

## off lead

By James Franklin

"Never, no matter what may be the progress of science, will honest scientific men, who have a regard for their reputations, venture to predict the weather." So said François Arago back in the 19th century, and while the truth of this statement is perhaps in doubt, it seems that those who do so venture are accompanied by some odd personal idiosyncracies. And why not? After all, meteorology is in many ways more of an art than a science, and artists are supposed to be off-beat, aren't they? We receive much computer-generated guidance for our forecasts, but rarely is the computer completely right, so it is up to us to (among other things) figure out when the computer is going to be wrong, for which of course there exists no direct guidance, computer-generated or otherwise. Intuition and experience are as important as anything else.

On the 16th floor of the Green Building about 25-40 "artists" compete each term in a forecasting contest, engineered by Professor Fred Sanders. The competition is run more or less in conjunction with 19S01, Prof. Sanders' weather forecasting seminar, although graduate students, other professors, and various other persons also take part. The term-long bitter fight is broken up into 16 different "games," with each "game" measuring a different forecasting skill. Competition is fierce, as towards the end of the term participants vie for the coveted "corn-cob pipe" awards, given each term to those rare seminarists who outrank their sly professor.

Due to the intricacies of the scoring system, often forecasters try to devise ways to "beat the system," which, for the novice is a great way to get ranked at -999.9, but people try nonetheless. Another quirk of the system often requires forecasters to make the following kind of statement: "I am absolutely, positively, no doubt about it sure that there is a 0 per cent chance it will rain today, but IF it does, we'll get x inches." Oh well, nobody ever claimed that meteorology was an exact science.

The forecasts that have been appearing in this space for the past week and a half have been my own, but today I officially pick up the banner for the folks on the 16th floor, whose unflinching support and encouragement I undoubtedly have — until I blow a forecast. With no official ties to Course XIX (I am a junior in Course XII, with a major diversion in Meteorology), they may deny that they ever heard of me, but listen you guys up there, when I'm right, just don't try to steal my thunder.

## First meeting of revived GA held

By Kent Pitman

About 50 representatives of living groups attended this year's first meeting of the General Assembly (GA) Wednesday night — far more than had been expected.

This came as a pleasant surprise to some after the apathy that has struck the GA in recent years and from which several UA presidents have struggled in vain to rescue it. It is a legislative body

the number of people who had shown an interest in the Nominations Committee. Only four people had shown up to fill the four open slots on the committee. All were well qualified, said Newman, but added that the small turnout did not say much for student interest in these matters.

"I can't do everything. I don't want to do everything — contrary to some people's opinions," stated Newman. He said that he hoped that other leaders would emerge within the GA to help him to get things done in the upcoming year.

One of the events announced at the meeting was an intercollegiate conference to be held sometime in February, to which MIT had been invited.

In an interview later with *The Tech*, Newman said that the conference will be sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania and will last about 3 or 4 days, during which time representatives from each school attending will meet to discuss important issues that are common to all.

Plans call for 11 schools to attend: the 8 Ivy League schools, MIT, Stanford, and the University of Chicago.

The framework of activities for the conference is currently "what a letter [from Penn] described as a committee structure," Newman lamented. "I would prefer to see it as a workshop structure."

Some members of each school attending the event will be in charge of a certain area. Newman's area of responsibility will be for the student government portion. He said that as strange as it may sound to some, MIT has one of the best run student governments of the schools attending — except for perhaps Stanford, whose government he described as very formal and organized.

So far, Newman and the UA Vice President Tim Morgenthaler '80 are the only two who are definitely going at this time.

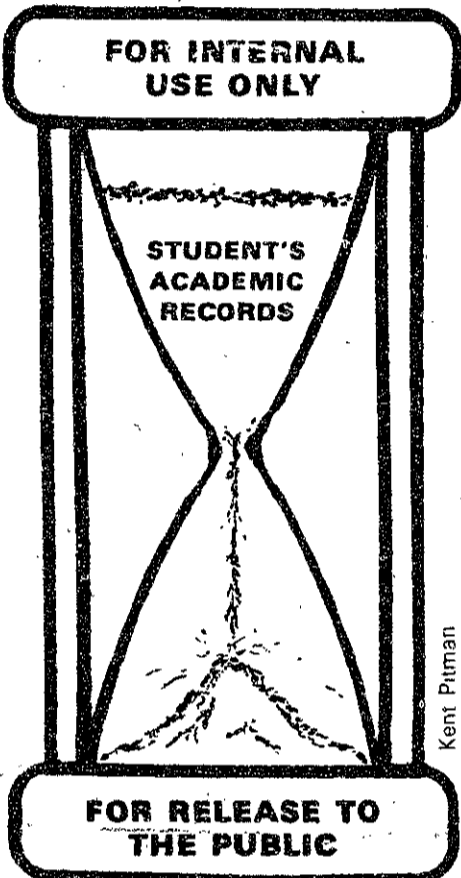
Newman said he will ask the GA to let the Athletic Club select the students who will represent

MIT sports, but that the rest of the 27 member committee of students to go to the conference would probably be selected by the GA.

Among the topics slated for the conference are CIA involvement in colleges, Corporate Responsibility and South Africa, Student Services (housing, dining, counseling, etc.), and various academic and educational topics.

Since the meeting was held on the same night as an IFC meeting, Newman thinks that attendance will possibly even "pick up a little in the future." Newman hopes that if the GA meetings are kept short and to the point, people will not feel that they are too great a time expenditure, and attendance rates will continue at current levels or better.

As for trying to change the GA into a smaller organization, he says that he doesn't know if it is legal to make the quorum smaller. He seemed very concerned that if it became too small, it wouldn't have the student input needed to function effectively.



## Grading Committee reports

By Ron Newman

Student opposition from a variety of sources greeted the Ad Hoc Committee on Grading's final proposals to the faculty, released in Wednesday's *Tech Talk*.

The motions, to be submitted to a vote at the October 18 faculty meeting, call for the redefinition of letter grades and the compilation and publication of grade distribution information "for internal MIT purposes only."

One Committee member, Tom Davidson G, expressed his dissatisfaction with the form in which the latest proposals were released. "The report as released in *Tech Talk* does not contain any arguments either for or against

these motions," Davidson commented Wednesday. He adds, "The faculty will need these arguments to make an informed decision."

Further opposition to the motions surfaced at Wednesday night's meeting of the Undergraduate Association General Assembly, where UAP Barry Newman '79 commented, "I know a lot of students who are very upset about these proposals, and I'm not very happy with them myself."

At the same meeting, the UA's Committee on Student Participation in Institute Affairs announced plans for a "meeting of the student body" Wednesday night at 7 o'clock in 6-120 to

organize student opposition to the grading proposals. The student committee, in a prepared statement released Wednesday, asserted that the proposed grade redefinitions "are designed to promote grade deflation" and that the availability of grade distribution information to MIT graduate departments "would make students more grade-competitive and less self-confident," causing undergraduates to take fewer advanced courses.

The student committee reiterated its previous call for a "greater student voice in policy and decision-making processes," a reference to the current faculty policy of holding committee meetings behind closed doors.

## Freshmen are politically indecisive

By Bruce Kaplan

The results of a poll conducted of the Class of 1982 show indecisiveness over various issues concerning government politics. The poll, conducted by the Public Policy Program at the Academic Midway, asked students' opinions about government spending, energy, foreign policy, and the candidates for President in 1980.

The poll indicated that Proposition 13 was supported by 58 per cent of the incoming freshmen. In California 65 per cent favored it. However, the Class of 1982 favored a fixed limit on government spending by a decisive 70 per cent. This seems to imply that a property tax cap is not the method that would meet with greatest approval to bring about this limitation.

Inflation is the most important problem facing the United States according to 26 per cent of those who took the poll. However, energy, with 32 per cent of the vote, seems to be the most pressing problem according to the frosh. Other problems considered to be important are international relations — 11 per cent, poverty — 6 per cent, and corruption — 4 per cent.

Nuclear power appears to be

favored as an alternative energy source with an overwhelming 66 per cent supporting immediate construction of new plants, while only 10 per cent desired a complete halt to the construction of any plants.

Cold War militancy seems to have vanished among incoming freshmen. As with last year's freshmen, an almost three to one majority favor diplomatic recognition of Cuba. Strong opposition to the use of force to secure

oil supplies was registered by 62 per cent.

Only a 59-41 per cent margin advocated government funds be used to pay for abortions for those who want them but can't afford them. The narrowness of this margin is deceptive: there are few middle of the road views on this issue; opinions are more than likely to be strong-sided.

Perhaps the most decisive thing about the freshmen's view of the 1980 campaign is its indecisiveness. One quarter did not make any decision about whom they supported. Among the Democrats, Carter finished third behind Kennedy and Brown, but none of these candidates received even a one third plurality. On the Republican side, Ford received a 50 per cent majority of the votes of the few that had a Republican favorite.

According to Prof. Walter Dean Burnham of the Political Science Department, "... the respondents are on the whole, pretty satisfied with the existing order of things in the private sector, less satisfied with the government and government performance and not overwhelmingly oriented to politics as a whole."



