

in the news

INSIDE

The sons of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are now engaged in a fight to clear the names of their parents, a battle that consumes much of their time and energy. Michael Meeropol, the elder son, was interviewed by *The Tech* when he was in Boston last week.

p7

Talbot House, an MIT-owned retreat in the woods of Woodstock, Vermont, is a favorite place for MIT students to vacation year round. The usual happenings at Talbot House are featured in a photo essay.

p9

Women's sports at MIT have grown tremendously in the last decade, due to a program designed for both experienced and beginning competitors.

p12

EXCERPTS

Q. I just moved to Boston and am very confused. Where is the hub of the Hub? — J.H., Cambridge

A. Boston's center is at Westminster and Walnut Streets in Roxbury. The South End is north of the center. South Boston is east of the South End. North of South Boston is East Boston, and the North End is southeast of Eastie. The West End isn't anymore; that area is now Government Center.

— *The Real Paper*

Shortly before sunrise one day last week, the Hon. Earnest F. Hollings, Democrat of South Carolina, appeared on the Senate floor in a bright green jogging suit. "It makes good pajamas," he observed. In the corridors and cloakrooms around him, less comfortably attired colleagues padded around in stocking feet or dozed fitfully on cots provided by the Army and Air Force. "Barbaric," croaked rumples, unshaven Minority Leader Howard Baker as he surveyed the blanket-littered hallways. "An outrage," seconded Majority Leader Robert Byrd. Over the eyes, nays and occasional snores of his bleary-eyed colleagues, Senator Robert Dole told of encountering a woman who had come to observe the all-night session. It was the best show in town, she explained: "The zoo was closed."

— *Time*

Frosh poll shows energy top concern

By Patricia Joffe
and William Lasser

Editor's note: Patricia Joffe is the administrator of the new Public Policy Program in the Political Science Department.

This year's entering freshman class is "a vintage MIT crop — one very much in the MIT tradition and 'culture' — and definitely not *enragé* as students tended to be in the late 1960's and early 1970's," according to Professor of Political Science Walter Dean Burnham.

Burnham based his conclusion on the results of a poll conducted during R/O Week. Freshmen were asked their opinions on several political topics by staff of the Public Policy Program in the Political Science Department. Over 240 students responded to the questionnaire.

The survey asked the freshmen their views on: United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young; the recognition of Cuba by the United States; the construction of nuclear power plants; the use of force to assure access to oil; and President Carter's job performance. It also asked the question, "What is the most important problem facing the United States?"

Institute observer

Terms off from MIT help many students

By Jordana Hollander

Sometime between their arrival at MIT and their graduation, a good number of students find that leaving the Institute briefly is an important part of their education.

The most common reason for taking a term or more off, according to Associate Dean for Student Affairs James Bishop and several students interviewed by *The Tech*, is a lack of motivation. Most students become aware of this problem when their grades start slipping or when they realize that they have not attended classes for several weeks. Some are told by the CAP that it would be a

good idea to take a term off and decide what they want at MIT. Others begin to recognize that the field they are studying is not what they want to do for the rest of their lives and that they need to reconsider their goals.

An example is provided by Mitch Trachtenberg '78, who said that he was convinced when he arrived that he wished to major in biology. He became involved in a UROP project, but during his sophomore year he realized he was not interested in it. The next term he primarily took humanities courses. After several weeks of not attending classes he

The freshmen overwhelmingly picked the energy crisis as the country's most important problem, with "International Relations" placing second.

"The distribution would look very different in a Gallup poll of the American population," Burnham commented. "Here the leading issues would be the economy (inflation and unemployment) with energy further down on the list." Only six percent of the freshmen surveyed listed the economy as the most important problem, and only five percent listed poverty.

Young's performance as United Nations Ambassador received mediocre ratings from the group, with only six percent calling his performance "very good." President Carter did somewhat better, with 41 percent assessing his handling of his job favorably. "Carter is doing somewhat less well among these MIT freshmen than among the population at large," Burnham said.

The respondents favored US recognition of Cuba by a better than three to one margin. "This generation of students is no longer interested in the old Cold-War rhetoric," Burnham noted.



Professor of Political Science Walter Dean Burnham interprets the results of an R/O poll of freshmen to show that the incoming class is "very much in the MIT tradition."

"It's there; why not recognize it?" he added, summing up his interpretation of the freshmen's feelings.

A majority of those surveyed favored the immediate construction of nuclear power plants, although 40 percent advocated a delay in construction to allow for "further studies of safety and cost." Burnham said he felt the

division was "rather close to public opinion generally."

Only two-fifths of the respondents were willing to completely rule out the use of force to assure US access to oil. "The other three-fifths," Burnham noted, "presumably might consider the use of force to assure access to oil under some conditions."

decided to take a term off to rethink his plans.

Once a student decides to leave for a while, he can either merely not register for the next term or formally withdraw. If a student does go through the Dean's Office he is encouraged to discuss his plans with his advisor and with his parents as well as the deans' staff, Bishop noted. If the student is serious he is rarely discouraged by the deans.

A few students have definite goals or jobs in mind when they leave the Institute, but most people's plans are much more vague.

Undergraduate Association President Peter Berke '78 left for two different terms, once just to get away from MIT and the second time to work at a particular job for a term. The first time he left he was away for about four years and held a variety of jobs. After he returned he took the fall 1976 term off to work as a programmer at CBA during the presidential election.

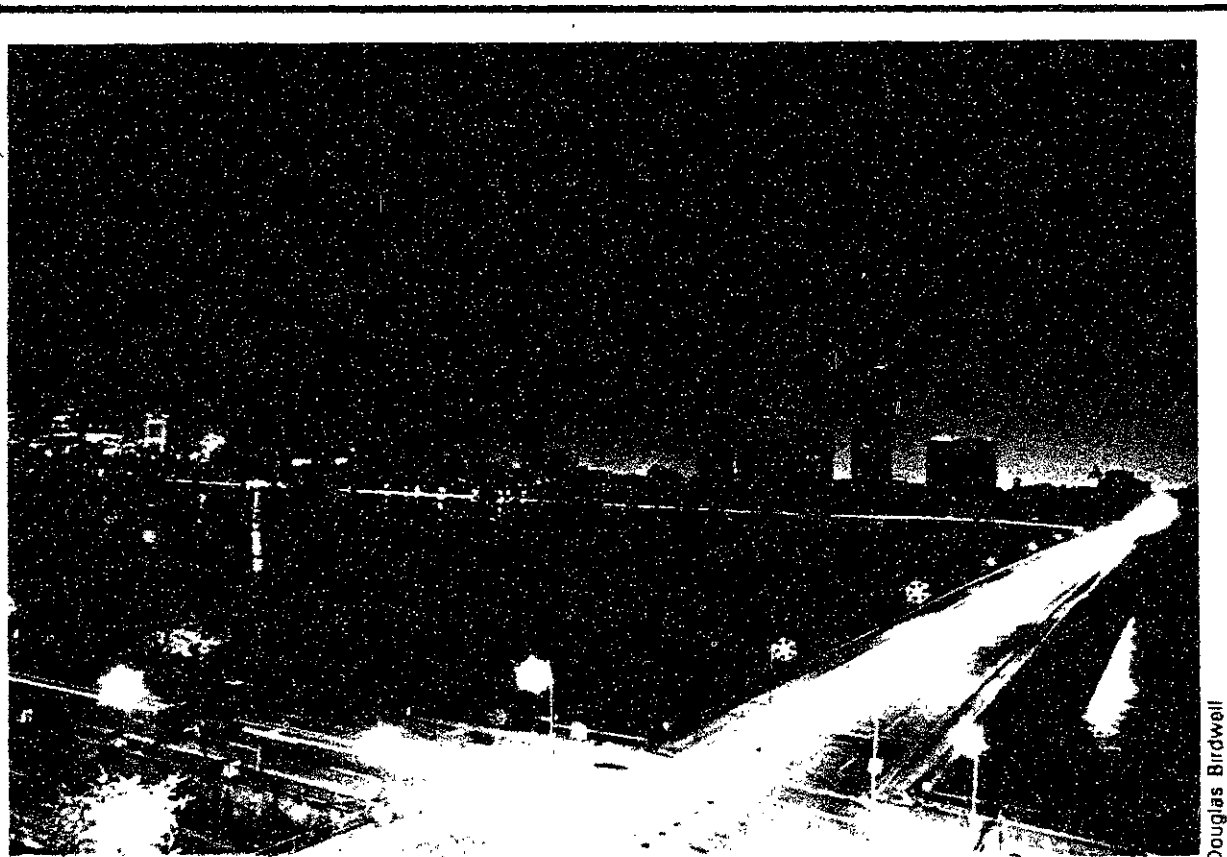
Those who do not have definite plans usually find jobs, although some travel or attend other schools. Some stay around MIT, going to seminars, reading for courses, doing some independent study, and in general catching up with themselves.

