

in the news

INSIDE

Ralph Bakshi's latest brainchild, *Wizards*, an animated look into the far-distant future, held great promise but many aspects were disappointing.

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Spring is here with or without the cooperation of the weather. The best evidence is baseball's annual spring training program, which is just getting under way. Foul Shots explores this year's version of the event.

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UPDATE

Frank Press, Head of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, is currently awaiting final security clearance on his appointment as Science Adviser to President Carter. Press, who is spending four days a week in Washington preparing for the job, told *The Tech* that, when and if the position is offered to him he "would accept it."

LOCAL

Representative Lois Pines (D-Newton) is gaining support in her efforts to pass a bill through the Massachusetts Legislature limiting the admissibility of evidence in rape trials which concerns the victim's past sexual history and other potentially humiliating facts, *The Boston Globe* said yesterday.

NATION

Nearly 5,000 University of Hawaii students participated Saturday in a march on the Hawaii State Capitol in protest of a proposed 13 per cent budget cut for the university.

With the end of the Vietnam conflict, anti-war feelings have subsided and Army ROTC enrollment is up again, says Major General Charles C. Rogers, deputy chief of staff for ROTC. Enrollment figures, which dropped from 177,000 to 33,000 during the Vietnam era, have risen to 55,000 this year and are expected to continue climbing.

The National Safety Council has released statistics showing that the rate of travel accidents in 1976 — 34 people killed per billion miles of travel — was the lowest in recorded history. The drastic reduction in deaths has been attributed to the 55 mph speed limit.

Life insurance agents deceptive

By Bob Wasserman

Life insurance salesmen have employed unethical methods and misrepresentation in their efforts to sell policies to graduating seniors.

Complaints have been received by the office of the Dean for Student Affairs, primarily from members of the class of 1977.

Lisa Broderick, secretary to Dean for Student Affairs Carola Eisenberg, receives most of the

complaints from students concerning life insurance. She said the main complaint is about telephone harassment; some companies call four or five times. The agents tell a student that they received his name from a "friend," but either they refuse to give the name or use one without any authorization.

Several students have complained about claims from companies that they were the sole in-

surance agency authorized to operate on campus. According to Broderick, an agent was asked to leave Lobby 7 by Campus Patrol last fall after a number of complaints of soliciting.

Dean Kenneth C. Browning '66 asserted it was "simply not true" that any one company was solely authorized. Browning noted that soliciting is prohibited on campus, and that this rule is especially enforced in dormitories.

MIT Insurance Officer Kimball Valentine said he doubts any one life insurance company is solely authorized by MIT or has ever been. He recalled, however, that twenty years ago certain companies were sanctioned by the Institute. These companies offered policies with dividends set payable to MIT, as gifts from graduates. The Alumni Association or a graduating class sponsored these plans, Valentine added, and policies from several companies were always offered concurrently.

Robert J. Holden, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, has dealt with the life insurance problem extensively in the past year. Holden said a college student's senior year is the time to begin thinking about the future, and insurance agents take advantage of this fact.

Holden said "life insurance is sold, not bought," which explains the apparent aggressiveness of the salesmen. He concluded that although there are complaints every year about these practices, it is hard to evaluate the general ethics of insurance salesmen due to a "lack of positive feedback" re-

ceived from students.

According to an investigation by Consumer's Union, "the last thing most college students need is life insurance." This report was issued in the March 1977 issue of *Consumer Reports*. An analysis of several companies and their policies aimed at college students concluded that these policies were too small, too costly, and generally the wrong type for the college graduate.

Consumer Reports stated that insurance companies stress smaller, whole-life policies, which bring higher profits to the companies, rather than term policies which bring higher premiums to the buyer and leave him more insured.

The magazine further recommends term and whole-life policies offered in the general market to the college student over these special college plans.

Browning suggested that an open forum on insurance, presenting unbiased information on life insurance policies for graduating seniors, be initiated by the Undergraduate Association or the Senior Class. He also suggested that a pamphlet investigating life insurance be published.

Valentine said a lesson could be learned by seniors in regard to the selling of life insurance: overzealous buying and selling practices are a "fact of life" and the graduate will encounter these practices many times in his life. Valentine concluded that life insurance is vital and universal in today's world, and he hoped these complaints "don't sour people away from life insurance."



