World

Somoza assassinated — Former Nicaraguan leader Anastasio Somoza Debayle was slain Wednesday in Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay. Somoza's lieutenants, also carrying his chauffeur and bodyguard, were destroyed by machine-gun and bazooka fire in a few blocks from the presidential palace. Police are looking for six Nicaraguans suspected in the attack.

Jean Piaget dies — Jean Piaget, the renowned Swiss psychologist whose lifelong studies on child development and the interaction between biological functions and the environment have been compared to Freud's work in their scope and impact, died Wednesday in Geneva at the age of 84. The cause of his death was not disclosed.

Iranian parliament delays hostage debate — Tuesday, the Iranian parliament put off the full public debate on the fate of the 52 American hostages held in Iran. In its place it has set up a commission to study the issue and report back to the full parliament. The decision by Ayatollah Hafshemi Rafsanjani, the parliament's speaker, to set up the special study group was reached after 94 members of the parliament wanted to speak on the issue, and the speeches were leading to no conclusion for a format of debate. President Carter said that the US had no reason to feel that the situation has improved at all.

Nation

Thurmond believes Brezinski lied — National Security Advisor Zbignew Brzezinski was challenged in Senate subcommittee hearings investigating Billy Carter's dealings with Libya Wednesday. Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC) asked Brzezinski if he was "acting as the president's political troubleshooter," a charge which the aide denied. Thurmond replied, "We're trying to get the truth, but we're out sure you're telling it." The subcommittee is expected to file a report on the matter by October 4.

Sports

Brett's bid in jeopardy — George Brett, the hot-hitting third baseman of the Kansas City Royals, may not get the chance to be the first player in 39 years to bat .400 in a season. Brett has tendinitis in his left leg and has been advised not to play until his tendinitis subsides, but disregarded his doctor's orders and went 2 for 5 Wednesday night. Brett, who is batting .398, needs 30 more plate appearances as well as raising his average over .400, to be the first baseball player to bat .400 since Ted Williams.

By Bob Hunt and Alan Lichtenstein

I Was Raised A Catholic, But...

"I was raised Catholic, but I left the Church. Boring sermons, talk about money all the time, sometimes telling me how to think. Everything seemed so irrelevant, amorphous, trivial, my parents' faith, not mine. Every day man and women who were raised Catholics decide that their conception of God seems different from that of the Catholic Church. They ask themselves the question, 'Why do I go to Church?' and often they find the answer given by a priest or by their parents — 'Because it is a sin not to' — to be quite inadequate. So every day people who genuinely seek God in their lives take a last look at their old parish church and decide never to go back to that one or any other.

Being raised Catholic is not a uniform experience. Many of us have fond memories of excellent teachers, open-minded and perceptive persons able to articulate in word and action what Catholicism means. Yet, there are others whose experience of Catholicism has been regretful. Questions they had were either misunderstood or answered with insensitive doctrinaire salvoes. Morality seemed to be a set of arbitrary rules. At MIT many people of the Catholic tradition compare this with the framework of modern science's search for truth and the bright hopes for the world through new technology. The Church that claims to have its own "seem dogmatic and outdated. The Church claiming to be the Voice of Christ in the modern world seems at times to be a flying dinosaur of irrelevance."

The problem though, is not so much the Church, but our conception of it. The Church is not just a building, a particular pope or priest, nor even a collection of rules designed to prevent eternal perdition. The Catholic Church consists, rather, of the people who together worship God, embody Christ well or badly, in their own unique fashion. Ideally this worship is a daily event flowing from hearts and minds both formed and challenged by Jesus' own Spirit. At its best the Catholic Church is a people on pilgrimage in which the search for truth, openness to new ideas, and love prevail.

"If the Church cannot be a community of people, the issue then shifts. How can people be baptized into Catholicism become more alive in faith, hope and love? How can believers also become competent contributors to modern society, men and women aware of the big issues of our day, particularly as those issues present themselves in new scientific developments and the growth of technology?"

"But this approach to the Church can't happen!" We, the Tech Catholic Community at MIT, think it can happen and we seek to make this view of the Church viable for our generation and for our non-Catholic friends and colleagues. We invite you to take another look at the Catholic Church as a body of people struggling emotionally and intellectually to sustain a vision and bring it to bear in the modern world. To explore with us, come to a Saturday Discussion, Sept. 20, 11:30 a.m., in Room 1-132.

THE TECH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY