

in the news

INSIDE

Trying to squeeze athletics or other extracurricular activities into a hectic MIT schedule has always been difficult. *Looking back* features a reprint of a 1909 article that examined this problem.

p7

An MIT pistol team member who has been shooting for just two years has received the honor of an invitation to shoot in the Pan-American games. *Foul shots* looks at David Miller's '79 story this week.

p8

EXCERPTS

Technically, it begins next week. Actually, it began with the epic sigh of relief that could be sensed all over the U.S. right after Labor Day. Even before it arrives,

Americans always manage to get into autumn. And no wonder. It is easily the most habitable season of the year.

Indeed, autumn deserves a hymn — and it has received far less tribute than it deserves. True, some mixed notices have come in over the centuries. Horace slandered autumn as a "dread" period — "harvest-season of the Goddess of Death." He was dead wrong, of course, for as Ovid noted, once he got his mind off sex, autumn is *cum formosissimus annus* — "the fairest season of the year." Had he lived a little later, Horace might have found out from the U.S. Census Bureau that the death rate is usually lower in autumn than in winter and spring. Why? Science doesn't know, but it is quite possible that the will to live is stronger in the fall. Conversely, the will to mayhem weakens: nobody has ever worried about a Long Hot Autumn.

So autumn is a blatantly vital season, contrary to the allegations of sorrowful poets who misconstrue the message of dying leaves. A more realistic poet, Archibald MacLeish, says that "Autumn is the American season. In Europe the leaves turn yellow or brown and fall. Here they take fire on the trees and hang there flaming. Life, too, we think, is capable of taking fire in this country; of creating beauty never seen."

Autumn is also the authentic season of renewal. Yale Lecturer William Zinsser hit the nail squarely: "The whole notion of New Year's Day as the time of fresh starts and resolutions is false." In truth that time is autumn.

— Frank Trippett
Time

TCA apologizes for printing Grogo photo

By Mark James

The Technology Community Association (TCA) Executive Committee apologized in a letter drafted Sunday for any injury caused by the publication of the Grogo photograph in the TCA-published *Freshman Picturebook*.

Committee on Discipline (COD) charges filed by Assistant Director of Admissions John Mack '73 call for the expulsion of the entire TCA staff in connection with the *Picturebook* photo.

Some members of the MIT community have charged that the photograph of *Technique's* mascot Grogo — a small black statue of a gorilla — together with its caption, "Harvey Grogo — Kampala, Uganda," is a racist slur against black Africans and blacks in general.

The new TCA statement reads:

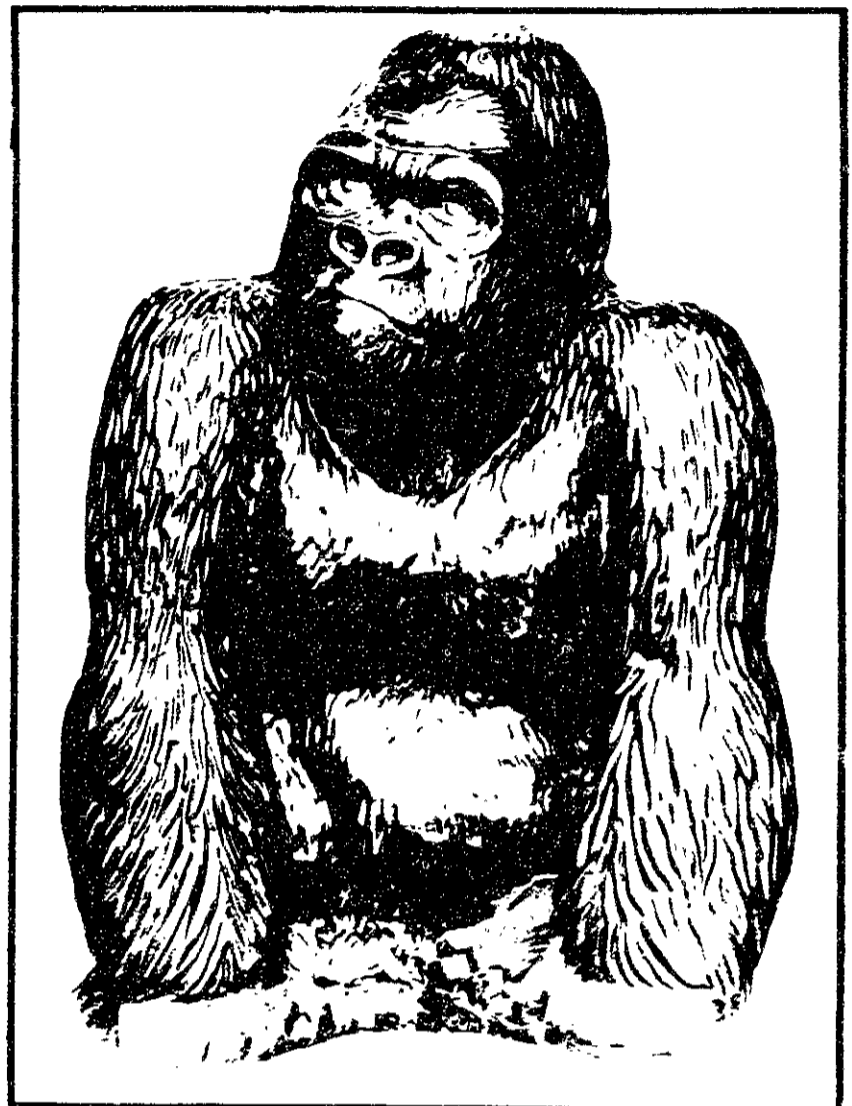
"To the MIT Community:
"As publishers of the *Freshman Picture Book* we take responsibility for its contents and its impact on the community. Over the two weeks since the explanation of Grogo's picture appeared in *The Tech*, we have heard the community respond through the media, in public conversations, and in private talks

with friends and associates. There can be no doubt that many were deeply offended and hurt by the picture. We extend our deepest apologies to all of those who were hurt.

"We have learned a great deal from this. For the future we hope to apply what we have learned to help our services and projects serve all the people at MIT without offense to any segment. For the present, we offer to buy back any copy of the *Freshman Picture Book* that is returned to our office.

The letter was signed by the six TCA Executive Committee members: Mike Melendez '78, TCA President; Frank Basa '77, Administrative Vice-President; Bill Dershowitz '78, Projects Vice-President; David Soule '79, Membership Vice-President; Paul Stipe '79, Treasurer; and Jim McCormack '79, Secretary.

Soule, as editor of the *Picturebook*, has already submitted his own apology. Associate Professor of Political Science Willard Johnson has asked the COD to expel Soule for his part in publishing the picture. Soule and TCA have both denied that the picture was intended to be either



racist or political.

Melendez said that TCA had no immediate plans for further action concerning the Grogo con-

troversy. "We don't know what more will come," he said, so that any future action would depend on future developments.

After the Rush

This fall's frat, dorm rush examined

By Barbara J. Hill

• *The fraternity Rush Chairman:* "Rush went very smoothly this year with virtually no major violations."

• *The dormitory Rush Chairman:* "I was really proud of the dorms this year. I think the dorms deserve congratulations for getting people to visit fraternities."

• *Baker's R/O Vice President:* "I'm really happy with the people we ended up with."

• *The IFC Chairman:* "I saw a lot more cooperation between the houses this year, in spite of the rush complaints."

• *The IFC JudComm Chairman:* "Rush went well this year with the usual rash of small violations."

Sounds like everyone is fairly satisfied with an uneventful rush.

right? Well, almost.

MIT's particular style of housing students has several inherent problems stemming from the need to place more than one third of all incoming students in fraternities in less than four days. The resulting competition sometimes not only generates bad feelings between the fraternities themselves, and between the fraternities and the dormitories, but also prompts clashes within the dormitory system. Several organizations have been formed to deal with these problems, the newest being a fraternity-dormitory Mediation Committee, appropriately christened MedComm. Its three dormitory and three fraternity members first met last spring to establish rush guidelines for this September.

