

## You, too, can get a real MIT diploma

By Bob Wasserman

For all of you seniors who are not sure if you are really graduating from MIT, don't worry, because the Diploma Service Company has just the right thing for you. This company sells an inexpensive, nearly authentic diploma from almost all major universities, whether or not you graduated from that school.

The Diploma Service Company has offices in Marina del Rey, California, and in New York, and regularly advertises in the New York

**something else**

*Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and in other newspapers around the country. Their "basic" diploma costs \$10, with certain extras such as including the graduate's degree or major running a

little bit more.

Although not as portable as a Brass Rat, an MIT diploma could do wonders for your job opportunities. When you think about it, all you would have to do to impress many job interviewers is to bring your imitation diploma and spout off a few equations. Few employers are aware of the tell-tale scars that four years at Technology will inevitably create on an MIT grad's countenance, nor are they smart enough to read the little note on the back of your fake diploma. In this spot the Diploma Service's product reads "This is a reproduction from Diploma Service, Co. No school credit or degree status is granted or implied."

Universities themselves are beginning to catch on to Diploma Services, Co. Robert Houghton, a registrar at Stanford, recently sent away to this company requesting a diploma for a master's in economics. The company promptly sent him one, although it cost \$45. What's worse, there were several mistakes in the diploma: the president's signature was that of a later Stanford president, and one of the other signatures was from someone non-existent. Mr. Houghton, however, described the diploma as "very authentic looking." Houghton had previously earned only a Stanford A.B., and would not comment on his possible advancement at Stanford due to the new circumstances.

Nor is Stanford the only college lucky enough to be represented by the handiworks of the Diploma Service Company. William Hall, a University of Southern California registrar, recently called Marina del Rey to order a USC diploma for his wife. The company was quite obliging, realizing the importance of today's women and their new stature in society.

The State of California, however, is after the Diploma Service Company. The State Attorney General, who undoubtedly earned college and law degrees the hard way, has pressed charges against the company. California is seeking injunctions against the sale of the fake diplomas, and the Diploma Service Company could receive fines of nearly \$2,500 for each diploma sold. Absorbing this additional cost, however, would still make the fictional diplomas competitive to the ones offered by most American institutions.

Several Eastern Universities told the *Chronicle of Higher Education* that they had heard of these type of false diplomas, but had not seen one in the flesh (or parchment). Princeton University was not concerned with the false impressions these diplomas might have, for they insisted that it's easy to recognize a real Princeton man. Harvard University was also unconcerned by the Diploma Service's offerings, due to the future impact of their recently approved core curriculum. The Harvard officials reasoned that Harvard grads will be so well educated in the future, due to the new degree requirements, that any imposter will be easily detectable.

So if academic life at MIT gets you down once in a while, don't be discouraged, because the Diploma Service Company is here to help you. MIT is more than a college education, it is an experience, and most of us experience the real MIT the minute we get here. A diploma is just a piece of paper, and if you don't feeling like doing that senior thesis or passing that last departmental requirement, you deserve an MIT degree anyway. After all, ninety percent is still an A, isn't it?

## Reader not ready for Teddy

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the recent editorial entitled "Is Teddy ready for the big one?". I think that this editorial would have been better titled "Are you ready for the big one?"

Yes it is true that Ted Kennedy is way ahead of the polls as a favorable runner in the upcoming 1980 presidential election, and it is due to editorials across the country that we are reading of a glorification of Ted Kennedy and how hand-in-hand he is with President Carter, and how determined he is to establish a national health insurance plan, and how good he is to our Mexican [*sic*] neighbours to allow them back their canal zone. It is however unfortunate that so many people think that "the American public is still yearning for this type of leadership and Edward Kennedy just might be the best choice for the next chief executive."

