

in the news

INSIDE

Tufts University's production of Bertolt Brecht's and Kurt Weill's musical play *The Threepenny Opera* has some new twists which make for enjoyable viewing.

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MIT has received a \$9 million grant to construct a health sciences and technology complex. The gift brings MIT halfway to its \$225 million Leadership Campaign goal.

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The fencing team followed up its successful 10-3 season with its eighth straight New England Championship.

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MIT

New Englanders could save 15.2 per cent on heating bills this winter if they heed Jimmy Carter's advice and adjust their thermostats to 65° in the daytime and 55° at night, according to a recent analysis by a computerized energy management and modeling system at MIT.

LOCAL

Roger Bulger, Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, will ask Governor Dukakis for an extra \$9 million for its 1978 budget to maintain and expand its affiliated hospital and avert next year's expected deficit of \$6.4 million. If funds are denied, Bulger fears the eventual demise of the six-year-old institution.

NATION

In a move to avoid potential hazard to the earth's ozone layer, Oregon recently became the first state to implement legislation banning the sale of aerosol spray cans which contain fluorocarbons.

President Carter announced Monday that at the present time he has no intention of reinstating the military draft. If such action was to be considered at a later date, he said he would recommend changes in the deferment system to disallow deferments for college students, *The New York Times* reported Wednesday.

New, old problems for admissions

By Stephen Besen

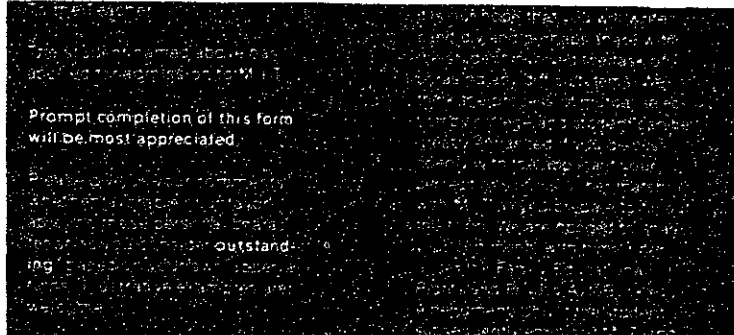
In an attempt to eliminate some of the problems that occurred last year, the MIT Admissions office has moved up the acceptance notification date from April 15 to March 24.

However, MIT must contend with a new problem, the record number of applicants applying for financial aid. The financial aid situation, combined with the new notification date, has clouded this year's admissions picture.

Director of Admissions Peter H. Richardson '48 told *The Tech* that MIT decided to switch from the common Ivy League admissions date of April 15 to the earlier date because last year's yield — the percentage of admission offers accepted — was low. He added that the low yield could have been a direct result of the late notification date.

UA President Phil Moore said that he could not "see the difference" between the two dates. Richardson, however, maintained that the March 24th mailing will enable MIT students to secure the names of admittees in their home areas. He said he encourages all students to "go out and talk to people and help them make a choice."

Another key admissions issue is the increased tuition and the



Secondary School Report



Mark Moskowitz

Director of Admissions Peter Richardson '48 hopes that procedural changes will help this year's yield amount of financial aid which will be available for the Class of '81. "Tuition will be no more, no less, a factor than it ever was," asserted Jack H. Frailey, Director of the Student Financial Aid Office.

Richardson, echoing this sentiment, insisted that the tuition increase will not be a substantial factor in students' decisions to attend the Institute. He said that "tuition at MIT must be taken in context with tuition everywhere."

"The differences between the

costs at MIT and at any other private school are small numbers," he said.

Moore declared that "the point is whether a student can afford to go to any private school in this class." He also noted that a general trend away from expensive private schools may have already begun. Howard Shrobe G, former editor of *The Graduate*, said that "if tuition keeps going up, they may exclude anyone but the elite."

The increased number of stu-

dents applying for financial aid may be a direct result of the steady tuition rise over the last decade. The total number of students who have applied to MIT this year is between 4,300 and 4,500, while the number requesting financial aid is approximately 3,700. Frailey said that figure is higher than average.

Frailey also noted that "there will be a substantial increase in the amount of money provided for financial aid," but added, "we don't know how much."

House panel restores Federal loan funds

By William Lasser

A US House of Representatives subcommittee recommended Monday that \$300 million be appropriated in fiscal year 1978 for National Direct Student Loans (NDSL), disregarding President Carter's proposal to end all funding for the program.

The Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Health, Education and Welfare, chaired by Daniel J. Flood (D-Pa.), voted to reduce the NDSL funding from fiscal year 1977's figure of \$332 million. The Subcommittee also voted, however, to increase the amount of work study money from \$390 million to \$430 million.

The full Appropriations Committee is scheduled to consider the bill on March 10, and the full

House will likely vote on the entire HEW appropriation soon after.

"We're very pleased," said Walter Milne, assistant to the Chairman of the MIT Corporation, "that the subcommittee has, in effect, restored" the NDSL funds. He told *The Tech* that the balance between loan money and work study money is "really better than we had hoped for."

Speaker of the House Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr (D-Mass.), declared, according to a legislative aide, that "he would not let Massachusetts lose" the NDSL money and that he would do "everything in his power" to see



that the House approves the appropriation.