Those guidelines and the effectiveness of the council itself were tested the day before Rush 1977 began.

A MedComm meeting was held at the request of Burton House "to minimize potential hassles for the coming rush week," according to Interfraternity Conference (IFC) Chairman Steve Piet '78.

Living off-campus can be a big, expensive hassle

By Patrick Barron

The general outlook for off-campus housing this year is gloomy. With the rise in dormitory housing costs coupled with the overcrowding at many of Greater Boston's 65 colleges and

universities, the demand for apartments off-campus has risen sharply.

This year the city will try to accommodate some 200,000 students, with up to 20 percent more freshmen and transfers than expected. MIT's Off-Campus Housing Service, which serves primarily as a referral service for the MIT community by providing lists of available apartments in the Boston area, reports a reduction in the number of openings of up to 30 percent compared to previous years.

Students generally move off-campus for reasons such as hopes of cheaper living, greater privacy, more mature living atmosphere, increased independence, or simply "to get a break from the place." Not everyone finds what he or she is looking for but most are generally pleased with the change.

Locating an apartment can be a major undertaking. Rents, apartments, locations, roommates and the terms of the contract vary sufficiently to make getting exactly what you're looking for nearly impossible to attain. Some are forced to live much further from campus than had been bargained for; others face living in areas of



After paying for rent and securing suitable transportation from an off-campus apartment, there's not always enough money left over for luxurious furnishings, as this MIT student's apartment suggests.

(Please turn to page 7)

Three dept's have new heads this year

By Rick McDermott

Three departments, Chemical Engineering, Political Science and Psychology, have recently appointed new departmental heads. A fourth, Earth and Planetary Sciences, whose former director Frank Press was named science adviser to President Carter, is now in search of a new head, with a bid currently out.

Dr. James Wei is to head Chemical Engineering. He is nationally known for his pioneering research at Mobil Oil Corp. in the development of mono-molecular theory for the structure and analysis of complex systems. Although his appointment became effective Sept. 1, he will be fulfilling a commitment at the California Institute of Technology from Sept. 1 to Dec. 1 as Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Scholar of Chemical Engineering. He is expected at MIT the first week of January.

Psychology's new head, Professor Richard Held, is a well-known authority in the field of perception and its development. He was appointed following the drowning death of Professor Hans-Lukas Teuber in January. Held joined the faculty of the psychology section in 1963, having served previously as the chairman of the Department of Psychology at Brandeis University.

Held told *The Tech* that there have been no radical changes in policy. The department is continuing along the lines of the goals set by the eminent Teuber, who headed the department since its founding in 1964 and helped to develop it into an internationally known research center. Because excellence can only be the result of an ongoing effort, Held said Psychology is also looking in new directions. "While preserving what we think is valuable, we are also considering new efforts in teaching and research," he stated.

The department has new faculty members Dr. David Marr, who brings a new range of skills with his work on computer-aided models for visual processes, and Dr. Suzanne Corkin, who is proceeding with Teuber's well-known work concerning the visual and behavioral changes observed in people who have suffered brain damage.

Held's current work involves the study of infant perception and its development. Additional insights are obtained through similarly oriented studies of monkeys, with which a greater degree of experimentation is possible. A personal tour of the department with Professor Held revealed studies of everything from vision and language to the neural morphology and

physiology of the communicating circuitry of the brain on the structural and anatomical level.

Psychology is continuing its collaboration with other MIT groups, including Health Sciences and a new group, Cognitive Sciences. The objective is a mutual enrichment through the sharing of recent breakthroughs, which, as witnessed in the past, often leads to even further developments.

Although it grants only graduate degrees, the Department of Psychology offers various undergraduate electives.

Professor Alan Altschuler is the new head of Political Science. He has been a professor at MIT since 1966, except for the interval 1971-75, when he served as State Director of Transportation. Historically, the department has been oriented toward the international level, with comparative and defense-related studies at the forefront. Within the last several years, however, it has become increasingly evident that a substantial body of undergraduates are interested in government primarily as a means of understanding policy as opposed to the institutional approach or the international focus. In light of this, a program was developed last year with emphasis on American politics and policy. Altschuler

(Please turn to page 7)

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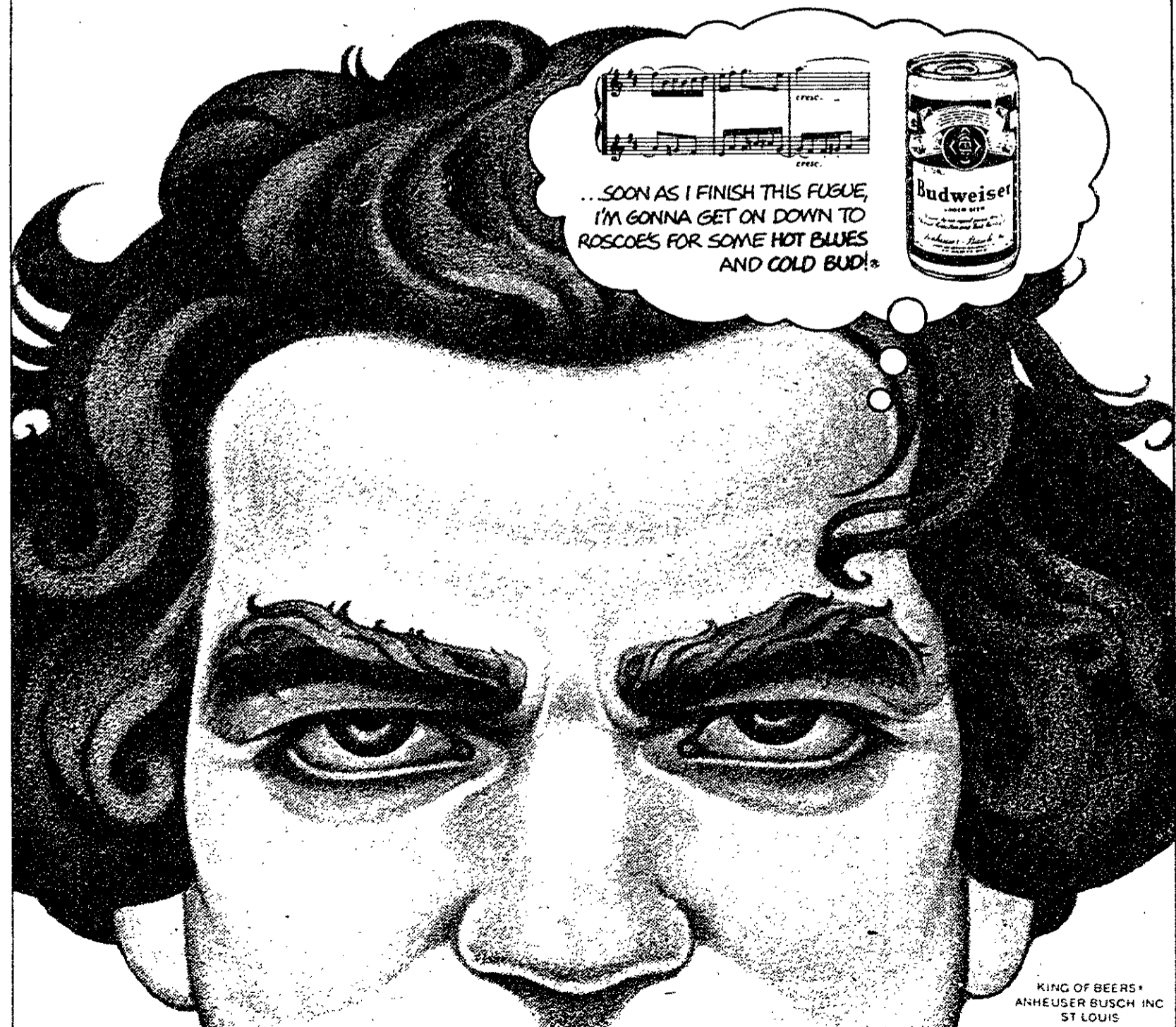
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news roundup

World

Israel approves Palestinian involvement in talks — The Israeli Cabinet approved on Sunday a plan calling for a unified Arab delegation to appear at the first meeting of proposed Geneva peace talks. This delegation would include Palestinians, although the Israelis still object to members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization being present. The acceptance of the American proposal improved chances that talks can be conducted, but the fate of the Palestinian delegation after the opening session is still disputed.