Being away from the Institute has proved quite beneficial for many of those who return. They often find a new perspective on the school and on what they want out of it. Since going to MIT is now a conscious choice — not just following a pattern of going to school — their attitude toward their studies is greatly improved. As a result, their grades also improve, as in the case of one student who took a term off after being on probation twice and graduated with a 4.0 cum after he returned.

Unless they have been away for several years, students have little trouble getting back into their course work. According to the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs, most students leave before they start serious work in a major and return during the fall term regardless of when they leave. Therefore, few people have problems with "getting out of phase" with their courses — needing to take courses only offered in the spring during the fall.

Students interviewed by *The Tech* said that they were able to

(Please turn to page 3)



Much of Boston was in darkness Wednesday night as a power failure hit the Back Bay, the Fenway area and the South End. Most of MIT's fraternities were in the affected areas. This view from Ashdown House shows the blackened Prudential and Hancock buildings as well as the still-lighted downtown area on the left. Power went out at 9:57pm; all areas were back to normal by 1:25am. A spokesman for the Boston Police said that no looting occurred during the blackout.

Douglas Birdwell

notes

* Official notice: Add date is Oct. 14. This is the last day to add subjects to registration.

* Official notice: Oct. 14 is the last day for juniors and seniors to change an elective to or from pass-fail grading.

* Dr. Frank Press, director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and science advisor to President Carter, will speak on "Science and Technology Policy — The Role of the University and its Alumni," at 11am in Room 10-250 tomorrow, Saturday Oct. 15.

* The Political Science Department invites all faculty and undergraduate students to an open house on October 13 at 4:30pm in the new suite (E53-460). Refreshments will be served.

* The annual Harry S. Truman Scholarship Award will be made to current sophomores intent on a career in the public service. The awards will be for \$5,000 and are renewable for the senior year and for up to two years of graduate study. One MIT student will be nominated by the president of the Institute. Any student wishing to be considered should contact Dr. Louis Menand III, Room 4-246 (x3-7752), no later than Oct. 20, 1977.

* The Institute of Society, Ethics and The Life Sciences is offering internships in the ethical issues of biology and medicine. The two types of internships, open to both undergraduate and graduate students, are a one-month internship in January and a general internship of one month or more during the school year or in the summer. For further information

contact Dr. Louis Menand III, Room 4-246, x3-7752.

* Faculty members who are interested in teaching an Undergraduate Seminar in the spring of '78 should contact the Undergraduate Seminars Office, 7-105, x3-3621, as soon as possible. Descriptions of seminars must be submitted by the first week in November.

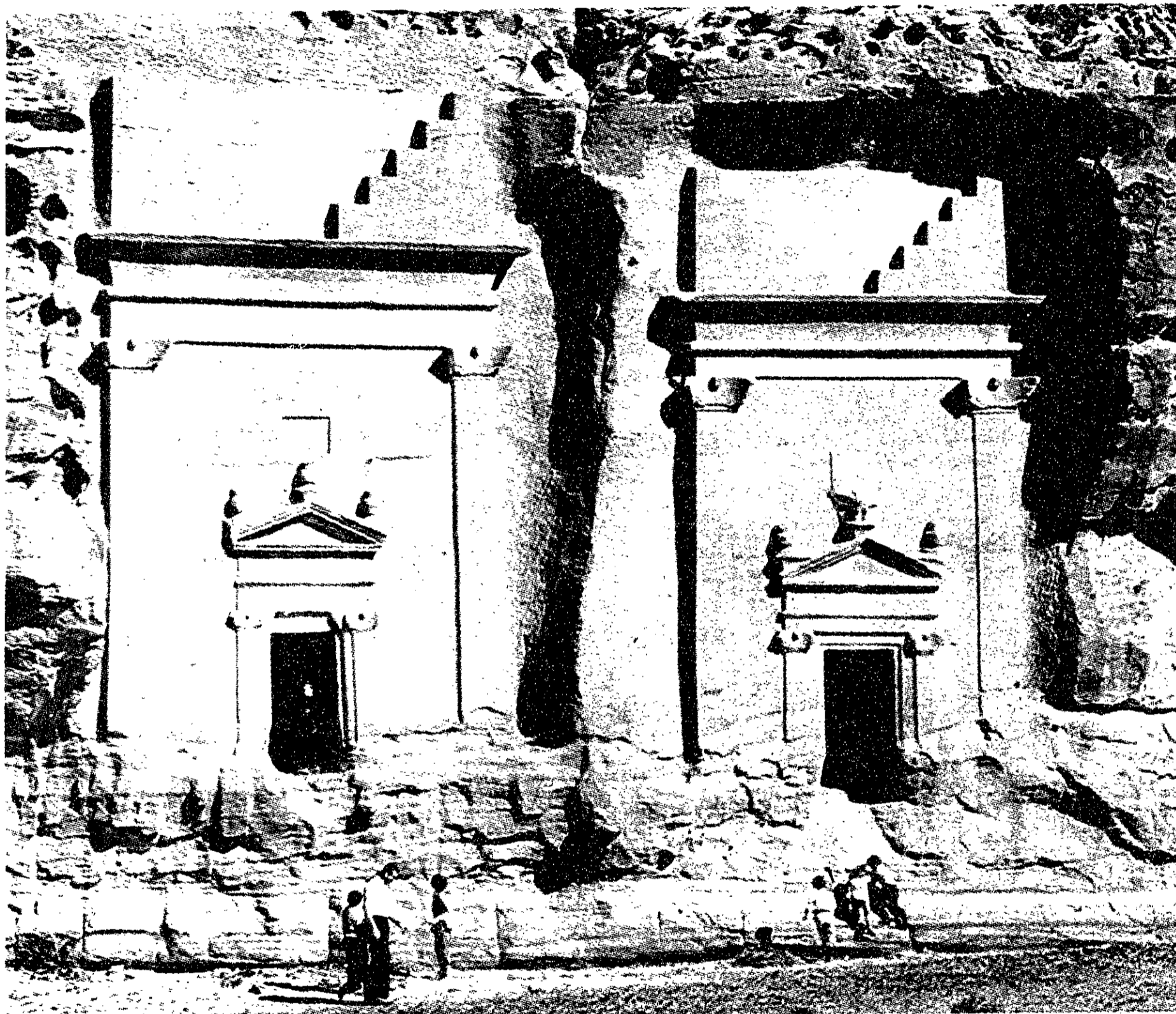
* Seniors in electrical engineering and computer science who wish to apply for graduate work in that department in 1978 have already been asked to submit their graduate applications by Nov. 1. Seniors in other departments who plan to apply to Electrical Engineering and Computer Science for admission during 1978 are urged also to apply by Nov. 1. Applications may be picked up in Rooms 38-444 and 3-103.

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news roundup

World

Palestinian role in peace talks debated — The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) stated yesterday that the delegation to the proposed Geneva peace talks would not have to be entirely PLO members; a minority of the group can be other Palestinians hand-picked by the PLO. The statement is in response to the plan formulated this week by the US State Department and Moshe Dayan, Israeli Foreign Minister. The plan had been circulated to Mideast countries for comment and revision.

Soviet Jews under house arrest — *The New York Times* reported this week that uniformed and plainclothed policemen were stationed outside the homes of about 20 Jews to keep them from protesting against their not being allowed to leave the Soviet Union. The Supreme Soviet is debating a new constitution, and a moratorium on emigration has been opposed until its resolution.

Nation

Committee rejects Social Security age jump — The House Ways and Means Committee reported unfavorably Wednesday on proposed legislation that would raise the Social Security retirement age from 65 to 68 by the year 2001. An alternative bill was drawn up, however, which would increase Social Security taxes over the next ten years. Both of these bills are attempts to prevent the predicted depletion of Social Security trust funds.

EPA ratings for 1978 cars announced — The Environmental Protection Agency released its annual gasoline mileage estimates for 1978 model cars to be sold in the United States. Leading the pack were the diesel-engine version of the Volkswagen Rabbit and the Datsun B-210, with combined city and highway mileage ratings of 45 and 40, respectively. At the bottom of the list, tied at 11 miles per gallon were the Plymouth Fury, the Dodge Monaco, and the Cadillac Eldorado and Limousine.

State

Senate retains abortion amendment — The Massachusetts Senate Wednesday upheld the controversial House abortion amendment as part of the state employee pay raise bill. The amendment would have the same effect as the Doyle-Flynn bill vetoed by Governor Dukakis; a ban on the use of state Medicaid funds for non-therapeutic abortions. Dukakis is expected to veto the new bill. The Senate was not able to overrule the Doyle-Flynn veto and will probably lack the votes to challenge this veto. If the bill is vetoed, state workers' pay raises will be delayed.

