going on at the Institute as there is.

Jeffrey A. Starr '77  
A B-League Soccer Captain

### Avant-garde: what it means

(Continued from page 4)

moral guidance, Goethe, Shelley, and Hugo, to name a few, were now being called upon for the same service. "Poets," wrote Shelley, "are the unacknowledged legislators of the world."

Meanwhile, partly out of the womb of the Enlightenment and partly in reaction to it, a collection of attitudes was beginning to emerge that was to give birth to

Saint-Simon, usually described as the founding father of modern socialistic thought, used the term to denote radically progressive leaders of both art and society. His conception of history, like that of the later Enlightenment philosophers, was that of inexorable progress leading to Utopia. The New Christianity was his name for the good society, whose socialistic fabric would be

must become the "vanguard of the revolutionary forces in our time." By so doing he used the Russian word 'avangard.'

With Saint-Simon's death in 1825, an important rift developed among his followers. One faction took the position that art should serve a didactic function; that artists should be cultivated as instruments of social propaganda leading mankind to its happy destiny in socialist Utopia. The other side argued that art should be fostered and cultivated for its own sake, rejecting the notion that artists should dedicate themselves to helping man achieve his social goals.

The term 'avant-garde' came into general usage later in the century to apply to artists and their followers who embraced the latter viewpoint. How that happened will be explained in the next installment.

... artistic genius had to be misunderstood. . . . The artist who produced popularity was a bad artist.

the Romantic movement. One of these involved a re-definition of the artist, a subject on which the early Romantics dwelled almost as much as the nature of art itself. The true artist was now to be regarded as a hypersensitive, antisocial, misunderstood genius, a sorcerer performing a secret rite revealed by time to the dull-witted masses. To be authentic, artistic genius had to be misunderstood. (In 1821 a young French poet went so far as to swallow cyanide after composing a note claiming that it was hopeless, the world would never understand him.) The artist who produced popularity was a bad artist.

Into this intellectual climate Henri de Saint-Simon hurled his *Opinions Littéraires, Philosophiques et Industrielles* in 1825. It was here that the previously martial term 'avant-garde' was used for the first time in an artistic sense,

based on feelings of universal harmony, humanitarianism, sympathy and love. At the head was placed an elite, administrative 'avant-garde' of artists, scientists and industrialists. Of these, artists were to be assigned the leading role because of their ability to stimulate the sentiments necessary to keep The New Christianity running properly.

(In the ensuing century or so, 'avant-garde' and 'vanguard' were to be adopted as newspaper names by numerous communist parties in Europe and North America. Lenin, in his seminal *What Is To Be Done?* (1902), wrote that the Communist Party

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# Space skills useful

By Thomas J. Spisak

The benefits of the space program lie not in the technology it developed but in the uses and perceptions of those technologies, astronaut Russell L. (Rusty) Schweickart '56, NASA Assistant for Payload Operations, told an Aeronautics and Astronautics General Seminar Wednesday.

Schweickart, lunar module pilot on Apollo IX and back-up commander of the first Skylab mission, said research and development costs of most of this technology are too high for private industry, so the risks would have to be borne by the government.

"Everyone wants to know that his tax dollar is doing good but no one wants to hear the specifics. People are satisfied with assurances and then they want to talk about life on Mars," he observed.

He added that the specifics were "where the payoff is. It's boring as hell but the technology pays for the romance and the space colonies."

Schweickart cited communica-

tions satellites and satellite-borne earth resource surveys as direct benefits of the space program. "We are only beginning the practical use of the potential of the new environment [space]," he stated.

The cost of an overseas telephone call has been more than halved due to communications satellites, he said. India's use of a communications satellite to beam educational television into remote villages was a benefit of space technology, Schweickart added.

LANDSAT surveys of earth resources have been used to pinpoint solutions to problems as diverse as land use in the Sahel and mosquito control in Louisiana, according to Schweickart.