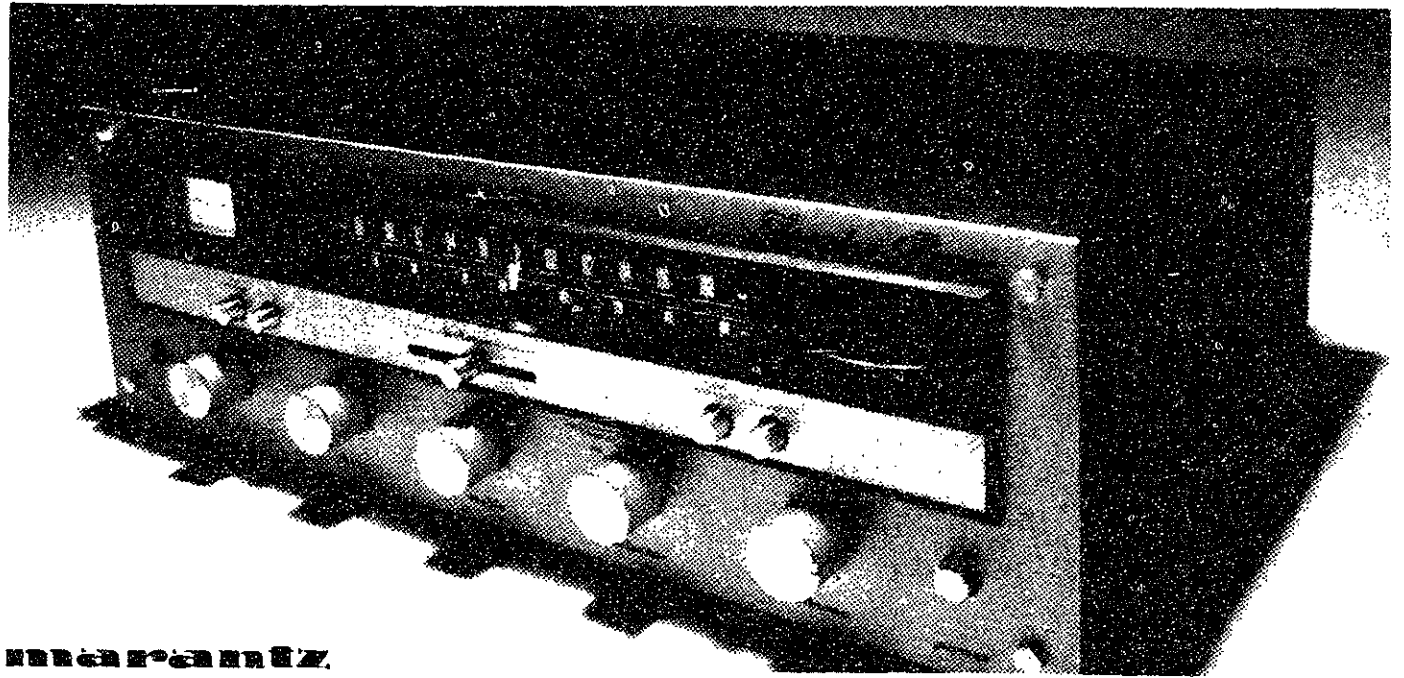
Professor of Political Science Walter Dean Burnham aided the students of the Public Policy Program with analyzing the results of the poll taken of freshmen political opinion at the academic midway. (Photo by Gary Engleson)

# Stiff competition for Harvard Square stereo stores.

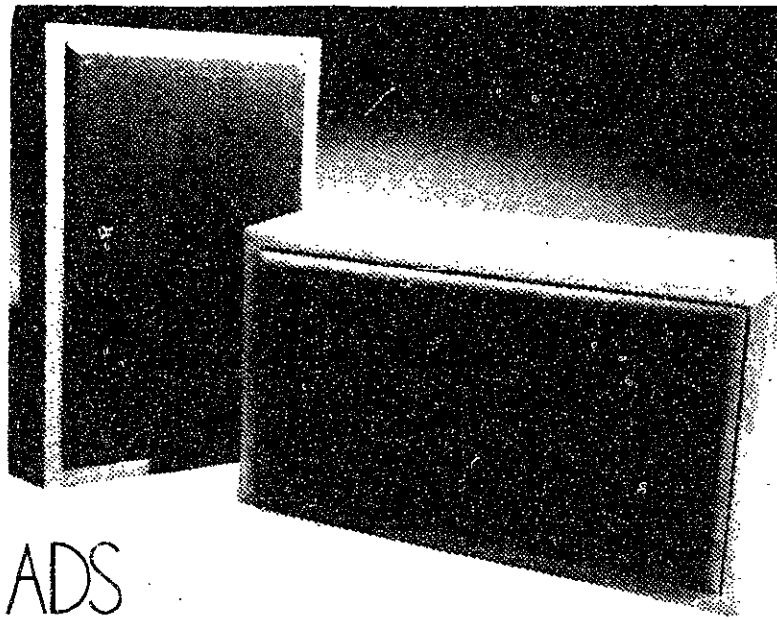
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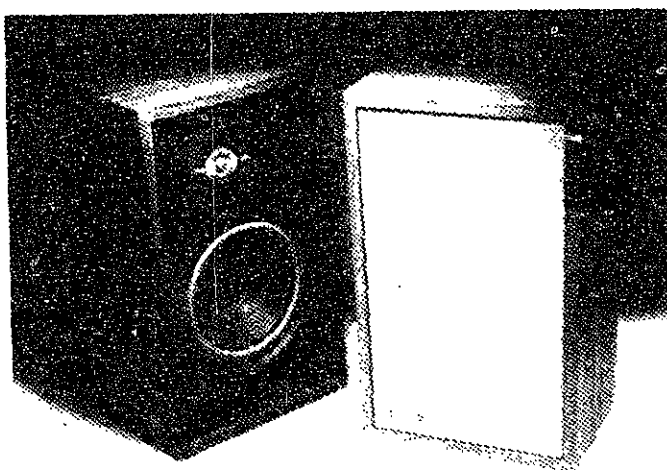


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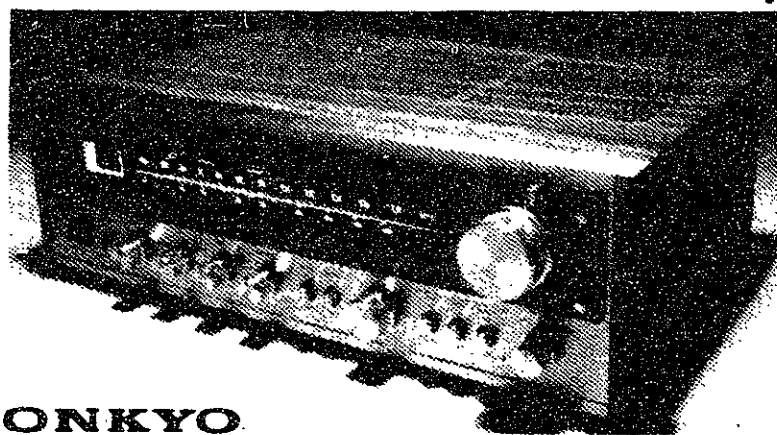
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# New course X curriculum

By Richard Salz  
The Committee on Curricula is considering a proposal made by the faculty of the Chemical Engineering Department to change the requirements for an S.B. Degree in Chemical Engineering. The proposal before the C.O.C. would increase the number of re-

quired courses, while decreasing the number of restricted electives, according to Professor Johnson Vivian, Executive Officer of the department. The added courses are 5.42, Organic Chemistry; 10.32, Separation Processes; and 10.36, Process Design. The Institute lab requirement is

satisfied by 5.31, Introduction to Chemical Experimentation. The change would affect very few students, since over 80 per cent have taken or are currently enrolled in those courses, said Vivian. "However, it's always possible to make exceptions," he noted.

"The faculty continually reviews the curricula. These changes are directed towards providing a background in professional chemistry and engineering," explained Vivian.

A number of misconceptions may exist about the number and function of faculty advisors in the Chemical Engineering department. Each advisor has roughly twenty-five students. Commenting on this ratio, Vivian said, "I think that's a pretty good number for the kinds of students we have here." He added that "we put a lot of effort into our student advising."

The advisors in Course X serve as a "point of contact" between the student and the other faculty members in the department. They discuss variances from the normal program, and act as the students' registration officers.

## news roundup

### Middle East

**Israeli vote** — The parliament of Israel has approved the Camp David accords by a large margin. Negotiations with Egypt are expected to begin within a week. However, problems may develop if Israel puts new settlements on the West Bank of the Jordan River.

### World

**South African elections** — The parliament of South Africa yesterday voted to select a new leader of the ruling National Party. The two favorites to succeed John Vorster as Prime Minister were Defense Minister Pieter Botha and Minister of Black Affairs Cornelius Mulder.

**Deadly blast kills 7** — 650 tons of gasoline and fuel exploded Wednesday on a freight train near Oviedo, Spain. The explosion took place in a tunnel, from which flames spewed for more than 15 hours.

### Nation

**Tax-cut bill approved by committee** — The Senate Finance Committee has approved an across-the-board tax-cut bill by a vote of 15-2. The bill would reduce taxes for most individuals, businesses and investors. The full Senate is expected to consider the bill next week.

**San Diego air crash** — Over 150 people died in what was believed to be the worst air disaster in American air history. A Pacific Southwest Airlines Boeing 727 jet leveled a residential neighborhood of San Diego, following a midair collision with a student pilot's light plane.

### Local

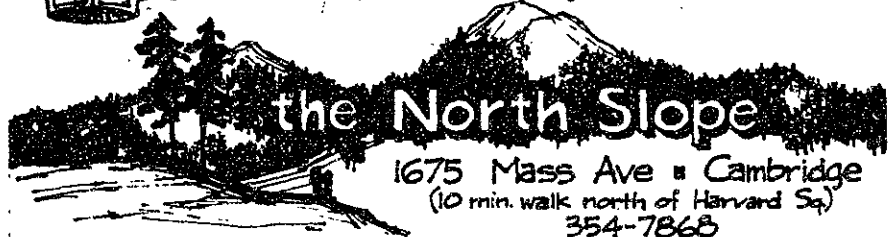
**Killer MBTA train** — A 29-year-old woman was killed Wednesday when she was run over by a southbound Red Line train. The fatality occurred in the Central Square MBTA station.



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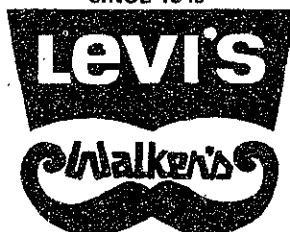
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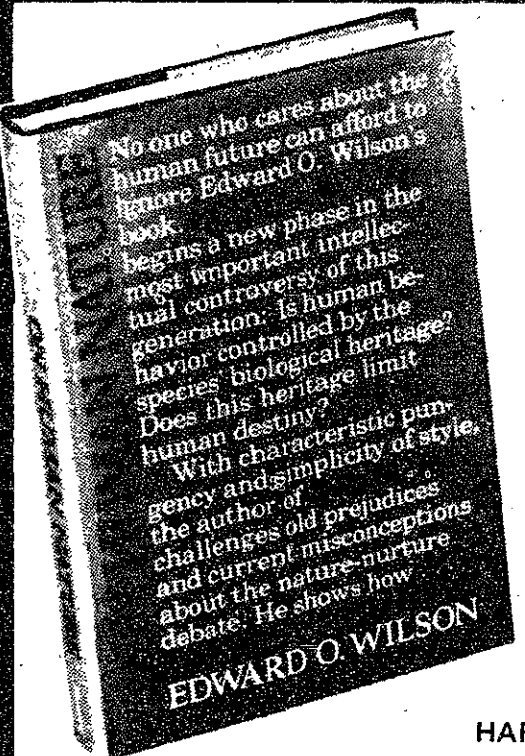
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# opinion

## Richardson misses the target for frosh

By Bob Wasserman

By now, news like "160 freshmen to be overcrowded" has become old hat at MIT. Overcrowding always seems to stem from a mistake on the part of someone in the Admissions Office or on a great acceptance rate of prospective freshmen, but the reasons for this problem are not as innocent as they seem.

The main culprit in the overpopulation of students at MIT is the Office of Admissions. It seems as if every year Director Peter Richardson expects a certain number of prospective freshmen to enroll and that every year this set number is exceeded. Now, everyone is allowed to make mistakes now and then, especially in the MIT administration, but how come the Admissions office always overshoots its target for freshman enrollment?

This spring the Academic Council, a mysterious group of top MIT administration, proposed a stable class size of 1050 students to be admitted in the next few years. Previously the Admissions Office followed an off-the-cuff recommendation from the MIT brass, so the proposal by the Academic Council is a new concept. Pete Richardson, however, has managed to slip by the recommendation of the Academic Council this year by allowing 1075 students to enter the class of 1982. It seems odd that a person who has so much impact on the student environment at MIT could care so little about the problem of overcrowding.

Enrollment at MIT has been increasing since the Institute started, of course, but many of today's difficulties began with the arrival of the Class of 1979, the largest in MIT history totalling over 1150 students. Overcrowding of freshmen that year was "only" forty or fifty students, and MIT planned on further increasing class size in the future. Chancellor Paul Gray remarked that class size will be "increasing as much as is reasonable and prudent, considering our existing resources and facilities."

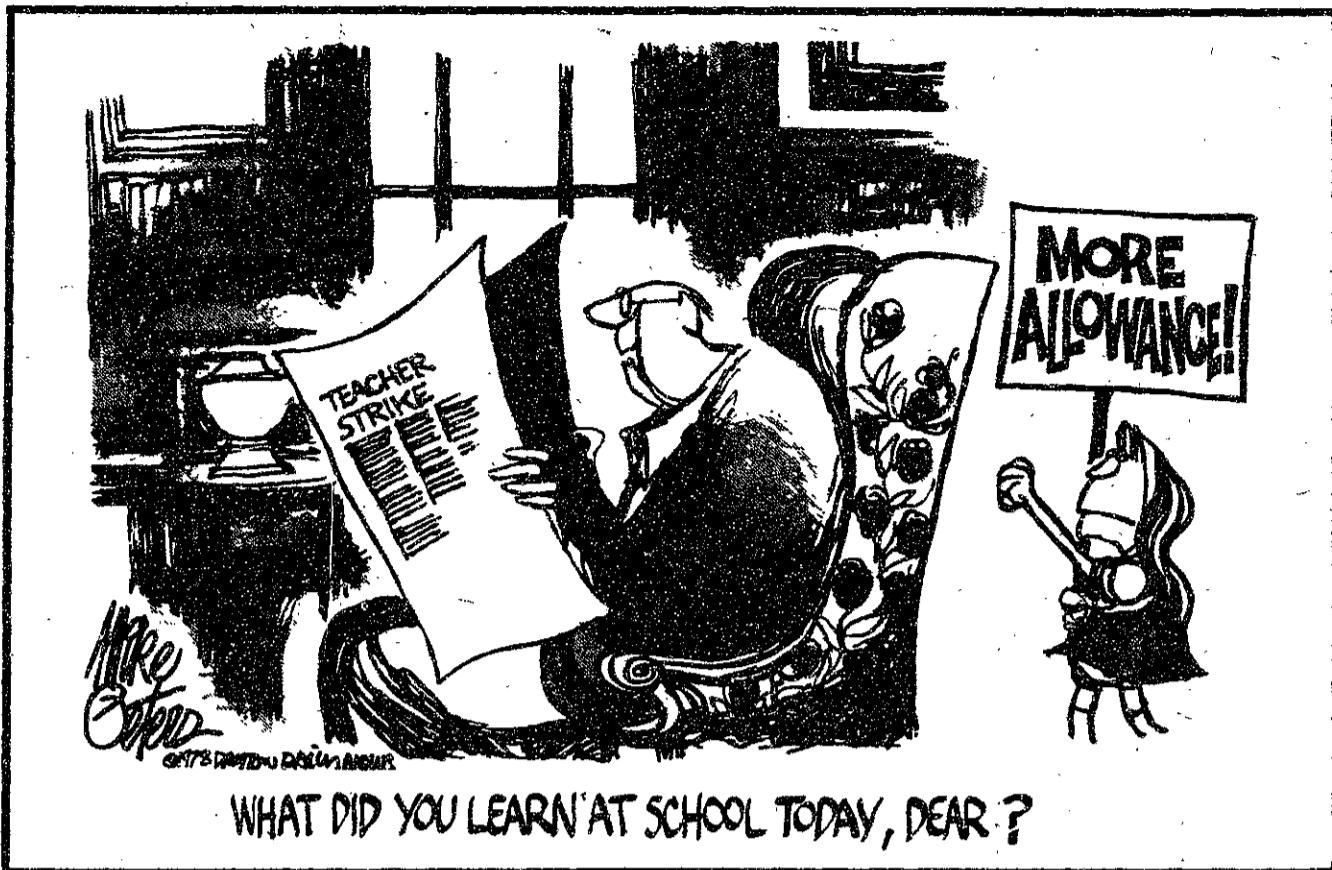
It was soon apparent that further increasing class size was not "reasonable," and the class of 1980 was set at 1100 by the Admissions Office. Fortunately, due to a low yield of acceptance, only 1060 students accepted and enrolled in the fall of 1976. Even so, overcrowding remained high.

The last two years have been large misses for the forecasters of student size in the Admissions Office. Optimal class size was set at 1050 for both the classes of '81 and '82, although each year almost twenty-five extra freshmen showed up. In the fall of 1977 the opening of Random Hall as an undergraduate residence eased the situation somewhat, but over one hundred students were overcrowded that year. And this fall, due to a shortage of housing in Boston, overcrowding reached an absurd level of 160 students. Temporary housing conditions were even more ridiculous: students were housed in the Armory, the music room in McCormick, and seniors lost their assigned rooms in East Campus.

Where does the freshman squeeze come from, you might ask. Well, colleges in the 1970's are in financial straits, and the easiest way to increase MIT's income is not simply to raise tuition, but rather to get more of it. The financial crunch has also hurt the housing situation, because alumni give money for labs and libraries, not for dormitories.

Not only is the number of students increasing, but educational services are being cut back. In general, the Institute is tightening up on expenses, and student facilities are no exception. The Department of Electrical Engineering reduced the number of teaching assistants last year, and now the Chemical Engineering Department is considering dropping its thesis requirement because it is unable to find enough thesis advisors.

Where do we go from here? Next year the huge class of 1979 graduates, emptying out the dorms to some extent, especially New House, which loses almost half of its population. There's a good chance Pete Richardson will bear this in mind when acceptances for admission are sent next year. The recommendation of the Academic Council of 1050 will be followed to some degree, of course, but you can bet that if the Admissions Office misses its target for incoming freshmen next year, it will be over, not under, expectations.



## Grading: the inside story

By Tom Davidson

As a student, and as the GSC representative to the Ad Hoc Committee on Grading, I feel I should air my thoughts concerning grading policy and the

grades, and I am in favor of this motion. Given the time and effort that students put into courses, the 'official' definition of their accomplishment should be something more than 'passed with

The second motion concerns the placement on the student's grade report of information relating to the number of students taking a course, the number of students dropping the course after the fifth week, and the grade distribution for each course taken by the student during the previous term. To the student (and also to our poor parents, who currently look at our grade reports with such bewilderment after having spent \$4700 per year to send us here), the subject material we have studied is of primary importance. Our courses are currently listed on our grade report only by course number, a practice which again relays the impression that the course itself is not important, only the grade received for the course. I strongly feel that this practice should be stopped, and that all courses be listed by name instead of number. While the Registrar is to be commended for trying to save both tuition money and time in releasing this compact report to us, it is important to realize the very poor impression this report gives about where the 'official' emphasis is being placed. (Please turn to page 5)

perspectives

grading controversy, especially since I've been a part of the committee (although only since last May), and have at the same time talked to many students who were very much against the proposals issued last year. I'll first give my personal views on the proposals released by our committee.

The committee's first motion concerns the redefinition of

substance, create the impression that the letter grade should be considered important in itself. The grade, however, is only a representation of considerable academic achievement, and the definition is important in relaying a strong sense that it is not the grade itself which is important, but the gain in knowledge and skills which the grade represents.

## feedback

# Join Technique!

To the Editor:

Already the various activities on campus have begun to reach out for new members. Their efforts are usually directed towards freshmen, but at least one organization should make its pitch to this year's seniors. I speak, of course, of *Technique*, and because its staff doesn't — I will.

