

## in the news

**TCA BLOOD DRIVE**  
Wednesday and Thursday,  
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## INSIDE

Intramural sports at MIT have been increasing in participation in almost every sport, but are these leagues really run as efficiently as they could be? This issue and the IM council's difficulty in finding managers for all IM sports is discussed.

p4

## EXCERPTS

At the University of Arkansas they're acting out Elvis sociodramas. Seven people crouch together and pretend they're a Cadillac. That's nothing — later they try to be his haircut.

The Elvis Memory Shop, P.O. Box 181010, Memphis, has some keepsakes for you: laminated medical obituaries (\$2 per), electroplate necklace (\$4), medical examiner's final report (\$1). Also there are authentic copies of the King's driver's license and last will and testament.

And then there's Yucca Marketing, in Phoenix. They go the extra mile. For five smackers you get your name next to E's on a marriage certificate bearing a gold embossed "seal of remembrance." "Marry Elvis' memory," says the ad (in the classifieds of a grocery-store tabloid). Hurry. Limited Offer.

Maybe you get the idea. Death sells in America, and in 1977, the year when not only Elvis and Bing, but Groucho and Charlie Chaplin and Freddy Prinze and Guy Lombardo and Zero Mostel all departed this mortal coil, it sold like hotcakes. It was, as one tabloid headlined it, "The Year We'll Never Forget".

But in fact, death has always seemed to sell big in the cradle of capitalism — and you don't have to read Evelyn Waugh's "The Loved One" for proof. So two decades ago, James Dean, a 24-year-old rebel without much of a cause, slams a silver Porche Spyder headlong into another car on a lonely California highway and becomes — what? A "legend", a marketable myth. You can still find an occasional mawkish "souvenir" around — locks of hair, pieces of his clothing, chinks from his tombstone in Mairmount, Ind. Too, there are all those pamphlets claiming "proof positive" he's still alive.

—Paul Hendrickson  
*The Washington Post*

## Dormcon withdrawals threatened

By Bob Wasserman

Three West Campus Dormitories, Burton House, Baker House, and MacGregor House, considered seceding from Dormitory Council last December. The three dorms would form a new West Campus alliance, due to differences with Dormcon policies.

The West Campus alliance, according to Phil Kesten '78, Burton House President, would depend on the new group's receiving the funds allocated to Dormcon in proportion to the number of residents in these dorms. Kesten said that the West Campus alliance would attempt to make a fair representation of its dormitory residents to administration and faculty, serve as a unifying body for these residents, and also be a social organizer for these three neighboring houses.

A meeting to discuss the possible formation of the alliance took place in early December and was

attended by current presidents of Baker, Burton and MacGregor.

Kesten, who organized the meeting, admitted that he has been disgruntled with Dormcon since last spring, citing the ineffectiveness of Dormcon and its lack of jurisdiction over Campus affairs. Specifically, Kesten feels that Dormcon should improve its image on campus and also be able to levy fines on dormitories for RO rules violations, similar to the method of the Interfraternity Council. Kesten served as Dormcon RO Chairman last fall.

Soon after the presidents' meeting, Burton House held a house meeting where it voted to withdraw from Dormcon. The vote was conditional, however, as the Burton residents hoped MacGregor and Baker would join Burton in seceding, and that the new alliance would be able to obtain the funds previously distributed to Dormcon.

As the end of the term approached, the plan began to falter, as Baker House voted at its

Executive Committee meeting not to secede from Dormcon. Kesten also began to have second thoughts about forming the new alliance, as he stated that "secession from Dormcon might cause more trouble than staying in."

Kesten finally related that the plan was currently "in limbo" but was still a possibility for the future.

Richard Dykstra '78, Dormcon Chairman since last September, sees many of the issues surrounding the west campus Dormcon withdrawals as being geographical ones. "East Campus and Senior House have different

opinions of the duties of Dormcon," says Dykstra. "They think Dormcon should be a sounding board for ideas and that its main responsibility should be to distribute money to each dorm."

Dykstra agrees with Kesten in admitting that "Dormcon is not as effective as it could be," and he sees Dormcon as having "a whole lot of problems, and not specifically East-West ones." Dykstra would also like to see Dormcon assume a more important role in Campus activities, but he states that "Dormcon is not currently in a position to assume its leadership capabilities."