Chuck Irwin

Insurance Officer Kimball Valentine reports that no company is solely authorized to sell life insurance on campus. Several companies falsely claimed this privilege when they tried to sell insurance to seniors, according to the Dean's Office.

Update

Second Asinari murder suspect captured

By Glenn Brownstein

A nationwide manhunt for a primary suspect in the murder of an MIT junior two years ago ended Friday with the arrest of John Blodgett in Houston by FBI agents.

Blodgett, 25, formerly of Methuen, Mass., is one of two men indicted by a Suffolk County Grand Jury in March, 1975, for the brutal slaying of John A. Asinari '76, a 20-year old pre-medical student.

The other suspect, Robert Shaughnessey, 22, of South

Boston, committed suicide by hanging himself in Charles Street Jail on Nov. 11, 1975.

Asinari died early on the morning of March 22, 1975, of injuries received when he and a companion, Robert Moses '75, were attacked by four men with whom they were riding. Moses, while seriously injured, recovered from the assault.

According to an account Moses gave police while recovering, he and Asinari were trying to hitchhike across Harvard Bridge late Friday night, March

21, and were picked up by four men driving a gray sedan.

The students were taken on a ride through Everett, Chelsea, and the South End, during which they were robbed of their wallets, shot, and stabbed. When the vehicle finally stopped in South Boston, Asinari opened the door and pushed Moses out, struggling after him.

One of the men in the car chased Asinari and struck him over the head with a tire iron, the fatal blow according to medical examiners. Moses was saved by South Boston residents, who called police upon hearing the students' cries for help.

Suffolk District Attorney Garrett Byrne, who learned of Blod-

gett's arrest Friday, said that Blodgett was arraigned as a fugitive in Houston yesterday. The district attorney's office is now seeking return of the suspect to Boston, *The Boston Globe* reported Saturday.

According to Byrne, Blodgett was arrested two weeks ago by Houston police on a concealed weapon charge, and then released from custody pending examination of the suspect's fingerprints by the FBI.

Upon learning of the flight warrant outstanding from Massachusetts, FBI agents placed Blodgett in custody Friday.

Blodgett had reportedly disappeared from his Methuen home the day after the Asinari slaying.

Five Writing instructors send faculty a statement

By David B. Koretz

Five members of the Writing Program staff who claim to have been fired by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences have drawn up a position paper stating their case.

The eight-page document, written by Sanford K-ye, Joseph Brown, and three instructors, will be distributed to 1,200 members of the Institute's faculty and staff this week.

Besides detailing the chronology of events leading up to the present situation, the paper provides a background history of the Writing Program and outlines a proposal for the Program's future.

The authors of the paper contend that the *ad hoc* faculty eval-

uation committee, which was appointed by Harold J. Hanham, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, ignored, in structure and in practice, the favorable report of the Sivin Committee which evaluated the Writing Program last spring.

The writers of the document, besides Kaye and Brown, are Daniel Dehainut, Seth Racusen, and Stephen Reuys. Kaye told *The Tech* that the faculty members should receive the document before the end of the week.

Excerpts from the statement of position being mailed to all members of the faculty can be found on page 5.

Thomas Hill dead

By Mark James

Professor of Management Thomas M. Hill died Friday in the MIT infirmary. He was 62.

Hill was a member of the Alfred P. Sloan School of Management faculty for 35 years, and had been Associate Dean.

He was born in Bucksport, Maine, and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Maine. Hill did his graduate studies at Harvard University, and completed additional work at Stanford University.

After serving in the Armed Forces during World War II, Hill was a visiting professor in economics at Leeds University in

England, and was instrumental in founding the Indian Institute of Management in Calcutta.

The Winchester resident was co-author of a textbook, *Accounting — A Management Approach*.

Hill has taught 15.501 — Financial and Management Accounting — to undergraduates and the graduate course 15.516, Management Accounting and Control Systems.

Hill is survived by his wife Hil-dreth, a son, Thomas M. Jr., of Boston; a daughter, Joanna, now living in Winchester; and a brother, Marion F. Hill, of Bucksport, Maine.