MIT develops braille printer; evaluation set

By Bert Halstead

The Sensory AIDS Evaluation and Development Center (SAEDC) at MIT has developed a high-speed braille embosser (above), and is now sending several of them out in the field for evaluation. The Center hopes that the prototypes will generate some interest in commercial production of the braille embosser.

There are currently six Braille embossers out in on-the-job situations. One of these is at the Perkins School for the Blind, where it is attached to a telegraph which is connected to MIT's computing system. The students can type information in, and have the computer's response come back in braille. In addition, the students can use it to prepare tests in braille for their teachers, and the teachers can use it to provide material in braille for their students.

Elieh Sirowitz

WPIL, channel 22 in Springfield, Mass., also has a Braille printer to prepare wire service news copy for one of their announcers, who is blind. Various Braille embossers are serving as computer terminals for the government, Congress, Boston, Canada, and this country. Mr. Vito A. Proscia, director of SAEDC, says that these demonstrations are designed to show that it can be done.

By Storm Kaufman

The MIT Environmental Laboratory, dependent upon the interest of those in the MIT community, will hold a seminar open to all to discuss its projects on Friday, October 8 in room 9-150 from 10 to 11 a.m.

Representatives from each of the four current Environmental Laboratory (E-Lab) undertakings will summarize their work. Discussion will follow.

E-Lab projects

Recently concluded is the study by Professor Emeritus Hoyt Hotel and Assistant Professor Jack B. Howard on "The New Energy Technology." Their massive report, hopefully to be published soon, is the result of more than six months of extensive travel during which every type of power installation was visited, including environmental effects, as an assessment of the new technology, and new energy re¬sources for the future were considered.

Another international project at MIT is the "Study of Man's Impact on Climate" (SMIC), held in Stockholm, Sweden this July under the direction of Professor Carroll L. Wilson of the Sloan School and Professor William H. Matthews.

An effort to "do our best to solve our energy problems," according to an Energy Technology Project head¬ed by Professor Michael S. Bazemore involved a great deal of travel as a serious effort was made to organize a European universal cooperative program to work on environmental problems which, of course, recognize no national boundaries.

Another international project is the "Study of Critical Environmental Problems (SCEP)" (see section 1 SMIC), which was a three-week effort to develop a consensus (Please turn to page 3).

Morrison: relevant physics?

By Ira Giguere

"The world is what we study, and the meaning of 'man' are in the world." Professor of Physics Philip Morrison, speaking on education in the field of physics, chose to start with the concept of relevance as it has become extraneous to modern universities.

Noting that he was "not at all for relevance," Morrison argued that physics should aim at a sort of "relevance at a remove" from the immediate problems of the world.

Further, he suggested that physics teachers should work to explain the physics "as a part of the culture of human ideas." In "Natural Philosophy": "a tight combination of experiment and theory" apart from the analysis of words, for which science defines what physics and disciplines can do.

Admitting that MIT was not the best example to examine—"we have had a lot of fissures in the wall," Morrison has made a few more fissures in some part of the wall for "this is a specialized university." Morrison seemed to focus his address on the issue of competition with the non-physics.

Several hundred students, faculty, and staff joined an oblique sit-in on the Great Court last Friday afternoon. The non-violent reception was invited by the Inaugural Events Committee in honor of incoming President Jerry Wiesner and Chancellor Paul Gray. Above: VP Constantine Simonides savors champagne doted out by undergraduate dining staffs.

By Bruce Martin

Stephen D. Krasner '70, convicted of building the battering ram used to break down President Howard Johnson's door in January 1970, has lost a final appeal and will be returned to jail this week.

Krasner was found guilty of "manufacturing a burglarious instrument for the purpose of committing burglary or any other crime" - in Middlesex County Superior Court on April 6, 1971. Judge Henry H. Cluett, Jr. sentenced him to one year in Billerica Correctional Institution, and he served 16 days there before being released on a stay appeal to the Massachusetts Supreme Court.

Krasner's attorney, Norman Zalkind, filed briefs in June, requesting dismissal on grounds that there had been insufficient evidence of intent. The Supreme Court recessed for the summer, returned in September and handed down a decision last Friday: no new trial.

Sometimes this week Krasner will be ordered to report to Middlesex Superior Court, where a judge will remand him back to Billerica. At this time, however, the judge can reduce sentence and Zalkind maintains a hope in this of, on the grounds that the 16 days served plus the one from the stay, constitute sufficient punishment for the crime.

The defense's reaction echoed a similar reversal in Krasner's case. The first judge to receive the transcript, which was handed down by a secret grand jury in January 1971, dismissed it as inapplicable to Krasner's alleged offense. However, upon a state law panel had only one month previous, the DA also moved for a new automatic appeal to the State Supreme Court, which reinstated the case.

Krasner was first notified of the charge against him when plainclothesmen arrested him at the Amory on February 3, 1971, while he was leafleting for the John F. Kennedy presidential campaign.

For rebates not to go up. We are in a unique position, The jury deliberated 35 minutes before returning a guilty verdict.

Krasner faced a possible ten-year sentence, but the prosecution only asked for a year. Cluett concurred.

If Krasner is ordered back to Billerica for his full sentence, he will be eligible for parole in six months, according to the parole board.

"But we are in a unique position," Fitts said. "If we marked everything down just over cost, we would have the IRS on our tail all the time. We are a nonprofit organization, and as much pay no taxes, while competing with profit-making organizations which do. Our only purpose is to serve the community. We have to be careful. Also, when looking at Coop prices, one should keep the rebate in mind."

When asked about future earnings and rebates, and the increase, the 10% rebate, Fitts retorted, "It's not likely we will return to the 10% rebate. In the mid-60's, the IRS changed the rules, and we had to start paying taxes on sales to non-members. That was the immediate reason for the first 10% rebate. Now with rising costs, it will be very difficult to approach that level again. But I see no reason for rebates not to go up. We are in a good position. The Harvard store, less the 16 days, is 40% rebated. If we need more money, we are going to be able to get it."