The subcommittee action came after the national academic community strongly protested Carter's decision to eliminate the loan program. In a letter to the Massachusetts Representatives serving on the Appropriations Committee, MIT President Jerome B. Wiesner urged that "NDSL funds must not be eliminated." He added, "At MIT we would hardly know where to turn to cover the loss of NDSL funds."

An open letter to President Carter, signed by over 1,000 MIT students, stated that "A reduction of NDSL loans will have painfully direct consequences for

a great number of us here." Copies of the letter will be sent to several Congressmen and Senators.

Samuel Jones, associate director of student financial aid, told *The Tech* that the reduction in NDSL funds as now proposed by the House subcommittee, coupled with rising costs due to inflation, would lead to "more pressure on students to work," but he noted that a \$32 million reduction would be "within the capacity of the (MIT) guaranteed loan program to control."

Jones estimated that the proposed funding decrease would reduce federal loans to MIT students by an average of \$200, an amount which would have to be made up by earnings or guaranteed loans.

Pressman dead at 33

By Drew Blakeman

Jeffrey L. Pressman, associate professor of Political Science, died Tuesday night after he apparently fell from a ninth-floor window of the Essex Hotel, Boston Police reported. He was 33.

A memorial service was held in Kresge Auditorium yesterday afternoon at 2:30pm. Many of Pressman's friends and colleagues spoke to the several hundred people in attendance.

Professor Myron Weiner, head of the Department of Political Science, said that Pressman "was widely regarded as one of the ablest young scholars in the field of American politics."

Weiner also stated that Pressman "was an extraordinary teacher who was highly regarded by all of his students. There is simply no way of exaggerating the rapport with his students."

Among the subjects Pressman

taught was "Introduction to the American Political Process," 17.21, one of the most popular courses at the Institute. He was selected for the MIT Graduate Student Council Teaching Award in 1975.

A native of Los Angeles, Pressman received a B.A. from Yale in 1965 and held a Henry Fellowship at Oxford University in 1965-66. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley in 1967 and 1972 respectively.

He became an assistant professor at Dartmouth College in 1972 and was appointed to the MIT faculty as an assistant professor in 1973. He was promoted to associate professor in 1975.

Pressman is survived by his wife, Kate; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Pressman of Buffalo, N.Y.; and a sister, Adele, of Palo Alto, Calif.



Associate Professor of Political Science Jeffrey L. Pressman

Alumni to help students with 3-pronged program

By Margot Tsakonas

In an effort to encourage and develop direct interaction between MIT alumni and students, the Alumni Association is stepping up a three-pronged program of student-alumni projects.

The program, conceived over a year ago at an Alumni Officers' Conference, is directed by the Committee to Strengthen Alumni Relations. In conjunction with the Admissions Office and Student Employment, the committee will conduct career seminars, provide summer jobs, and pair freshmen with sponsoring alumni families.

Claude Brenner '47, volunteer chairman of the program, assessed its motivation as an opportunity for "alumni to serve the Institute". The committee has two interests, said Brenner, "one concerned with academic activities, relating to the teaching process, the other to contribute to improve the quality of life for students."

Brenner concisely defined the philosophy of the alumni. "Tech is Hell" is still the motto. One aspect should well include alumni making available their life experience to help them [students] over some of the rough spots."

The career orientation seminars will be sponsored and conducted by alumni, drawing professionals from a variety of fields to informally discuss career opportunities, trends, and realities with students. The seminars will be geared toward upperclassmen, but, as need dictates, their focus can be modified. Unfortunately, this segment is temporarily without its chairman who resigned a week ago due to his own career demands.

The summer employment program, directed by Charles Hieken '51, is actually one example of a national effort by the Alumni Association "to secure jobs for graduates during the summer," said Hieken. Metropolitan Boston has the greatest number [11,000] of alumni and students, so the focus will be local. However, Hieken added, "we hope to have clubs participate" nationally so that students can find jobs in their home states as well. The positions themselves will be available from a variety of sources, including "those companies with which alumni are associated." "Frankly," admitted Hieken, "I don't care where the jobs come from, and I don't think the students do either."

Nelson Armstrong, Director of Student Employment, agreed. "We are just trying to get in touch with as many club presidents as we can. We've got to let them know that students need to earn money." Currently, there are several drafts of a cover letter that will be sent to alumni club presidents around the country. The letter states that MIT expects entering freshmen to earn \$700 during the summer, sophomores, \$900; juniors \$1000; and seniors, \$1100.

"MIT students are indeed well-trained and highly motivated," the letter continues, "making them excellent candidates for summer employment." Another draft notes, "Experience is helpful, but money is crucial."

The Southern California Club has been the most active to date, as evidenced by the eleven positions currently offered in the Student Employment Office through the club.

Hieken emphasized that alumni were definitely interested in hiring students, not only for the summers, but also for part-time work during the term and, potentially, as permanent employees as well. He cited one instance of an alumnus in Cambridge who had hired students and was "very

pleased with the results." "What I'm presently trying to do," Hieken explained, "is to find a responsible person to work in the Boston area to be a chairperson for developing the program."

Hieken said that the Denver Alumni Club's recent efforts exemplified the success of the program.