I have never worked on *Technique* — because of other involvements — but my distress after seeing the content of last year's edition has caused me great concern. An examination of *Technique* '78 reveals a disproportionate number of photographs obviously included merely for their artistic value, and a paucity of those which capture some facet of MIT life. Karl Taylor Compton wrote a perfect definition of a good yearbook: "Each year... it presents a panorama of the life and activities of a class. Thus it becomes as time passes, the substance of memories and a tangible link with undergraduate days." In my opinion, and in the opinion of many classmates, *Technique* '78 failed miserably in this respect. Its value as a college yearbook is minimal.

My class has already lost out, but there is no need for the trend set by last year's *Technique* staff to continue. I would urge every member of the class of '79 to at least drop *Technique* a note expressing his or her ideas about the book. Of course, if you have no other commitments (outside of academics!) why not get involved with *Technique* — you'd be doing

yourself and your community a great service.

Phil Kesten '78  
17 September, 1978

Paul Hubbard

by Ken C. Masee



# The Tech

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Friday, September 29, 1978

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# opinion cont.

## Concerning grades and committee reports

(Continued from page 4)  
 even if this impression is completely unintentional. I have talked to the Registrar's office about this problem, and was told that listing courses by name would require longer pieces of paper (and certainly some extra cost), but was by no means impossible. I'll gladly have my tuition raised from \$4700 to \$4702 to help cover the cost of this change, because this report is important to me.

Now, back to the proposal to place grade distributions on student grade reports. After considerable thought, I have decided that placing grade distributions

thing that should be done on a more individual basis. We should be encouraging more interaction between student and faculty members, rather than having all this information relayed second-hand by a computer in a form which implies that students should be categorized into slots, rather than thought of as individuals. Why is there a faculty committee on grading, but not a faculty committee whose purpose is to look into ways of improving student-faculty interaction and relations in general? This problem is important enough that the formation of a standing committee should be considered.

view with this student, and the personal evaluations by faculty here at MIT. In retrospect, therefore, our committee was worrying about a problem which doesn't exist. The quantity of information supplied by grade distributions (5 numbers for each of 32 courses) is so large that anyone looking at it simply won't know where to start, and in essence it will probably be completely ignored.

One objection I have to the current proposals in general is that none of them address the question of whether the current level of academic flexibility and freedom at MIT is adequate. One impression which many students get, once courses start being graded, is the impression that 'MIT' is encouraging them to follow a path where they must compete with fellow students using credentials such as 'grade point average.' While I don't really feel there is a conspiracy in this regard, being forced to take courses on grades certainly relays this impression. I think many students could learn much better, with a good pass-no credit option for the remaining three undergraduate years, and for graduate school, because they would be motivated by that higher purpose of education, the actual learning of skills and knowledge. It is my hope that the committee will be discussing the question of pass-fail from a holistic viewpoint, rather than limiting our study to and evaluation of freshman pass-fail.

My final comment concerns the amount of student input received by the grading committee. Until I was appointed by the GSC to the committee last May, only one student was on this committee. Due to some communication problems when the first student member graduated, for a four month period there was no student on this committee at all. For a committee discussing an issue which has a great impact on stu-

dents, this small number of students is absurd. I do not, however, completely blame the faculty or committee members for this problem, and feel some portion of the communication problem was attributable to the fact that student representatives are not accustomed to reporting to their constituents on a regular basis, either through the U.A. or the press. All students appointed to faculty committees have the responsibility to maintain contact with their constituents, to tell them what's been happening, and to obtain some input from them.

The grading committee has the

responsibility to the community, considering past communication problems, of maintaining an open meeting policy (open in the sense that any student or faculty member who wishes to listen to our discussions be able to). Open meetings will result in greater preparation for each meeting, and increased consideration of the advantages or disadvantages of a given proposal in the formative stages. Student and faculty concerns can best be discussed with an equal number of students and faculty on this committee, and I hope that more student members will be appointed.



on grade reports will, in general, do more harm than good. A reason this committee proposed placing grade distributions on grade reports is that the committee felt that some students honestly might not know where they stand in a course relative to other people. I admit that for some courses it will be useful to know this information, but in my experience here I've found that I always have a pretty good idea of where I stand, and if I have doubts about passing, I'll go talk to the professor about my individual case.

To the extent that a professor thinks it is important for the students to know this information, and to the extent that an individual student wants this information, he or she can go to the professor. Why institutionalize some-

The third proposal concerns the placement of grade distribution information on internal transcripts that could be looked at by graduate department admissions officers. The committee felt this information could be useful to a student in a department which, for one reason or another, doesn't give out many A's, if this student changes his or her goals and applies to a department which is accustomed to giving out a large number of A's. It is my feeling (and hope) that when it comes to admitting a MIT undergraduate to graduate school here, the grade point average is not an important criterion. What should be more important are the grades the student received in those few courses he or she did take in this subject area, the personal inter-

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**Pool Session 8 pm**  
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## THE UA NEWS

At this Wednesday's GA meeting committees were set up to do the following:

- 1) Review the UA and its constitution. Its first meeting will be Thursday, October 5 at 7pm.
- 2) Collect input and suggestions for the upcoming review of the advising system. Check UA Bulletin Board for time and place of first meeting.
- 3) Study freshman Pass/Fail and the upcoming review. Meeting Thursday, October 5 at 7pm.
- 4) Gather and collate information from students about the Dean for Student Affairs Office. Meeting Monday, October 2 at 7pm.

All meetings are on the fourth floor of the Student Center. Check the UA Bulletin Board in Lobby 7 for further information.

If you are interested in any of these committees please leave your name in the UA Office (Room W20-401), or with your GA representative. Also, beginning in several weeks, reports from student representatives on Faculty Committees will be on file in the UA Office. Just stop by if you want to see what's going on.

\* \* \* \*

If you've got any suggestions, comments, want to help, or see what's going on, stop by the UA Office (fourth floor of the Student Center) or call Barry Newman or Tim Morgenthaler at x3-2696.

\* \* \* \*

On Monday, October 2, there will be Nominations Committee Hearings for students interested in the **Committee on Freshman Advising** (7pm) and the **Committee on Commencement** (8pm) in Room 400 of the Student Center. If you want to be heard, you have to get involved.

\* \* \* \*

The final recommendations of the Faculty Grading Committee have been released (Tech Talk, Sept. 27). If you don't like them, come to a meeting Wednesday, October 4 at 8pm in Room 6-120 to organize student opposition.

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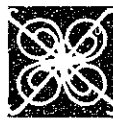
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# What a piece of work is Hamlet

By Margie Beale

The Boston Shakespeare Company's September 13 presentation of *Hamlet* marked not only the opening of a new season for the four-year-old repertory group, but the christening of the Boston Shakespeare Company Theatre at 300 Massachusetts Avenue as well. While it is unfortunate that the excitement naturally attendant upon the opening of a new theatre didn't translate better into dramatic intensity in the ensemble's performance, its presentation was made with a great deal of care, professionalism and style.

The acting was by no means flawless throughout the evening, yet generally it

other characters as he vacillates between brilliant distraction, introspection and rage. As Queen Gertrude, Catherine Rust displays a remarkable talent for reflecting the action of the moment in the moods that play across her face. Her characterization is superlative, and her exchange with Hamlet following the re-enactment of his father's death is a high point in the performance.

Thomas Apple, as King Claudius, delivers his lines with force, but lacks the shadings of emotion in his characterization that would lend it credibility. Kirsten Giroux gives us an unsteady Ophelia throughout the early acts of the

"Lebow's portrayal of Hamlet is a fascinating and beautifully controlled study in alienation."

was executed with an attention to fine details of motion, intonation, and facial expression indicative of a serious creative effort at an original interpretation of Shakespeare's work. Performers are, with a few exceptions, consistently in character and thoroughly convincing. The greatest part of the ensemble's work in the past has been in Shakespeare's comedies, and this becomes clearly evident in the lighter scenes, where lines are delivered with impeccable wit and timing. However, this propensity for comedy is all too noticeable elsewhere in the presentation, for many tragic scenes lack the force and depth necessary to ensure the greatest dramatic effect.