## Stocks examined

By Mark James

MIT will soon be facing a question that a number of other universities have already answered: what should be done about investments in corporations doing business in South Africa?

While student protesters at other schools such as Wellesley and Brandeis have demanded that their schools sell all holdings in companies dealing with South Africa, no protest activity has happened here.



MIT's main efforts so far have been directed toward information gathering. Some 70 percent of the corporations in which MIT holds stock have replied to a questionnaire on South African involvements, which was prepared by the Corporation's Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility. This information has remained just raw data, however: Walter Milne, Special Assistant to the Chairman of the MIT Corporation and the Shareholder Committee's secretary, said that the group is waiting for more replies before analyzing the data.

This analysis will probably take two forms. The Treasurer's Office will look at the financial importance of those investments to MIT and Milne's office will look at what the companies are doing for blacks in South Africa.

The replies have already fallen into a pattern: some companies are not involved at all, and for those that are, only a small percentage of their business is South African. Those that have employees in South Africa generally have affirmative action policies for their branches there, while most corporations that sell through agents feel that affirmative action in South Africa does not directly concern them.

Reverend Leon Sullivan, a black minister in the Washington area, has led a group that has developed a set of principles to guide corporations involved in South Africa. The Sullivan Principles are aimed at improving employment opportunities and living conditions for black workers.

Many large corporations have adopted the guidelines, and most

of those companies with South African employees that responded to the MIT survey said they could support the principles.

Sullivan is holding a meeting on January 25 in New York aimed at informing universities of his stand and which companies already endorse it, and encouraging universities to pressure the corporations to support his principles. Milne predicts that much of the meeting will focus on methods for monitoring the compliance of corporations.

The Sullivan principles say nothing of specific steps that corporations must take to reach the goals put forth. Critics of the Sullivan guidelines say that they do not in practice assure better treatment or conditions for South African blacks.

Many protesters argue that it is immoral for universities to have an economic stake in the support of a repressive government, regardless of the practical consequences of divestment of stocks.

Others take a more practical view — they think that massive divestments would force companies either to leave South Africa, or to exert increased pressure for change in that country. Many of the opponents of divestment feel that more can be done by maintaining the economic link of universities to South Africa via corporations, and they want to exert pressure at the corporations' annual meetings coming up this spring.

The University of Minnesota is planning to send a statement with their proxies concerning compliance with the Sullivan principles.

Some universities have already divested, but these were institutions, many of them publicly-supported, that had few holdings in corporations with South African involvements. Stanford decided against divestment after a study done at that university showed that a high percentage of its stock holdings would have to be disposed of.

MIT's Shareholder Responsibility Committee hasn't begun real discussions yet — they are waiting for the results of the survey of MIT investments and the upcoming meeting with Sullivan.

The long-dormant question of South African investments was aroused by a new crackdown on opponents to apartheid. Future events in South Africa will certainly continue to be important in shaping the debate. When and if South Africa becomes a major issue at MIT may depend on these developments.

## New research jobs

By Mark James

Some of MIT's non-teaching research staff would be able to head research projects and, in some cases, supervise graduate students' theses, under a new plan soon to be implemented.

The new plan, which was discussed at the final faculty meeting of last term, would "create a career line [of promotion] for people at MIT who are not members of the faculty," according to Professor of Physics Robert Hulsizer, Chairman of the Faculty.

He said that the principal reason for this change in job structure is that it "enables [MIT] to make research plans that depend on having full-time research people available" who were free of teaching responsibilities. Hulsizer expects the change to be implemented after discussions before the Academic Council and the heads of departments this week.

Hulsizer cited the Bates Linear Accelerator and the National Magnet Lab as two laboratories that need full-time supervision by highly qualified persons.

A memo on the new plan from Vice President for Administration

and Personnel John Wynne described a "unified hierarchy of campus research appointments" that would include the present Sponsored Research Staff position, as well as the following higher-level positions and responsibilities (These positions may be modified before being adopted):

"1) Research Scientist/Engineer/Associate/Specialist — Provide professional technical support to a research project under the direction of the principal investigator.