Last September, during the Alumni Officers Conference, the president of that club met in Boston with students from Colorado and collected resumes which he subsequently sent with a personal letter to "key people in industry" in Colorado. The results were 25 arranged interviews for positions this summer, and several hirings as of this date. Hieken optimistically concluded, "the program has got to succeed."

The third branch of the program is patterned after the family-sponsor program currently available to foreign students. Any freshman could have an alumni (Please turn to page 6)



Gordon Hall

Red Cross volunteers help out at the MIT Spring Blood Drive. This year's goal is 2000 pints; in the first two days, 350 pints have been collected. The drive ends March 11.

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arts

Tufts' Threepenny Opera a professional production

By Drew Blakeman

The Threepenny Opera, Bertolt Brecht's and Kurt Weill's classic musical play, has taken on a new twist in the production now playing at Tufts University Arena Theatre. Instead of the action taking place in 1837 London as Brecht originally wrote, a surrealistic blend of the Boston of today, gangster Chicago of the 'twenties, and Victorian London help to make this a masterful production.

As patrons enter the theater, they are ushered to their seats by surly policemen equipped with riot gear. Beggars and prostitutes, including a whip-wielding pseudo-Nazi, assail the audience as a street singer and narrator (Deborah Marie Adams) sings a ballad depicting the deplorable crimes of the notorious criminal Macheath (Charles Cermele).

Macheath has secretly married Polly Peachum (April Baldwin), much to the chagrin of her father, Jonathan (Kip Keith) and mother, Celia (Claire Conley). They devise a plan whereby Macheath will be betrayed by his favorite whore, Jenny Diver (Alison Courtney Holt).

Unknown to them, Police Chief Tiger Brown (Robert Sternin) was Macheath's boyhood pal and has made sure that his friend has no criminal record. Brown's sister, Lucy (Nancy Levitan), also wants to break up the marriage, but for a different reason — she is pregnant with Macheath's child and feels that she should rightfully be his wife.

The Threepenny Opera is superbly performed by the entire cast, which plays well in the theater-in-the-round format of tiny Tufts Arena. No seat is more than a dozen rows away from the stage, which makes the production much more intimate than

would be possible in a conventional auditorium. The actors play directly to the audience, often bringing the action up to the first row of seats.

Of particular note are Cermele's portrayal of Macheath and Keith's depiction of Jonathan Peachum. Both actors are perfectly cast for the roles they play. Keith shows a new side to his character that has not been explored in other productions, a rather quiet middle-aged man as opposed to a more vociferous older man. Conley is good as Peachum's drunken wife, as is Baldwin as the innocent Polly who develops devious attitudes as the play progresses. Holt shows much of the same fire that Lotte Lenya did in making Jenny her most famous role. Very often, however, the secondary characters such as the prostitutes and Macheath's gang steal the show.

When Brecht wrote *The Threepenny Opera* in 1928, he intended to show the decadence and moral decay of his Berlin through the eyes of the London of almost a hundred years earlier. The themes of corruption, prostitution, thievery, and imperialism are just as valid now as they were when the show was originally written.

The modernization of the play was done well, although it was made too apparent at times. Instead of the coronation of a queen, the action takes place during a presidential inauguration. Soho becomes Boston's North End, and one of the beggars changes from a Victim of Industrialization to a Victim of Better Living Through Chemistry.

The orchestra, composed primarily of brass instruments, performs Weill's dissonant score with near-perfection. The actors have a difficult time with the songs, yet they perform the demanding score with aplomb.

When *The Threepenny Opera* was first produced in Berlin in 1928, it immediately became a smash hit and has generated major productions of the play worldwide, including a movie and a Broadway production.

Tufts' production of *The Threepenny Opera* is not without its faults. There are numerous spots where just a little more polishing would vastly improve the show. Most of the problems are technical, such as overly long scene changes, although the play does move rapidly as a whole. However, most of these glitches should by now be worked out from Tuesday's opening-night performance. One problem with theater-in-the-round is that the actors always have their backs turned to one part of the audience or another, making it difficult at times to hear some of the dialogue.

Overall, this is an excellent production of *The Threepenny Opera*, better than some professional productions have been. The show's run will continue at Tufts Arena Theatre tonight and tomorrow night at 8:15pm and tomorrow afternoon at 2pm. Call 623-3880 for ticket and performance information.



Two prostitutes strike tough poses as they try to lure customers in Tufts University's production of *The Threepenny Opera*. A third whore is servicing a client in the background.

Another good one from America

By David B. Koretz

Only nine months on the heels of their best album, the three-man rock group America has released yet another *Harbor*, their eighth record in seven years, is a nifty collection of pop tunes that is, unfortunately, too short.

Although not as good as their last album, *Hideaway*, *Harbor* does reflect the inroads the trio has made towards making their music more complex and sophisticated. The disc does have moments when the group reverts to its mellower, cutesier past, especially in certain Dan Peek tunes, like "These Brown Eyes" and "Don't You Cry."

As always, the real stars of the group prove to be Dewey Bunnell, who sang the classic "Horse With No Name" back in 1971, and Gerry Beckley, best known for "Sister Golden Hair."

The album opens with one of the best cuts on it, an upbeat number by Beckley called "God of the Sun." This is the first

time America has recorded anything approaching a reggae beat, but it works surprisingly well here. The second song is a slightly downbeat tune by Peek called "Slow Down," one of only two good cuts he wrote for this record.