Local

Vellucci quits state job — Only one day after *The Boston Globe* reported that Cambridge Mayor Alfred E. Vellucci apparently did no work in his \$16,000-per-year job for the state Department of Corporations and Taxations, Vellucci resigned the post yesterday without giving any reasons. The *Globe* Spotlight Team reported keeping Vellucci under surveillance on a day that the mayor was supposed to be on assignment in Everett; Vellucci spent part of the day taking a leisurely drive around Cambridge with some guests and was in the Sloan Building at MIT for almost two hours at lunchtime.

Students find new drive after taking terms off

(Continued from page 1)

find out what they wanted to do at MIT and could view it as a place to get an "incredible education." One person said that he considered it a very "healthy" experience to get away from the Institute and its pressures to do the things he really wanted to do. All those interviewed said that other students should not "be scared to take off."

The Institute does not recognize leaves of absence for students, so that everyone who skips a term has to apply for readmission. These applications go through the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs and not through the Admissions Office.

If the student's withdrawal was negotiated with the Committee on Academic Performance, they must submit an application through that committee. In addition to the written application, they must be interviewed by one of the deans to find out what they did when they were gone and whether they are ready to return. Bishop said.

Students are also required to submit a letter from an employer, superior officer, or other person who knew the student well during his time away from MIT.

The readmission process is made as easy as possible, Bishop added, since it is faculty policy to help a student as much as they can to finish work toward a degree.

After students are readmitted the biggest problem they face is finding housing. They have the same priority as transfer students; only a few manage to get back into the dormitory system, and most must find an off-campus apartment.

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opinion

The Grogo incident and the Bakke case

By William Lasser

The unfortunate and overworked Grogo incident points up one of the strongest arguments that can be made in favor of affirmative action programs such as that challenged in the case of *Regents of the University of California v. Allan Bakke*.

The very strong reaction of the black and especially the black African community to the publication in the freshman picture book of *Technique's* mascot is still difficult for a significant portion of the white American community at MIT to understand. The large gap in cultural background and experience between the two groups has resulted in a lack of understanding of the injuries inflicted and the issues involved.

It is exactly this kind of insensitivity on the part of the white majority (one could even say the white male majority) that affirmative action programs can be used to eradicate. Although some argue against Bakke on the grounds that the inequities of the past must be counterbalanced by present inequities in the opposite direction, a convincing argument can be made that affirmative action is necessary in order to attain an educationally essential diversity within the student body.

here and now

For only if such diversity is present can the majority experience social and academic contact with minority groups which can result in a raising of consciousness, and hence a more complete educational experience.

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP), in a friend-of-the-court brief filed in support of the University of California, makes exactly this argument. "Diversity has a significant impact upon both in-class and assigned academic work as well as on the 'student culture' of the institution," the brief states. "Higher education is not conducted on a purely dyadic basis between student and teacher in which the presence and participation of other students plays little or no role."

The AAUP concludes that "a policy which selects from qualified applicants in order to assure the diversity of the student body is designed to benefit the entire class by greatly expanding the range of experience available to the group."

An equally important argument which the brief raises rests on the "somewhat paradoxical teaching problem" that "the individual tends to adopt attitudes corresponding to those held by the majority of the group." However, "if the discussion is one in which the group member hears many divergent attitudes expressed and if those diversions are tolerated by the groups, the forces towards conformity will be weakened." Furthermore, this process takes place inside and outside the classroom.

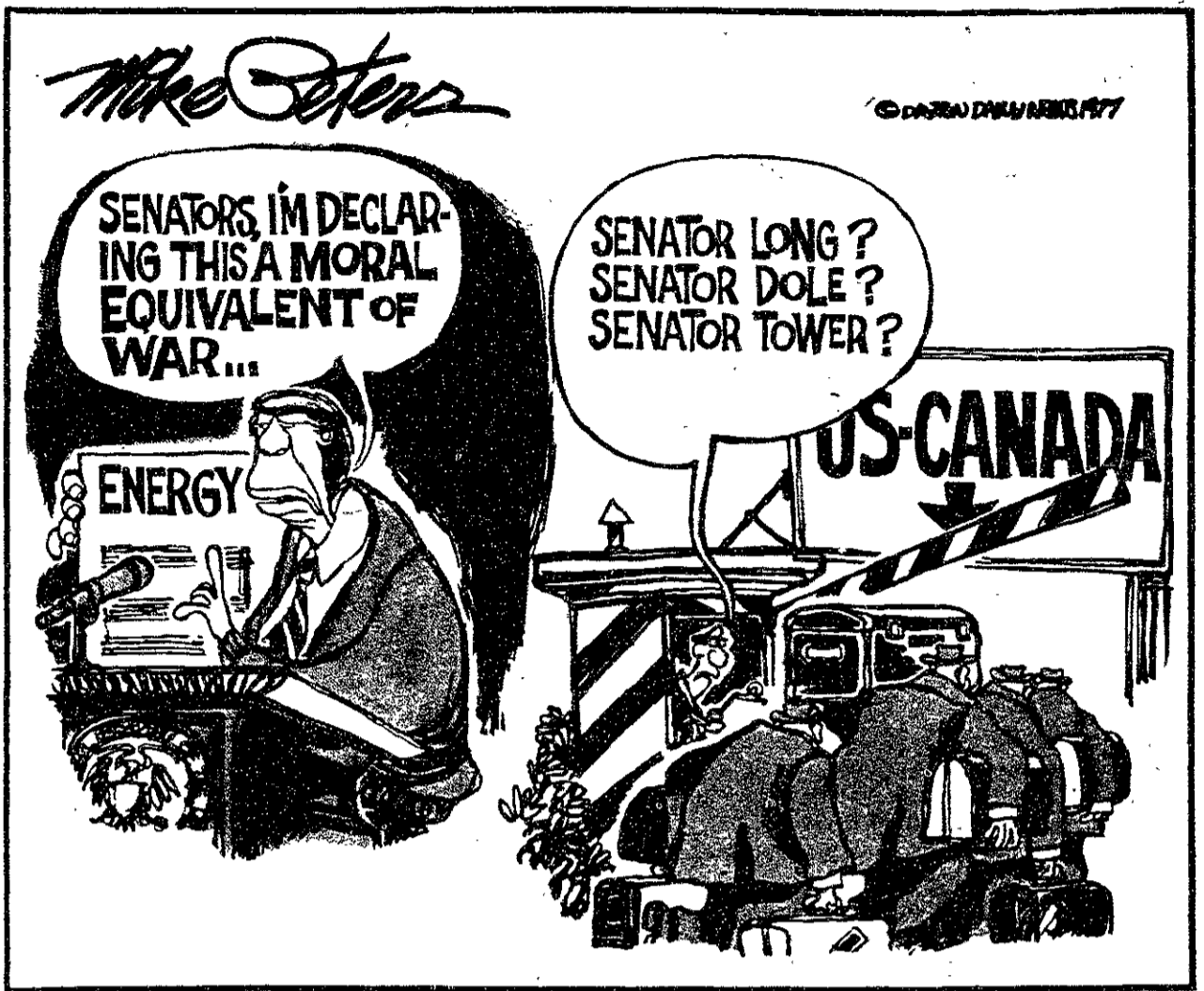
It is a logical argument, and a believable one, backed up as it is by numerous professional sociological and psychological studies of higher education. If it is correct, the argument militates strongly in favor of affirmative action and against the case of Allan Bakke. Yet practical experience, at least on the MIT campus, seems to show that even within a multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-national student body, the majority is still unable to comprehend the culture and feelings of minorities.

There are several possible explanations. The AAUP may be wrong, but this conclusion begs the question of just where the argument falls apart. Or, MIT might not in fact have a diverse enough student body. More likely, there might be something about MIT in particular or colleges in general which the argument does not take into account.

It can not be denied that the MIT campus is an ethnically diverse one. Still, the in-class arguments of the AAUP might not apply in the vast majority of MIT courses, which involve little more than teacher-student interactions and which do not involve problems to which diversity brings different solutions. There is, for example, no latitude based on ethnic differences for the solution of differential equations.

The crux of the matter is that outside the classroom, there is simply not enough interaction between members of diverse groups — especially blacks and whites — to allow for the realization of the goals espoused by the AAUP. Yet these goals are extremely important to the complete education of every student at the Institute, and we must take steps — individually and in groups, formally and informally — to increase communication and discussion with each other.

Still, an all-white student body would have let the Grogo incident pass unnoticed, and those of us who have learned from it are better off because of the diversity of the student body for that reason alone. That is an argument for affirmative action which cannot be ignored.



feedback

Institute committees criticized

To the Editor:

Concerning the Grogo affair, I can understand a student filing a complaint, but for a political science professor to request expulsion

of someone because of his (alleged) beliefs is incomprehensible. For the COD to take any punitive action is persecution of one's beliefs, prohibited by the Bill of Rights as interpreted by the Supreme Courts. I have no desire to see MIT raise tuition to pay off a massive fine. (For the complainants to be charged with harassment does not concern me

however.) As regards the recommendation of the CAP to move the drop date up, some questions have not been answered. From references in the campus papers, the implications are that the CAP wrote a "report" rather than conducted a "study". No mention is made of research or evidence. It appears the CAP used intuitive logic (for instance, 'The heavier an object, the faster it falls'). Did the CAP make their conclusions up? Should any of it be believed? The CAP says some students are hurt by overloading, while others benefit by getting a running start. In other words, a change will benefit some students and hurt others, and should therefore be made. What inspired reasoning! None of the other reasons they give have been true in my five years of experience as an MIT student and they've done nothing to convince me otherwise.