"2) Principal Research Scientist/Engineer/Associate — Provide design and execution of research projects. Doctorate or equivalent required and demonstrated ability to generate and develop concepts individually.

"3) Senior Research Scientist/Engineer/Associate — Direct independent investigations with demonstrated research competence equal to that of a senior faculty member. Several years of postdoctoral experience required."

The Principal Research Scientist position is new, and would give Principal Investigator status (Please turn to page 4)



(Photo by Mark James)

IAP

## January activities not to be ignored

By William Lasser

We at MIT take Independent Activities Period (IAP) for granted. As we make plans for the month of January and begin to carry them out, it is worthwhile to remember that IAP is a relatively recent addition to the academic calendar at MIT, and that most schools have not adopted such a system. That leads to an obvious moral: you've got it, don't waste it.

That is not to say that the month must be spent developing a fluency in a foreign language or finishing some sort of significant research project. Nor must it be spent in a library or laboratory. The decision of what to do with IAP is a very personal one, and there is an infinity of worthy activities — but it is an important decision nonetheless, and one which should be given some time and thought.

IAP was originally conceived as an "Independent Study Period," and the faculty's decision to change the middle word to "Activities" is significant. As the Editor-in-Chief of *The Tech* concluded in 1973, "the faculty wants people to do different things." He went on to say that spending the time making money, or goofing off, or completing an incomplete are legitimate IAP projects.

But it's not enough to goof off all of IAP unless you have figured out that that's the best thing for you to do with your time. With academic pressure at MIT the way it is, having six weeks or so away from hardcore academia can work wonders for a tired and uninterested mind. But before taking that road, make sure you've considered the other possibilities.

For some, IAP means money, and with tuition at \$4350 and financial aid the way it is, that's important. Since MIT made the decision to go with a 4-1-4 academic calendar, our summer vacation is shorter than that of most schools, and many students need the extra four weeks of employment.

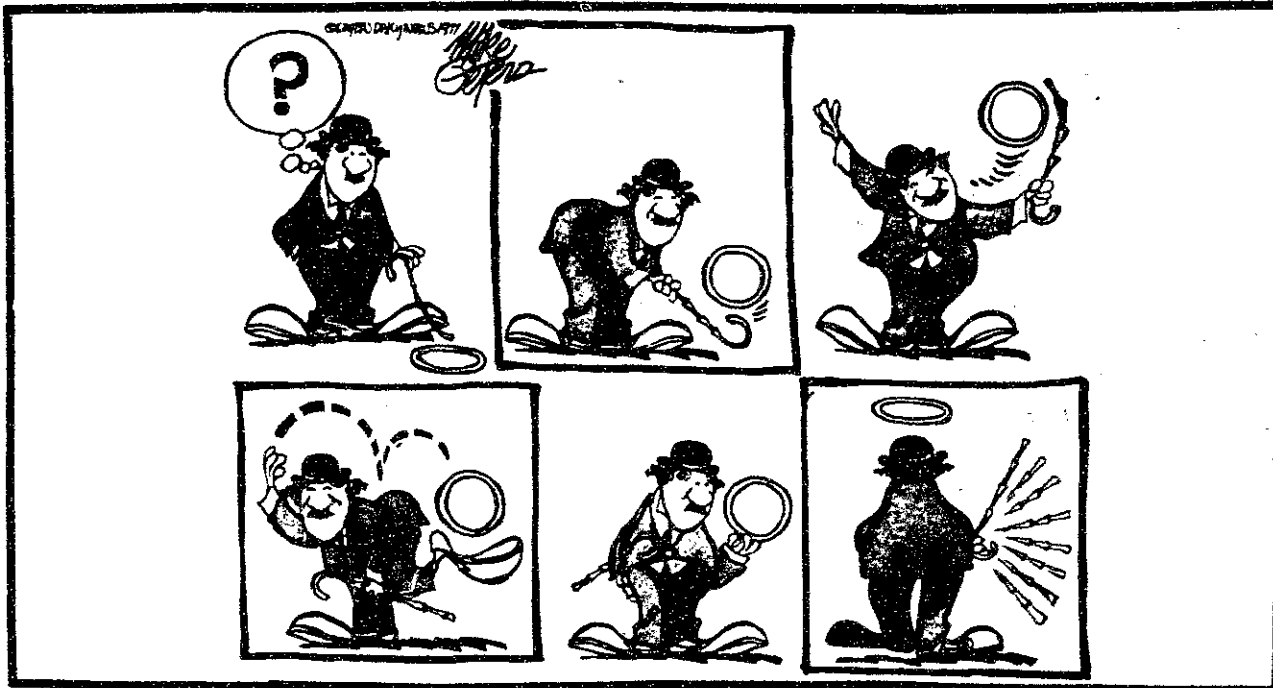
Others, especially seniors, spend the time working on bachelor's theses, the activity most closely related to what the faculty originally conceived "ISP" to be. January is unquestionably the perfect time to make headway on a thesis, but time should be left over for other things as well.

There are a tremendous number of educational and enjoyable offerings, such as lectures, movies and demonstrations that a motivated student can attend. There are intramural sports to play, LSC movies to watch, cultural events galore to go to. Explore Boston — see a play or concert, or spend a day wandering through the Museum of Fine Arts.

The Commission on MIT Education wrote in 1970 that "The general environment at MIT is too narrow; it does not adequately encourage or sustain humane learning in the fullest sense of the term." Though undoubtedly no pun was intended, MIT found that the solution to this problem — which probably still exists — was to go outside the normal term, adding what became IAP. The goal of widening an MIT education can be realized only by individual students taking the initiative. MIT has provided an unparalleled opportunity: now, each student must take advantage of it.

A friend of mine once spent IAP going to sleep at a reasonable hour and getting up practically with the dawn. I can't recall what he did all morning and afternoon, but for him, after spending most of the previous term staying up until three and four in the morning, to be on a more normal schedule was activity enough for his IAP.

Whatever you do this month, keep the goal of broadening the MIT experience in mind. A good rule of thumb, perhaps, is to do something during January that you can't do the rest of the year. But take IAP seriously. The opportunity to do whatever you want for an entire month is one that comes along, well, maybe once a year.



## Is youth today indifferent?

By Bob Wasserman

Today's college-age youth has been much maligned by the nation for its apathy towards national affairs and for its increasing pre-professionalism. There is no denying that young people are apathetic toward certain subjects, nor is this attitude excusable, but perhaps their turn toward more goal-oriented futures should be examined and defended.

That college undergraduates now are more in search of professions from their college education than their counterparts of the late 1960's is evidenced by a national survey done by the Carnegie Council on Policy Studies on Higher Education.

The Carnegie council surveyed two groups of undergraduates, one from the 1969-70 academic year, and another group from 1975-76. The poll found that during this six year period the number of undergraduates majoring in professional areas increased from 38 percent of the total ma-

jors to 58 percent. These professional areas include business administration, architecture, and other occupational fields.

While pre-professional undergraduates were increasing in number, the number of college students majoring in the Humanities and Social Sciences during this time fell significantly. Majors in the Biological and Physical Sciences remained constant throughout the seventies.

Both youth and adults have

concerning US involvement in Vietnam and Cambodia. Although no dominant issue such as Vietnam confronts college students today, demonstrations against South African apartheid and the large following of the anti-nuclear Clamshell Alliance show that collegians today are almost as politically active as their counterparts of the late sixties.

Although popular sentiment succeeded in ending US involvement in the Vietnam War with the withdrawal of all American troops in 1973, events such as Kent State raised doubts in youthful protesters on the effectiveness of the demonstrations of the sixties. Youths began to try to change the country from "the inside," as Tom Hayden, a campus revolutionary, ran for Congress and the Black Panthers turned to less violent reforms such as supporting local black politicians and programs.

The trend toward more goal-oriented collegians in recent years cannot be as easily defended as student activism for students are often more concerned with social status than were their counterparts of the sixties. The striving for financial security by today's college students is understandable, however, in light of the recent recession and the real lack of jobs for the humanities and Social Science majors of the 1960's. Blame for these student attitudes should also be put on industry and on the nation's employers in general, as today they often hire only the top applicants in each field.

## perspectives

### The Tech

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Volume 97, Number 61  
Wednesday, January 11, 1977

Third Class postage paid at Boston, MA. Non-Profit Org. Permit No. 59720. *The Tech* is published twice a week during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), daily during September Orientation, and once during the last week of July. Please send all correspondence to P.O. Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139. Offices at Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA. Telephone: (617) 253-1541. ISSN 0148-9607. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available on request.

## arts

## A look at the year's ten best albums

By David B. Koretz

It's that time of year when we who have faithfully reviewed the year's records get to force our opinions of them on you one more time. In other words, herewith are my impressions of the 1977 music scene.

### Best Albums of the Year:

1. *Going for the One*. Yes. After some fifty listenings (without exaggeration — I figured it out) I have almost come to the conclusion (God protect me from my fellow Yes freaks) that this is Yes's best album ever. The title song lost its zip after a couple dozen times around, but "Turn of the Century" and "Awaken" are incredible.
2. *Even in the Quietest Moments*. Supertramp. People who haven't heard the album think I'm crazy, judging my sanity by Supertramp's former mediocrity, but this record is fantastic.
3. *Foolhouse and Fancy-free*. Rod Stewart. His best album ever, this is a splendid blend of slick pop and lovesick crooning.
4. *Works, Volume I*. Emerson, Lake and Palmer. Some were disappointed that only

one side of four is actually ELP, but there's enough good music on the double album to satisfy anyone.

5. *CSN*. Crosby, Stills and Nash. The reunion of the year, and nearly worth the wait. It's not a classic yet, but I can see comparisons with the trio's original album in years to come. Is there anyone who didn't like "Dark Star"?

6. *Rumours*. Fleetwood Mac. Although I'm getting weary of the Buckingham-Nicks edition of Fleetwood Mac, this album can't be passed up on a year's best list. However, it IS stretching a bit thin, and I don't really want to hear Fleetwood Mac III.

7. *Ltiso*. Cat Stevens. Anything would have been better than *Numbers*, and this, although not as good as Cat's classics of the earlier Seventies, is a fine, diversified album.

8. *Animals*. Pink Floyd. What can you say — it's Pink Floyd, so it makes the top ten. *Animals* isn't particularly spectacular, but if you can settle for something very

pleasant, then try it.

9. *Spectres*. Blue Oyster Cult. The Cult turned down the amps and boosted the quality. *Spectres* is better-than-average middle-of-the-road rock, something I haven't heard too much of this year.

10. *Grand Illusion*. Styx. The last spot is always hard to pick, but Styx makes it for a very much improved sound. The title song is particularly interesting, but unfortunately the music becomes overly familiar by the end of the album.

### Honorable Mention:

1. *French Kiss*. Robert Welch. The former Fleetwood Mac and Paris vocalist and bass guitarist put out a fairly good pop album that's being played to death on AM and FM.

2. *I, Robot*. The Alan Parsons Project. This is bluesy-slick-pop much like the single "I Wouldn't Want to Be Like You."

3. *Foreigner*. This group and album makes it as everyone's Rookie of the Year, so why should I make waves? I'd have to be "Cold as Ice" not to pick it.

### The Year's Big Losers:

David Bowie has to top this list with two terrible albums — *Low* and *Heroes*. After Bowie are Queen's *Snooze of the World*, the Doobies' *Live on the Fault Line* and anything by the Ramones.

### Anthologies, Live Albums and Assorted Goodies:

The traditional "Greatest Hits" albums are far and few between these days, with every Tom, Dick, and Barry (Manilow) putting out live albums. The best studio collections are Judy Collins' *So Early in the Spring* and Joan Baez's *Greatest Hits*.

On the live side are Nils Lofgren's *Night After Night*, the Bee Gees' *Here at Last* (there are a lot of oldies included) and the Beatles' *At Hollywood Bowl*.

Deserving special mention is Al Stewart's *The Early Years*, a collection of songs from Stewart's first four albums, which were never released in America. Until now, the excellent material on this two record set was available only on high-priced imports.

# news roundup

## World

**Seal killings defended** — A delegation of Canadians contended in New York Monday that the annual harp seal hunt was conducted humanely. The Canadians asserted that the hunt was an economic necessity, and that the clubbing of seal pups, whose pelts are then removed while many of the seals are still alive, was the most humane method of killing possible.