If one takes a really close look at what Senator Kennedy is up to these days, one might be surprised at his nonliberal position and slow shift to slightly right of

center. Senator Kennedy along with [Senator] Strom Thurmond [R. S. Carolina] last year pushed through the Senate what is fondly called the "Notorious S.I." This is a watered down version of a bill initiated in post-Watergate days by the Nixon-Mitchell axis and completely re-vamps the Federal criminal code. It has since been restyled and passed by the Senate by a close vote as S. 1437. It is now under review in a Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and will be voted on in the House as H.R. 6869. H.R. 6869 does all of the following:

- encourages the perpetration of wire-tapping
- places federal restrictions on labor in regards to strikes
- makes draft counselling illegal
- severely limits the right to hold a peaceful demonstration
- enables government prosecutors to question a person's sanity and commit them to "suitable facilities" without a trial (e.g. pre-trial detention)
- imposes new limits on freedom of speech and the press
- guarantees "spousal immunity"

in cases of rape -states that no demonstrations may take place within 100 yds. of a federal building.

Etc, etc. It is not difficult to see that these clauses are essentially an attack on the Bill of Rights. Kennedy and [Senator] McLellan [D. Arkansas] are now the prime proponents of this bill. The strength of a democratic nation is not built on the close supervision and monitoring of its people. Perhaps if we are ready for the big one, we are getting ready for a police state.

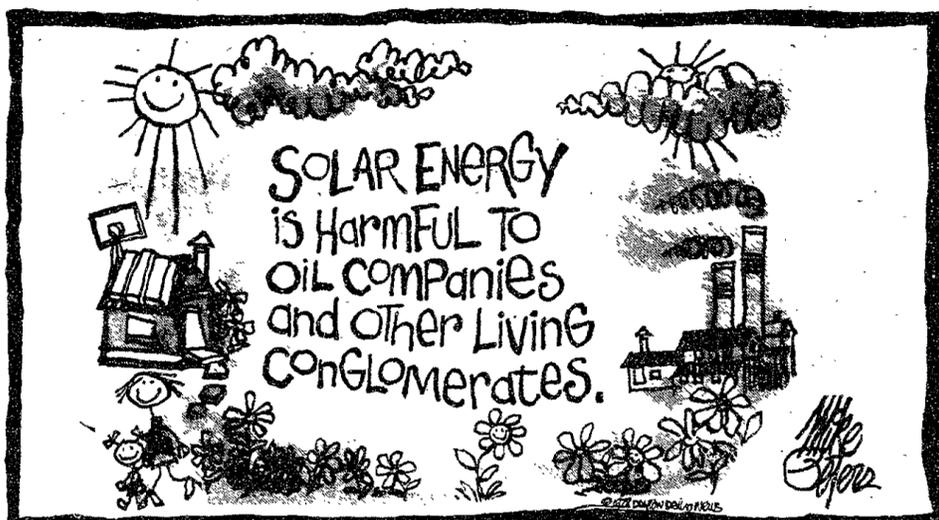
Name withheld on request

## Watch your bare feet at MIT

To the Editor:

Many MIT students have been walking barefooted. For the good of their health, they should stop. There are a lot of tacks, broken glass and even razor blades on the streets and floors. Anyone without shoes is risking serious injury.

Lance Jayne G



## feedback

## Iranians wary of photographs

To the Editor:

We are writing this letter as organizers of the meeting in defense of Iranian political prisoners which was held April 24. We wish to respond to the letter from Mr. Douglas Birdwell, a photographer for *The Tech*, which appeared in the April 28 issue of *The Tech*. In this letter, Birdwell complained that he was physically threatened for taking pictures at the meeting.

We wish to make clear that the committee which organized the meeting, the Committee for Artistic and Intellectual Freedom in Iran (CAIFI) did not make any threats whatsoever against Mr. Birdwell.

At the same time, we wish to point out that there is a difference between a newspaper publicizing the speaker, speeches and political points presented at a public meeting and publicizing information about who attends the meeting. Quite simply, it is dangerous for Iranian students to attend protest meetings against the Shah of Iran. There is political repression in Iran. The Shah's secret police, SAVAK, is among the most notoriously brutal police forces in the world. And the Shah himself has openly acknowledged that SAVAK agents operate widely in the US with the complete cooperation of the American authorities. Amnesty International and many others have cited the Shah's regime for

torture, intimidation and violations of human rights on a massive scale. And, unfortunately, the American government not only backs the Shah but cooperates fully in his surveillance and harassment of Iranian students in the US. There have even been attempts to deport Iranian students for their anti-Shah activities. Surely Mr. Birdwell can see that Iranian students are justified in

worrying about being publicly identified as opponents of the Shah. CAIFI supports the right of any Iranian student to not be photographed at anti-Shah events if they choose so. The real issue here is not Mr. Birdwell's right to take pictures but the right of Iranian students to protest repression in their country without fear for their lives.