"Although the start-up costs are tremendous, the on-the-ground user costs turn out to be very low," he said. "The Space Shuttle's capability to revisit stations makes very large in-place space systems possible. A very large, high power orbiting antenna would make the Dick Tracy wrist radio practical," he added.



Astronaut Russell L. Schweickart '56 explained the benefits of the space program

John Bradstreet

## Indoor ice rink, track planned

(Continued from page 1)  
be a "multipurpose" facility.

The indoor rink will also serve as a special events center which will be used for such events as Commencement, Alumni Day, and the MIT Open House.

Smith hopes that construction will start around March 1 so that the only major activities interrupted would be varsity and intramural hockey. The varsity program would continue on rented ice but Smith said that renting a rink for IM hockey would be too expensive and the

program would be temporarily dropped.

If construction starts in the fall, Smith indicated that two years of hockey would be interrupted, but he affirmed that other programs would continue.

The construction of the new athletic complex is only one phase of a long-range athletic project. The second phase will consist of the renovation of duPont gymnasium to accommodate men's and women's basketball and volleyball as well as intramural sports.

In the final phase Rockwell Cage will be torn down to make room for a new indoor facility with room for swimming, squash, additional locker space, and support services. The target date for the total completion of these facilities is in the mid-1980's.



Ernest Evans G

## Irish strife persists

(Continued from page 1)

for seven years, is based on race, Evans asserted, and is not a class struggle as some analysts have maintained.

Evans attributed the struggle to "differing interpretations of history" and "different religious heritages."

Although the title of the talk

was "Report on Ireland: Some of My Best Friends are Terrorists," Evans spent little time talking about his terrorist friends, saying simply that they were very nice people. "People who can get up on a pillar and rant and rave and scare the hell out of you... are very charming and friendly in private."

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## Asimov says sci-fi predicts reality, doesn't prove it

By David Koretz

Dr. Isaac Asimov, the scientist, wit, and author whose works include science fiction, limericks and medical texts, spoke Monday night to an enthusiastic full house at Kresge Auditorium.

Asimov, in his fourth appearance at MIT, attempted to demonstrate the ability of this century's science fiction writers to predict the future. "Science fiction is escape literature," he admitted, but he emphasized that "at its best, it's an escape to reality."

The former professor of biochemistry at Boston University detailed three examples of accurate prediction:

—*The Man Who Awoke*, by Lawrence Manning (1933), is the story of a man who, after three thousand years in suspended animation, awakens to find a primitive feudal society. The reason: depletion of the world's natural resources by wasteful ancestral generations. This work, Asimov asserted, was the first prediction of the energy crisis which surfaced in 1973.

—Asimov's first published story, "Trends", which appeared in *Astounding Science Fiction Magazine* in 1939, was the first story which imagined public opposition to space flight and the *only* such story written before that opposition actually appeared in the late 1950's. His explanation of the failure of any other writer to suggest such a development was concise: "People are stupid."

—A number of "atomic doom" stories of the late 1930's such as Robert Heinlein's "Solution Unsatisfactory" (1941), accurately anticipated the nuclear stalemate of the Cold War as a natural result of the

then hypothetical construction of the then theoretical atomic bomb.

Unfortunately, Asimov's argument ignored the hundreds of outlandish and inaccurate predictions made in over four decades of science fiction writing. Nor did it address the question of whether the purpose of science fiction lies in the field of art or in social science.

Certainly the best writers use their imaginations to describe a variety of future worlds. Whether or not it is important that a few turn out to approximate future reality is one of the questions left unanswered by Asimov's lecture.

In its essence, though, the lecture was much less an attempt to advance arguments than one to entertain students devoted to science and science fiction, and this is what Asimov does best.

For example, in commenting that nuclear weapons were a further illustration that "all history is a record of the conflict between competing stupidities," he paused to interject, "Good Lord, we've just gone through an election, haven't we!" He noted the realization by American intelligence agencies that their classified research strongly resembled the content of science fiction pulp magazines; "Intelligence," he scoffed — "that's just a name given to spies to confuse the enemy."