Soviets pledge to obey arms pact — The Soviet Union said yesterday that they would obey provisions of the 1972 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty after its expiration on Oct. 3. Negotiations are now underway on a new pact.

Policeman killed at Biko funeral — Two policemen were stoned to death when they clashed with mourners returning from the funeral of South African leader Steve Biko on Sunday. The actual cause of Biko's death while under police detention has not been determined.

Nation

Federal court rules against quotas — The Federal Appeals Court in San Francisco refused yesterday to overturn a lower court decision granting admission to a white applicant to the University of California at Davis Medical School. The lower court ruled that the applicant was a victim of unconstitutional discrimination under the school's quota system for minorities. The Supreme Court will soon hear the University's appeal of a similar California Supreme Court decision concerning another applicant to the same school, Allan Bakke, and a ruling on that case may decide the future of affirmative action programs across the country.

Catholics disobey church birth control doctrines — The most recent National Fertility Study reports that of married Catholic women surveyed in 1975, 76 percent use some form of birth control, and of these, 94 percent use a technique other than the Church-approved rhythm method. Other survey results showed that Catholic women did not significantly differ in their contraceptive practices from non-Catholics. In 1965, 31 percent of Catholic women used the rhythm method, compared with 5.9 percent in 1975.

Murder defense cites TV — The defense attorneys in the case of a 15-year old accused murderer have said that they will argue that the boy was driven insane by violence on television. The trial itself is being televised.

Local

White cuts more jobs — Boston Mayor Kevin White announced Sunday that he planned to cut 800 more workers from the city's payroll of about 14,000.

Campus

New DormCon head named — Richard Dykstra '78 was elected chairman of the Dormitory Council at a meeting held last night.

Rush mediation smoother

(Continued from page 1)

party Saturday and to distribute fortune cookies containing invitations on Friday. Burton House residents protested that advertising on Friday was unfair and turned the Baker party into a "large" party. According to Jerry Cole '78, IFC Judcomm Chairman, a few fraternities were also insecure about Baker handing out the cookies, especially during the Freshman Picnic.

Karyn Altman '78, Baker vice president in charge of R/O, disagreed with the downplay of Saturday night parties, pointing out that dormitories like to present their image, getting people who want to live in Baker to apply. She protested that DormCon, the Dormitory governing body, had not been able to review and vote on the Mediation rules, and that it was unfair to allow fraternities to advertise after the picnic if dormitories could not.

Phil Kesten '78, the DormCon R/O Chairman, said, "Personally, I don't think a Baker House party on Saturday night will affect the fraternity rush positively or negatively." He noted that some allowances for the fraternities should be made because their economic survival, unlike the dormitories, does depend on getting enough people to fill their houses.

A decision was reached to allow the party but to restrict advertising to Saturday only. Kesten deemed this ruling "equitable" and Piet called the mediation "successful."

In an effort to make rush run even more smoothly next year, Kesten hopes to work with DormCon to formulate a set of dormitory rush rules similar to those with which the IFC regulates fraternity rush. At present, all dormitory guidelines have been set by MedComm.

The fraternity rush this year was very successful, with the target of 405 pledges falling only a net of 6 short, compared to almost 40 short last year. Only 110 freshmen out of 1073 failed to visit any fraternities. Chariman Piet remarked that "with all the activities, meals, parties, etc., free around the fraternity system during rush week, I don't understand why 110 freshmen didn't go to even one fraternity." Fraternity

members were generally impressed with this year's class. Milton Royce '78, IFC Rush Chairman, said, "There were more people some fraternities would have liked to extend bids to but couldn't because of space and other considerations."

Cross-rushing between the fraternities was very intense this

spreading unfavorable reports about other living groups, had been heard.

Royce said that dormitory vs. fraternity rushing this year was virtually nonexistent. Dorms were very cooperative and helped the fraternities a great deal by keeping sign-in desks and encouraging freshmen to visit the fraternities.

"There were more people some fraternities would have liked to extend bids to but couldn't . . ."

year and general competition was great, probably out of concern over last year's lean rush. As a result, several rush complaints were filed with the IFC Judicial Committee. According to its Chairman, Cole, "All the small violations have been resolved satisfactorily with some disputes still to be discussed. Since appeals are pending, it is not wise to release specifics at this time." Piet mentioned, however, that this was the first year that complaints concerning "bad-mouthing."

Inter-system rushing for women did occur and a small complaint was raised, but was quickly settled. Both dorms and fraternities stressed the "no bad-mouthing" rule and felt the results were generally favorable. Looking toward next year's rush guidelines, Kesten said, "When we really sit down and talk about it, I think we can come up with something that will be a big improvement over last year, and something we'll all be happy with."

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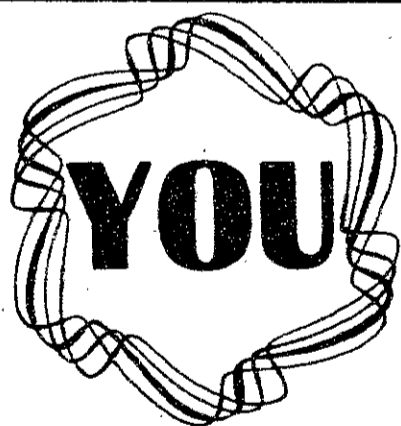
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No logical reasons for drop date move

By William Lasser

Reported action by the Committee on Academic Performance (CAP) to recommend that the drop date be moved earlier in the term reveals a clear trend towards making academic life at MIT more difficult.

Except to satisfy the wishes of a small minority of the faculty who seem overly concerned that life at the Institute is too "soft," there is little reason to implement this change. Both specific arguments regarding the drop date and general considerations of educational philosophy show that the best course the faculty can take would be to leave things alone.

Professor Robert Hulsizer, Chairman of the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), gave two reasons why the drop date should be changed. First, he contends, a late drop date "puts an extra load on the faculty" by making teachers direct their efforts at students who are not fully committed to their classes. Second, he notes that members of the faculty are concerned that some student's grades are suffering because those who are doing poorly can and do drop out of courses, thus making grades stiffer for those who remain.

The first argument pits the interests of the faculty against those of the students: should the convenience of students be exchanged for a

reduced workload for the faculty? The second reduces the conflict to one of students against students: the interests of the student who drops a course must be weighed against those of the student who stays in. *Thursday* reported that the CAP cites three other reasons for moving the drop date — currently, "the student's effort is diluted;" "the level of the class is artificially lowered; and "overloading is made easier."

The question of the effect on grades of a late drop date is one which should properly be resolved by the entire student body, whether by formal referendum or informal polls and questionnaires. Hulsizer's excuse — that the CAP study was conducted over the summer when student comment was unavailable — is not a justification for ignoring student input. The attitude of the CAP is unnecessarily patronizing on this point, as it is on the issue of "dilution" of student effort.