"For the COD to take any punitive action is . . . prohibited by the Bill of Rights . . ."

While it is possible that the papers have not accurately represented the CAP's report, given past experience with Institute committees, this seems unlikely. More probably, the CAP has not done its job properly and is wasting everyone's time in the process.

P/F interpretation wrong

To the Editor:

Drew Blakeman, in his "Perspectives" column of September 30, demonstrated that he has very little idea of what a university is all about. His first paragraph and his last offer medium-good advice, but contain things said many times before. Sandwiched in between, however, are frightening misconceptions of the idea behind pass/fail and the nature of study, and a woeful ignorance of the joy of learning.

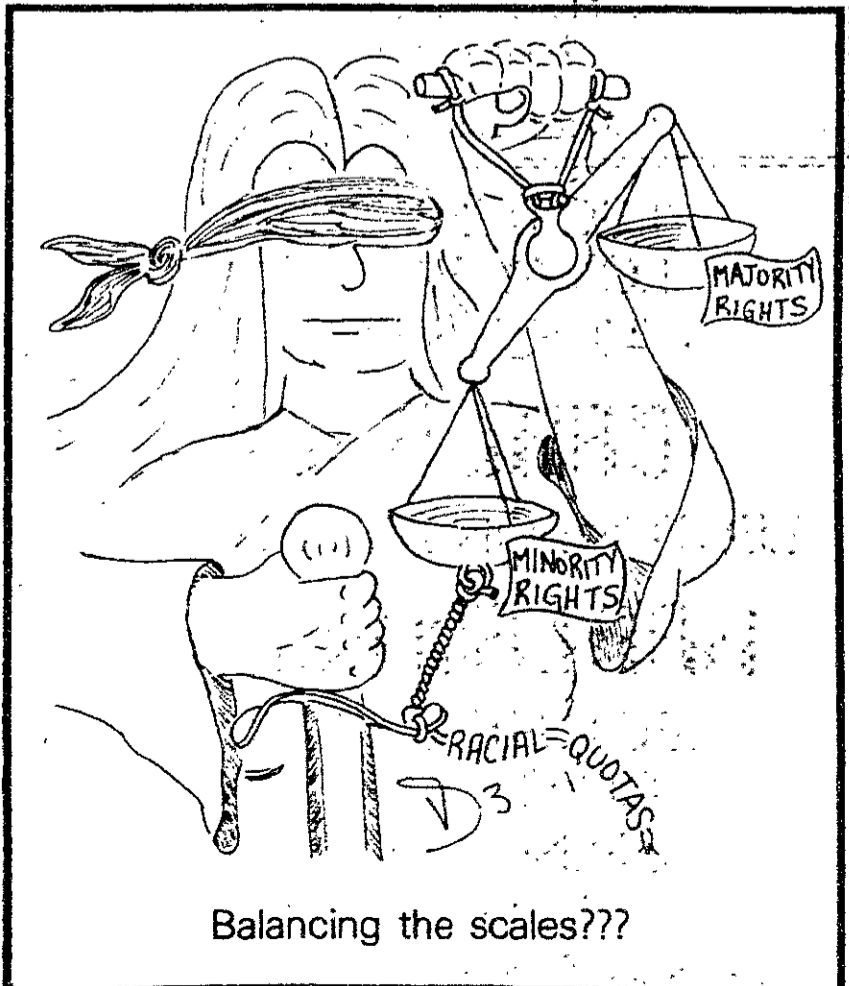
Pass/fail is most emphatically not a system designed to enable people to get by in a course with minimum effort. Mr. Blakeman points out that low scores on a few tests do not guarantee failing a course. True enough. But one's purpose in a course should be not passing, but learning. Low test scores certainly do indicate a serious failure there.

Mr. Blakeman's column is per-fused with the idea that the sole aim of study is good grades. This is the exact antithesis of the pass/fail idea, and if it is commonly held, the pass/fail system is not working.

Study, enjoyable in itself, is an

John Gersh G
Oct. 4, 1977

Michael C. Lynch G
Oct. 3, 1977



The Tech

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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.

'Charlie' continues an MIT tradition

By Margot Tsakonas

Tomorrow, Michael Egiros will be 58 years old. Born in Boston, raised in Watertown, and now established in Waltham, he has served the MIT community for thirty-two years — not as a professor or administrator, but as "Charlie the Tech Tailor."

How did he get involved in the tailoring — dry cleaning business? Like many others, Egiros attended Boston University for two years, but he was drafted at the beginning of World War II. When he returned, he married his wife Irene, who he had met in high school. "It was love at first sight," explains Egiros, smiling.

The original "Tech Tailor" was his father Constantine "Charlie" Egiros, who came to the United States from Asia Minor and raised a family with his wife Mary, originally from Crete. "Charlie's" shop was opened in 1917 at 6 Ames Street, so 1977 marks the sixtieth year of business for the Egiros family.

And it is definitely a family business. Although "Charlie" is deceased, Mary Egiros, nearly 80 years old, still works with her son. Even suffering from a broken



Michael Egiros works in his shop in the basement of the Student Center. His father was "Charlie the Tech Tailor" from 1917 until the younger Egiros took over in 1945

hip, she insists on working at home.

Egiros loves his job so much he has only missed nine business days in 32 years. "I have the best customers in the world," he says. He also enjoys working around students. "They keep me young, and they're honest, trustworthy

customers. I've only had three bad checks in 30 years."

The Tech Tailor enjoys the respect of the MIT community as well. "I have two heroes," said Egiros, "my late dad and the late Carl Taylor Compton. But his favorite person, he added, "is Mrs. Carl T. Compton."

Does he think his eight-month-old grandson will continue the

business? "That's his decision," says Egiros. "Good morning," he calls in Greek, "and come back anytime."

classified advertising

Sonesta Beach, a resort hotel in the Southampton parish of Bermuda, is looking for a campus representative at MIT. For further information contact Roger L. Hering, Sonesta Hotels, 276 Third St., Cambridge, MA 02142 (617) 354-5800

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arts

George Burns hilarious in title role of *Oh, God*

Oh, God, a Warner Brother's release; starring George Burns, John Denver, and Paul Sorvino; produced by Jerry Weintraub; directed by Carl Reiner; screenplay by Larry Gelbart; playing at Sack Cheri, Cinema 57, Framingham Cinema, Burlington Mall Cinema; rated PG

By Al Sanders

Imagine George Burns as God. That may be difficult, but try anyway. Now, imagine that the assistant manager of a supermarket, namely John Denver, came to you and said that God showed up in your bathroom one morning and asked him to spread the word that God is still around and that He'd like everyone else to shape up a bit. Therein lies the tale of *Oh, God*, an amusing new comedy directed by Carl Reiner.

The Tech's movie rating scale:

- no excellent
- very good
- good
- fair
- poor
- the absolute pits

The movie succeeds at being just plain fun — one would hate to see George Burns starring in a serious biblical epic. The people that Denver tries to relate his strange tale to naturally consider him to be crazy. But he persists and before long, he receives increasing media coverage until he finally hits the big-time — an appearance on Dinah Shore's show.

After this, Denver's problems really begin to pile up. His family nearly gives up on him, he loses his job, and a slander suit is filed against him. All the excitement culminates in the courtroom where God makes His effective (if somewhat unpretentious) appearance, wearing a fishing cap and deck shoes.

This plot may seem to be a little weak, but that is not important in a comedy — the jokes are. The reason that this comedy works so well is that there are plenty of good laughs. After all, if an audience spends enough time chuckling, who's going to worry about a plot?

Nevertheless, Larry Gelbart's screenplay is not just a solid laugh; a message does seep through now and then. God decides to show up because He feels that people may have forgotten about Him. Not being too happy with the way of the world, He just wants to remind us that our problems can be worked out if we want to solve them. In other words, it's up to us. So, besides a box of popcorn, one may leave this movie with a little food for thought, too.

By far, the main reason for the film's success is George Burns. He is just what the script calls for. Not too flashy, not too fond of miracles (His last, He informs us, were the 1969 Mets). He just wants to straighten out the world before it's too late.

The whole idea of George Burns as God is so ridiculous that the concept of such a portrayal being sacrilegious never crosses one's mind. It is quite funny, though, and Burns delivers all of his lines like the seasoned veteran that he is. Without him, the show would be a sure failure.