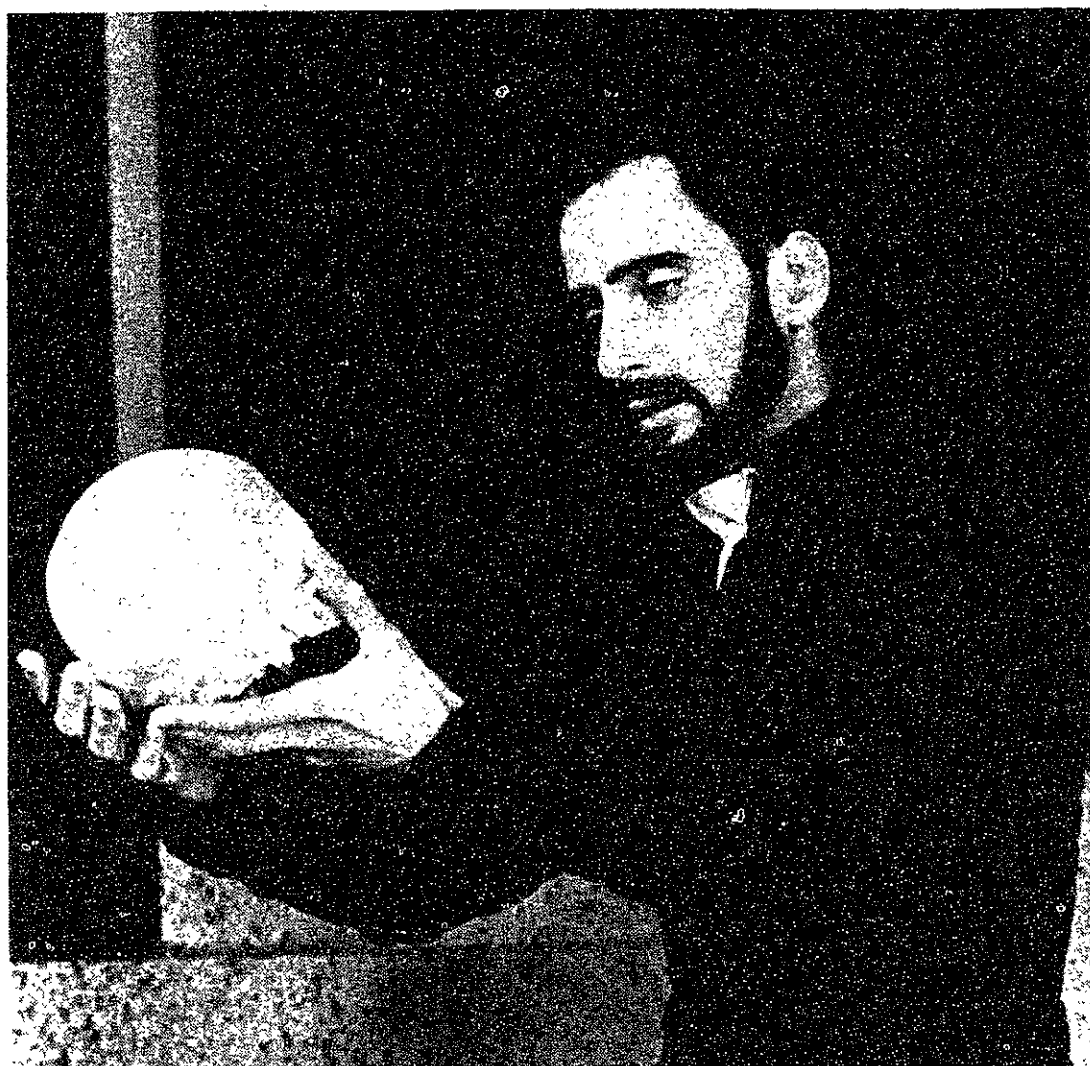
Will Lebow's portrayal of Hamlet is a fascinating and beautifully controlled study in alienation. He renders the oft-repeated soliloquies with considerable thought and sensitivity, creating an anguishing separation between himself and

play, but gains confidence in time to play the mad scene with an air of unearthliness that is somewhat frightening and extremely convincing.

Henry Woronicz delivers a carefully crafted performance as Horatio that complements Lebow's Hamlet rather nicely, while Paul Dunn's Laertes is of a uniform emotional texture consistent almost to the point of dullness.

Douglas Overtoom and Zachary Grenier are momentarily amusing as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, while Richard Moses does some fine comic acting as Polonius, alternately chiding his daughter Ophelia and advising Laertes, his son.

The theatre's stage is designed to resemble the stages of the Elizabethan era and while this adds a pleasant touch of authenticity, the set's simplicity soon seems drab, and highly visible entrance and exit curtains become awkward at times. However,



Hamlet (Will Lebow) contemplates the remains of an old friend in Boston Shakespeare Company's *Hamlet*, as the fourth season opens in a new theater. (Photo courtesy of the Boston Shakespeare Company)

the production also contains several visual treats, notably the fencing match between Hamlet and Laertes, and Hamlet's encounter with his father, where juxtapositioning of figures is fully the equal of that in a still from Bergman's "The Seventh Seal." Recorded background music is highly effective in the supernatural scenes, but not so at other instances in the play, where it tends to obscure dialogue.

The members of the Boston Shake-

speare Company are generally talented, exacting, and well-rehearsed performers, and their work merits attention, regardless of occasional lapses. *Hamlet* will continue to play twice each week through December, in repertory with *As You Like It* and Molière's *The Miser*. If this opening performance is indeed indicative of the general quality of productions, any of the three shows would likely be well worth the price of a ticket.

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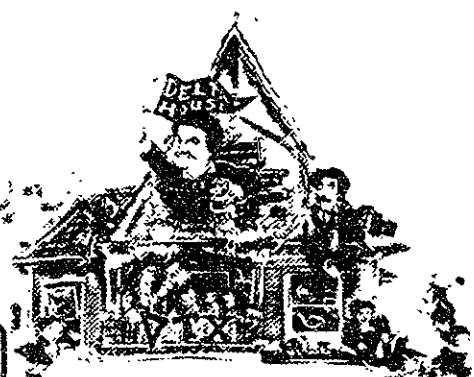
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## arts cont.

**King of Hearts not as good as movie**

By Leigh J. Passman

*King of Hearts*, a new musical based upon the screenplay by Philippe de Broca, Maurice Bessey, and Daniel Boulanger. At the Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston. Performances Monday-Saturday through Oct. 7, tickets \$7-\$16.50; call 426-9366 for tickets or information.

*King of Hearts*, the farcical war satire, which became the unflagging darling of Boston area audiences for five years, is back in the city that made it a success. *King of Hearts* returns as a new Broadway-bound musical, with a four-week engagement at Boston's Colonial Theatre. This version, which opened Tuesday, September 19, will not become Boston's darling, and I seriously doubt that it will become New York's.

The play, based on the book by Joseph Stein (also author of *Fiddler on the Roof*) closely parallels the Philippe de Broca/Daniel Boulanger screenplay plot. However, the play fails in its effort to capture the same farcical mood and subjective theme of the movie.

The action takes place in the French town of DuTemps during World War I. After occupying Germans plant bombs in the town, the inhabitants evacuate it. A single American soldier, unspectacularly played by Donald Scardino, is sent into DuTemps to defuse the bomb and instead stumbles upon the Asylum of St. Anne's and its crazy inmates. All those who play the roles of the inmates are quite good. Each is entertaining and endearing in his or her characterizations. Yet these over-developed characterizations, far more salient than those in the movie, create problems.

I question whether *King of Hearts* is or can be successfully transformed into a musical. The singing, dancing and the acrobatics of the St. Anne's inmates detract from their unconcerned mood and "crazy" sense so evident in the film. In the play the inmates perform to the audience. In contrast, in the film we are observers, not

participants, with the inmates going about their merry ways. Director Ron Field has lost much of the farcical and satiric mood of the screenplay to the preoccupation with music and dance.

We see the inmates content in the warless, happy, carefree world. But Field destroys the beauty of the original screenplay when he feels compelled to boldly confront his audience with the same question that de Broca and Boulanger subtly allow us to grasp for ourselves — "Who is really crazy — us or them?" For instance, at one point in Act I the German and American troops call a temporary truce, symbolically meet in a no-man's land and lament the absurdity of war and their yearning for peace. Where de Broca and Boulanger touch us with the carefree zest for love and peace of the St. Anne's inmates, Field

bore us by playing on the unhappiness of the young soldiers who refuse to challenge their lot.

Yet, *King of Hearts* remains entertaining. The inmate characterizations are charming and indeed the principal aspect of the play that engages its audience. Milliecent Martin as Madame Madeleine is particularly good, as are Michael McCarty as Bishop DuBac, Daniel Robinson as the photographer and Bob Gunton as Raoul the ringmaster.

Peter Link's music is pleasing, but neither it nor Jacob Brackman's lyrics are memorable. Patricia Zipprodt's costumes, which are closely modeled after those in the movie, were colorful and interesting. Santo Loquasto's sets were quite impressive in their magnitude and detail. If Mr. Loquasto can get his crew to stop moving

them during scenes, I'll be even more impressed. The dance arrangements by Dorothea Freitag, who brought her wonderful talents to such shows as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Mame*, and in particular, *West Side Story*, were disappointing, although perhaps understandably so when limited to mental patients and boot-clad soldiers.

*King of Hearts* will remain at the Colonial Theatre through Saturday evening, October 7 when it moves to the Minskoff Theatre on Broadway.

As is common of pre-Broadway Boston productions, *King of Hearts* is in a state of flux and modification. Several scenes were altered for opening night and I expect more changes will prevail. If you have never seen the movie, see it first, and if you have, see the movie again, you will enjoy it so much more.

## happenings

## AROUND MIT

**The Mezz:** Coffeehouse performers in a relaxed atmosphere. Refreshments available, free admission. From 9pm 'til midnight in the Mezzanine Lounge.

**Rune** will be holding an open house on Thursday, Oct. 5 at 5pm in 14N-309. Any interested students are invited to attend.

**Metamorphosis: Totems, Masks and Objects** The new works of four San Francisco artists will be on display at the Hayden Gallery Sept. 30-Nov. 3, with a public preview on Sept. 29, 8-10pm.

## AT THE MOVIES

**High Plains Drifter** The MidNite Movie, Sat., Sept. 30, second floor of the Student Center.

*This weekend's LSC lineup:*

**American Graffiti** (Fri.) 7 & 10pm, Kresge.

**Ninotchka**, the LSC Classic Film, Fri., 7:30, in 10-250.

**Dr. Zhivago** (Sat.) 6 & 10pm, 26-100.

**A Touch of Class** (Sun.) 6:30 & 9pm, 26-100.

**The Popovich Brothers of South Chicago and Always for Pleasure**, two documentaries that will be shown at Center Screen this weekend at 7:30 & 8:30. Tickets are \$2 and available at the door. Center Screen is located at the Carpenter Center, Harvard.

**Animal Farm** Off The Wall will present a feature length animated version of George Orwell's political allegory from Oct. 4-10. For program and price information call: 354-5678.

## IN TOWN

**Billy Joel** at Boston Garden, Sat., Sept. 30. 8pm; tickets \$10.50, \$9.50 and \$8.50.

**Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra** Berlin Return Concert. James Yannatos conducts Verdi's *La Forza Del Destino* and Copland's *Appalachian Spring*. Sat., Sept. 30 at the Sanders Theatre, Harvard. Tickets are \$2 for students, \$2.50 general admission and \$3 for reserved seats. For information call 495-2663.

## IN THEATRE

**Macbeth**, Ionesco's absurdist reworking of Shakespeare, opens Oct. 5 at the Boston Arts Group Theatre, 367 Boylston St. Tickets are \$4.50 & \$4.00; showtimes are Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm and Sun. at 3pm. For information call: 267-8518.