The remainder of the first side is fairly nondescript. "Political Poachers" by Bunnell is catchy, but sounds too much like his "Tin Man." Beckley finishes off the side with a soft ballad titled "Sarah," reminiscent of his "Daisy Jane" but somewhat quieter.

The second side also starts with an excellent cut called "Sergeant Darkness," a lively piece by Beckley which could be their next hit. America hasn't had a hit since the end of 1975; despite *Hideaway*'s overall excellence, the singles which it spawned did nothing on the charts.

After three variously mediocre songs, including Peek's "These Brown Eyes" — the worst track on the disc — and Beckley's "Monster," which is a replay of his "Muskrat Love," Peek finally shows

what's kept him in the group this long. "Hurricane," a livelier pop tune, is a good lead into the closing cut, "Down to the Water." Complete with Bunnell's nasal vocals, as well as sound effects of the tide, "Down to the Water" also has the earmarks of a pop hit: it's short, uncomplicated, and has a catchy tune.

After seven years, it is probably inevitable that America's material would begin to sound like their old music, despite the versatility they achieve by having three more or less lead vocalists. In addition, all three play guitar and originally shared duties on bass and occasionally, on keyboards. Percussion was provided by various session musicians.

Harbor is not at all a bad album, but the short time in which it was written and recorded is somewhat apparent in the sloppy arrangement of some of the cuts. Furthermore, I would have appreciated their waiting until they had enough material to fill a reasonably longer record. *Harbor* is barely 33 minutes long.

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Song battle revived after 50 year peace

By William Lasser

As if the country didn't have enough troubles, the citizens of Putney, Vt. have given us another one. They have reopened the controversy surrounding our national anthem by suggesting that we change it from "The Star-Spangled Banner" to "America the Beautiful."

Francis Scott Key's martial tale of the battle of Ft. McHenry has been criticized ever since Congress made it the official national anthem in 1931. Few persons other than opera stars can sing it correctly. Furthermore, the song is entirely too military in character, and it is anachronistically anti-British.

By contrast, "America the Beautiful," which was inspired by the majestic view from the summit of Pikes Peak, sings of amber waves of grain and spacious skies. "America, America, God shed his grace on thee." It is reassuring.

Key wrote the words to the current Anthem in 1814 while being held on *Tonnant*, the flagship of British Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane. Accompanied by John S. Skinner, Key had gone to the ship under flag of truce to attempt to secure the release of an American prisoner.

Key and Skinner were invited to dinner by the British commander-in-chief, and the three men reached an agreement for the release of the prisoner. However, the battle had begun, and Cochrane decided to keep the Americans on board.

"The Defence of Fort McHenry," as the original poem was entitled, was written on the back of an envelope from notes Key took during the battle. One can imagine the relief, the feeling of joy and patriotism the

Americans felt when they saw the stars and stripes flying above the Fort at the dawn's early light.

The first stanza asks the question, "O! Say does that star-spangled banner yet wave..." The second answers that question, declaring that the "breeze... half conceals, half discloses" the American flag, "in full glory reflected." Hardly profound.

The third and fourth verses are an affront to our British antecedents, whose descendants recently spent over \$4 million to celebrate their loss at Yorktown almost 200 years ago. They glory in the fact that our enemies' blood "has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution." It delights in their inability to escape "the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave." And it espouses a decidedly outdated imperialist doctrine: "Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just."

Admittedly, the final three verses have fallen into disuse. But the music is as inappropriate as are the words. The tune is derived from a British drinking song, "My Country 'Tis of Thee," which of course comes from "God Save the Queen," disqualified that song from consideration as the national anthem in times past, despite its standing as the most popular patriotic song in America.

All of which brings us back to the original question — would "America the Beautiful," given that it is a great tribute to the nation's natural landscape, make a better national anthem? Both the words and the music are decidedly American. The poem was written by Katherine Lee Bates of Falmouth, Mass.; the tune had been written 13 years earlier by Samuel A. Ward of New Jersey.

But "America the Beautiful" misses the point. Amber grain, purple mountains and blue skies do not make a nation great. Both what is good and what is bad in the United States were created by people, given of course a great number of advantages by nature.

Neither song approaches the perfect national anthem. Neither compares favorably with the unmistakable simplicity of "God save the Queen" or with the unabashed pride of "O, Canada."

"The Star-Spangled Banner," if only by virtue of its incumbency, must win out. In less than fifty years, it has become established far too firmly to be replaced. It still provokes strong patriotic emotions, which, after all, is what a national anthem is supposed to do.

here
and
now

HE'S DONE
NOTHING
WRONG ...
AND IT'LL
NEVER
HAPPEN
AGAIN ...



MIT dormitory costs too high

By David B. Koretz

As MIT dormitories become increasingly overcrowded, room costs continue to soar. The price of living in the Housing system has been rising steadily by close to ten per cent a year, peaking at over \$1,250 this year for the most expensive dormitories.

Even if only a five per cent increase is instituted for next year, some students will be paying upwards of \$1,300 for nine

a two-bedroom flat will provide a kitchen and a living room, but it's doubtful whether any Baker House quad can boast anything beyond bunk beds and a communal square yard of floor space.