John Denver is, well, John Denver. Luckily, he is right for the part, so he makes a fairly good impression in his screen debut. This good impression does not come, however, from any great acting talent on his part, but from the fact that his natural personality fits the role so well. One gets the idea that the script was written with the knowledge that Denver would be starring in it.

One other bright spot in the movie is Paul Sorvino's portrayal of a world famous evangelist. The scene in which he preaches to his following is a marvelous satire of such revivals, and is one of the funniest segments of the film. Besides Sorvino, though, the rest of the supporting cast is rather lackluster.

Now, if you are still trying to imagine George Burns as God, don't bother. A factual representation is the last thing that the makers of this movie are worried about. The film is worth seeing because of the genuinely humorous script and because of George Burns, who at eighty-one years old, is truly amazing.

Go to see *Oh, God* expecting to have some fun, not to be instructed in any great theological dogma. Still, the idea of God showing up might not seem so ridiculous after all. Perhaps that is what this movie is really trying to say.



John Denver and George Burns star in a new comedy, *Oh, God*.

Kentucky Fried uneven

Kentucky Fried Movie, a United Film Distribution release; produced by Robert K. Weiss; directed by John Landis; written by David Zucker, Jim Abrahams, and Jerry Zucker; playing at Sack Beacon Hill, Circle Cinema, Sack Cinema Natick, Showcase Woburn, Showcase Dedham, and Sack Cinema City Danvers; rated R.

By Drew Blakeman

Over the past few years, the British Monty Python television series and films have gained a loyal following in this country. As a result, numerous imitations of their style of humor have been spawned. *Kentucky Fried Movie* is the latest of these ersatz Python efforts, and although there are some funny moments, this film does not match the archetype Python in either originality or wit.

The movie, conceived by the Los Angeles-based Kentucky Fried Theater, is a series of 21 vignettes which are designed to spoof culture which is typically American. Although a number of them are hilarious, many of them are only mildly amusing or even dull.

A few recognizable actors such as Bill Bixby and Henry Gibson contribute cameo appearances, but for the most part *Kentucky Fried Movie* employs the talents of a totally unknown cast. This is not detrimental in itself, but better acting might have given this film a more professional sheen.

Both the acting and writing come across as being amateurish. In fact, it seems almost as if someone had filmed a high school variety show — a good show — but

only of high school caliber nonetheless. Much of the comedy is so blatant that many of its funnier aspects are lost.

Kentucky Fried Movie does have a good deal of potential, which unfortunately went untapped. Much more could have been done with many of the ideas introduced in the film. A sequence titled "A. M. Today" included a hilarious satire of the "Point, Counterpoint" portion of television's "Sixty Minutes." Another skit, "Catholic High School Girls in Trouble," maintained a high level of comedy throughout.

Some of the other better scenes include "Scot Free," a parody of socially oriented board games, "That's Armageddon," a take-off on disaster movies, and "Courtroom," which lampoons many popular television shows of the 'fifties.

The majority of the vignettes, however, were not as comic as they were intended to be. "A Fistful of Yen," a burlesque of martial arts movies, was funny at first but became overly long and boring as it continued, a complaint which applies to a majority of the skits. The scenes which contained a single joke were generally more effective than the longer scenes, which tended to overwork a single idea for much too long a time.

The crew of *Kentucky Fried Movie* does not seem to be able to end a scene at its logical conclusion, but the short length of these vignettes and their occasional funny lines kept the movie from becoming too tedious. It is extremely uneven, though, and does not have a constant flow of humor as a movie of this type should.

events

The MIT Community Players open their 1977-78 season tonight with Neil Simon's poignant comedy of sexual misadventure, *The Last of the Red-Hot Lovers*. Performances will be Fri., Oct. 7 through Sun., Oct. 9 and Thurs., Oct. 13 through Sat., Oct. 15. All shows will be in the Kresge Little Theatre and will start at 8pm. Admission is \$3. For reservations or more information call x3-4720.

Comedian Robert Klein joins Jade and Sarsaparilla at the Berklee Performance Center Tues., Oct. 11 in a benefit concert for the Committee to Reopen the Rosenberg Case. Tickets range from \$5 to \$7 and are on sale at Berklee box office (266-1400), Strawberries, Out of Town, and Concertcharge (661-0700).

Event '77 — A Salute to Boston's Performing Artists will take place Sun., Oct. 9 at 2pm and 7:30pm at the Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. The best of Boston's classical

music and ballet will be presented in this benefit concert for the Beth Israel Hospital. Student tickets are \$5; other prices range from \$12.50 to \$25. For additional information, call 566-0925.

The Cambridge Community Chorus will meet Tues., Oct. 11 at 7pm at Cambridge City Hall in the City Council Chambers on the second floor. The chorus meets there every Tues. evening. No professional experience is necessary, and everyone is welcome. For further information call 876-6800 or 354-4182.

Music Director Seiji Ozawa conducts the Boston Symphony Orchestra, baritone Benjamin Luxon, soprano Judith Blegin, and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus in Brahms' *German Requiem* Fri., Oct. 7 at 2pm, Sat., Oct. 8 at 8:30pm, and Tues., Oct. 11 at 8:30pm. The program also includes brass music by the seventeenth-century Venetian, Giovanni Gabrieli. Call 266-1492 for more information.

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Rosenberg sons probe deaths

By David B. Koretz

"At no time since 1973 have I considered giving up," Michael Meeropol stated emphatically. It is in 1973 that Meeropol traded relative obscurity in Springfield, Massachusetts, for a series of legal battles from which he hopes to learn fully the circumstances behind the executions of his parents, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, in 1953. The Rosenbergs died in the electric chair at Sing Sing on June 30, 1953, after being convicted of passing the secret of the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union. Their two sons, Michael and Robert, were then ten and six at the time;

concert being held next Tuesday night at the Berklee Music Center. Headlining will be comedian Robert Klein, who became involved in the Rosenberg case in 1974, when he first agreed to appear at a benefit in commemoration of the executions.

Meeropol spends as much of his time as possible in giving interviews, making speeches at rallies and Congressional hearings, and attending court sessions. He received a PhD in economics from the University of Wisconsin, and now teaches at Western New England College near his home in Springfield.

He is remarkably calm when

theory on his parents' arrest and conviction perceives an "equation of domestic dissidence with treason," thus stirring public feeling against dissidents, and therefore communists. The conviction of "foreign spies who stole the atom bomb secret and placed the survival of the country in jeopardy . . . served the national interest," and alerted the country to the "dangers of communism," Meeropol maintains.

In evidence of this national anti-communist feeling during the McCarthy Era, Meeropol told the story of an encounter he had at the age of eight, a year after his parents were incarcerated. A young friend's mother, upon learning the Rosenberg youth's identity, banished the boy from her house in "fear of contamination."

Because of the strong feelings in this country during the 1950's, the Meeropol brothers did not try to publicize their identities or whereabouts. However, even as the Rosenbergs were being executed, protest and doubt began to grow. Irving Kaufman, the judge who presided at the trial, continually interfered with retrial attempts, even those by co-defendant Morton Sobell years later. An article in this week's *New Republic* magazine by Vern Countryman, professor of law at Harvard University, outlines what he sees as unethical and even illegal practices Kaufman has engaged in.

As their son, Meeropol believed emotionally that the Rosenbergs were guiltless, but he began to "understand intellectually" that they were innocent as he read the first publications about the trial during the late 1950's.

In 1965 Walter and Miriam



Gary S. Engelson

Michael Meeropol, the eldest son of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, explains his fight to prove their innocence during an interview held Tuesday.

Schneir published a volume entitled *Invitation to an Inquest*, which today remains the "bible" of the Meeropol supporters. In *Invitation to an Inquest*, the Schneirs collected both the actual trial proceedings and the overwhelming quantity of evidence which they felt contradicted the testimony produced by the prosecution. For the first time, a general feeling that the Jewish communists from New York had not gotten a fair trial began to become popular. Shortly thereafter, Michael and Robert Meeropol considered "going public," but decided against it. Michael Meeropol explained that they did not feel the atmosphere was quite right.

In 1973, when the suit against Nizer was made known, "a scattering of hate mail" was received, and the listed telephone number in Springfield had to be changed to an unlisted one. Robert

Meeropol, moreover, soon found that his timing had cost him a PhD research grant. Within a year the Committee to Re-Open the Rosenberg Case was officially formed, not by the brothers but by their supporters.

After 25 years of hiding, revealing that they were the sons of the famous convicted spies was a difficult hurdle to overcome. But higher hurdles are in front of the brothers Meeropol.

The lawsuit takes much of their time, but so does going through the 50,000 pages already "dragged kicking and screaming from the FBI." Meeropol's biggest complaint is a common one for those presented with their FBI files — many pages are illegibly Xeroxed and many are almost totally blanked out. Paul Fishman, a member of the Boston group of the Committee, estimated that about one third of

(Please turn to page 7)

le is remarkably calm when talking about the deaths of his parents, the only married couple ever put to death in the United States."

