

Everyone talks about it

There are people in the area discussing ABM systems; helping America to reach the moon; designing advanced systems for moving us around the cities, between cities, between countries, and around the world. They drive comfortable and quick automobiles. There are meteorologists who use the latest radar

and satellites to predict the weather. There is AT&T whose network of communications' links keeps us in touch with anyone near a telephone.

It is the era of man's dominance over nature.

Wednesday night it snowed and everything went to hell.

Letters to The Tech

Berlin blockade

To the Editor:

In Tuesday's issue of The Tech it was my displeasure to read Miss Raisa Berlin's "review" of the San Francisco Mime Troupe's performance of "L'Amant Militaire." It seems quite unjust and unfair to the MIT student body to read its own student newspaper and find an article, which for a lack of words I shall just call a "poor review."

Although I do not wish to attack Miss Berlin's personal views of vulgarity, I feel it most imperative that I elucidate what actually occurred in Kresge a week ago.

To begin, Miss Berlin writes "A Mime Troupe gives non-verbal shows, like pantomimes, or that fellow Marcelle Marceau, right?" WRONG! Miss Berlin, and if you had read the program you would have seen that "mime is the art of Chaplin; what Marceau does is pantomime. Mime is the point of departure for our style."

Later Miss Berlin further demonstrates her total lack of understanding, or else her illiteracy, by saying "The Mime Troupe doesn't mime. It talks! It gestures! It stamps its feet!" Throughout the entire review Miss Berlin adequately shows the reader that she knows almost nothing about theatre, less about Mime and Commedia Dell'arte, and even less about what went on in Kresge. She tells the reader that the audience was totally baffled by the actors clapping and singing before the show. Perhaps Miss Berlin was baffled, but anyone with an inkling of Commedia Dell'arte style would know that it is not uncommon for the actors to play instruments and sing before the performance. Her later comments of "the constant movement of non-participating actors tended to be distracting, and their backdrop needed repair," and "the players wore masks over colorful costumes in an attempt to imitate the Commedia Dell'arte," further exemplify her total lack of understanding.

Another brilliant piece of incompetence was her statement, "Whoever played the puppet Punch was not bad." Had Miss Berlin been watching the action she might have noticed that a different male "played" Punch for each appearance.

But the most adequate demonstration of ignorance in a theatre review had to be her basis for evaluating the play. At no other time did she better confess her blundering incognizance than when she wrote, "There were funny moments in their first half, but these were vastly overshadowed by a generally tasteless production . . ." and then later complemented that with, "The second act of the play was a vast improvement. The good moments were far more common and the play became extremely funny."

It is a sad story indeed if Miss Berlin, as a representative of The Tech, defines a good play by how many "funny moments" it has. Miss Berlin should not call herself a reviewer until she learns what a review is. Miss Berlin's only understandable comment was that the play was too dirty for her. Miss Berlin misleads the reader to believe that almost the entire

audience was as offended as she was. I hardly think the audience would agree with Miss Berlin, being as they gave the Mime troupe a two minute standing ovation.

I hope that I have somewhat cleared the air of Miss Berlin's misleading ideas and I recommend to anyone who is further interested (perhaps even Miss Berlin) to read a much more accurate review by Larry Stark in Boston After Dark.

Marc Covitt '71

(Ed. note: Without rebuttal, but in fairness to Miss Berlin, we would direct the reader to some reviews which panned the performance — the Harvard Crimson, and The Boston Globe. We also note that some members of the audience were disgusted enough to leave the theatre. One bit of fall-out from Miss Berlin's review, Mr. Covitt has offered his services to The Tech—which we have accepted.)

MIT HIGH

To the Editor:

I would like to congratulate Professor Lettvin and the five seniors who are working so diligently on behalf of their proposed MIT HIGH. It is not often that such an overwhelming expression of interest in helping the Cambridge community is aroused on this campus. If all goes well, the MIT HIGH would begin in September 1969, a long way off.

I would like to invite students who will not be at MIT for the inception of this program, or anyone else who is sufficiently excited by the idea, to begin teaching a Cambridge youth NOW, one who might very well be the first student at the MIT HIGH. There are already 150 people tutoring in the Social Service Committee projects in Cambridge, why not join them?

Stephen E. Straus
President of SSC, x2894

Police problem

To the Editor:

I suggest that the MIT police be further instructed in principles of handling a student crowd.

The following incident arose at a main door to the Kresge auditorium at about 1:00 pm Monday

noon. I write from the standpoint of one of the 200 or so students listening to the speeches from the foyer outside the auditorium.

