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news

## INSIDE

The Fall Blood Drive was not as successful as its organizers had hoped.

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A number of organizations are trying to shed light on world hunger problems. Many related events are forthcoming.

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Al Stewart brought his slickly produced show to Boston last week.

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## WEATHER

Mostly cloudy today with highs in the mid 50's. Some light showers are possible late in the day. Lows tonight in the low 40's. Clearing tomorrow somewhat; under partly sunny skies, highs in the upper 50's. High clouds coming in Wednesday night with lows in the low 40's, showers likely Thursday. Chance of rain 50 percent today and tonight, 30 percent tomorrow, 60 percent Thursday.

## EXCERPTS

To the Editor:

I would just like to comment on the present epidemic of geekishness which is pervading the ranks of freshmen here at the college. I should correct myself and say that this rare disease seems to have been an integral aspect of the class of '81 ever since it set foot in this once geek-free environment.

To document my accusation I cite the incredibly weak showing in their first bonfire building, and now their even weaker show in their second attempt.

Where is all their spirit? Most likely it's to be found in the stacks, or Kiewit [Computation Center], or the '02 room perhaps. I just don't know what to make of it all.

I challenge these geeks to show a little spirit and produce an 81 tier bonfire by Friday night. It would also be nice to see a few kegs and some spirit around their awaited creation each night. Until then I rest my case.

Jeff Boylan '79  
The Dartmouth

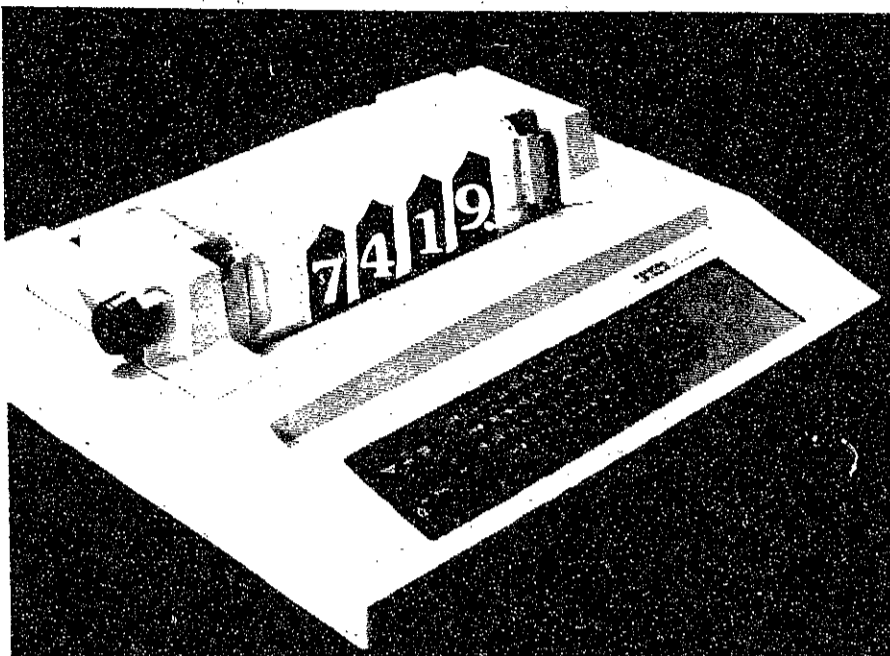
## Recent computer frauds increase

By Bruce Kaplan

Computer fraud is one of America's fastest growing and most lucrative types of crime. Within the last month, a computer expert has managed to steal \$10.2 million from a West Coast bank by abusing his consultant's status and breaking the bank's secret code. He had the Federal Reserve Bank transfer the money to an account in Switzerland.

This and other well-publicized crimes of a similar type are suspected to be only the tip of the iceberg of this new type of white collar crime. "This is something that's going to bother us a lot in the foreseeable future," says Dr. Joseph Weizenbaum, Professor of Computer Science at MIT. "Somebody had better know something about it."

The question arises as to what methods are being developed to detect and prevent these types of crimes. Specifically, what is MIT doing to prepare its computer science graduates to deal with this problem? "There is no subject [at MIT] where this forms part of the syllabus," added Prof. Weizenbaum. "I think MIT people might be better equipped to deal with the computer crimes than most people, in part, because they



Graphic by Benson Margulies

know a lot about computers and they're generally smart people."

Prof. Weizenbaum feels that a subject dealing with the topic is probably a good idea. Such a subject could be developed jointly by his department and the Sloan School of Management. "Computer security is damn near a field of its own. Certainly, a young person can plan to make a career out of computer security, which is just the other side of the coin from computer fraud." However,

there is no course here that deals with the topic.