Actually, there is no mystery. A large portion of dormitory rents cover a wide range of services that the student may or may not want. Among the interests subsidized by rent are dormitory desk services, dining halls, and

If a dormitory has a dining hall within, each of its residents is charged \$80 per year — a figure included in the rent. Students living in neighboring houses are assessed \$40 dollars each in their rents for the convenience. Regardless of whether or not one is on a Commons meal plan, he has no choice but to subsidize the Dining Service if he wishes to live in one of these Institute Houses.

Each MIT dormitory has a senior faculty resident, or housemaster, and up to a dozen graduate students (tutors) in residence. In addition, most houses have a junior faculty resident. Having a tutor on a floor or in an entry costs each student about \$30 per year for the room, and about the same for the free 15-meal Commons plan the tutor receives.

One can not begin to estimate the cost of having faculty residents in a dormitory. In MacGregor House, for example, the two, with their families, occupy space that would house over twenty students.

Clearly, residents of the Institute housing system are willing to pay a great deal for the lifestyle which distinguishes on-campus living from that in off-campus apartments. They are, in fact, paying several hundred dollars per year for that lifestyle.

perspectives

months of campus residence. Are MIT Houses worth shelling out almost \$150 per month rent?

Surely, there are many apartments to be had for much less than \$150 per month per person. What, then, are MIT students paying for? Is it the convenience of living within a short walk of the academic buildings that induces one to live in a dormitory, or perhaps the traditional "college life" that we so often hear of?

Conditions in dormitories aren't any better than those prevalent in Back Bay apartment buildings; heating and plumbing are generally suspect, and cockroaches abound. Moreover, even

faculty and graduate residents.

The costs of running a dormitory desk can be as high as \$20,000 per year. In some houses the budget is this high because cleaning duties during the summer are performed by student staffers, and their pay is budgeted from the desk's funds.

In addition, each dormitory has a manager, a repairman, and several housecleaners. Their wages amount to anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000 each year in each house. These totals add \$250 to \$350 onto a student's rent. Of course, some janitorial and repair work is necessary, but keeping such large staffs is overdoing it.

feedback

Writing more important than literature

To the Editor:

Over the past two years, I have followed the writing program "controversy" as the majority of MIT students; through the campus media. Since I have not participated in the program most of my information has come from various articles. I have, however, finished my concentration in the Literature section and would like to comment from this perspective.

While reading *The Tech's* foreshadowing of the Writing Program's death, I felt it was ironic that the major schism occurred between the Literature section and the Writing Program. I say ironic because I have not taken a single literature course in which there was any class discussion of our instruction specifically aimed at analyzing and improving a student's writing. There is abundant analysis of published writing and adequate comments on required papers, but these comments center on specific issues and I have as yet to see any which provide more than cursory impressions on style. I am not criticizing the Literature section

because their focus is rightfully on published literature. There is, however, no course in the Literature section which deals solely, or in any large part, with the student's writing.

The Writing Program is serving an important purpose. A purpose which is, pragmatically, probably more important than that of the Literature section. There are a large number of students (and a respectable number of professors) who have difficulty expressing

their ideas with words. The Writing Program was established to improve this condition.

I believe that before the Humanities Department terminates the Writing Program, it has an obligation to the students at MIT to establish some replacement for these courses. If it does not, then it is deceiving itself in believing that it is providing a complete education to the MIT student body.

Bradley S. Albom '78

Richardson on education

To the Editor:

Your essay of Feb. 8 in *The Tech* should have had the headline, "Technical Education Isn't Ever Enough," and I would add, "But Particularly at this Moment in History."

Scientists and engineers whether they like it or not are now "a catalyst of social change." The question is what kind of change? Where will it lead us?

I'm not sure that you are correct in stating that "expertise in electrical engineering is sufficient

to provide one with a comfortable living." This statement certainly was true for the recent past, but without careful attention to the social issues, who can say where we will be in a decade. There are too many people who do not receive an adequate share of this world's resources, while others seem not to be aware.

You raise a most important issue and I look forward to further discussion.

Peter H. Richardson
Director of Admissions

The
Tech

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opinion cont.

feedback

IM track dispute resolved

To the Editor:

I'd like to inform you of an error made in last week's article concerning the IM track meet. (*The Tech*, Feb. 25).

As captain of the Chocolate City team, I was informed by the officials that my team placed fourth with 19 points. How we appeared in *The Tech* as being in

fifth with 13 is beyond me.

I'd appreciate it if you would make the appropriate reparations.