**Man of La Mancha**, starring Richard Kiley, has extended its run until Oct. 22. Performances are at the Music Hall, Tues.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2 & 7:30pm, and a Sat. matinee at 2pm. For ticket information call: 426-8181.

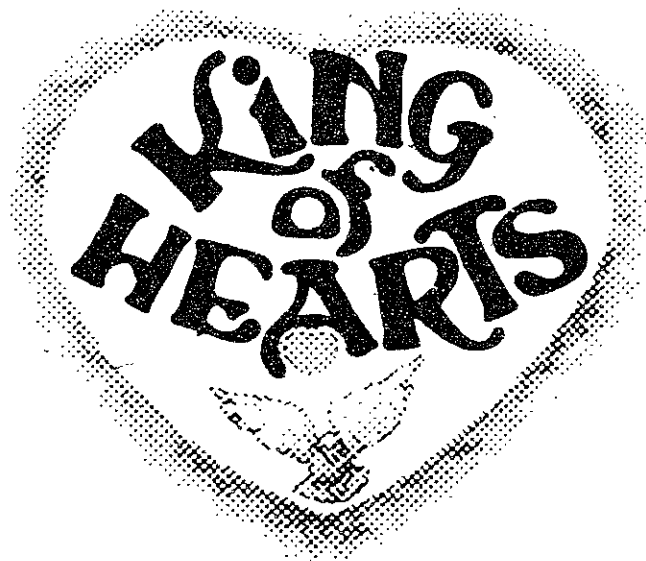
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# sports cont.

## Water Polo Anyone?

By Joel West

Who invented water polo? How many people in the United States play water polo? How many people each year drown playing water polo? These questions will not be answered, although a general explanation of the rules and tactics of the game follows.

At the start of each quarter (6 minutes of "stopped time" under NCAA rules) 14 swimmers, each wearing a numbered cap, line up on opposite ends of the pool. When the referee blows his whistle, the two fastest swimmers on each team race down the side, attempting to reach the ball first, which the ref has so kindly dropped between them. The 7 players then assume a 3-3-1 formation: 3 "offensive" players, 3 "defensive" players, and the goalie.

The closest relative to water polo is soccer. As in soccer, the goalie has special privileges — he is the only one in the pool allowed to hold, catch, or throw the ball

with two hands. As a result, beginning players must learn to "palm" the volleyball-sized ball, enabling them to hold the ball with their hand on top of it. Also, as in soccer, the players must learn to dribble the ball, in this case by using the turbulence of their head-up crawl (used 95 per cent of the time) to keep the ball directly in front of their chests.

The basis of water polo as it is currently played is the "hole man," or center offense position.

As are all offensive players, he is barred from going inside the "two," or within 2 yards of the goal plane. Thus he remains on the two-yard line, directly in front of the goal, with the "nose guard" (center defense) directly between him and the goal. Without the intervention of the nose guard, the hole man is expected to score 80-90 per cent of the time he gets the ball. However, there is very little even the best guard can do

(Please turn to page 9)

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# sports cont.

## Water Polo for the novice

(Continued from page 8)

against a good backhand shot, in which the hole man, facing his own goalie, palms the ball and swings his arm around in one continuous motion toward the goal. Since the goalie also has very little chance of stopping a well-placed hole shot, the nose guard is thus under the obligation to foul the hole man every time he gets the ball.

Like basketball, physical contact, both legal and illegal, is very much a part of the game. However, in water polo, when an opponent is touching the ball, one is allowed to reach, pull, or even climb on him if one is "going for the ball." Similarly, a certain amount of violence in the act of shooting is also allowed.

In water polo, in almost every offensive drive, a "wet pass" is made to the hole man, such that the ball lands in the water in front of him, or with his body between the ball and the defender. He is then fouled by the guard, to stop play, which gives him a "free throw." Within five seconds, the fouled player must pass the ball to a teammate, or drop it into play. During "dead time," or the time between the whistle and the time the ball is put into play, the offensive players start swimming furiously, hoping to put themselves

between their defender and the goal. If the player who is passed the ball does not have a clear shot, he can pass it back to the hole man — for if the same player on team A fouls the same player on team B three times consecutively (without an intervening foul), he is ejected for 30 seconds, allowing the offense to play a ball-control game while they have the one man advantage.

Water polo, like soccer and hockey, has a penalty shot when a foul prevents an otherwise inevitable goal. As in basketball, the face-off is used sparingly, after a double foul, or when the responsibility for knocking the ball out of bounds is unknown. The full-court press, man-on-man defense, and passing the ball around the perimeter of a defensive shell are also tactics borrowed from basketball.

Water polo is an action sport, and a violent one, though much less violent than football or hockey. And when well-played, it is a very exciting game. This weekend offers a good opportunity to see water polo at its best: some of the best teams in New England will be in the Alumni pool from 4pm until 9pm today and tomorrow, during the MIT Invitational Tournament.

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coverage. That means they pay the first \$100 on collision-related damages and the insurance company pays the rest. But just look what happens when you increase the deductibles to \$200 on comprehensive and \$500 on collision: In Los Angeles, for example, the typical annual premium for a safe driver will drop from \$358 to \$197. The higher the deductible, the lower the premium. (See the chart for more examples.)

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## sporting notices

The first playing dates for Intramural Tennis will be Saturday and Sunday, September 30 and October 1.

\* \* \* \*

The Women's Tennis game that was to be held October 10 against Holy Cross, has now been rescheduled for Thursday October 5, at 3:30pm.

\* \* \* \*

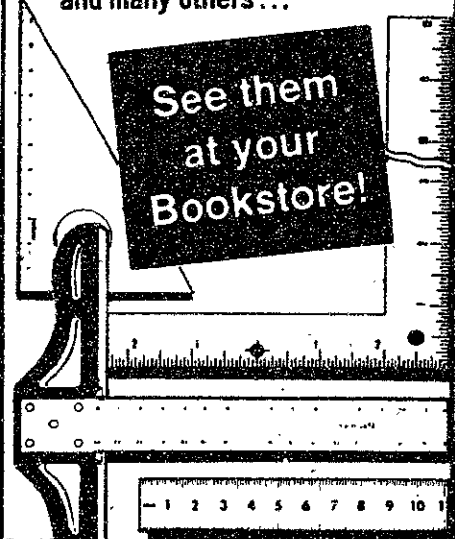
The MIT cross country team opened its season last Saturday with a victory over WPI and RPI (MIT 25, WPI 33, RPI 66). The race was a 4.9 mile hilly course over the Worcester streets. It was the first loss for both WPI (4-1) and RPI (2-2). A new course record of 24:59 was set by Captain Barry Bayus '79.