Within a year the two boys were adopted by a Dutch couple named Meeropol.

Until 1973, when author Louisizer used copyrighted letters of the Rosenbergs in his bestseller *The Implosion Conspiracy* and adopted the Meeropols into a personal lawsuit, very few people were aware of their identities.

Four years later, the two men, now aged 34 and 30, are involved in what Michael Meeropol called a "massive lawsuit." Conceding their parents' innocence to the United States Government's complicity in their deaths, the brothers are attempting to receive about one million pages of case-related documents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation files in its Washington and New York offices.

Michael Meeropol was in town last week to promote a benefit

talking about the deaths of his parents, the only married couple ever put to death in the United States. Meeropol is not bitter when discussing his perceptions of the political events surrounding their arrest and conviction. As a graduate of the New Left of the late 1960's, he is disillusioned with the American Political System. Meeropol and his ever-growing group of supporters contend that the Rosenbergs were "victims of the political process," victims of the "mindless anti-communism" fomented in this country in the decade following World War II.

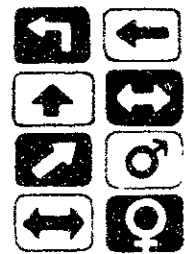
According to Meeropol, the government wanted to "change their policies towards wartime allies" such as Russia. Starting with the loyalty program of Harry Truman in 1947, it "snowballed" from there. Meeropol's specific



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Gary S. Engelson

Michael Meeropol.

Sons probe execution

(Continued from page 7)

the pages were rendered worthless — and the FBI charges ten cents per page. However, this fee is only a small fraction of the money that has gone into the Meeropols' legal pursuits; Fishman estimated that sum at about \$150,000. This does not include the amount that the Meeropols' lawyer has accrued in personal debt.

In addition to these matters, there is constant testimony at congressional hearings, frequent lobbying, and continual fundraising. There is also a bill, buried in Congress's calendar, that would initiate a review of the actions of Judge Kaufman, now Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Appeals for New York City.

Michael Meeropol has not allowed his sorrow or bitterness over his parents' execution to consume him. He speaks thoughtfully and intelligently, referring to books on the case and to evidence against his parents' conviction, particularly to testimony on the government's "secret drawings" of the atom bomb from such prominent physicists as MIT Professor Philip Morrison.

The Meeropols' goals are clearly stated: to convince the American public through legal proceedings that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg did not receive a fair trial, but, more important, to find out the real reasons for what happened before, during and after the April, 1951, trial.

And what then? What are Michael Meeropol's plans after he has cleared his parents' names, after he convinces the American judicial system that it wrongfully executed his parents? "That's easy," he concluded. "I'd just like to go back to being an economist."

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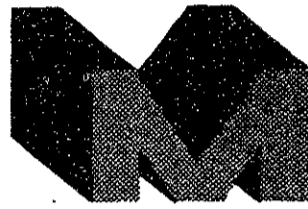
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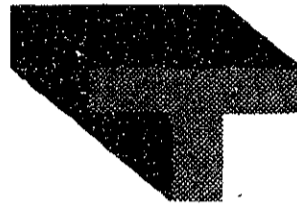
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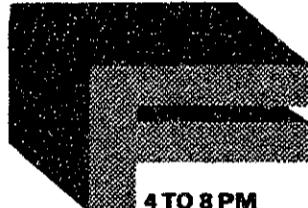
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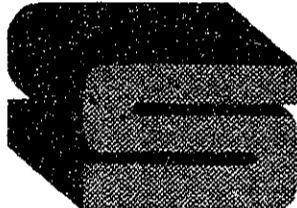
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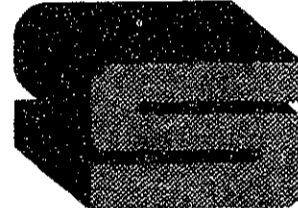


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ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS:

Tuesday, October 25

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In the woods of Vermont

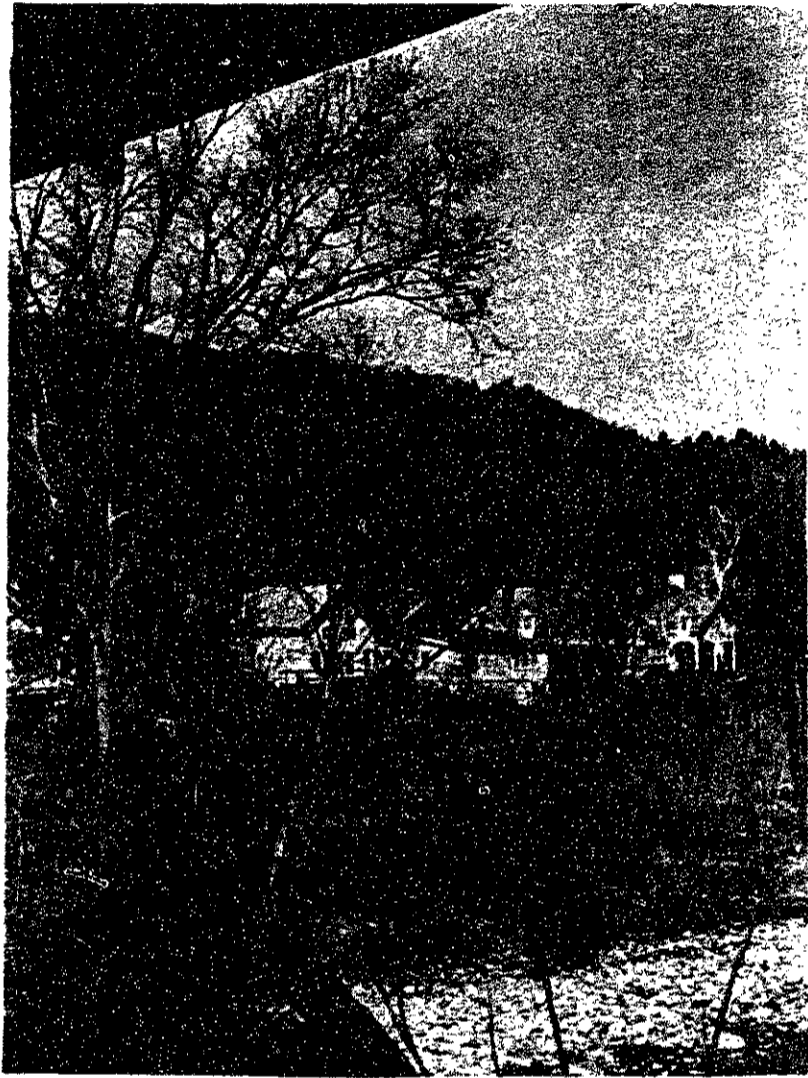
Near the small rural town of Woodstock, stands an old New England farm house called Talbot House, a gift of Laurence Rockefeller, which is rented out by MIT to living groups and activities. It is a trip which has become a yearly excursion for many groups, provided they are able to get it, for the house is very popular, especially during the skiing season.

Woodstock is in the middle of Vermont ski country, the best on the East Coast. Less than thirty miles away is Killington with its extensive slopes and prices to match. At similar distances are a variety of smaller slopes, such as Roundtop, which have fewer trails but have lift ticket prices on

the order of \$2 to \$3. Cross Country skiing also abounds in the vicinity at Mt. Tom and the Woodstock Ski Touring Center as well as the less maintained trails running through the nearby woods.

In the spring and autumn, the activities are somewhat different although they still provide a relaxing weekend for any group. The local town of Woodstock is a picture perfect image of a small New England town. Away from the bustle and noise of a city like Boston, one can just sit out in the fresh air. Alternatively, there is horseback riding through the endless woods which infiltrate the area.

What follows are the excerpts



from the accounts of two groups which visited Talbot House last year, one over a week during IAP and the other over a spring weekend. Hopefully, they will give you some idea of what happens at Talbot House.

First the Spring group:

Our departure was dragging along. It didn't look like the entire group was going to get left until about six o'clock at the rate we were going. At that point, John, Dave, Tom, and I reached the conclusion that if we could just get the booze, we could take off to Talbot House ourselves and have a good poker game before anyone else got there, which is exactly what we did, although not before running into a friend of mine who took one look at me, one look at the half gallon of Scotch in my hand, and then said "Don't you think you're starting a bit early?" We had a big party later that weekend which I was coming back for.

When the rest of the group arrived, the party and games got started in earnest. A few card games and monopoly games started up. In their grand tradition, the few Dean's Office people in our group started to play Perquackey. The night became more interesting as it went along. Steve started what would become a

twelve page entry in the Talbot House log book. People just kept adding items of varying degrees of oddity throughout the weekend. As with our parties, strange things began to happen around eleven or twelve o'clock. Steve won a monopoly game after Katy sold him five hundred dollars worth of properties for one dollar while giggling. "I have a very low resistance to alcohol." That about did it for the night.