Asimov, dividing the genre into gadget science fiction, adventure science fiction and social science fiction, candidly admitted that writers are often more pleased with their work if it brings in more money. He quipped, "That's what's called artistic integrity."

Asimov discussed a wide range of topics,



including electronic calculators ("To this day I don't know what's inside — maybe a very clever bug."), a well-known science writer ("The reason he never went to college was to keep his brain pure.") and women ("Some people have this notion that I treat women as sexual objects. Well, if I do, I'm willing to even it up. I'll allow women to treat me as a sexual object!").

Whether or not Asimov's arguments are convincing, or even plausible, he accomplished what he came to do. He entertained twelve hundred loyal fans for ninety minutes with nostalgic recollections, wry humor and an overall presence that is anything but dull. As much as the audience enjoyed his appearance, however, one can't help but feel that he enjoyed it most of all.

### Commentary

## Critic suggests students don't value art

By Peter Coffee

In its ongoing effort to persuade MIT's undergraduates that the random scrap decorating Technology's grounds is, in fact, art, the MIT News Office seized upon an article by Robert Garrett, Art Critic for the Boston *Herald American*, which was reprinted in November 10's *Tech Talk*.

Garrett's contemptuous reference to the "prosaic mind" of the "frisbee-playing student," "intimidated by [art]," who lacks the "active eye" needed to see the "fabulously blooming" sculpture on MIT's campus, is an insult to the MIT community. Garrett describes MIT as "a labyrinth of corridors which only... a computer-like sense of direction can unravel," and his image of the role of art on a functioning campus is equally absurd.

Garrett, for example, "would like to think of chemical engineers intrigued and charmed by daily glimpses" of Louise Nevelson's "Transparent Horizons." That monochromatic metal misfit has been condemned by nearly everyone but Wayne Andersen, whom Garrett describes as "the Svengali responsible for this touch of humanism." It is about as "charming" as the wreckage of the late, great Cain's Mayonnaise sign of Vassar Street, and lost any measure of "intrigue" it might once

have possessed when the residents of East Campus finally realized that Physical Plant intended to leave it where it stood.

Garrett is perceptive enough to note that "the Nevelson is the focal point of one of the most pleasant spaces on campus," although he is obviously in no position to appreciate how much nicer it used to be. He aptly describes the Great Sail as an assembly of "hulking shards of metal," but somehow sees McDermott Court's windscreen as an expression of "the idea of wind and motion." The added emphasis is the only possible comment.

Garrett is most effusive in reference to Henry Moore's "Three-Piece Reclining Figure, Draped," better known as the bronze bunny in DuPont Court. He describes "the green carpet of lawn," "the closest MIT gets to pastoral [sic]," as an "appropriately" chosen site. This conclusion is unsupported and far from obvious.

Garrett classifies "Figure" as "one of a large family of [Moore's] figures which bridge traditional notions of classical beauty with a formalism based on volumes." Whatever that means, Garrett's tone is one of scholarly approval which defies belief. The *Herald American's* critic is more accurate than he intends when he