Keith W. Reid '79

(*Editor's note: The article was correct. The confusion resulted because Chocolate City had a runner disqualified, thus dropping them to fifth place as reported.*)

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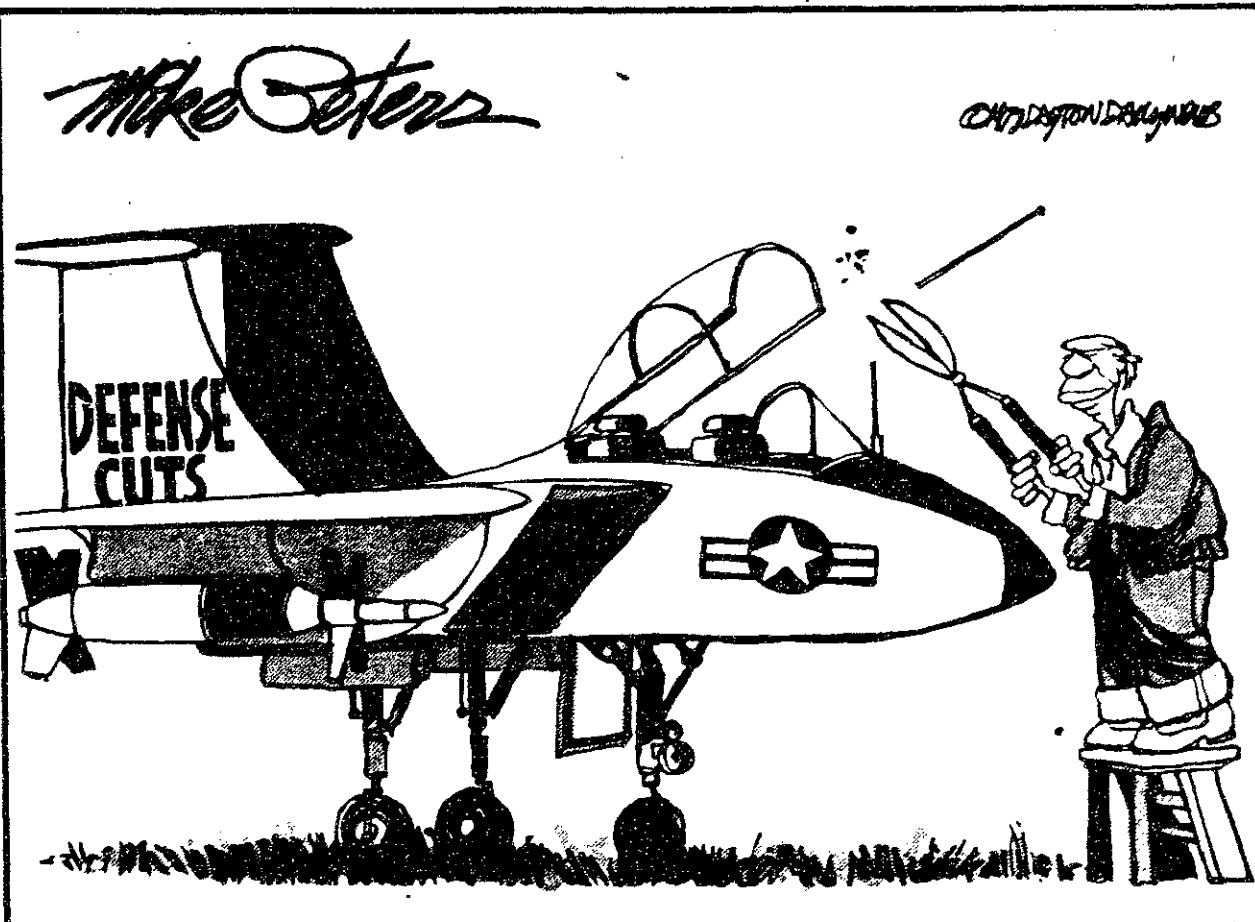
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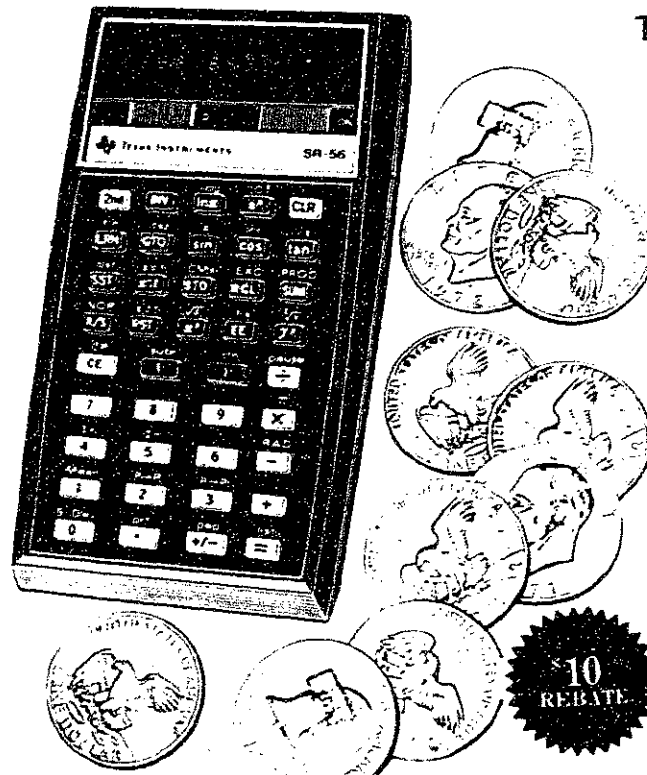
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M.I.T. STUDENT CENTER

News analysis

Meals tax to be reconsidered

By Tim Buehrer

Ever since the decision by the Commissioner of Corporations and Taxations that the Massachusetts meals tax was applicable to college meal contracts, students and university administrators from across the state have brought pressure on the General Court to exempt such contracts from the tax.