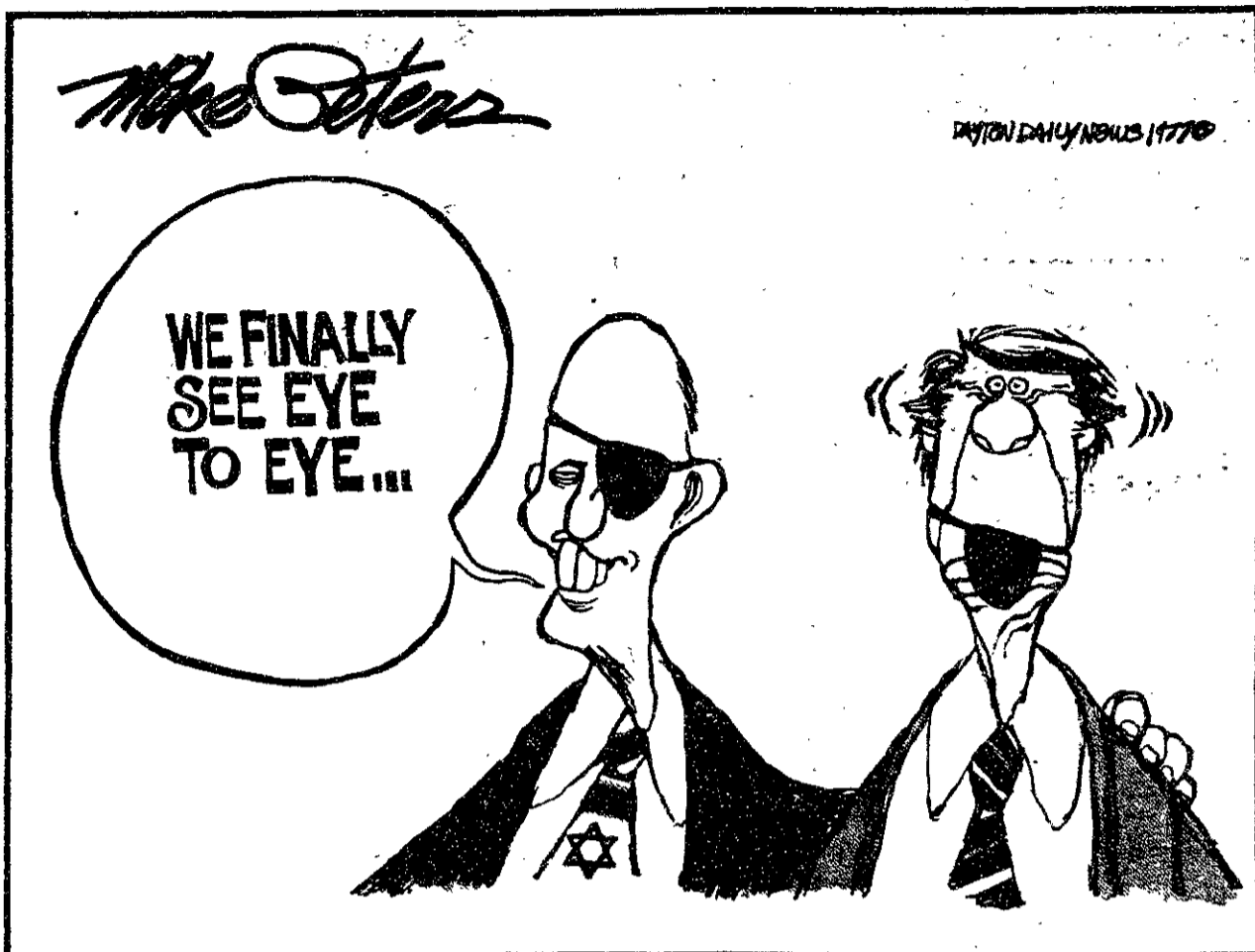
That "overloading is made easier" is a benefit of a late drop date — students are able to experiment with taking an extra course to see how much they can handle. As for the claim that the level of classes is artificially lowered, the argument is meaningless and arbitrary; it could just as easily be argued that an early drop date would artificially raise the level of classes.

But the most unsettling argument is that faculty members would save time and energy by changing the drop date. This implies that faculty would direct their extra time to the smaller number of students in their classes, or that the faculty is acting purely from self-interest. The latter explanation clearly does not justify an early drop date. Would students then benefit from increased faculty attention? Most likely, they would not — for most classes at MIT do not involve a great deal of personal interaction between student and teacher, those that do are usually higher-level courses in which students are presumed to be highly motivated.

Because of their obsession with grades, the members of the faculty who are pushing this action are missing the point. Students are not totally motivated by grades; hopefully, also there is a strong desire to be educated. Unfortunately, outside pressures (employers and graduate schools) force a student to be overly grade-conscious. MIT should make every effort to counteract these forces and avoid treating students as "products and services enter[ing] into universal markets."

An early drop date would discourage students from experimenting with subject areas in which they lacked confidence; encourage them to take a load smaller than what they could perhaps handle; increase pressure to make decisions on courses which are just getting underway; and, perhaps most importantly, increase grade consciousness and thus de-emphasize social and extracurricular pursuits which are as important as academic efforts in the total college experience.

It has been said here before that as much can be learned in four years outside the classroom as inside. Both forms of learning are crucial elements in the educational process; in recent years, MIT has begun to recognize this and has moved to lessen academic pressure. Proposed CEP action on the drop date would be a step backwards in time; most importantly, a change in policy on this issue would herald a change on several others, such as freshman pass/fail and overall grading policy. In this case, "progress" means maintaining the status quo.



Defending OSHA's future

By Kathy Hardis

Editor's note: Kathy Hardis was a Federal Intern at OSHA last summer.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is a government agency with the purpose of reducing health and safety hazards in the workplace and regulating conditions for the American worker. Although it has been the subject of much criticism during its past seven years of existence, OSHA has now undergone a change in administrative policy and a radical shift in emphasis and priorities. Many of the severe criticisms against the agency should now be subjected to re-evaluation.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 which created OSHA was passed by Congress with

bipartisan support "... to assure so far as possible every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our human resources."

Prior to the OSH Act no uniform or comprehensive provisions existed for the protection of the over 80 million Americans employed in industry. Congress justified the need for the Act with the following statistics for 1970:

- Job-related accidents accounted for more than 14,000 worker deaths.
- Nearly 2 1/2 million workers were disabled.
- Ten times as many man days were lost from job-related disabilities as from strikes.
- Estimated new cases of occupational diseases totaled 300,000.

In terms of lost production and wages, medical expenses, and disability compensation, the resulting economic burden on the nation's commerce was staggering. The cost in human life was beyond calculation.

Dr. Eula Bingham, the new chief administrator of OSHA, has already succeeded in abating some of the most severe criticisms against OSHA since her arrival last March. The major change in OSHA is its shift to what has been called "common sense priorities." OSHA now plans to put its major focus on the problems of serious occupational disease and high-risk industries while downplaying the "nitpicking" safety regulations which evoked the bulk of

the criticisms.

The percentage of health-related inspections is now increasing, and through OSHA's effort, a nationwide program has been implemented to train over 200 industrial hygienists and health

specialists a year to meet an acute shortage of trained personnel. Many of OSHA's trivial regulations

revitalized, Bingham has already received praise from politicians, the press, labor unions, and members of the business community. Their reaction to her promise of "common sense" regulations has been favorable.

"... a substantial body of undergraduates are interested in government primarily as a means of understanding policy ..."

specialists a year to meet an acute shortage of trained personnel.

Many of OSHA's trivial regula-

perspectives

tions which burden employers without protecting workers have been, or are in the process of being, abolished. Bingham has also ordered a simplification of paperwork chores for employers, practically eliminating them for small businesses. She is also urging the agency to put more emphasis on voluntary compliance, consultation, and coordination between inspectors and employers.

Although these promises are relatively recent and OSHA has not yet been completely

An article in *The Washington Post* quoted James D. McKeivitt, Washington counsel for the National Federation of Independent Businesses, Inc., whose more than 500,000 small-business members have been in the forefront of OSHA's critics, as saying "When people ask what's good for OSHA, I say Eula Bingham. She's got good common sense. She's open minded and she listens."

