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Challenge! Another reason why tomorrow is taking shape at a company called TRW.

MIT Press acquires publisher

By John J. Ying

The MIT Press has purchased Bradford Books, a small two-year-old company that specializes in the area of cognitive sciences. The founders of Bradford Books, Henry Stanton and Gray, will continue to direct the firm's title list and will publish it as Bradford Books by line under the MIT Press imprint, according to Henry Stanton.

Frank Urbanowski, director of the MIT Press, commented, "The acquisition complements our titles dealing with linguistics, computer science, and artificial intelligence." Urbanowski estimated that Bradford would publish a dozen titles a year in cognitive science and MIT would publish another dozen in the same field. Overall, MIT publishes about 100 scientific and technical titles a year, according to Urbanowski.

"It's a real opportunity to work with MIT and the MIT Press," commented Henry Stanton. "It's one of the major university presses in the world... and MIT is one of the hottest areas of research in cognitive science anywhere." Stanton continued that MIT also offered an excellent potential for computerized typesetting with its computer resources.

Bradford's line consists of titles such as "Brainstorms," by Daniel C. Dennett, which is in its fifth printing and has sold over 15,000 copies. "Mind Design: Philosophy, Psychology, Artificial Intelligence," by John Haugeland; "Commissurotomy, Consciousness and Unity of Mind," by Charles E. Marks; and "Explorations in the Biology of Language," by Noam Chomsky and Salvador Luria, is edited by Edward C.T. Walker.

A new book, "Imagery," edited by Ned J. Blok, will be released next week, and will deal with mental imagery, the study of how the brain forms internal representations of objects perceived in space.

Stanton said that he originally became interested in the area of cognitive science because it is a growing and increasingly funded field that has a cross-disciplinary flavor, combining elements of psychology, medicine, philosophy, linguistics, and computer science. As an example of growing interest, Stanton cited that just a few weeks ago, the Sloan foundation gave MIT one of two grants of two and a half million dollars for cognitive science research.

Paul E. Gray '54, in last year's Report of the President to the Corporation, also commented on the growing significance of cognitive science. He said, "We wish, of course, to understand how the brain develops as the organism learns and matures. We want to be able to remedy conditions, from birth defects to memory disorders in old age. But in spite of the significant progress... we do not understand enough to construct even an approximate theory of brain function... In such circumstances, there are at the Institute several academic units and disciplines that contribute to the education of a new generation of brain scientists, a generation that will be in possession of the requisite techniques, models, and tools."

Gray reports FY '82 deficit

By Laura Farhie

There is a $12.5 million deficit in MIT's $550 million budget for 1981-82, said President Paul E. Gray '54, at a faculty meeting last Tuesday. He also expressed pessimism about the impact that the Federal budget cuts will have on MIT.

"The 1981-82 year is a difficult one in budgetary terms," claimed Gray. Some reasons for the budget deficit he cited were salary increases, construction costs, increased enrollment of graduate students, high interest rates on loans and other costs, and a smaller escalation in energy prices, according to Gray. In addition, MIT received an "all-time record" of $147.3 million in contributions for the 1981 fiscal year.

Gray said that whether the deficit would go to zero by the end of the 1981-82 year is unknown. MIT's budget has been balanced for the past five years, Gray said. Last year the budget had a $200,000 surplus, but Gray noted that this amount is insignificant compared to the total budget of $500 million. Gray attributed about half of the deficit to unexpected enrollment, and the other half to unexpected costs.

Gray is concerned about the President Reagan's proposal to implement a 12 percent cut in discretionary areas of research funds. "The impact [of these cuts] on MIT in future years... is likely to be more substantial," Gray asserted.

Gray is also concerned about the amount of money that is being spent on the construction of buildings; "If we did not... go along with a large data base software systems, communications spacecraft, and alternative energy systems to scientific satellites, high energy lasers, and microelectronics."

"But in spite of the significant progress... we do not understand enough to construct even an approximate theory of brain function... In such circumstances, there are at the Institute several academic units and disciplines that contribute to the education of a new generation of brain scientists, a generation that will be in possession of the requisite techniques, models, and tools."