## Nation

**Obscenity charges filed** — The United States Supreme Court has agreed to view a case dealing with the use of obscenities on a local radio station in New York. Complaints were lodged with the Federal Communications Commission after WBAI-FM broadcast a George Carlin album where seven words dealing with sex and excrement were used.

**Interpreter urges advance texts** — Steven Seymour, the unfortunate interpreter who received much publicity and was subsequently fired following an embarrassing mistranslation during President Carter's recent visit to Poland, contended this week that interpreters should be provided with advance copies of presidential speeches to avoid such mishaps in the future. Seymour translated an innocent remark by Carter into a Polish phrase suggesting "carnal desire for the Polish people."

## Local

**McGovern chose White in '72** — Senator George McGovern recently revealed that he wanted Mayor Kevin White of Boston to be his running mate in the 1972 presidential election. Opposition by Senator Edward Kennedy and the Massachusetts convention delegation caused McGovern to withdraw his offer to White.

# weekend

## MOVIES

**Close Encounters of the Third Kind** — Science fiction/fantasy movies seem to be finally coming into their own. *Close Encounters* has been called everything from a mystical experience to enjoyable fantasy with a bit too much UFO. However, in either case, it is a good science fiction film, certainly among the best ten or so ever filmed. Cinema 57.

**The World's Greatest Lover** — A Gene Wilder comedy which has its moments but just isn't too memorable. Nevertheless, it's still amusing while you're watching it. Pi Alley.

**Looking for Mr. Goodbar** — Starring Diane Keaton, Charles.

## LSC

**THX-1138** — George Lucas' (director of *Star Wars* and *American Graffiti*) first film about a future society where love is the ultimate crime. Wednesday, 7 & 9:30, in 26-100.

**Love and Death** — Woody Allen, the incompetent and cowardly soldier, sets out to assassinate Napoleon on Diane Keaton's urging. The results produce one of his funnier films. Friday, 7 & 9:30, in 26-100.

**Man with the Golden Gun** — A typical James Bond movie except that it stars Roger Moore who has neither the style nor the acting ability which Sean Connery brought to the role. Saturday, 7 & 10, in 26-100.

**The Gold Rush** — THE classic Charlie Chaplin film about a miner in the Klondike. Sunday, 7 & 9:30, in 10-250.

## AROUND MIT

**Love's Labours Lost** — Shakespeare Ensemble. A good production of one of Shakespeare's lesser known comedies. Jan. 12-14, 8pm, in the Sala.

**The Ederly Duo** — The pianist, Beatrice Ederly and the violinist, Stephen Ederly, give a show in Kresge at 8pm Friday which is reputed to be excellent. They will do Sonatas by Mozart.

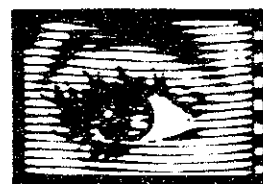
— Gordon Haff

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Theatre,  
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WGBH 2



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## the COOP

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MIT STUDENT CENTER

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Features for the week of  
January 11-17

### Brattle Theatre

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Truffaut's  
**SHOOT THE PIANO PLAYER**  
6:30 9:40 Wknd Mat 3:25  
Starring Charles Asnavour  
and

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5:00 8:05

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5:30 9:50  
and

Gerard Philipe in Stendahl's  
**THE RED AND THE BLACK**  
7:25 Wknd Mat 3:10

**CINEMA II**  
Two Great Actresses  
Jeanne Moreau in Truffaut's  
**THE BRIDE WORE BLACK**  
5:45 9:45  
and

Joan Crawford in  
**MILDRED PIERCE**  
7:45 Wknd Mat 3:45

EVERY WEDNESDAY IS DOLLAR  
DAY AT THE BRATTLE AND  
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# sports

## on deck

### Friday and Saturday

Varsity Skiing in Nordic Relays at New England College, Henniker, NH.

