Tech enters computer age

(Continued from page 1) phototypesetter is simpler than the IBM typewriter where it was used before. Although the phototype machine has to be “smarter” than the IBM equipment, its brains are all electronic, while the IBM machinery depends on brute-force mechanical moving parts to make everything come out okay. Electronics are much more reliable, and much faster — 50 lines a minute, compared to 20 lines a minute on the IBM machines — than mechanical parts.

The typesetter phototypesetter was the biggest part of the equipment purchase, and the most important addition was the combination typesetter/television in the opposite corner — the Video-Display Editing Terminal (VDT). A VDT is simply a display tube and memory connected to a keyboard and some computer logic. Copy — articles, charts, tables, etc. — is typed at a typewriter-like machine, and the tape punch which encodes the letter after the editing tubes many VDT is fairly simple, compared to the IBM equipment. The UltraSystem is called an “editor,” it can no more spell correctly than it can wear a green eyeshade and smoke a smelly cigar.

But all the paper’s problems aren’t solved by the ICs and chips and wiring of the new equipment. The type machine has to be “smarter” and more legible, but the words that are typed still have to be produced by people. And although the UltraSystem is called an “editor,” it can no more spell correctly and fix grammar than it can wear a green eyeshade and smoke smelly cigars.

And the anxious crowds cluttering the shop yesterday found, to their chagrin, the perils of the modern age as copy came rolling out of the developer. The computer had hyphenated “springs” as “spr-inGs.”

Modern technology has caught up with The Tech (“Off-lead” was written by Mark Mankevsky and Mike McNamee.)

SOPHOMORES

The International Honors Program offers you the opportunity to spend your junior year going around the world with Hunter Smith (philosopher, St. Mary’s, Univ.), Victor Danner (Islamic, Indiana Univ.) and Robert Gross (anthropologist, Univ. of Mijas) in an 8-month inquiry into “Reality as Truth and Construct: East Asia, South Asia, West Asia/North Africa.”

Itinerary includes Japan, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Iran, Jerusalem, and Morocco. Students live with families. Full year’s credit offered by most universities. Interview: April 10-11, 10am-5pm, Harvard Motor House, Harvard Sq., Houston Smith, 864-5200.

The International School of America, 491-7687

Making spies out of friends

To the Editor:

These days, if you are a student from that poor little Chinese community, you better be really careful. The most important thing that you have to remember is not to take any pictures in so-called “free and public meetings.” If you do, then you might get into trouble. Some of the SXXX liberals might come over and surround you. They will probably show you some of their liberated muscles and sweetly ask you to give them your film. (They act as though they are the protectors of their self-deifying Chinese friends or political partners whose names are well known to the small Chinese community in Boston.) If you refuse their offer, they will kindly move the TV Camera in front of your face and pronounce to the general public that you are, most probably, a government spy.

Otherwise why should you be afraid to let them check your film? If you pass them your film in order to show your innocence, then you are really in deep trouble. The next morning when you wake up, you will find that the “freedom of the press” works really fast. You will most probably see your name appeared in the front page of the school newspaper as a secret government spy without proof. The following week you might find that the unisolated front of SXXX liberals, Taiwanese independent daydreamers and Maoist left-wing terrorists are Chinese students from Hong Kong are all in action. They will flood news media with articles to accuse you for spying action.

If you still could not convince yourself that you are a spy, they will help you. They will select very carefully a couple of pictures which you have taken in the public meeting and show it on TV without your consent as evidence of your spying. The SXXX people will use their local influence and the other two will swiftly report to their headquarters. Few days later, worldwide newspapers from Boston to Hong Kong will report this twisted story about you. Then, your image as a spy will finally be well established through their accusations. I am sorry if you feel sad about this situation, but you have to understand this is nothing personal. It is just a game of political power play. Can you see that they are smiling now?

My friend, who has been accused as a spy during the SACC open forum is one of my best friends in Ocean Engineering for the past two years. Photography is always his favorite hobby. He took his camera to SACC forum because he was going to leave for home a couple of days later, and he wanted to take some pictures for souvenirs.

I feel very sorry that he has been dragged into this unfortunate incident. He is a simple and honest man and he is practically no match with those very experienced semi-professional student politicians.

He, to my knowledge, has never worked as an instructor for any R.O.C. agency.

He is a patriotic Navy officer. He is presently serving at R.O.C. Navy. His love towards his Country and people won my respect.

It is very unfair to charge somebody as a spy without solid evidence. The misuse of freedom of speech and press could be proved. We are afraid to see the revival of McCarthy spirit from what are so-called liberal student groups in MIT. We want justice for our friend.

Name withheld by request

April 7, 1976