Many Americans are still uninformed as to OSHA's new role and the positive attitude of its new administrator. In Dr. Bingham's own words, OSHA plans to "... Listen to the workers and businessmen. Listen to them and learn from them. Because, in the long run, government that relies on dialogue, not dictates, gets more done..."

feedback

More on Grogo saga

To the Editor:

I want to express in strong terms my disagreement and disappointment with the charges against Mr. Soule filed by Professor Johnson. The idea that someone can be punished not only for his political opinions but for his suspected opinions and his unclear expression of his opinions strikes at the foundation of all our hard won rights and liberties that minority groups have such an important stake in maintaining. Unpopular minority groups have been the major beneficiaries of the protection and tolerance we extend to all individuals, even those we disagree with or find repugnant. I think it is especially ironic that those who rally to the defense of minorities when they

are attacked are so willing to weaken all those protections by employing the same strong-arm tactics so often used against minorities. I expected more maturity from a professor who deals so closely with this area in his profession. I believe Professor Johnson's actions have no place at MIT or in a democratic society. I urge him to change his views and remain at MIT.

John P. Nordin G

The Tech welcomes Letters to the Editor, which should be typed, triple-spaced, and not exceed 200 words. Unsigned letters will not be published, although an author's name will be withheld on request.

The Tech

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Activities, athletics were 1909 concerns

Editor's note: Participating in athletics and other extracurricular activities is always a problem for students hard-pressed by the rigors of the MIT education. Back in 1909 this question was discussed at great length on the Boston campus; the following article,

is visible for students to go into activities, but —." A man should have interests outside of his work, and often the experience he gains from student activities is of value in later life. But it is almost certain that these are going to take time from his studies and each student must decide how much time he can afford to devote to outside work. In some cases too much time has been spent, and men have been forced to leave the Institute. On the other hand many do not go out at all. In this as in all, it is wise to strike the medium. Some men can afford to devote more time than others, and each man must decide the proposition for himself.

Dean Burton expressed himself as being in favor of students' entering outside activities. He said: "I believe in students entering college activities as far as they can do so without serious interference with their work. Athletics and various other student recreations are commendable. I think it is a great loss for a man not to take part in the social functions of the Institute. There is a tendency for students to be drawn into many activities, the point system, however, has

Looking back

reprinted from a December, 1909, issue of The Tech, has some insights that might still be valuable today.

"Should I go into activities?" This is a question which every man asks himself at some time of his course, and it is one which is likely to have a very great influence on his career. Many men would like to go into social activities but do not deem it advisable, others do not see the use

"The general opinion . . . seems to be 'it is advisable for students to go into activities, but —.'"

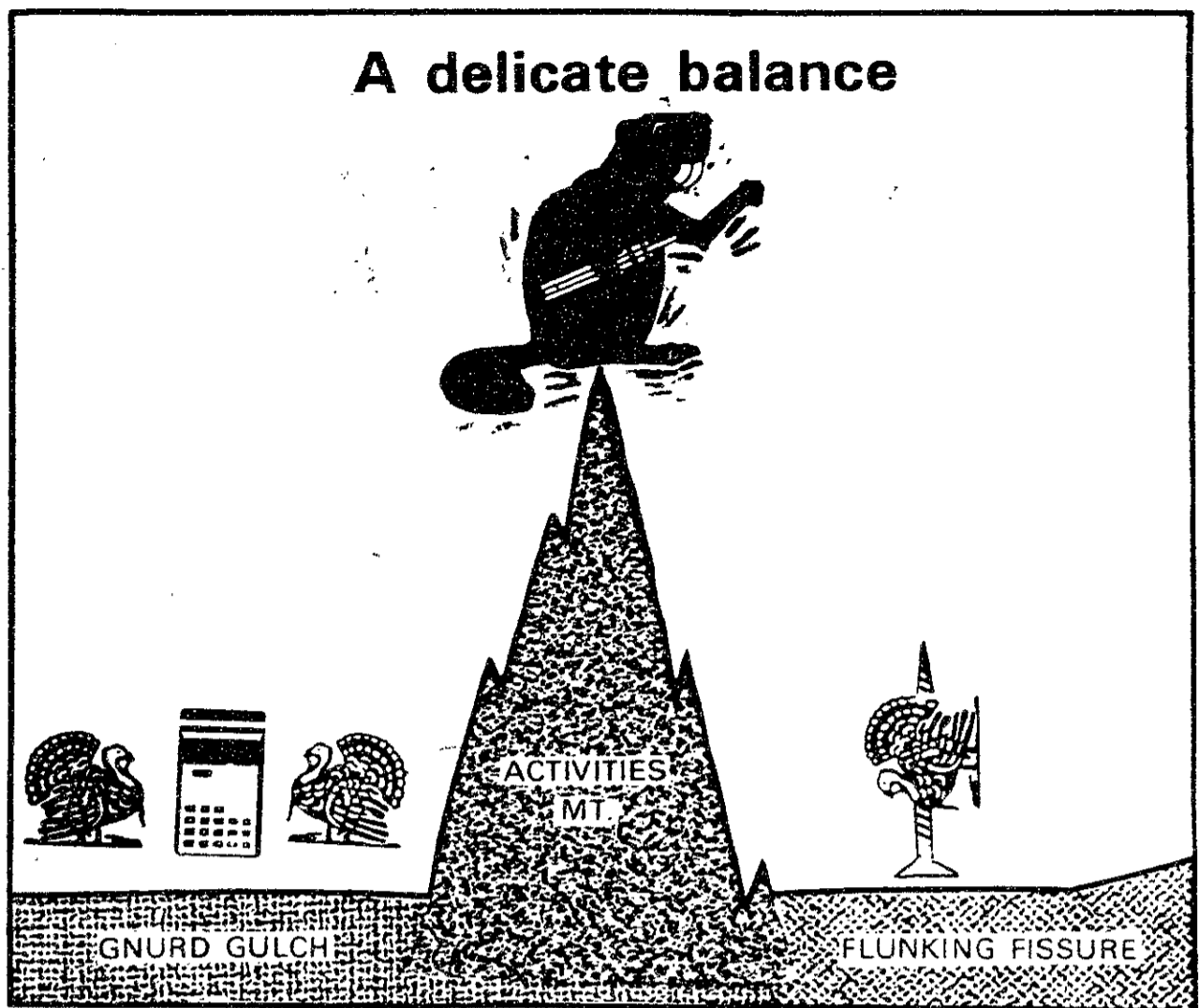
of student activities; and some see nothing but the social life. To assist men who are now considering this question and to call it to the attention of others, *The Tech* has arranged a series of interviews with members of the faculty and of the instructing staff in order to find out their opinions. The plan is to divide the interviews into four parts, according to the classes. In this number are published several interviews with men who are working with the Freshmen. An attempt has been made to get men from different departments, but this rule has not been rigidly followed.

The general opinion of those interviewed seems to be, "it is ad-

visable to go into activities, but —." A man should have interests outside of his work, and often the experience he gains from student activities is of value in later life. But it is almost certain that these are going to take time from his studies and each student must decide how much time he can afford to devote to outside work. In some cases too much time has been spent, and men have been forced to leave the Institute. On the other hand many do not go out at all. In this as in all, it is wise to strike the medium. Some men can afford to devote more time than others, and each man must decide the proposition for himself.

done much to remedy this state of affairs. It is a mark of character in a man to be able to do both things and maintain a proper balance. It is undoubtedly true that social activities while in college, do benefit a man in his later life. Many men have been more successful because of their experience in college life and this perhaps is especially true in the case of managers.

It is desirable for a young man to participate in some form of athletics in order to keep in proper physical condition. If he omits this he is almost sure to drift into amusements which are harmful.



As regards the first-year men it is, to my mind desirable that they interest themselves in Field-Day and in inter-class contests. I do not believe in intercollegiate baseball and foot-ball for Institute men as it requires more time than is consistent with Institute work. Track work is preferable.

There have been men at the Institute, who could succeed both in their studies and in social life, and the most healthful form of recreation is in connection with their college activities.

Prof. Talbot said, "I believe men should indulge in outside activities. The experience in management and in intercourse with others is valuable in later life, but the individual should face the question whether he can, if it proves desirable, afford extra time for the completion of his course. The great difficulty is that students may go into activities out of proportion to the time available in connection with Institute work. I think that most men in activities suffer at least a temporary loss in scholastic standing as shown by the records.

