"Honeywell should listen"

(Continued from page 3) insurance companies charge people higher rates if they fly a lot or if they smoke, but charge a person the same, whether or not he uses a physician (e.g. a Christian Scientist or non-Christian Scientist). He explains, "It is not that the physicians are incompetent, it is that they do not always have enough information available to be effective. Technology can give them that information."

Medical knowledge is often available somewhere in a book, but not accessible to a doctor, especially one in a small town. He illustrates this by the problem of drug combinations. There is information somewhere about the effects of two drugs on each other - whether they will be disastrous if taken together, or whether they will counteract the effects of the individual drug. Unfortunately, at present, this information is not always within the reach of a physician. He does not hope for the replacement of physicians, since, "In some cases, people can be more effective, and sometimes can be cheaper than a computer."

Donovan has, for many students, become synonymous with 6.251. In teaching it, he employs many of his ideas about successful individuals. He believes that it is important to a person's future success to learn how to work with his colleagues. This idea is applied to his course, as he suggests that students "work with a buddy" while studying for tests or working out machine problems. He tries to teach what he calls "an approach to solving problems," as well as the concepts of algorithms, recursion, etc. 6.251 also includes specific applications: design of assemblies, loaders, and compilers.

Concerning specific types of companies to work for, Donovan does not advise students to work for, for example, with a straight electronics firm. Rather, a better bet would be a company applying the electronics to some inherent field, such as health care or environmental protection.

His outlook on the future of the world? "Bright," he says, because "the students we are teaching will make it a better world."