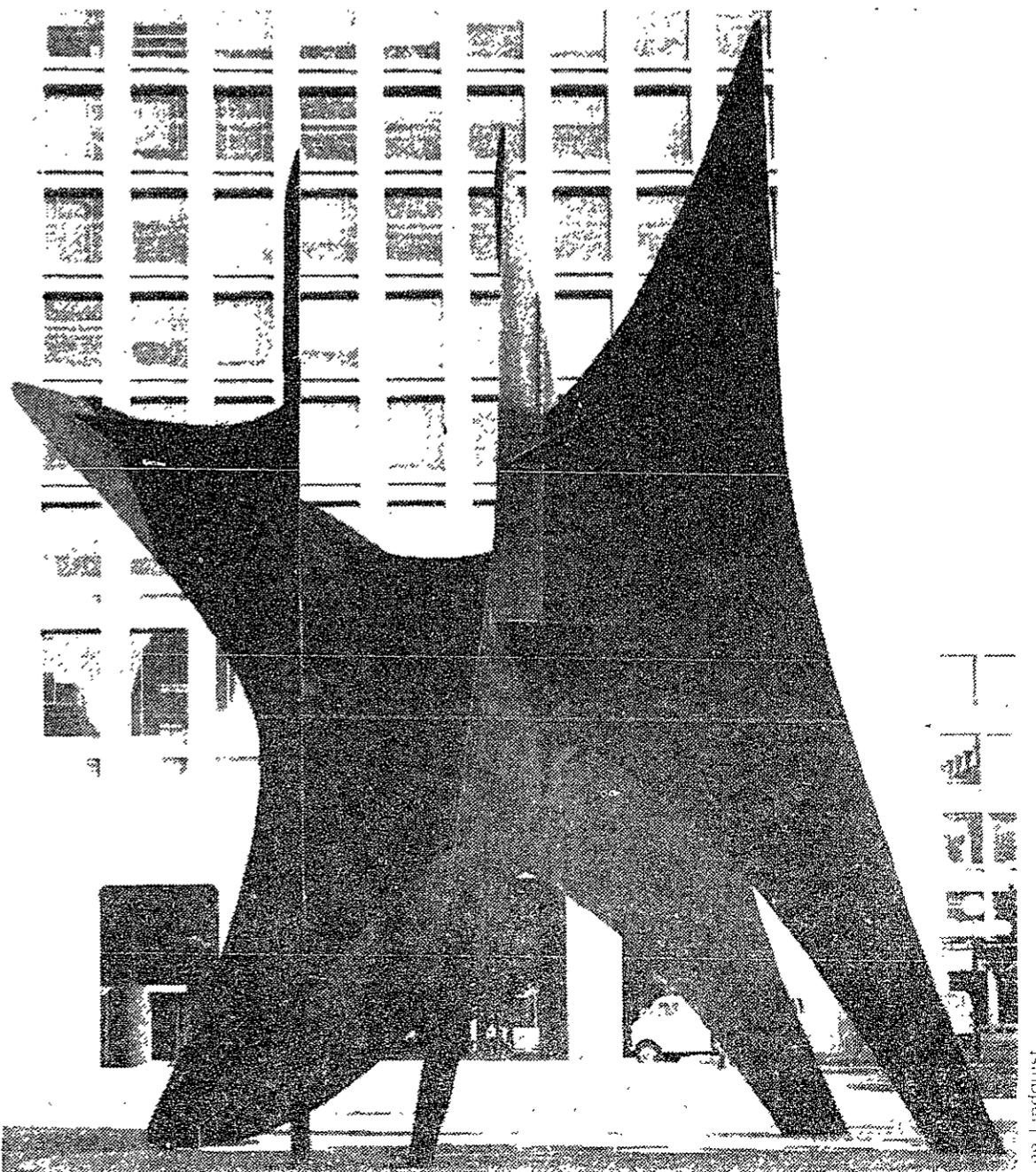
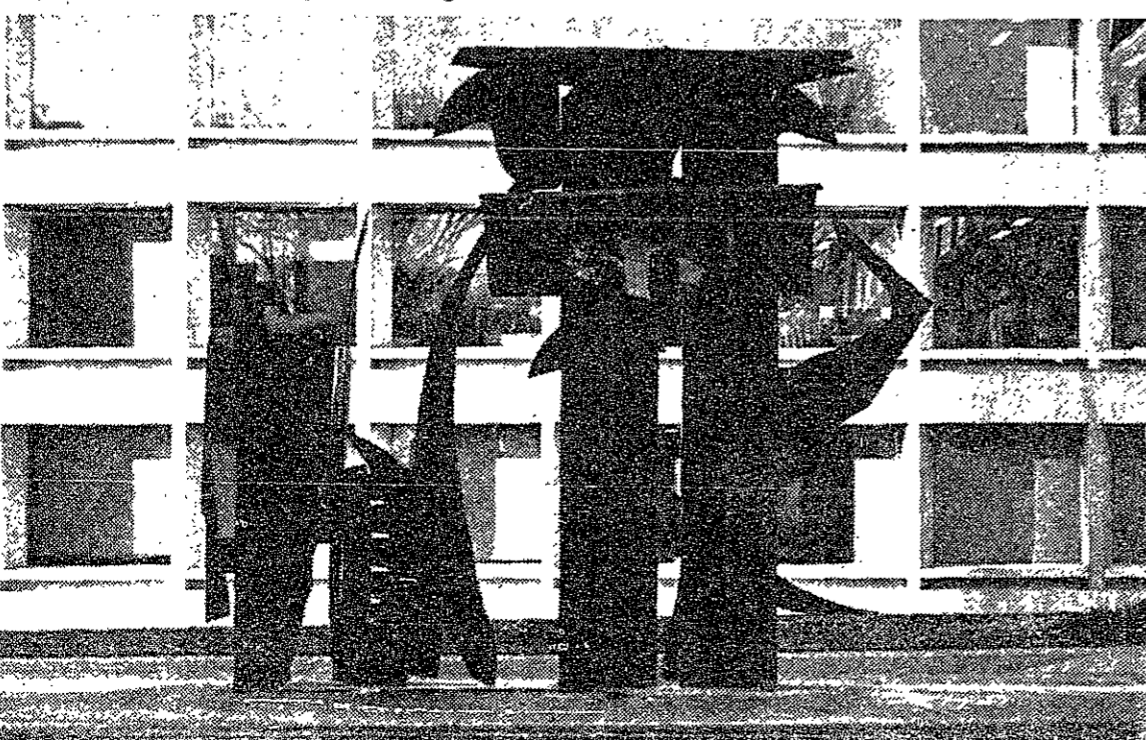
describes Moore as "cutting, carving and truncating... like a curious child... with a scalpel."