Last year, such a bill was killed by the House leadership through an unprecedented change in the rules. This year, six such bills have been introduced into the

legislature, and, despite indications that the rules problems of last year will be avoided, chances for passage do not look bright.

The meals tax on students represents an income of \$8 million to the state, and with the new budget for this year breaking \$4 billion, the legislature will be reluctant to do anything which will reduce income.

The only chance students have to gain relief from this situation is to make themselves felt. On March 8, next Tuesday, there will be a hearing before the Com-

mittee on Taxation on the student-meals tax exemption bills for this session. A strong show of student and school administration support for this legislation would be the first step in what would have to be a concerted effort to lobby the legislature on this issue. It will require the development of strong and compelling arguments on the part of the students and the administration to counteract the economic reasons that the opponents of the bill will be wielding.

The question of equity, especially to persons living in fraternities, who pay all the taxes a normal resident pays, is the strongest argument at present. For the rest of the economy, food eaten in one's own home is not taxed because it is considered a necessity; students have this necessity taxed anyway. Armed with this and a strong show of unrest in the college community over the issue, something might be pushed through this session.

Alumni will aid students

(Continued from page 2)

family as an informal source of support or council. "Our target," said Brenner, "is to provide an alumni family for every freshman that would like one." The program initially included only transfer students, but was subsequently revised to include all freshmen.

"We wound up with a surplus of families," Brenner explained, attributing that surplus "possibly to inadequate publicity." Nancy Wheatley of the Alumni Association staff at MIT noted, "Actually, some freshmen had families

unbeknownst to anyone but themselves. We would like to publicize it."

Brenner and Hieken also emphasized the need for publicity, pointing to the enthusiasm of the alumni. "We want to involve as many alumni as we possibly can," said Brenner, "not merely the same old activists."

Hieken concluded, "we really like to work with students. We remember the days when we were students. We think it is important for students to know that they really become part of the alumni as soon as they enter MIT."

Very, very good, handsome, funny, and surprisingly touching.



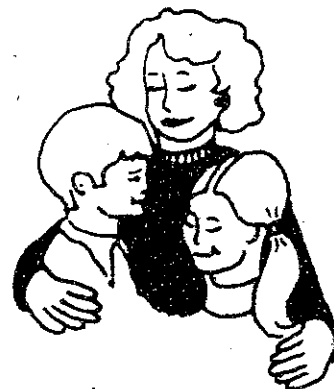
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MIT receives \$9 million grant

By Mark James
A \$9 million grant — one of the largest in MIT history — from the Pew Memorial Trust has brought the MIT Leadership Campaign halfway to its \$225 million goal.
The grant is directed toward the construction of a new health sciences and technology complex

to be built on Carlton St. between Main and Amherst Sts., according to the MIT News Office.
President Jerome Wiesner said that "it is especially significant that MIT should reach the half-way mark in its Leadership Campaign with a major grant for the health sciences and technology."
The trust was established by the children of Joseph N. Pew of Philadelphia. Pew founded the Sun Oil Company in 1886.
Several members of the Pew family have attended MIT, from three generations. The Pew foundation gave \$1.25 million to MIT in 1974 to establish the Fuels Research Laboratory in the Chemical Engineering Building.
The new facility, which is still

in the design stage, will include laboratories of physiology, human biology and experimental medicine, programs in health care planning and management, and portions of the Harvard-MIT Program in Health Sciences and Technology.
The complex will also include a health services center for the MIT community.
"Funding has yet to be completed" for the center, according to Chairman of the Corporation Howard W. Johnson. The Pew gift will serve as a "base grant" for the center, according to Johnson.
The gift will be announced at a meeting of the MIT Corporation today.

notes

- * Add date, March 11, 1977, is the last day to ADD subjects to Registration.
- * March 11, 1977 is the last day for Juniors and Seniors to specify an elective to or from Pass-Fail grading.
- * The Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Dept. will hold its annual VI-A Open House, Monday March 7th, from 7:30 to 10:00pm in the Mezzanine and West Lounges of the Student Center. This is an opportunity for students interested in enrolling in the VI-A Program to talk informally with VI-A Company Representatives. Refreshments will be served.
- * Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt will speak at MIT on Wednesday evening, March 9. The lecture is one of a series on World Change and World Security. Mr. Brandt will give his talk at 8:00pm in Kresge. The lecture is free and open to the public.
- * The Cambridge School Volunteers, Inc. can find you an interesting placement in the Cambridge Public Schools. Gain some valuable experience while helping the community. Call for more information about our placements, 492-7046, 492-0704.
- * R/O '77 needs chairpeople and workers. If interested, stop by the FAC, 7-105, and leave your name, address and phone number. Descriptions of the various committees are available.

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Sabre leads fencers to N. England crown

By Brian Wibecan

The MIT fencing team finished a 10-3 season by winning its eighth consecutive New England Championship Saturday in duPont.

Sweeping the field in all three weapons, losing only one bout in sabre, three bouts in foil, and four bouts in epee, the team placed all of its fencers in the finals for the first time in many years. Mark Smith '78, in his first year in sabre, took that championship from Robert Shin '77 who won all ten of his other bouts.