While he doesn't know of any instance where MIT graduates have been involved in this sort of crime, Prof. Weizenbaum notes, "MIT students have been known in the past to respond to what they perceive to be challenges. For example, if it is asserted that a certain computer system at MIT is absolutely secure... then you can be sure that some students will be challenged by it, and will

at least attempt to crack the system." Regarding computer fraud, he states, "people too often perceive of it as a game."

The following are some of the major scandals that have been uncovered:

1) The Equity Funding Corporation of America: Facing bankruptcy in 1970, this insurance firm used a computer to systematically dupe reinsurance firms. Over a two year period, the computer maintained thousands of fake policies. Using statistical data describing such routine events as deaths, claims, and loans against policies, the company made windfall profits. Total of the scam before it was uncovered: over two billion dollars.

2) Over a six year period, an accountant for a fruit and vegetable wholesaler had over one million dollars paid to dummy firms which he had created. Using the firm's own computer to pad prices by fractions of a cent and likewise reduce income, his fraud might still be undetected if he had not turned himself in. It seems that he wanted out, but could not stop without causing a surge in corporate income, drawing attention to the fraud.

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## Administration discusses contract

Editor's note: This is the first of a series of interviews with MIT management and lab union officials on the new contract proposal.

By Kate Williams

According to Michael Parr, MIT's Assistant Manager of Labor Relations, the new three-year contract proposed for the Research, Development, and Technical Employees Union (RDTEU) contains "vastly improved pay and benefits." He pointed to the 7 percent annual wage increase. When it was pointed out that the last contract had identical 7 percent increases, he admitted that the only improvement was that the base

was bigger. Looking over the contract, Parr and James Fandel, Manager of Labor Relations, were unable to find any vast improvements. There were small changes, and at least one looked to be disadvantageous to the union members. There were also several clauses pertaining to how the union is to do its business.

"Time off for union business is the only real question for bargaining" in the opinion of Fandel. He also claimed that "this question only affects union officials," and he did not answer the comment that all members are affected by the time off for union business issue because the purpose of union business is to solve

problems of the employees. At one point, Fandel said, "Time off for union business was made an issue by the union because of a restriction of a union representative by a supervisor." He later said, however, "I first proposed no pay for [anyone working on the] grievance process to get their [the union's] attention."

Fandel complained about the large number of grievances filed by the RDTEU, "about fifty in a year. No other union files this many. And they take a long time to process." However he added "I don't want to say 'win' or 'lose' but we usually come out well in the end."

Why are there so many RDTEU grievances, and why do

some of them take so long to be settled? Fandel had no clear answer to this; he said that many of the grievances were due to the union members' "unstructured jobs" and to "bargaining unit work being done by others." Asked further about the problem of non-union people doing the same jobs as union workers, he said, "It's a fantastically complicated argument" and would not go into it. Nor could he explain why some grievances take so long to settle. He answered, "I don't want to say where the blame lies."

It is clear that a large part of the Institute's latest contract offer concerns union activity, especially

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## Dorms poor investment?

By Richmond Cohen

MIT dormitory residents do not gain interest on their required \$50 dorm security deposits, due to a law which omits dormitories from the "apartment" classifications. Apartment deposits must be paid interest. If MIT dorms were included in this category, then in four years time, interest on the deposits would accrue to almost \$28,500.

However, these \$50 deposits are not stored in the bank. According to Mr. H. E. Brammer, Director of Housing and Food Services, they become part of the MIT cash flow during months when income intake is low. He explained that if this money were deposited into the bank, a shortfall in the MIT financial system would result. He added that if the \$50 security deposit were not paid, the difference would be made up for in tuition. He calculated that the sum of all the security deposits totalled \$141,000.

Brammer and Mr. John Woodbury, Assistant Director of Housing, explained that the primary purpose of the security deposit

was as a deterrent to those who might otherwise damage their rooms. They said that prior to the year in which the security deposit requirement was implemented, dorm residents were generally lax about cleaning their rooms and repairing damages done to them. But with the instatement of the \$50 deposit, a substantial decline in the amount of damage done in rooms took place. The security deposit covers any damage done above the "normal wear and tear."

According to Brammer, most of the damage done now consists merely of holes in the walls. However, he did say that substantial prices were paid by one former New House member who "lost" a chair that he had taken from the dorm and put in his apartment. He was forced to buy a new chair for New House. More recently, some MacGregor residents are being charged with ruining carpeting during water fights.

Inventories of all the rooms are taken in the fall and then once again in the spring to assess total damages done.



Comedian and political activist Dick Gregory addressed a crowd of about 400 in Kresge Auditorium at an LSC sponsored lecture last Wednesday. Gregory opened with a half-hour comedy routine satirizing such diverse subjects as the test tube baby and American weapons policy. He spent the remaining two and one half hours of his lecture in a more serious vein, imploring students to mobilize to "turn the world around." (Photo by Steven Solnick)