The universal scorn with which I have heard Garrett's reprinted article discussed makes me wonder whom the News Office thinks is being fooled, let alone persuaded.

A campus on which concerts and theatre draw full houses and involve active participation by many students can not be dismissed out of hand as a cultural void in which art is doomed to starve for want of informed attention.

A campus on which electronic music, Beethoven, musical comedy and Shakespeare flourish simultaneously can not be labeled a rigid atmosphere in which new and original ideas can gain no audience.

A campus on which the administration has resorted to the questioning of the students' appreciation of art in an undignified effort to generate approval of meritless work *can* be, and should be, a target of serious concern on the part of artists and audience alike.



Tom Klimowicz

Cap. Lindquist

# sports

## Cross country gets bid for Division III Nationals

By Dave Dobos

Tomorrow the MIT cross country team will realize its season-long goal: the Engineers will compete in the NCAA Division III National Championships in Cleveland hosted by Case Western Reserve.

The MIT athletes are making the trip by virtue of the October 25 invitation letter from Billy Squires, cross country coach at Boston State and chairman of the New England Division III selection committee. MIT was one of only six teams chosen from scores of New England area small colleges. The others include Lowell, Brandeis, Southeastern Mass, Bates, and Keene State.

Why was MIT picked? A 7-1 dual meet record, a fourth place finish in the Codfish Bowl two weeks ago, and consistently outstanding and improving performances throughout the season all combined to earn the Engineers the bid. Squires, in his letter, expressed the selection committee's confidence that MIT could well represent the New England area.