The next day we didn't do much of anything in particular. Frisbee games went on most of the day behind the house. A few of us drove into Woodstock for a while, wandering through the rustic town and over the recently restored covered bridge. We lay out in the sun for a while, in short, relaxed and had a good time.

Now the Winter group:

Wednesday, almost everyone went to Roundtop because "It always snows at Roundtop!" Cancel that. Chug has just threatened to kill me if he hears that again. He claims you just can't imagine how nerve-racking it is to hear "Good morning. Welcome to Roundtop. Today is Wednesday, Men's day. Lifts, Lessons, and Equipment for \$6.00. Our ski school meets at 12:30 in 27 minutes. That is 12:30

in 27 minutes and remember 'It always snows at Roundtop!' " at five minute intervals for an entire day.

We constituted a noticeable percentage of the people on the slopes that day. At times twelve or so of us would be skiing down the hill at one time. The skiing was excellent. In the morning there were close to five inches of powder which packed down toward the afternoon.

Wednesday night Keith made another booze run and everyone settled down to play backgammon, perquackey, cards, etc. One of the more interesting games of the night was a Monopoly game between John, Dave, Bill, and myself. It turned into a hate-crazed game. John got Boardwalk and Park Place and the remaining three of us made a trade which gave each of us a set of properties. The game then started getting vicious. At one point John paid me too much for landing on a hotel. When he discovered this several moves later an argument ensued. One of the bridge players arbitrated for us and asked "Is this game for fun or for blood?" Everyone instantly responded "BLOOD!" Dave eventually won with me second, Bill third, and John fourth. That about finished it for the night although upstairs



things got noisy again as there was a bath-tubbing and a collapse of Brad's bed. When Peter Richardson, our faculty host, came in to enquire about the bed, he was told: "It was just an accident" to which he replied: "And I suppose the bath-tubbing was too."

The next day, most people went to Killington or Roundtop. It was a very interesting day. Hopper started out by losing a ski rack. "How do you lose a ski rack," you may ask. Well, it isn't easy. Bert had the only real ski rack on his car. He also had his muffler tied by wire to his rear door handles. It seems that when he was leaving Talbot House someone neglected to close the rack. A lit-

tle way down the road, Roger saw one of his skis take off behind them. He was a little upset. Bert stopped the car and Bruce got out the back door to retrieve the ski. Yes, you're right. It was the back door that Bert had his muffler tied to. The wire snapped when Bruce got out of the car. The ski was recovered, but now Bert's muffler was dragging. John, who was trailing Bert, saw this and at the next traffic light pulled him over to the side. He then offered Bert a piece of rope to tie his muffler up with. Where did this rope come from? It was the rope which was helping to hold John's roof rack to his car. That night, John's only explanation for this behavior was temporary brainrot to which

a few people murmured something to the effect that they weren't so sure it was temporary. In any case, when they arrived at Roundtop and Jon said: "I hope to hell your ski rack's in your trunk!". John's mouth dropped several feet as he turned around and looked at the car. Enough said.

The same day, John snapped one of his metal skis in two and then proceeded to irreparably damage a pair of rental skis. In the meantime, John Cochrane had broken one boot, two ski poles, and four skis although none of them were destroyed as badly as Hopper's masterpieces.

Photo essay by Gordon Haff

sports cont.



John Veneziano '78 (center) and Charles Cox '79 (right) scramble for the ball in the rugby club's 19-12 loss to Albany Law School.

Rugby loses first 2 games

By Charles Cox

The MIT rugby football club dropped its first two games of the fall season to Harvard Business School and Albany Law School. The Engineer A's fell to Harvard Business by a score of 13-0 as the opposition racked up a penalty goal and then a goal in the first half and finished with a try in the second. Harvard's first try involved a second phase movement that sent the ball

across the field twice among the Business School players. In the B-game Harvard Business opened the scoring with a try but Dave Hanrahan G answered with a penalty goal from forty yards to keep the Engineers within one point at halftime. Harvard soon built up an insurmountable lead in the second half as they crossed the line for two tries and a goal to make the final score 18-3. Special ef-

orts were those of Jim Peet G and Tom Bryant G who played in both games. Last Saturday the A ruggers lost a hot battle to Albany Law 19-12. Although leading at the half by virtue of a Bob Silverman '80 try and Bryant's conversion and penalty goal, the Engineers fell behind Albany in the second half. The Law ruggers had pulled to within two points of the Engineers at halftime with a try and penalty goal and added twelve more points in the second half. Bryant scored MIT's final points on a penalty goal.

The Engineers did not fare very well in the B-game either. Albany led 4-0 at the half on a try and scored three more tries in the second half to win 16-0.

The Engineers play Boston College next weekend at an as yet undetermined site.

Water polo triumphs over Exeter in 2 OT's

By Gordon Haff

Last Wednesday, MIT's varsity water polo team squeaked by a psyched-up Exeter squad for a 9-8 overtime victory. In part, the close score could be attributed to a psychological letdown on the team's part after its win in last weekend's tournament. Coach Benedick remarked after the game, "We knew they (Exeter) would come in fired up in our minds, but not in our hearts."

Because of this letdown combined with a surprisingly strong Exeter attack and a careless MIT defense, Exeter jumped to a 2-1 lead after the first quarter, and a 4-2 lead at the half. MIT just could not get a passing game together. When their passes weren't being intercepted, they were ineffectual tosses around the perimeter of the pool.

In the second half, MIT began to pull itself together into a coordinated unit. By the end of the third quarter, MIT's offense had exploded for five goals while its defense had held Exeter to just three.

In the fourth, Exeter's squad had once again tightened up. It held MIT scoreless and was only kept off the board itself by a fabulous save by junior goalie Pete Griffith in the closing se-

conds. Finally, after a double overtime period, MIT emerged victorious on two goals by sophomore John Dolan to a single Exeter goal. The final score was 9-8.

The momentum of the game had switched back and forth. At times, there was very careless play, particularly on defense, by both sides. In the end, MIT won because they were a bit more careful than Exeter in the overtime period. The game should have taught the MIT squad a lot — namely that you cannot dismiss an opponent before you play them.

Earlier in the evening, MIT's 'B' side defeated Exeter's 'B' side 13-5. Junior Keith Clark led the scoring for MIT with four goals.

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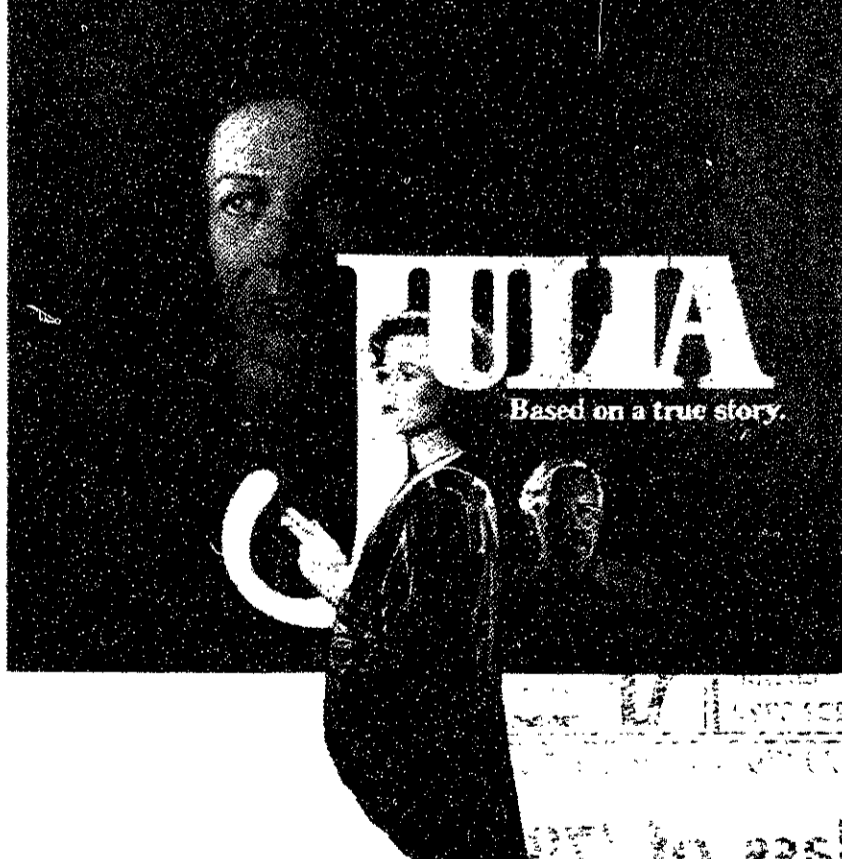
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STARTS NEXT WEEK AT
Cheri Theatre

Sailors settle for 4th in shortened regatta

By Audrey Greenhill

The MIT sailing teams continued to finish well in major regattas last weekend. The men placed fourth in the Danmark Trophy at Coast Guard and the women picked up a second in the Man Labs Trophy sailed at home.