Firouz Farzinpour

**The Tech**

David A. Schaller '78 — Chairman  
Robert Wasserman '80 — Editor-in-Chief  
Steven F. Frann '80 — Managing Editor  
Leroy A. Lindquist '79 — Business Manager  
Volume 98, Number 25  
Tuesday, May 16, 1978

### NEWS DEPARTMENT

**News Editors:** Laurence Duffy '81, Jordana Hollander '81; **Associate News Editors:** Kenneth Hamilton '81, Michael Ries '79; **Artists:** David Copeland '81, Vince Dovydaitis '81; **Staff:** Patrick Barron '78, David Potter '78, Henry Fiorentini '79, Margot Tsakonas '79, George Caan '80, William Cimino '80, Barbara Hill '80, Gordon Hunter '80, Kent Pitman '80, Brian Aiello '81, Richmond Cohen '81, John Hayden '81, Michael Heaney '81, Wendy Myers '81, Martin Prince '81, Lynn Radlauer '81, Steven Schad '81, Michael Taviss '81, Elias Towe '81, Stephen Vaughn '80, Paul Weber '81.

### PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

**Night Editors:** Pandora Berman '80, Benson Margulies '81, Eric Sklar '81; **Production Manager:** Rebecca L. Waring '79; **Typists:** Susan Frank '78, Chi-Dai C. Tsai; **Staff:** Michael Brzustowicz '79, Marlon Weiss '80, Matt Dahl '81, Glenn Katz '81, Stephen Peckiconis '81, Shawn Wilson '81, Michael Mellone.

### PHOTOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

**Photo Editor:** John Grunfeld '80; **Associate Photo Editor:** Charles Irwin '80; **Staff:** Rob Mitchell '78, Monty Solomon '78, Randy Fahey '79, Seth D. Alford '80, Dale Senechal '81, Steven Solnick '81, Douglas Birdwell G.; **Photographic Consultant:** David Tenenbaum '75.

### SPORTS DEPARTMENT

**Sports Editors:** Tom Curtis '80, Gary Engelson '80; **Associate Sports Editors:** Bob Host '81, Robert Nathaniel '81; **Staff:** Helen Miyasaki '78, Charles Cox '79, Gregg Stave '79, Al Albin '81.

### ARTS DEPARTMENT

**Arts Editor:** Leigh J. Passman '81, David G. Shaw '81; **Staff:** Jim Walker '78, Clark Bisei '79, Bruce Nawrocki '79, Mark Childs '81, Steven Lazar '81, David McCall '81, Dennis McGrail '81, Kenneth Nordhauser '81, Bill Rathbone '81, Al Sanders '81, Daniel Togasaki '81.

### BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

**Advertising Manager:** Brenda L. Hambleton '79; **Accounts Receivable:** Kathy Dutrow '80; **Accounts Payable:** Wes Asbury '80; **Cash Receipts:** Marcia Grabow '79; **Circulation Manager:** John Love '80; **Circulation Staff:** Charles Funk '78, John Muggerridge '80.

### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Gordon Haff '79, William H. Harper '79, Drew Blakeman '80, Katy Gropp '80, Leonard H. Tower Jr., **Indexing Project Representative:** A. David Boccuti '79.

### SENIOR EDITORS

Kathy Hardis '78, Mark James '78, David B. Koretz '78, William Lasser '78, Mark Munkacsy '78, David H. Thompson '78.

Third class postage paid at Boston, MA. Non-Profit Org. Permit No. 59720. *The Tech* is published twice a week during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), daily during September Orientation, and once during the last week of July. Please send all correspondence to: P.O. Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139. Offices at Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA. Telephone: (617) 253-1541. ISSN 0148-9607. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. © 1978 The Tech