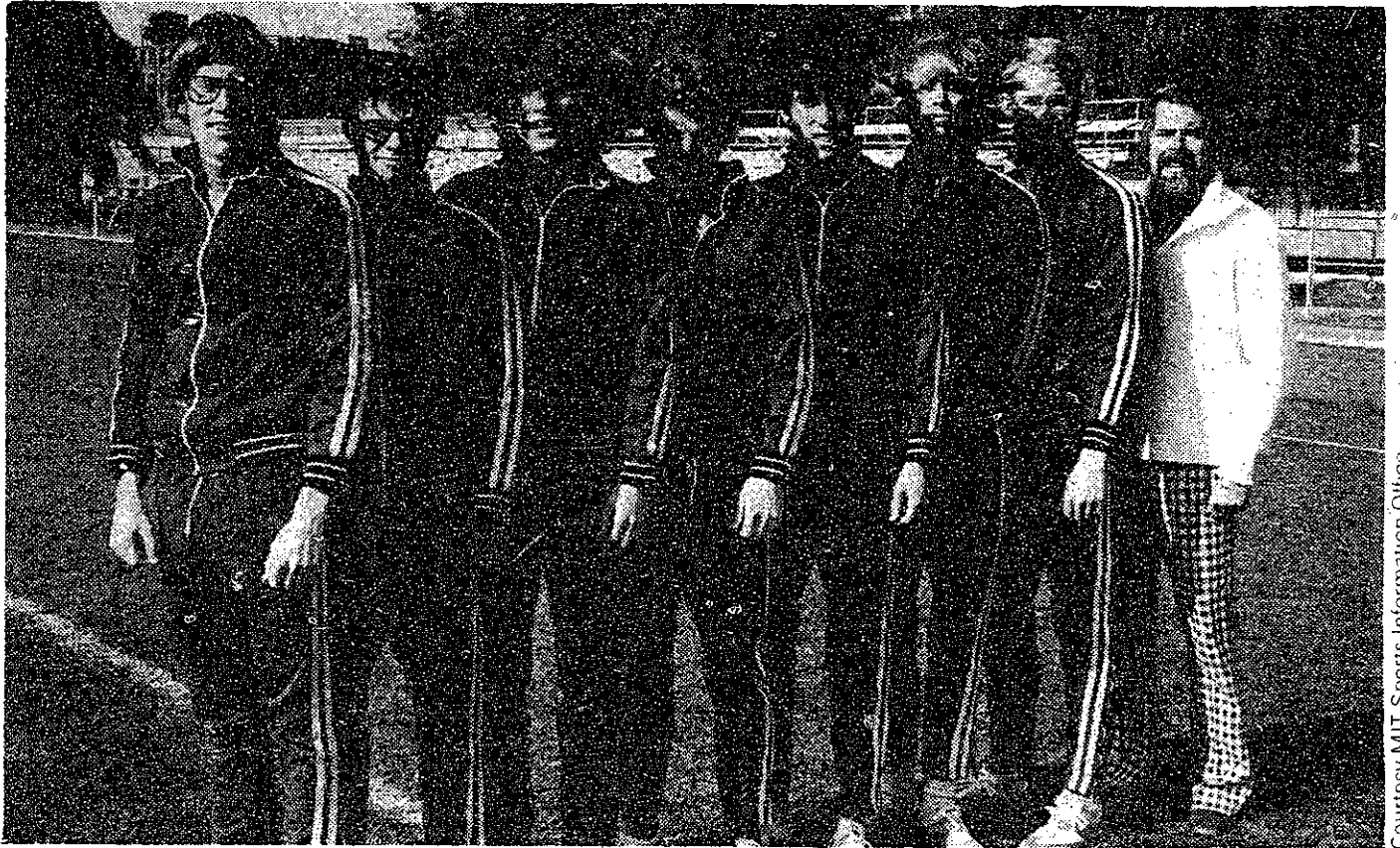
Engineer coach Pete Close couldn't agree more. Close, who, in compiling a 30-13 career record, has built MIT into a New England powerhouse in just four years of coaching, believes that his athletes will "do ourselves credit" in tomorrow's race. He talks of a possible top ten finish

for MIT, if everyone runs to his capability. This would be a significant jump from 18th place in last year's championship.