The Danmark Trophy, one of the major New England intercollegiate regattas sailed in the fall, attracted a thirteen school field. After Saturday's eight races, the team was in fourth place with a good chance of moving up to third. Sunday, light air prevailed and forced the race committee to cancel the regatta after only two races. Yale won the regatta followed by Tufts, Harvard and MIT. In the two Sunday races, MIT had come within striking distance of third and possibly second place. Had the required thirteen races been held, however, MIT might have caught third place Harvard.

In B-division, Gary Smith '78, with Dave Kuller '81 crewing, sailed well, finishing third. Skipper Lenny Dolher '79 and Elliot Rossen '79 with crew Jordan Kriedberg '79 combined for a sixth place in A-division.

Saturday and Sunday, the women hosted the Man Labs Trophy. Twelve schools participated in the two division regatta sailed in Tech dinghies. Throughout the twelve races of

each division, competition was very tight for the top three positions. BU eventually came out on top just ahead of URI and MIT. Sally Husted '78 with crew Marianne Salomone '79 sailed in A-division and Debbie Meyerson '79 skippered B-division with crews Alanna Connors '78 and Audrey Greenhill '79. Both finished third in their divisions.

Radcliffe hosted a one-day one-division regatta on Saturday. Barbara Biber '79 with crew Nancy Saraf '81 came from behind to finish second with thirty-six points, only one point behind Radcliffe who topped the nine school field.

The men sent a team up to Maine Maritime to participate in the Penobscot Bay Open Regatta. All weekend light winds and an occasional opposing four-knot current prevailed. John York '80 and crew Steve Dalton '81 were able to overcome the conditions to win A-division. Bruce Gage '79 with crew Henry E. Newman deVegvar '81 sailed in B-division. MIT finished third just one point behind second place Maine Maritime. Harvard won first place honors.

This weekend the team will sail in the Sloop Championship at Coast Guard and the Hoyt Trophy at Brown. The women will host the Emily Wick Trophy.



Crew was one of the first women's sports given varsity status

Women's sports growing

By Helen Miyasaki

Most students know that MIT has more men's teams competing in NCAA sports than any other school. In addition, however, MIT has a very extensive women's athletic program.

With the rapidly increasing interest in athletics among MIT women, the program has expanded to include ten varsity sports and three club sports. More than half of these are less than two years old. Sailing and crew, granted varsity status in 1969 and 1973, respectively, are MIT's oldest women's sports.

During the period 1973-75, women's basketball, fencing, and tennis joined these as varsity sports. In the past two years, volleyball, gymnastics, swimming, softball and field hockey have been granted varsity status, and the cross country, water polo, and rugby clubs have been established.

The program is set up to accommodate both experienced players and those with more enthusiasm than ability. Last year a record 27 percent of undergraduate women participated in intercollegiate athletics alone. MIT's "no-cut" policy allows beginners to learn the fundamentals of their sport, yet does not prevent the varsity teams from playing strong schedules against excellent teams.

Nor does the lack of athletic scholarships hinder outstanding performances by the women's

teams. MIT's women's sailing and fencing teams have long been among the strongest in New England. For the last two years, the women's volleyball team has won the Greater Boston and Massachusetts State Division II Championships, and last year they won the Small College Eastern Regional Championship, qualifying them for the National Championships in Malibu, California.

The demand for locker space and shower facilities by the new teams soon made the existing locker rooms inadequate. In the summer of 1976 the Athletic Department expanded the women's duPont locker room to include 187 6-foot lockers and 16 more shower heads, a vast improvement over the 3-foot lockers and 2 shower heads shared by most varsity teams in Briggs Field locker room prior to that time.

Jane Betts, who became the Women's Athletic Director and women's gymnastics coach in the fall of 1976, says, "Working with women's athletics is an exciting challenge. The women's intercollegiate athletic program is setting roots that will continue to grow, meeting the needs of students currently and in the future." The other full-time coaches are Deb-

bie Clum, head field hockey and softball coach, and Jean Heiney, assistant field hockey and softball coach and head basketball coach. This year there is now a full-time women's trainer — Harriett Pearce.

In 1976 a Task Force on women's athletics was formed. It consisted of the Women's Athletic Council (WAC), a group of women students representing all the existing women's teams, and a number of concerned women from MIT's faculty and staff. Through their efforts a report was compiled evaluating the condition of women's athletics at MIT. The new locker room and the hiring of the full-time women coaches and trainer, among other things, were a direct result of the recommendations outlined in the report.

This year MIT is hosting the Fourth Annual Invitational Basketball Tournament on the first weekend in February. MIT and five other schools (Bates, Swarthmore, U of Penn, Brown, and Chicago) will be playing a two-day, single elimination with consolation tournament. In conjunction with the tournament the WAC plans to hold an "alumnae night" to invite alumnae to return to see the progress that has been made here at MIT in women's athletics.

A-league IM football cancelled this year

By Gordon Haff

There is no 'A' League football this year. The primary reason is simply lack of interest; other factors, such as the elected IM Football Manager, John Lowell, deciding to take a term off from the Institute over the summer, may have worsened the situation.

According to Leo Ahearn '78, a member of the IM Council Executive Committee, only three teams — LCA, SAE, and BTP really want to enter an 'A' League football team. Although several other teams had indicated that they would be interested in 'A' League as a second choice, in the end, they could not be persuaded to enter that league. He indicated that while the confusion caused by the unexpected turnover of the football management to Craig Katz '79 did nothing to lessen the turmoil, the same situation would

have cropped up anyway.

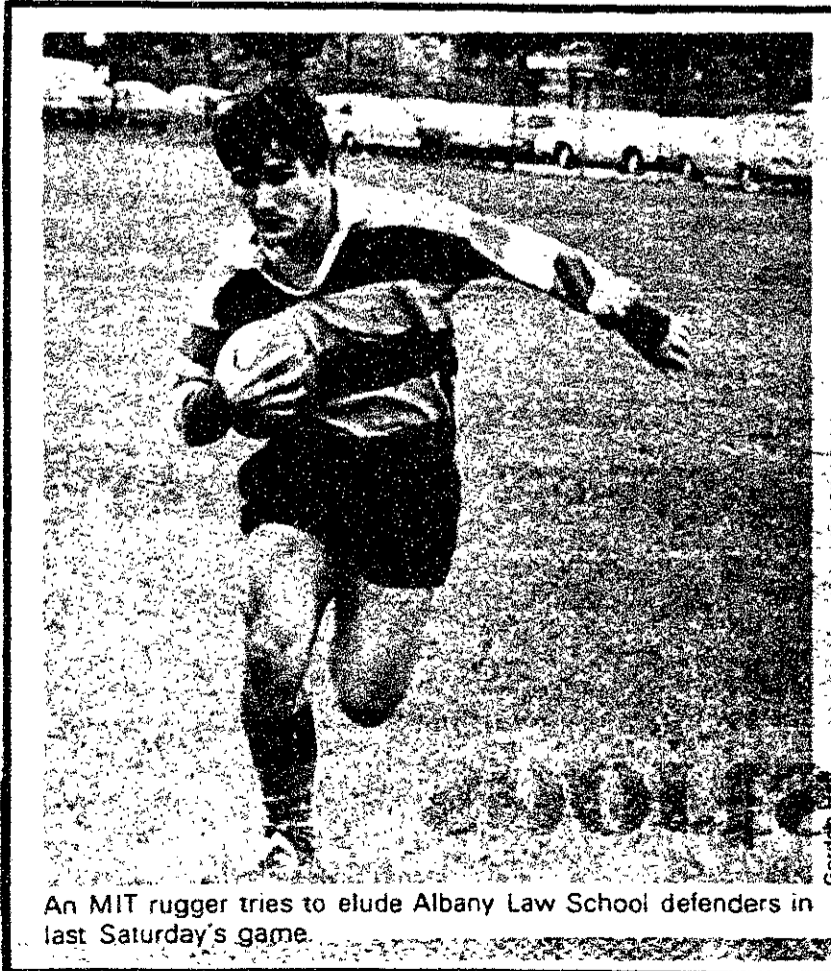
In the absence of an 'A' League, the Executive Committee decided to split up the strongest teams of 'B' League into two divisions, B1 and B2. SAE's "1" team, who have won the 'A' League championship trophy ten out of the last eleven years, is in B2, while their perennial competitors, LCA, were placed in B1.

It is most unfortunate that there is no 'A' League football this year. Unlike other intramurals, there is no higher level of competition at MIT as there is no varsity football team. Ahearn agreed and added, "While plans are still very tentative, the Executive Council is looking toward forming a couple of conglomerate 'A' League teams to face the few individual living groups which have the power to field them, if

(Please turn to page 11)



A-league football games such as this one between powerhouses SAE and LCA will not be held this year because of lack of interested teams.



An MIT rugger tries to elude Albany Law School defenders in last Saturday's game.