

Avatar compromises; Can sell in Cambridge

By Dean Koller

Last Tuesday, three months after the underground newspaper, Avatar, first met with pressure from the mayor and city councilors, an agreement was reached with the city of Cambridge. In the future, each issue will be judged individually to determine whether the city will prosecute.

In addition, no Avatar salesmen will be arrested or hindered in selling the newspaper. Cambridge police have been instructed merely to take the names and addresses of salesmen, and if the issue should be judged obscene at a later date, the salesmen will receive a summons to appear in court for a ruling on the alleged obscenity of the issue in question.

War on Cambridge

Over the past months, Cambridge police have made over forty arrests of Avatar salesmen on charges of "selling obscene, printed newspapers," "selling indecent, obscene, and impure ma-

terial which tends to corrupt the morals of youth," and "selling newspapers without a permit." Some time after the "harassment" began, Avatar's lawyers filed an injunction for which Cambridge subsequently filed a motion to have it thrown out. As arrests continued, editors of the newspaper came to realize that

unless a new ruling came forth in the near future both the paper and the Fort Hill community which puts out Avatar and depends on it for income would soon be in drastic financial trouble. Punning a famous quote by Mayor Hayes, Avatar announced on Uncle T's Freedom Machine show

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Inscomm speaks on Residence Week

(The following is an excerpt of a statement issued from the office of the Undergraduate Association President.)

Since many students do not understand the recent Institute Committee actions concerning Residence Week, it appears necessary for Inscomm to clearly outline what has actually transpired.

The two motions concerning Residence Week imply neither that Inscomm plans to run the Week nor that there shall be a "dormitory rush" this fall. Furthermore, these actions were not sudden, but rather resulted after a year of discussions among the members of the Dormitory Council, the Interfraternity Conference, and the Institute Committee.

The motions were designed to resolve specific misunderstandings which in the past have led to antagonisms and to ensure that those actions agreed to be in the best interests of the freshmen be taken.

The exact nature and intent of the motions are as follows:

MOTION I: The Institute Committee recommends that upperclass dormitory residents be allowed to move into their rooms by Friday of Rush Week. (Passed: 12-6-2).

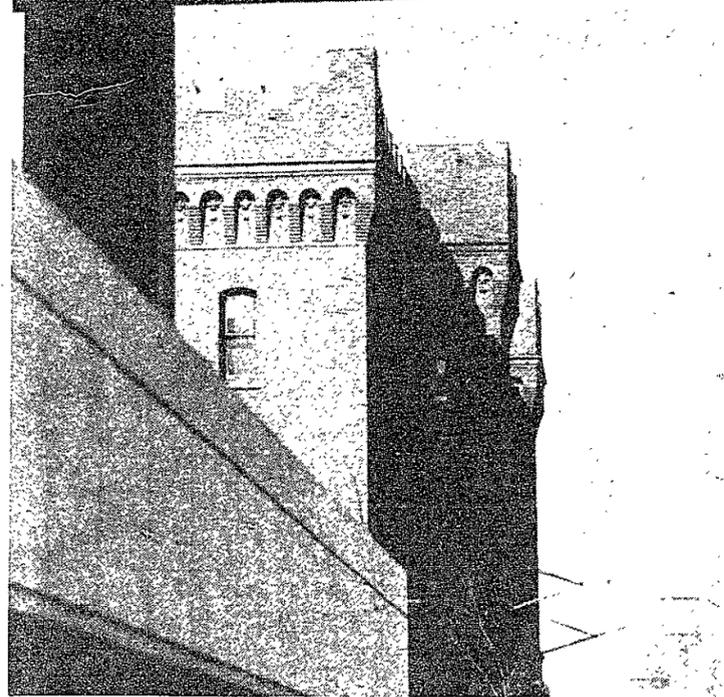
To allow the freshmen an opportunity to examine as realistically as possible all the options available to them concerning living accommodations at MIT, upperclass residents of dormitories should be present to discuss with freshmen the various facets of dormitory life.

MOTION II: The week beginning two Fridays before Registration Day shall be called Residence Week. The UAP shall send out a letter inviting each freshman to Residence Week and informing him that there will be a pre-Residence Week meeting. This meeting will be the first that the freshmen as a group attend. Speakers will include representatives of the fraternity and dormitory systems. (Passed: 11-3-0).

This motion includes three directives from the Institute Committee: 1) Rush Week shall be renamed Residence Week.

2) The UAP, on behalf of the student body, shall invite all freshmen to attend Residence Week

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Vol. 88, No. 6 Cambridge, Mass., Friday, Feb. 23, 1968 5c

Letvvin at Baker

Seminar probes pot use

By Bob Dennis

Marijuana is much less harmful than the inordinately harsh laws forbidding its possession would suggest; nevertheless, it should not and cannot be freely permitted as a device to escape from the harsh realities of life. This seemed to be the dominant theme last Thursday night as prominent men from three different facts of MIT led a frank and stimulating seminar on the various aspects of marijuana for a large gathering at Baker House.

The leaders were Dr. Jerome Letvvin, MIT's popular professor and television personality; Dr. Joseph H. Brenner of the psychiatry staff; and William Speer, Associate Dean for Student Counseling.