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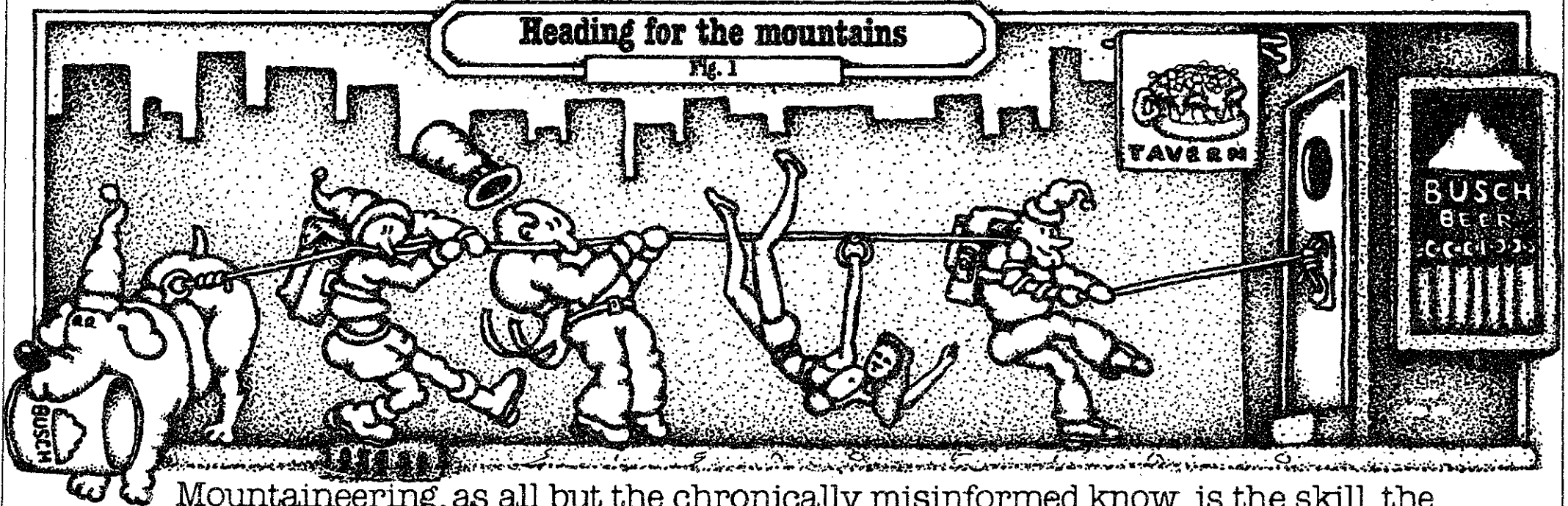
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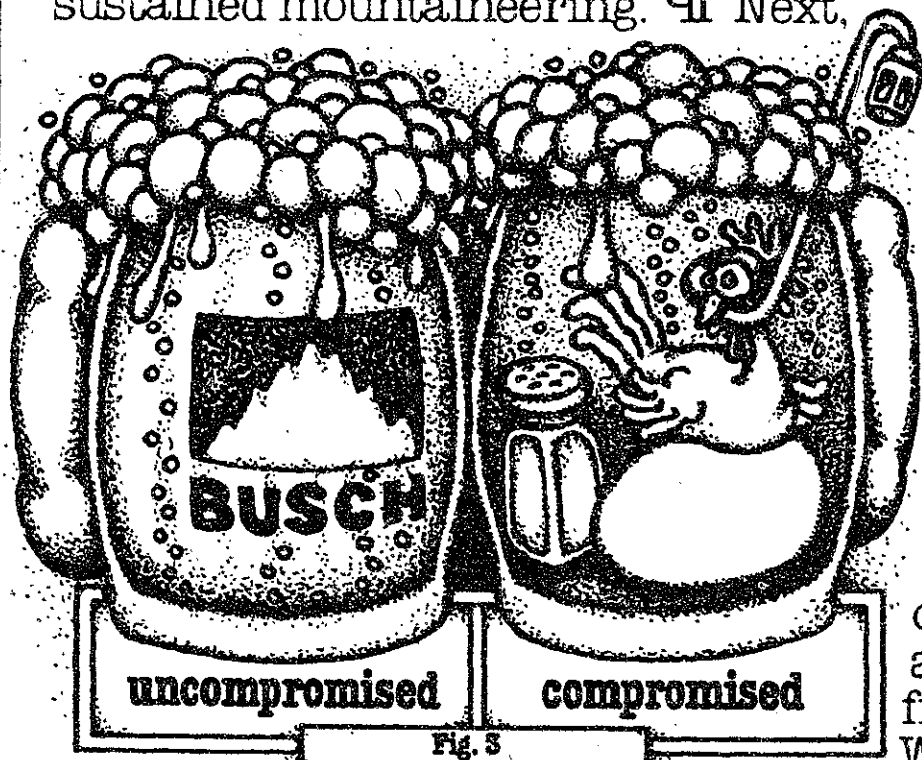
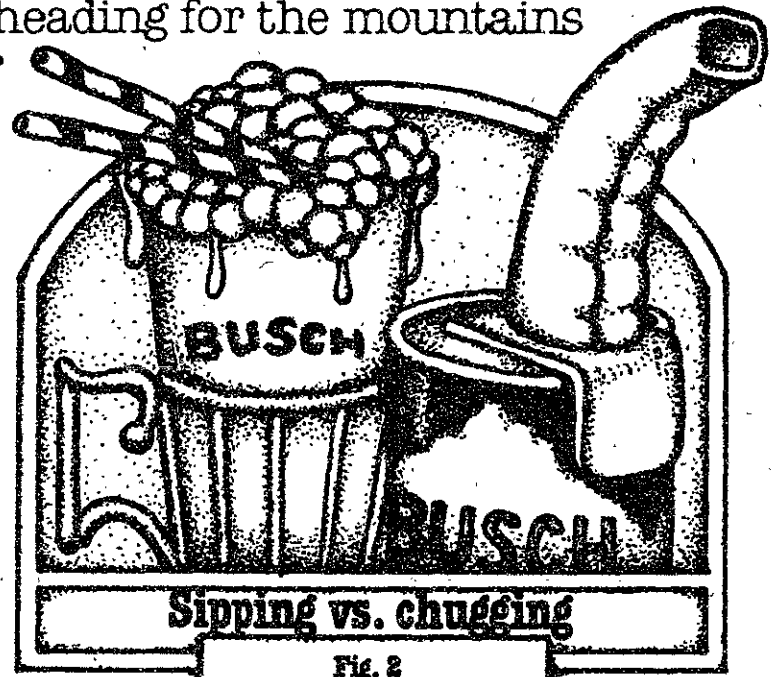
## Mountaineering #3.

# METHODOLOGY



Mountaineering, as all but the chronically misinformed know, is the skill, the science and the art of drinking Busch Beer. It begins by heading for the mountains (i.e., a quick jaunt to your favorite package emporium or wateringhole) and ends by downing the mountains (i.e., slow slaking swallows of the brew that is Busch).

¶ However, between those two points lies a vast area of personal peccadilloes sometimes called technique and sometimes called methodology (depending on your major). Hence, this ad. ¶ Sipping vs. chugging. Both have their merits, of course. But generally speaking, except for cases of extreme thirst or a leaking glass, sipping is the more prudent practice for serious, sustained mountaineering. ¶ Next,



the proper position. Some swear by sitting; others by standing. Suffice it to say that the most successful mountaineers are flexible, so you'll find both sitters and standers.

(Except on New Year's Eve, when it's almost impossible to find a sitter.) ¶ Which brings us to additives. Occasionally a neophyte will sprinkle salt in his Busch; others mix in tomato juice; and a few on the radical fringe will even add egg. While these manipulations



can't be prohibited (this is, after all, a free country), they are frowned upon. Please be advised that purity is a virtue, and the natural refreshment of Busch is best uncompromised.

¶ Finally, there's the issue of containers. Good taste dictates a glass be used. But bad planning sometimes prevents that. If you find yourself forced to drink from the can, you should minimize this breach of etiquette. Be formal. Simply let your little finger stick out stiffly (see Fig. 4). Happy Mountaineering!



Don't just reach for a beer. **BUSCH** Head for the mountains.

## MIT Football history picks up where it left off

(Continued from page 12)  
 journed, left at the same time, so that when action was taken in regard to football, there were about half the original number of students present. The Chairman, after a few remarks, asked for an expression from those who wished to have Technology represented by a football eleven. The resulting vote was 119 against to 117 in favor. On the strength of this opinion from a small minority, the team, to the surprise of all, was disbanded." The same afternoon, the shocked team was informed of the verdict immediately after a 15-0 loss to Holy Cross.

For nearly forty years, football was dormant at MIT except for the Field Day contest, held annually between the Freshman and the Sophomore classes. Growing out of the Field Day tussle, approval was given in September, 1939 for total inter-class football, including the Juniors and Seniors. At the end of the season, the unbeaten Junior class squad played the Tufts junior varsity team, ending in a 13-13 tie. In 1940, a combined Junior-Senior team compiled a record of one win, two losses and one tie in a season notable for MIT's first and only Football Queen, Miss Virginia Jewell, whose selection preceded the Football Dance.

In 1941 MIT's football team, (labeled "non-varsity" by the Athletic Board) won one and lost three. The sole victory came against the Tufts junior varsity on November 1, 1941, and is the last

intercollegiate football victory to date. Due to lack of interest, lack of success and the manpower drain caused by the Second World War, the attempt to re-establish football died quietly.

Twenty-four years later, clamor from several fraternities concerning the lack of varsity football brought a survey of the student body which indicated a popular desire for some sort of organized intercollegiate football. After a year's study, the Athletic Board, in February 1966, voted unanimously against football at MIT. Their decision was based on the lack of facilities, the high cost of football and the possible disruption of other activities.

The present 1978 season brings MIT a new club football team, born chiefly out of "A" league intramural competition that was almost at a varsity level during the last several seasons. MIT's third experiment in football has looked promising in pre-season scrimmages, but the first intercollegiate game in thirty-seven years was lost to Fitchburg.

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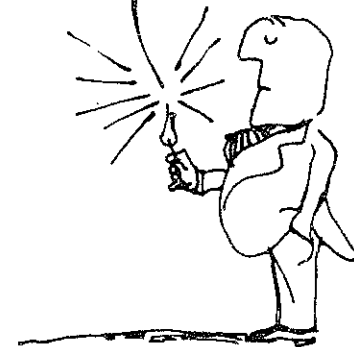
## Off-Campus College Work Study Program

A limited Off-Campus Work Study program will operate for *undergraduate* and *graduate* students for the 1978-79 academic year.

Off-campus public and non-profit organizations will be eligible for CWSP participation. Needy students will be able to receive 80% of their wages from CWSP with matching of 20% from the off-campus organization. Nelson Armstrong at Student Employment, 5-119, x3-4973 will begin processing fall term applications for participation on Monday, October 2 and will continue on a first come, first serve basis until funds run out.



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## MIT Soccer scores at Worcester game

By Dennis Smith

The MIT Varsity Soccer Team earned its second victory in three games Tuesday with a 2-0 triumph over WPI in Worcester. The win brought the team's record to two wins and one loss for the season.

The first half saw MIT take a 1-0 lead midway through as Robbie Currier '79 took a pass from the wing and weaved through a helpless enemy defense, allowing Luigi Boza '79 to pound the ball unmolested into an empty net. Aside from the scoring play, the half was characterized by shabby play on both sides. Both teams were sluggish, unorganized, and seemed to lack the basic skills.

The second half, however, MIT was a different soccer team. They were able to mount sustained offensive pressure and pull together a more solid, effective defense. Led by the consistent play of Tom Theurkauf '79, the fullback line of Bob Sullivan '79, Jeff Tyrrell '80, and Paul Thompson '79, along with goalie Tom Smith '79, was able to hold off the relatively few opposing threats. The halfbacks, Boza, Currier, and Mike Raphael '79 dominated play in the center of the field, providing speedy for-

wards Zanda Hori '79, Bill Uhle '81, and Jay Walsh '81 with several scoring opportunities.

The hustle and ball control that were so noticeably absent in the first half paid off for the MIT squad in the second, as Mike Raphael fed Bill Uhle, who then curved an untouchable shot into the upper corner from 18 yards out to raise the score to 2-0. Uhle's shot drew praise from all present, a crowd made up mainly of WPI supporters.

Referring to the sparse conversion of the many scoring opportunities and the periodic lapses on defense, Coach Walt Alessi commented, "We still need some work, but we'll take it," thus alleviating any doubt spectators may have had as to whether or not MIT would, in fact, accept the victory.

For the game, MIT outshot WPI 21-11, most coming in the second half, and goalie Tom Smith gained his first shutout of the young season. Varsity soccer is expecting a very good season, having taken two out of three tough games. The team will go after its third victory Saturday, against Trinity in Hartford, Connecticut.



Quarterback Bruce Wrobel '79 tries to elude the Fitchburg rush in the football club's opening game Sunday. (Photo by Gordon Haff)

## Football history continues

By Jay Glass

In the 1880's MIT was one of the nation's major intercollegiate football powers. Playing the then-top schools such as Harvard, Dartmouth, Stevens, Brown, and Amherst, the "Techmen" were champions of the Northeastern Intercollegiate Football Association in 1887 and 1888, and runners-up in 1885.