Student activities are, I believe, more generally beneficial for upper-class men, because the Institute and its methods are new to freshmen, and because the offices open to freshmen involve more routine and less valuable experience.

Dr. Phillips, Johns Hopkins 1905, instructor in mathematics said, "I think it is a good scheme for good students and a bad scheme for bad students, and unfortunately poor students are the ones who go in for activities. Poor students go into activities because they are not interested in their studies, and they must be interested in something. If they did not enter activities they would not do anything. The good student derives benefits from entering the social life, but the bad student is usually sociable enough already. I do not think that activities are at all an impediment to scholastic success.

Mr. Goodrich 1898, instructor in drawing said as to the advisability of students entering activities, "It altogether depends on

the man, that's the whole secret. There is no hard and fast rule, some men can afford the time, and some can't. The average student does not go out. The men who do go out are likely to be "O.K." in their studies, or else "N.G." The smarter men can afford to go out and not slight their work. I have known cases where activities have been the cause of failures. As to the help activities give in later life, many of the men in my class who are now leaders were not prominent in social life."

Mr. Gideon 1906, instructor in drawing said, "I think it is a good scheme for the student to enter the social life. It broadens him and prepares him for activities in later life. It is well for every student, if not too much time is given. I am sure it is a gain in after life. The professional societies, athletics, and the various clubs and activities are all good. They broaden a man and give him interests outside of his own narrow line. Activities are good for all class men, and I think the Freshmen should begin right away.

Graduate Student Open Hearings For Seats on Institute Committees

6pm Thursday, September 29

Place: International Student Lounge
Walker Building 50-110

Call the Graduate Student Council
253-2195 for details

- 6:00pm** The Corporation Joint Advisory Committee on Institute-wide Affairs
Contact: Max Donath x3-2020
Rm 3-463
- 6:15pm** Committee on Graduate School Policy
Contact: Harvie Branscomb x3-2195
Greg Paris x3-3724
- 6:30pm** Library Systems Committee
Contact: James Mays x3-66311
- 6:45pm** Medical Advisory Board
Contact: Jay Kunin x3-5882 or
547-1217
- 7:00pm** IAP Policy Committee
Contact: Peter Reynolds x3-5425 or
492-5990
- 7:15pm** Committee on Student Environment
Contact: Tom Guiffreda x3-3074
or Haystack 181-5-6170
- 7:30pm** Committee on Institutional Commitments
- 7:45pm** Committee on Visual Arts
Contact: Sheldon Klapper 864-0639
- 8:00pm** Activities Development Board
Contact: Mark Gottlieb x3-3889
- 8:15pm** Committee Preprofessional Advising & Education
- 8:30pm** Intramural Council
- 8:45pm** Committee to Strengthen Alumni Involvement in the Institute
- 9:00pm** Discipline Committee
Contact: James Cansella x3 2173
Rm 8-326

If there is no contact person listed under the committee in which you are interested, call the Graduate Student Council office, x3-2195. Interviews will be held in the International Student Lounge on the second floor of the Walker Memorial Building, Rm. 50 210 (directly above the Muddy Charles Pub).

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Horovitz on his plays: 'funny yet demanding'

By Kathy Hardis

"I can't really talk about how I write plays," commented Israel Horovitz when asked about his new play, *The Reason We Eat*, came into existence. "I can talk about the history of the play, but I really can't go into how I approach formulating and writing specific ideas for my plays."

Boston-bred Horovitz, whose *The Reason We Eat* opened Sept. 23 at the Boston Repertory Theatre, is one of America's most prolific contemporary playwrights. A two time Obie Award winner and writer of over 50 plays, he has received numerous awards and grants and has been nominated twice for the Pulitzer Prize.

The Reason We Eat, billed as a "fat comedy", began as a project in a playwriting workshop taught by Horovitz at Brandeis University. He took a small scene written by one of the students and expanded the concept into a full-length play.

The first production of *The Reason We Eat* opened at Brandeis and was subsequently sent to New York. The current Boston performance, however, has been billed as the premiere. According to Horovitz, the first version was "...unsatisfactory. I really didn't feel it was finished. The original script wasn't strong enough to be subjected to the critics, so I refused to let any reviews be published." The text of the original play was rewritten by Horovitz and the current director, Albert Takazaukas, during a period of over a year.

"It's amazing now much the play has changed, yet it is even more amazing how much of it remains the same," stated Horovitz. "Fortunately both Albert and I had the same concept of the play."

The major problem in interpreting *The Reason We Eat* is to decide whether it is

about mankind's greed or simply about fat people. Apparently the concept of obesity overwhelmed the original play. "People were laughing at [the original] and using it like a Neil Simon comedy. They made light out of the first half of the play and were unprepared for the serious turn at the end. I refuse, though, to write a play just making fun of obesity."

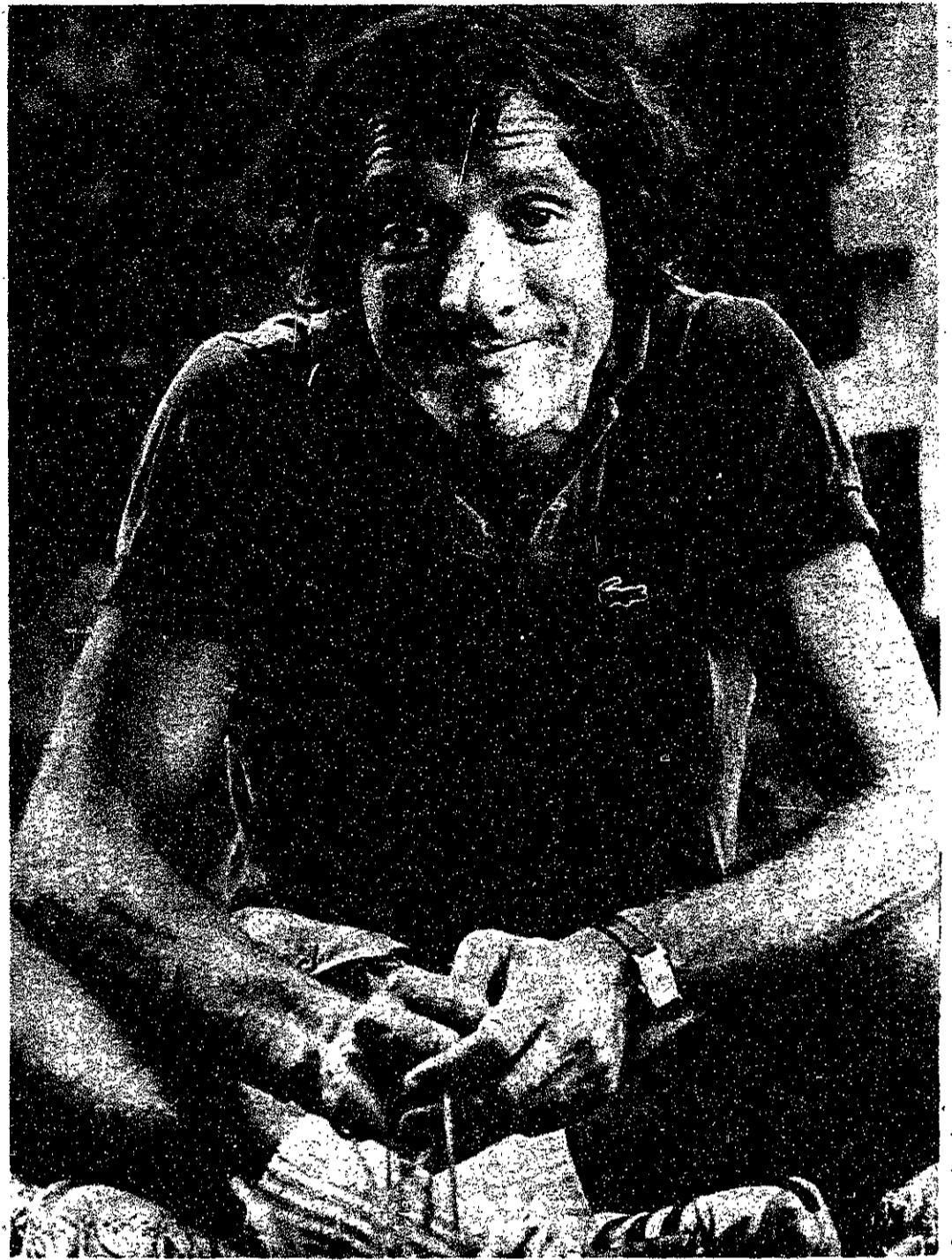
The new version of the play emphasizes the philosophy of man's intrinsic greed. Yet the humor of the original is not lost, in Horovitz's opinion. "I have a natural talent for writing comic lines and was also fortunate to work with Albert, who is also a natural comic."