Shin's feat was equalled only by Dave Weisenfeld of Trinity in another sabre pool. Richard Reimer '77 defeated Richelieu Hemphill '78 in a fence-off for first place in the foil finals after

both had ended the final round-robin with a 4-1 record. In epee, captain Arlie Sterling '77 took second and John Rodriguez '80 took fourth. In all, the team won 52 of 60 bouts, beating second place Trinity by 10 points.

In recognition of their amazing 19-1 record, the sabre squad received the Vitale weapons trophy, a new award in honor of Maestro Silvio Vitale, former MIT fencing coach who retired last year.

The team anticipates a good showing at the Intercollegiate Fencing Association Foil Championships today and tomorrow. Sterling and Smith will join Reimer in foil in an attempt to recapture the Iron Man, the IFA foil championship trophy the trio had won in 1975.

Pistol takes 2 of 3, aims for sectionals

The MIT varsity pistol team wound up its season with a 6-3 record after their closest match of the year last weekend. Going into the match on Saturday, the record stood at 4-2, with losses to West Point and the Naval Academy.

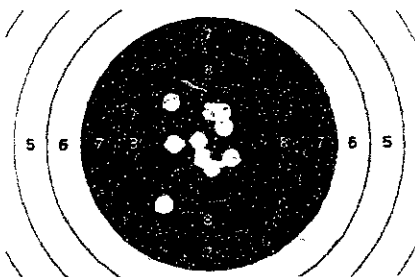
Shooting against the Air Force Academy, the Merchant Marine

by another 30 during the Standard Pistol stage.

The MIT team score of 3154 lost to Air Force's 3194, but was more than enough to defeat Merchant Marine's 3092 and Villanova's 2977. Also shooting at the match, although not against MIT, were the Coast Guard Academy with a team score of 3045, and WPI with a score of 3017.

Counting for the MIT score were captain David Schaller '78 with the high match score of 814, Philip Morris '78 with a personal best of 802, Dennis McMullen '78 with his personal best of 788, and David Miller '79 with a score of 750.

Next weekend, MIT will be hosting a National Collegiate Pistol Sectional with at least three teams attending. MIT is favored to win the two-day match which will begin at 9am on Saturday.



Academy, and Villanova, the MIT team gained a 32 point lead during the Free Pistol stage. The team's lead was short-lived, however, as they fell into second behind Air Force by 10 points during the Gallery Match stage, and



Gordon Hall

John Lowell '79 goes up for a shot in an IM C-league basketball game between the Burton Third Bombers and Chi Phi. The IM season ends this week.

Sports commentary

It's the spectator's choice

By Gary Engelson

Early Wednesday evening, by some miracle, you manage to finish your tooling at a reasonable hour. On your way down to watch the pin-ball hackers work out on the house machine, you spy an athletic schedule. Noticing that there is an IM and a varsity basketball game tonight, you quickly change your mind about the pin-ball.

Now you are faced with the toughest decision of the day — watch the varsity game or the IM game? After three seconds of intense deliberations, most people pick the IM game over the intercollegiate game in nearly every sport. Why? Don't people care about their college's reputation on the regional or national scale? The fact is that most people tend to watch the intense rivalries between living groups on the intramural fields.

The varsity clubs at MIT do exhibit a lot of skill in many areas. This does attract the people who want to see a well-played game, but so does A-league IM competition.

So, what's the difference, you ask? Numbers, sheer numbers. People want to see the people they know and love, like living group friends. Since many living groups have an A-league team in a given sport, each living group turns out many spectators for each event. Also, living groups have a publicity-spreading advantage within the group compared to the varsity players since the spoken word from one friend to another spreads much faster than the printed word can. There is also a good chance that many of the intramural spectators know at least one player personally, whereas many spectators at a varsity event may not even know one participant.

Does all this mean that you should forget intercollegiate sports? No, of course not! The varsity teams work hard all year to compete against some of the best teams in the East or even the nation. Just three examples are the varsity track, fencing, and, women's volleyball teams. This year's track squad has been one of the most exciting to watch,



often breaking school records and featuring such athletes as Frank Richardson '77 who has been called MIT's all-time best distance runner. Women's volleyball this year received a coveted invitation to the Eastern Championships after completing a perfect 18-0 season. MIT's fencing team just captured its eighth straight New England championship.

Really exciting sports action does not only occur on the IM football or hockey field. The varsity teams produce some of the best competition available. But, like any team they need the fans as much as the fans need them.

Now that you've given the decision more than three seconds worth of consideration, just which event are you going to?

sporting notices

The annual MIT Invitational Volleyball Tournament will be held all day tomorrow in the duPont gymnasium. The tournament includes some of the top teams in New England and is open to all.

Athletic Department general office. The forms must be turned in at the office no later than 5:00pm Thurs., March 17. For more information or questions contact Wendy Irving, president of MITAA.

Elections for president, secretary, and two members-at-large of the MIT Athletic Association will be held at 8:00pm, March 21 in the Varsity Club Lounge. To be eligible, candidates for these positions must gather 100 signatures on petition forms available in the

The sign-up deadline for IM rifle is Fri., March 25. Practice time at the duPont Rifle Range is available from 6 to 7:30pm Mondays. The cost of using the range is \$1.00. Any questions about IM rifle should be directed to Jerome Dausman at 723-8278.

Xerox Campus Interviews. March 16

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