By Paul Schindler

Dr. Peter Goldmark, inventor of the long-play record and father of EVR (Electronic Video Recording), is working on the concept of a "new rural society." The think tank involves the use of modern communicative technology to reduce the concentration of people in a small land area. Currently, 98% of the U.S. population occupies 10% of the land, a situation which aggravates many problems which America faces. There are proven correlations between crowding and violent crime, poor health, and bad educations. Experiments with rats have shown that even with unlimited air and food, a lack of spaciousness will increase the incidence of homosexuality, violence and general neurotic behaviour.

Goldmark, former head of CBS Laboratories, rejected a life as "chief scientist" of the labs in order to continue active work in many fields of scientific endeavor. In an address to the MIT-Harvard University Joint Center for Urban Studies, he outlined some of the details of the rural society proposal, which resulted from a National Academy of Engineering study done in 1968 by the President's Advisory Committee on Telecommunications.

Wholeheartedly favoring rural living in a national scale, Goldmark believes that many of the advantages of urban living could be maintained through proper use of technology. He stated that communications technology will permit business to expand into rural areas, and new inventions can improve the quality of life in those areas.

Department budgets ranged from $400,000 for City Planning to $4.9 million for Electrical Engineering in fiscal 1969. According to those budgets, and the accounting devices they utilized, Nutrition paid 67% of its 1,100 student body's salaries from research funds, while, at the bottom, Departments of Economics and Humanities could find only 4% of their professors' salaries. Electrical Engineering has been by far the most popular major, both graduate and undergraduate, for at least the last 21 years. Management, though, gained dramatically in popularity with graduates, surging from 33 students in 1949 to 393 in 1969, representing that year's 10% of the graduate students.

The Profife offers the concept of the "credit unit taught" as a meaningful method by which to consider the amount of MIT's graduates. Each department bears relative to the percentage of the student body enrolled in that department. If a twelfth subject is being taught to a class of ten students, 120 credit units are taught by the department. The School of Humanities and Social Sciences, with 9% of the student body, would have 12% of the total credit units. Engineering, with 38% of the student body, would have 42% of the total credit units. Science enrolments 26% of the student body but teach 35% of the total credit units. Humanities, with 38% of the student body, contributefrom 21% of the total credit units. Science enrolments 26% of the student body but teach 35% of the total credit units.

The sixth section of the Faculty Profile, which concerns their department affiliations, is broken down in terms of source of employment upon graduation: In 1970, 42% of students graduating with master's degrees remained in academia, either teaching, research, or combining their studies. About three quarters of these persons covered graduate students, 35% entered industry, 9% the military. 7% were foreign students who had returned home.

"Man is physiologically and psychologically programmed for the stresses and strains which exist from such living conditions..." as are found in cities, according to Goldmark. Rural life is not a panacea, but it's a start.