"It's your problem"

Dean Speer opened the session by declaring that the Dean's Office does not consider pot to be one of its problems. "It's your problem," he told the gathering. Urging self-control on the part of the students, he warned them to carefully consider the implications to the Institute as well as to themselves. He referred to the recent crackdown on a Long Island campus as a possible consequence that hopefully can be avoided here.

Professor Letvvin, appearing in his accustomed dishevelment, asserted that marijuana is less harmful than liquor and wryly added that if one were to visit the faculty club late at night, he would notice that "liquor ain't too good either." Nevertheless, he said that students should not regularly intoxicate themselves to escape from the rigors and frustrations of our society. And with pot, its only distortion is its illegality. Letvvin advised the students to consider their responsibility to others in such matters.

Moral question

Dr. Brenner amplified this view as he discussed the oft-heard complaint that the marijuana laws conflict with man's "pursuit of happiness." While he believes the issue is surely a tenable one, he discouraged using the argument

to rationalize the escape from some of the necessary but distasteful tasks of life.

Professor Letvvin interjected that much of the use of marijuana has been due to the "profound distraction" of a constant "advertising campaign" in the press and media. He added that it was not good that our generation "turns on" so easily and often.

"Why not take a day off?"

Dr. Brenner, adopting the theme of a typical marijuana user, thus questioned Prof. Letvvin. "Why not indulge in a titillation of the senses for a time?"

Prof. Letvvin quickly countered that such an excuse was a "corrupt ideal." The memory of pot's experience often compels one to continue taking it and many times changes one's system of values.

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Statements of UAP candidates

Bruce Enders



At present Inscomm places its emphasis on the administrative subcommittees which play a vital role in the activities structure, but do not affect a considerable part of the student body. What can the UAP and Inscomm do which would be meaningful to every student?

Presently every student is touched by student government in three areas: educational policy, the physical environment, and campus events. It is in these areas that the real potential for progress lies.

Educational policy

I believe that the pass-fail system presently available only to seniors should be extended to the lower classes. Upperclass studies in areas of modern interest should be encouraged by a system of humanities seminars in living groups. As UAP I would work with SCEP toward an improvement of the advisory system through training or orientation of MIT's advisors. I hold that a system informing eligible upperclassmen of graduate aid for which they qualify should

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Maria Kivisild

Student government is for students.

But how much do you know about what Inscomm does or SCEP or SCEC? Do the activities of these groups seem remote from you?

Does student government seem like a closed group of people who once a year bother you with issues that don't have any meaning for you? Does it provide you with an opportunity to do what you want to do, or does it set up obstacles like elections to select the more "qualified" to do important jobs? Does student government deal directly with your needs in activities, living conditions, and academic policy? Does it solicit your opinion or funnel it through polls, presenting a poorly correlated consensus to the administration at their bidding that never gets anywhere?

I have served on SCE originating and running the contest that resulted in 7-102, and seeing it through over the summer; helping set up the imminent Gripe Week; persuading professors to use fresher approaches in teaching methods; I have designed a physics lounge for undergraduates

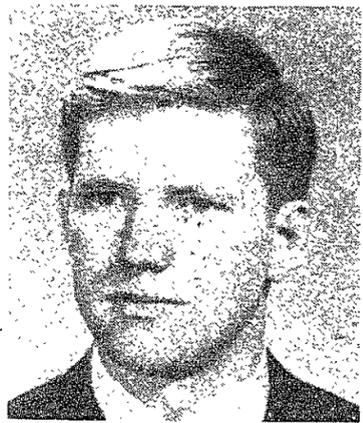


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Ed Seykota

(Ed. note: The following is reprinted from the Feb. 13 issue of "The Tech" at the candidate's request.)

Seykota wants people to take a new look at the functions of student government and to realize that many of these functions are being compromised. Student government, he says, provides an economical secretarial service for the MIT student community. Student government offers a chance to meet other people and a chance to learn the responsibilities of running a project. It allows students to gain visibility and recog-



nition and serves as a mechanism for the conveyance of student government gives an "altruistic sense of satisfaction."

Special Committees

But these functions, Seykota believes, are not realizing their full potential. A student heading a special project (e.g. Open House, Spring Weekend, etc.) may or may not learn responsibility because he is left too much on his own. Seykota wants these heads to be required to report to Inscomm and the faculty. There is too little

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Jim Smith



In the course of this year's campaign, one theme has come repeatedly to the fore: that of the relevance of student government to the students. We all agree that such relevance is lacking because Inscomm is administrative rather than policy oriented.

Unfortunately, reshuffling of the bureaucracy can not alone remedy the situation. What is needed is a UAP who is himself involved in the issues rather than in subcommittee chairmen reporting bi-weekly according to Robert's Rules of Order. The idea put forward by an opponent of mine to place the SCEP, SCE, and a lecture series chairman on Execomm shows such a bureaucratic rather than political approach to the issues and shows dependence upon committees. A political leader of Inscomm (which we lack currently) would deal with individuals according to specific issues, rather than setting up a fixed bureaucracy of five to deal with all issues.

Beyond this, I will not outline my specific platform, since it has al-

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Activities Council chairman, secretary, treasurer, and four members-at-large will be elected Thursday at 8:15 pm in W20-400. Candidates must sign up for interviews in W20-401 by 5 pm today. Interviews for chairman will be held Thursday at 5 pm. All other interviews will be Tuesday at 7 pm. All undergraduate members of activities within the Association of Student Activities are eligible for any AEB position.