Close calls this week's contest the highlight of his coaching career. "It's the pinnacle of success to be chosen by your peers," observed the coach, who is a former Olympian himself. He also feels that tomorrow's meet will be an excellent exposure of MIT and its athletic program to the sports public in general and possibly to potential high school applicants as well.

The seven athletes who will represent MIT are senior captain All-American Frank Richardson, seniors John Krolewski and Steve Keith, Chris Svendsgaard '78, Barry Bayus '79, and freshmen Len Nasser and Dave Westenberg. These seven constitute MIT's fastest cross country team in the school's history. All of them have broken 26:00 this season on Franklin Park's 5.0-mile course.

Richardson, who placed fifth in last year's national competition, is hoping to improve that finish in 1976. However, the task will be difficult as the top five from '75 (Lowell's Vin Fleming, Occidental's Joel Jameson, Case's Pete Kummant, North Central's Bruce Fischer, and, of course, Richardson) are all returning. Added to that group is Lowell's Bob



The MIT 1976 varsity cross country team, from left to right, Frank Richardson '77, Barry Bayus '79, Dave Westenberg '80, John Krolewski '77, Len Nasser '80, Chris Svendsgaard '78, Steve Keith '77, coach Pete Close.

Courtesy MIT Sports Information Office

Hodge, who has run the fastest small college times in New England this fall.

Close feels that Richardson is "going to be in there" with the top finishers. Close further states that Richardson is vastly improved from last year. The senior athlete has consistently run times 20 to 30 seconds faster than he ran at his peak last year. His 24:04 at Franklin Park in the Greater Bostons earlier this season is an MIT record. MIT Athletic Director Ross Smith, in commenting about Richardson, said that he would undoubtedly be number one in the country in

most years.

Smith went on to call the 1976 squad "one of the finest teams in the history of the sport" for MIT. Certainly, the top seven runners benefited from the great interest in the sport at MIT. The 30 men and women out for cross country this fall provided for excellent intra-team competition.

It's a great thing that Richardson, in his senior year, will compete with his team rather than alone at such a high-caliber event. He and Svendsgaard, who has developed into a Class A runner himself, will lead this quality squad that few expected would make it to the championship meet of America's finest teams.

## Volleyball invited to Easterns

By Glenn Brownstein

MIT's women's volleyball team has realized its dream. The squad, which completed a perfect 18-0 regular-season mark Tuesday night with a victory over Springfield, was invited that afternoon to compete in the Eastern regional tournament at Mansfield State (Pa.) next Thursday and Friday.

The Engineers' third-place tie

with the University of Rhode Island in the URI Tournament last weekend was considered a major factor in the team's selection.

Joining MIT in Mansfield will be Ithaca, Princeton, Grove City (Pa.), York (Pa.), Maryland-Baltimore, Salem State, and Mansfield State, the host school. The top two finishers in the regional competition will automatically receive bids to the Nationals to be held on Dec. 10-12 at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Cal.

MIT capped its perfect season Tuesday night with a come-from-behind 4-15, 15-10, 15-8 win over perennial power Springfield. MIT overcame first-game woes and the cheers of an enthusiastic Springfield crowd to improve

steadily over the rest of the match and win going away.

The Engineers find themselves in an unusual position tomorrow, having to defend their Division 2 (small college) state championship in Worcester after having defeated every team in the Division 1 (major college) championship bracket. The squad then has four days off before the trip to Mansfield for the Easterns.

### sporting notices

Monday, November 15 is the first day of practice for the men's and women's swimming teams. Practice for women will be from 3 to 5pm; men's practice will be from 5 to 7pm.

\*\*\*\*

There will be an IM Council meeting on Sunday, Nov. 14 at 7:30pm in the Varsity Club Lounge. Elections will be held for managers of IM badminton, softball, squash, swimming, table tennis, and water polo.

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