The first game played by an

MIT football team on record was described in October, 1881, in the very first issue of *The Tech*. The MIT eleven defeated Exeter College by the score of 2 goals to 0. At that time, a field goal was worth more than a touchdown, explaining Technology's other 1881 victory, over Amherst by 1 goal to 1 touchdown. At that time football was one of the most popular activities on campus, as *The Tech* reported in 1888, "Saturday afternoon . . . the student seeks relaxation from his studies in amusement; and if a game of football is going on, he is sure to be present."

The young team improved through the 1880's, and together with Williams, Amherst and Tufts formed the Northeastern Intercollegiate Football Association in 1885. In that first year of league play, MIT defeated Amherst 80-0 to tie Williams for the league title. In perhaps one of the first playoff games in any league, MIT lost to Williams, 18-10, in weather conditions "most unfavorable to good play." (All quotes are from *The Tech* unless otherwise noted.)

After the addition of Dartmouth, Stevens and Trinity to the league, the "Techs" won the league championship in 1887 and again in 1888. In 1888 the first extra issue of *The Tech* was printed to herald the consecutive victories over Williams and Stevens which brought MIT football its second league crown.

Hurt by a large graduation in the spring of 1889, football in the 1889 and 1890 seasons suffered in

quality of play and in the quantity of available players. In 1890 the season was cancelled two weeks before its scheduled end, due to huge numbers of injuries which left less than eleven players healthy.

In the 1890's Princeton, Pennsylvania, Yale and Bowdoin joined the league, as the fore-runner of today's Ivy League began to take shape. MIT football fortunes were waning, as several years' schedules were cancelled because few students wanted to play. Wins were few until prospects improved in 1900, when the team managed to have a winning season.

Football was now entering an age of brutality, and many institutions considered eliminating the sport. Serious injuries and even deaths were not uncommon, and football was considered a distraction from academic pursuits.

In 1900, Henry S. Pritchett was named President of MIT. He disliked football, and succeeded in its elimination in a rather "high-handed" manner the next fall.

On October 17, 1901, *The Tech* reported of a specially called student meeting on October 11, "Having finished his remarks . . . the President [Pritchett] spoke of football at the Institute. The purport of his remarks was that he was not in favor of football at Tech because very few men could afford the time for the game. After further remarks, the President left the hall and many students, thinking the meeting ad-

(Please turn to page 11)

## Sailors capture Trophy

By Elliot Rossen

The MIT Men's and Women's Sailing Teams continue their strong start of the fall season with a victory in the Jack Wood Trophy and two very close seconds in other major New England regattas.

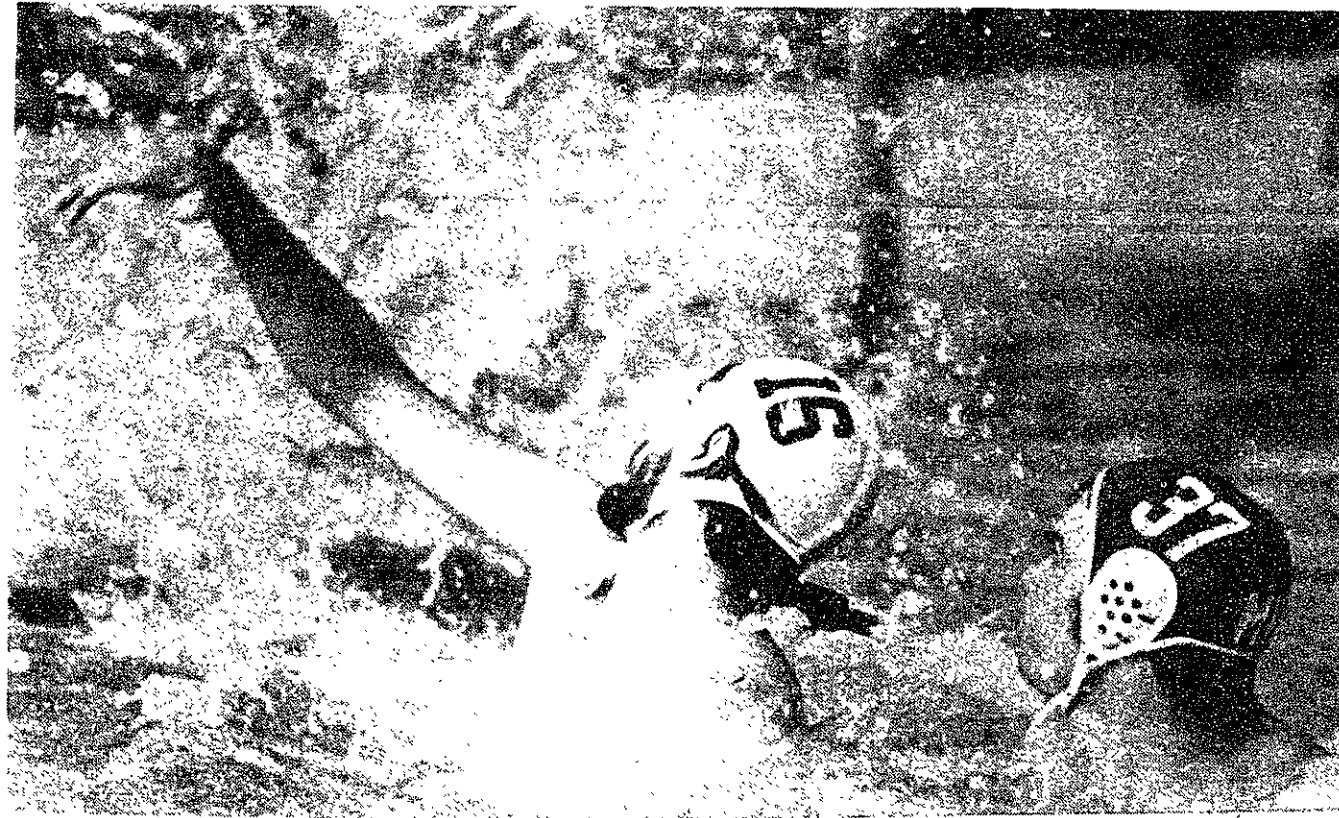
The men's team on Saturday raced at Tufts on the Mystic Lakes and finished a close second in a field of 14 New England colleges. The Tech sailors were in first place starting the 10th and last race only to lose the lead when the host Tufts sailors managed a first place to MIT's fourth. Although the loss of the Trophy was a bitter disappointment to the Tech team, the loss was to New England's number one ranked team in their own boats and waters. MIT's Captain Lenny Dolhert '79 and John York '80 had an outstanding regatta with four firsts and one second place finish in five starts in the field of fourteen colleges.

Racing at home on Sunday, the

combined Varsity, JV and frosh teams successfully defended the Jack Wood Trophy over Harvard, Coast Guard Academy, Brown and Dartmouth. Although Harvard gained enough extra positions to tie MIT on points, on the tie-break system MIT had beaten Harvard more times and was declared the winner. Dave Kuller '81 and Steve Dalton '81 combined to record four firsts in five starts for the best overall performance.

Tech Women sailors raced to second place in twelve boat fleet at Tufts on Sunday. Team Captain Debbie Meyerson '79, Audrey Greenhill '79, along with crews Marianne Salomone '79 and Barbara Biber '79 lost to Tufts by only three points in the final two races.

Saturday's President's Trophy Regatta at BU placed MIT fourth, with Audrey Greenhill '79, Barbara Biber '79, Diana Healy '79 and Marianne Salomone '79 sailing.



There's often not much a defender can do, as B.C. scores against M.I.T. Tuesday. M.I.T. won 8-5. (Photo by Joel West) See other article pp. 8-9.

## Water Polo maintains lead

By Gordon Haff

All indications so far this year show the MIT Varsity Water Polo team to be off to a season at least as good as, if not better than, last year's when they finished third in New England.

### Golfers hopeful despite defeat

By Ned Emerson

Last week Varsity Golf played its first match of the fall season. The opponents, St. Anselm's College, turned in a very impressive team score of 390 on their home course. Despite this loss, MIT golfers are still very optimistic about their season because of solid rounds of 80 and 78 posted by team captain Mike Varrel '79 and the team's most dynamic performer, Doug Paregian '80. The team will have a very successful season if the veteran players on the varsity squad maintain consistent rounds. In their next match against Northeastern University and Merrimac College, MIT Golf hopes to resume its winning streak.

In the first two games of the season, part of a Harvard Tournament last weekend, MIT defeated Dartmouth 16-6 in their first game and lost to Brown, last year's New England champions, 17-11 in the second.

Coach John Benedick was especially pleased with his team's performance in the Brown game. He said that scoring 11 goals against Brown showed that the MIT offensive was getting things together. The 17-11 score was a closer margin than any of MIT's games against that team the previous year.

On Tuesday, MIT faced Boston College whom they defeated 8-5. MIT's major problem throughout the game was that the offense, while controlling the ball, was holding it for too long, waiting for a perfect shot which seldom came. Whenever the offense opened up and began shooting more, goals came in quick succession.

MIT is also performing well on their man-up situations although they are still not as well-tuned as they were toward the end of last season. In addition to the

problem mentioned above which plagued the offense in general, the team became over-anxious at times and missed good scoring opportunities.

As a whole, however, the team certainly should perform better than last year. Although the squad is losing two lettermen, both occasional starters, the other members of the team will have one year more experience. Benedick is particularly pleased with the performance of Mark Huntzinger '81.

With the possible exception of Pete Griffith '79, the team's All-New England goalie, MIT's squad is not centered around one or two players. This is evidenced by the BC game where the team's eight goals were scored by five different players.

The team's next matches are in the MIT Water Polo Tournament. They play Army on Friday evening and University of Southern Connecticut on Saturday afternoon. The semi-finals and final games of the tournament will be held later on Saturday.