Horovitz views *The Reason We Eat* as "a mixed metaphor — a play which is funny, yet demanding on the audience." Although it is light in treatment, the play is serious in philosophy. Both the playwright and director hope that the audience can come up with its own interpretation of its meaning.

"I feel that it's the commitment of a playwright to take the audience to somewhere which is new, both to the author and to them. If the audience does not get into new philosophical ground, the play has failed. It is the clear commitment of the playwright not to bore the audience, not to repeat himself, not to offer a one-sided interpretation. That's what theater should be."

events

Prints of the 1970's, a special exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts, will offer new insights into the recent graphic art of contemporary printmakers, whose styles range from realism to abstraction. Through December 4.



Esquire Jauchom

Pictured is Israel Horovitz, whose new comedy, *The Reason We Eat*, opened Sept. 23 at the Boston Repertory Theatre, One Boylston Place.



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High rent and commuting are problems off-campus

(Continued from page 1)

the city that are plainly decrepit; still others live in neighborhoods that boast high crime rates and force students to live under threat to self and household.

For most, the impetus for wanting to move off-campus is derived from the hope of cutting living costs. Several students, however, admit that these expectations have not always been met. The cost of renting and furnishing an apartment is high and when transportation and numerous small but collectively significant

Three MIT depts get new heads

(Continued from page 2)

said, "The department's present thrust reflects a growing effort on our part to be responsive to undergraduate interests; and this is being accomplished within a framework of little growth." The new program got underway this term with two key courses, Politics and Public Policy (17.09) and an internship course in which students fill a post in government.

Current faculty activities include a developmental planning program for Egypt and a political policy migration study of such countries as Mexico and India. Additionally, some faculty members are working with Frank Press. Assistant Professor Ted Greenwood has gone to Washington on full-time leave, and Eugene Skolnikoff, Director of the Center for International Studies, is a part-time senior consultant.

expenditures are included in the bookkeeping, living off-campus is not cheap. The basic monthly rent for a single room in an unfurnished apartment housing three to four students starts at about \$50, but may run as high as \$200.

At distances of more than a mile from the Institute, commuting becomes an important consideration. Even when living close to one of the MBTA's links with the campus, the actual physical distance between home and school makes the decision to attend classes difficult, particularly when consecutive classes on a schedule are spaced hours apart. Taking part in extracurricular activities becomes more of a burden on the already hard-pressed student's schedule.

With the low availability of acceptable off-campus housing one is led to ask what is being done to improve conditions on campus.

The Housing Office insists that the high cost of dormitory living is real and presents no hope of alleviation.

As for the overcrowding problems, Associate Dean for Student Affairs Kenneth Browning maintains that there is no cause for alarm. Plans formulated four years ago for class size on the basis of available dormitory space were upset by the unexpectedly large freshman class this year, although the acquisition of Random Hall and its conversion to a dormitory apparently put plans back into the right perspective. Future plans call for maintaining class size at 1,100, which the existing housing system is believed to be capable of handling.

MIT's med. school admits:

Distribution of S.B. Candidates by GPA and by scores on the MCAT Science Subtest

	450-499	500-549	550-599	600-649	650-699	700-749	750-799
5.0-4.9		1-1			3-3	4-4	
4.8-4.7			3-2	3-3	6-6	9-9	3-3
4.6-4.5	1-0	1-1	3-1	6-6	8-7	3-3	1-1
4.4-4.3	1-0	1-1	1-1	4-0	7-5	3-3	
4.2-4.1			2-1	4-2	2-0	2-1	
4.0-3.9			2-1	4-2	2-0	2-1	
under 3.9					2-2		

Note: The first number represents the total number of applicants in that category. The second number represents the total number accepted by a medical school.

MIT gets 99 in med school

By Gary S. Engelson

Over 140 MIT students and alumni assaulted medical, dental and veterinary schools with 2,392 applications for admission last year. Of these, 99 were admitted to at least one school.

The high grades of the applicants who received acceptances reflects the extreme difficulty in obtaining admission to medical schools. Of the applicants with a gradepoint average of 4.4 or greater, 92 percent were admitted, whereas only 52 percent of those with a lower average were accepted.

The Medical College Admis-

sion Test (MCAT) scores of the accepted students were also high — a majority were over 650 on the 800-point test.

Of the 99 accepted students, 96 are attending 45 medical schools. Two persons deferred their acceptances one year and one decided not to attend.

Over 36 percent of the accepted applicants received the notices from only one school. Of these, 22 were taken only by their respective state schools. In addition, 24 of the 144 applicants were persons who failed to obtain admission in the previous year. Nearly 60 percent of those students were ac-

cepted this time around.

Among the applicants to US medical schools were eight foreign citizens. Six received acceptances.

Most of the applicants were from the Department of Biology in the School of Science, as might be expected. Large numbers of students form the School of Engineering also applied, accounting for over 25 percent of the applicants and a similar percentage of the acceptances. These students came mainly from the Departments of Electrical Engineering and Chemical Engineering.

notes

* All proposals for funding submitted to the Council for the Arts must be in by Oct. 3, 1977 to be considered at its mid-October meeting. Requests for IAP funding must be submitted at this meeting.

* The Electrical Engineering Student Faculty Committee will hold its first general meeting tomorrow evening (Wednesday) at 8pm in the Marlur Lounge (37-252). Newcomers are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

* Several positions remain open for students in Tutored Videotaped Instruction (TVI) in subjects 3.091, 5.41, 6.011, and 8.01. Please contact OME, Rm. 12-185, x3-5010 if interested.

* All Teaching and Research Assistants: A payment equal to one-quarter of the balance of your Fall Term fees is due at the end of each month, September through December. If this amount has not been deducted from your paycheck, please make the payment at the Cashier's Office, Rm. 10-180, or at Student Accounts, E19-215.

* Plants of all sizes and varieties will be on sale at 9am Oct. 6, on the steps of the Student Center. This sale is sponsored by the MIT Women's League to benefit the Student Service Fund.

* A meeting for anyone interested in helping with the fall blood drive will be held Wed. evening, Oct. 28, at 7:30pm in Rm. 450 of the Student Center. For info, call x3-7911 or x5-8578.

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sports

MIT's David Miller will shoot in Pan-Am games

By Tom Curtis

In November, David Miller '79, a member of the MIT varsity pistol team, will represent the United States at the Pan-American Games in Mexico City. He will be one of three Americans competing in International Junior air pistol.

Miller's achievement is quite remarkable, as he has been competing in pistol only two years. He took up the sport during his freshman year by enrolling in a physical education course in pistol. Miller chose pistol partly because it is a sport that "didn't involve sweating," thus saving him the time it would take to shower after each class.

From this almost arbitrary beginning, Miller went on to compete for MIT in the Greater Boston Pistol League. Last year, he was the number four man on the varsity pistol squad which, incidentally, was ranked fourth in the country.

In June, Miller drove to the Pan-American Games qualifying meet in Phoenix from his home in Wisconsin. Despite exhaustion from the long ride and drowsiness from getting only six hours of sleep per night, Miller was strengthened when he learned that the national champion would not be competing.