### Saturday

Varsity Hockey vs. Clark at MIT ..... 7pm  
 Varsity Track vs. Williams at MIT ..... 1pm  
 Varsity Wrestling vs. Coast Guard and Harvard at MIT 2pm

### Monday

Varsity Basketball at Wesleyan ..... 7:30pm

### Tuesday

Women's Varsity Basketball at Clark ..... 4pm

### Wednesday

Women's Varsity Fencing at Concord-Carlisle ..... 7pm  
 Varsity Hockey at Gordon ..... 8pm



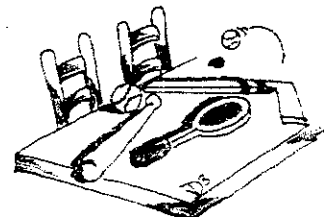
## IMs managed poorly

By Gordon Haff

Intramural sports at MIT involve upwards of 75 percent of the student body. This column was originated in part to take those people behind the scenes of the sports they are involved in — to show them the managerial side of the intramural sports program. In the course of writing this column, I have talked with a number of IM managers and members of the IM Executive Committee.

This research has led me to a seemingly inescapable conclusion: many aspects of intramural management are a disgrace. In the fall only two managers, Mike Tarsi '77 of Volleyball and Rick Kunin '79 of Soccer, arranged the divisions and leagues of their sports in a logical structure and did the jobs which a manager is responsible for during the season, such as publicizing standings and results on a regular basis. The one day IM cross-country meet was also run well.

Football had no A-League, nor were we able to obtain any results or standings. Tennis had a variety of problems including a diluted A-League, no team championships, and a poorly scheduled tournament.



## IM

Hockey does not appear to be being run much better. On at least one occasion, there has been an open IM ice slot in the evening with no teams scheduled, only referees. Hockey has an A-League, but it is a mockery of one. Every team in it is essentially an All-Star team drawn from all over campus. No living group could compete in it. Lambda Chi Alpha felt forced to drop down to B-League this year for that reason. A similar situation would exist with soccer, but the problem has been circumvented for the last several years by the establishment of independent and living group A-Leagues. This solution was not looked into seriously for hockey.

What is the cause of this problem? The reason is very simple: lack of interest. Most IM manager positions are filled by people running unopposed. At the November 21 meeting of the IM Council, elections were held for six sports. Squash and Volleyball were tabled for the lack of any candidates. Badminton and Tennis were elected by white ballot. The remaining two managers, those elected for Softball and Water Polo, each had one opponent.

While those elected by white ballot are not necessarily incompetent, it is obviously not a very desirable situation when the IM Council has to grab the first person who walks in the door. It is the sort of situation which allows people with little interest or competence in managing a sport to become managers.

My column next week will look further into this problem and will suggest some possible remedies.

## Researchers to advance

(Continued from page 1)

to research staff members who now must work under a faculty member.

The Senior Research Scientist position has existed for about 10 years, but Hulsizer noted that the requirement that such researchers be given three years notice before they are fired had caused departments to make few such appointments — only about 10 have ever been made, he said.

Department chairmen would have to grant permission to the new appointees before they could supervise theses.

The new structure of appointments is modified from the recommendations of the Committee on MIT Research Structure, which was chaired by Frank Press, then Chairman of the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department. Press is now science advisor to President Carter.

The Press Committee report calls on MIT to "increase the attractiveness of research positions to insure recruitment and retention of the highest-quality individuals."

Hulsizer noted there would be "no significant increase in personnel" under the plan, and that there would not be a major shift away from the pattern of regular faculty members serving as Principal Investigators for research projects. The Wynne memorandum notes that the new appointments would be limited to small numbers of workers in comparison to the total research staff and faculty.

The only objection raised to the plan at the faculty meeting, according to Hulsizer, was to the definition of Research Associate, a title that many departments use to denote a more highly-qualified person than the new title suggests.

Most candidates for the new positions will come from the present Sponsored Research staff, Hulsizer said. At present, there is no promotion available for staff involved only in research.

Hulsizer added that the plan would probably not have much effect on students, although he said that it might improve the scope of undergraduate research.

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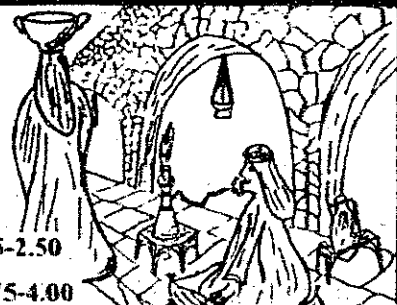
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