By about 12:02 the auditorium was filled, and, naturally, no further persons were allowed to enter.

However, by 1:00 at least one hundred persons had exited the auditorium, and one lady said "Why are all you standing up out here, there are about a hundred seats inside?"

Several students orderly asked the MIT policeman (badge #10) who was guarding the door if they could enter to fill the empty seats. He refused. Then about 75 more people exited, and people thereafter continued to exit 5 or 6 at a time until the end of the meeting. At no time was anyone else allowed to enter the auditorium. This was about the time of the question-answer session and the showing of the slides and a number of people were anxious to enter the auditorium.

The officer was clearly wrong. The students should have been allowed to occupy the empty seats within the auditorium. The officer's reply was "I have my orders, I ain't allowed to let anyone in."

On reflection one has sympathy for the officer who was unfortunately taught to follow orders and not to think, even when the situation under which the orders were given, becomes changed.

The situation was poorly handled, and the situation was potentially explosive. And the students showed sufficiently more gravity than did the officer—which is as it should have been.

But, that may not be the case next time. Let's keep MIT's non-violent record clear. The MIT police must be upgraded. A meeting characterized by reason and restraint, such as Monday's meeting, could easily have erupted into violence at that door. There was talk of 'storming the door.' A wise officer could have prevented such sentiment.

William Knight,
(special student, dept. political science)

(Ed. note: Copies of this letter were sent to Prof. Rosenblith, President Howard Johnson, and Prof. Eden.)

footnotes*

by Michael Warren

108. Burton House residents celebrated the second anniversary of the famed New England blackout of Nov. 9, 1965. How, one might ask, is a blackout celebrated? Precisely at 5:23 pm Thursday, Nov. 9, all of the power went out in Burton. Fortunately, the power was restored within half an hour. Admittedly, half an hour is a long time to be without power, but this is certainly an improvement over the last two years. Two years ago, the New England blackout doused the Burton lights for the entire evening. Last year, celebration of the first anniversary of the blackout caused darkness for well over an hour.

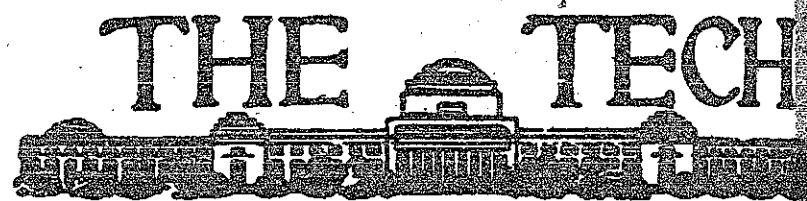
109. The upcoming UAP elections have taken a sharp turn in the past week. For most of this term, the political observers imagined that the race would pit Mark Mathis, President of the Junior Class, against Bruce Enders, FinBoard member and co-worker with Mathis on JP, against a flurry of minor candidates. Now, it appears that Mathis will be content to run for Senior Class President, leaving Enders virtually unopposed in the UAP race. It seems likely

that a greater number of candidates will arise to oppose him, but none of them should have the political machinery threaten him.

110. Alpha Phi Omega "Ugliest Man on Campus" test has gathered enough excitement to make this year's campaign the most profitable ever. This enthusiasm has spread to the Boston page The Record American ran a page pictorial spread on contest with candidates Krugman '69, John Salerno, and Peter Wulkan '68 feature.

111. Wellesley College permits its dorms to institute parietal hours on an individual dormitory basis. Any dorm whose residents favor parietal by a 3/4 vote, will permit the dorms until 10 pm during the week and until 1 am on weekends. When one mother explained the rule to her girls, she stumbled into explanation of enforcement: "We'll ring a bell at five minutes of the hour, to tell the when to withdraw."

The hall convulsed with laughter for between five and ten minutes, before the embarrassed old lady could continue explanation.



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Front page photo of Charles by Dave Simansky

29 DAYS UNTIL BEETHOVEN'S BIRTHDAY

PEANUTS

HI, PAL...WELCOME TO MY TEAM...LET ME FILL YOU IN ON A FEW THINGS...

I'M A GREAT BELIEVER IN WINTER CONDITIONING! EVERY DAY BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT SPRING, IT'S GOING TO BE RUN, RUN, RUN, RUN...

SO LET'S GET GOING!

I DON'T KNOW...HE MAY BE A GOOD PLAYER, AND I'M GLAD I HAVE HIM ON MY TEAM, BUT I STILL SAY HE'S THE FUNNIEST LOOKING KID I'VE EVER SEEN!