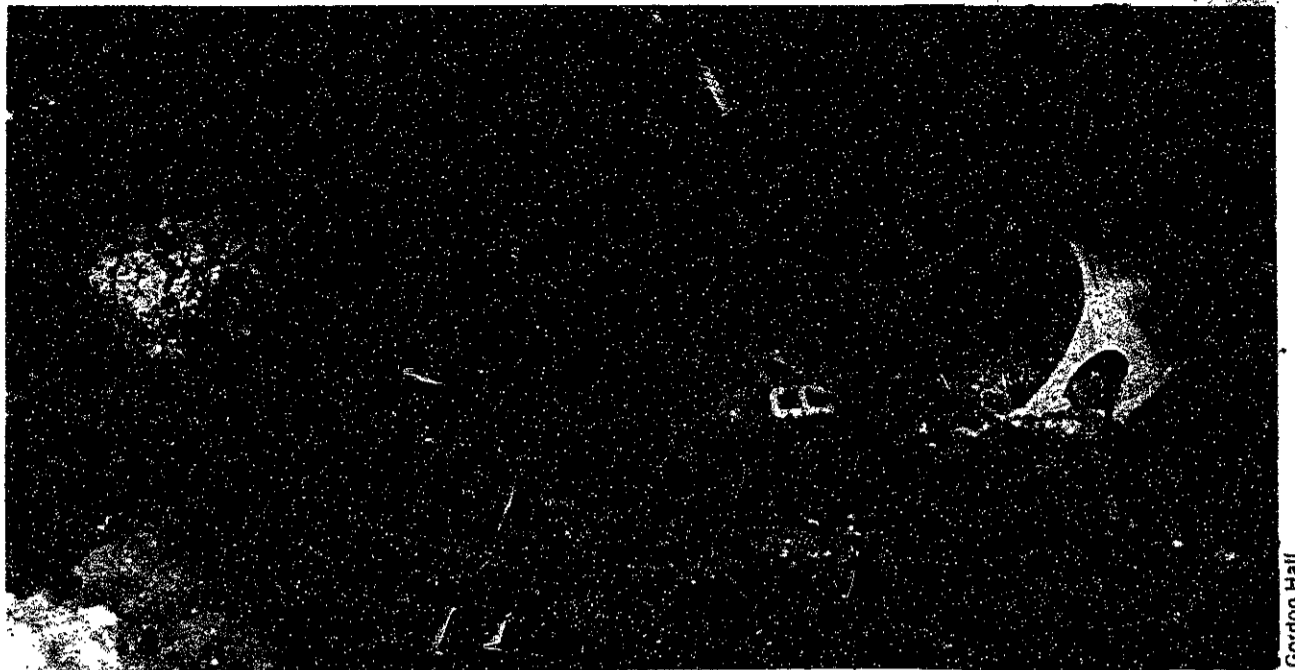
As it turned out, Mark Willis of Navy — the best collegiate team in the country — set three records as he ran away with the meet. Still, Miller finished third in air pistol, earning himself a trip to Mexico City. He was also selected to compete at the Pan-American Games in center fire, an event in which he had never competed before the Phoenix meet.

Miller has had some interesting experiences from his involvement in pistol competition. Once, in an airport, Miller absentmindedly put one of his bags containing a pistol through the baggage check x-ray machine. He was detained for about a half-hour while he explained to the security guard why he had the gun.

Looking to the future, Miller would like to see the MIT pistol team win a national championship later this year. Eventually, he would like to improve his score enough to qualify for the Olympic Games. He believes he has a chance if he continues to practice.

For the present, Miller's sights are set on the Pan-American Games. I'm sure the MIT community wishes him well.

foul shots



MIT's Sam Senne '77 (#29) tries to get by a BC defender in Wednesday's game.

BC sneaks by water polo

By Bob Crane

The MIT varsity water polo team went down in a heartbreaking 7-8 defeat to rival Boston College in their season opener last Wednesday. The game was an intense all-out battle that was not decided until the closing seconds.

The Engineers fell behind 4-1 in the first period, being stung by several quick passes over the middle which Coach Benedick said BC had practiced over the summer. MIT began chipping away at BC's lead in the second quarter, scoring on a penalty shot and two

hard shots from the hole. The Engineer's surge continued in the third quarter to bring them within one goal, 7-6. MIT had momentum on its side and was executing its offensive patterns well in the final quarter but a bad pass by an MIT defenseman to goalie Tom Griffin '80 was deflected by a BC player for a goal. From this point on BC had the edge. MIT did manage to score once more but it was not enough.

MIT's John Dolan '80, Bob Dobbin '79, and Griffin had outstanding games. Dolan scored three goals and Dobbin two to lead the scoring while goalie Grif-

fin made two one-on-one saves in the fourth quarter to keep MIT in the game. The BC attack was led by their captain, who scored four goals and was their all-around leader in the water.

Earlier in the evening MIT's "B" team defeated BC's "B" team 8-3. The Engineers dropped behind in the first quarter but from then on it was all MIT as they scored three goals in the second quarter and four in the fourth quarter. MIT's offense was led by Mark Huntzinger '81 who scored three times and Paul Edelman '78 who contributed two goals of his own.

Booters win opener

By Al Isella

Al Isella '81 is the manager of the varsity soccer team.

The varsity soccer team prevailed 3-2 in Worcester on Wednesday against Clark University in the season opener for both teams.

Clark opened the scoring at 21:10 on a goal by David Garrigues assisted by Andre Mirkine after MIT had missed several golden scoring opportunities in the first seven minutes of play. The Engineers knotted the score at 1-1 when Suk Chang '80 fed Zanda Ilori '79 a beautiful pass which Ilori pushed past the diving Clark goalkeeper. The score remained tied at the half.

Less than two minutes into the second half tri-captain Michael Raphael '79 blasted a powerful shot past the outstretched arms of the opposing goalkeeper after receiving an excellent pass from Richard Okine '77. Although the Beavers continued to dominate the action they could not heat Darwin Tu, who was outstanding in the goal all afternoon, making 20 saves, many of which were spectacular.

Clark tied the score at 13:05 on a long crossing pass from Majad Abolfazli to Jay Lowry. Inspired by this goal the opposition was fired up, but they were unable to

hold MIT's strong attack. At 19:30 Luis Boza '79 headed in a corner kick by Bob Sullivan '79 which proved to be the winning goal.

Tri-captain Rob Currier '79, fullback Jeff Tyrell '80 and wing Chang played well for the Engineers. However, the team will have to play much better on Saturday at Babson, the National Champions two years ago who have crushed their first two opponents in 1977.

Tennis tops Bates

By Mary Haran

Mary Haran '81 is a member of the women's tennis team.

The women's varsity tennis team defeated Bates on Saturday to bring their season record to 1-1. MIT won all five singles matches and first doubles, in the 6-1 win. The team, coached for the second year by Manny Weiss, had dropped their season opener to a much-improved Boston University team.

The highlight of Saturday's victory was the first singles match. MIT's Cathy Greany '78 defeated her opponent 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in a long, evenly matched duel. Greany's aggressive net play and crosscourt, topspin backhands

sporting notices

There will be an organizational meeting of the intercollegiate ice hockey team on Thurs., Sept. 29 at 5pm in the Student Center Rm. 407. All interested people (graduates and undergraduates) should attend to prepare for the Oct. 17 pre-season ice practice. For information contact Tom Staghiano at x3-2433 between 8am and 2pm or Coach Pecknold at 354-0167 between 9am and 5pm.

gave her the winning edge. At number two singles Stella Perona '78 had an easier time eliminating her opponent. After dropping the first game, she pulled through with a 6-1, 6-0 win. Chris Vogdes '78 also chalked up a win, soundly defeating the Bates player 6-2, 6-4. Marcia Grabow '79 and Sue Tiffany '80, the only non-seniors on the team, rounded out the singles sweep. Grabow utilized a blistering serve to win a number four singles 6-1, 6-3, while Tiffany outpowered her opponent 6-2, 6-2.

Liz Kendall '78 and Mary McCaustland '78 pulled through the match's other three-setter with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 win.

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