

RKO loses WNAC

Charles D. Rubin

New England Television Corp. (NETV), a local company involved in thirteen years of litigation in an attempt to obtain control over Boston's Channel 7, finally won their case on April 19, when the US Supreme Court refused to review the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) revocation of RKO General's operating license.

The president of NETV is MIT Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Edward Fredkin, who is on temporary leave from the department. Jerome B. Wiesner, MIT President Emeritus, is also a member of the corporation's board of directors.

RKO General, a subsidiary of General Tire and Rubber Company had its operating license revoked on June 6, 1980. It appealed to the US Court of Appeals, which reaffirmed to FCC's decision on December 4, 1981. On February 4, the decision was appealed to the Supreme Court.

Committee reviews Dean

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In their analysis of the Undergraduate Academic Support Office (UASO), the Committee emphasized that "the UASO must not lose its credibility with the rest of the Institute by trying to do too much and not doing a good job on anything." The report stated that any UASO academic study should be cosponsored by the Provost's office and should attract faculty participation.

Prior to the meeting, Dean for Student Affairs Shirley M. McBay prepared a report for the Committee which contained several questions "relating to the potential role of the UASO." These questions ranged from "Should UASO and the various other non-departmental programs try to work more closely together to coordinate schedules and activities and to avoid any duplication of efforts?" to "What additional expertise should be added to the UASO staff to enable it to carry out an expanded role in academic support, if such a role is deemed appropriate?"

The Committee endorsed "the concepts presented" in all the Dean's questions, but "was not in a position to evaluate the desirability of providing the financial support required" to carry out her ideas.

The Visiting Committee on Student Affairs is one of many visiting committees that operate as advisory groups to the MIT Corporation. Each committee focuses its interest on the operation of a single department. The Visiting Committee on Student

RKO General, which now operates Channel 7 under the call letters WNAC-TV, will be the third television station in the country — and the second in Boston alone — to have its license revoked.

Fredkin has made it clear that when NETV goes on the air as WNEV-TV, a major policy change will be evident in the treatment of minority groups, both in what goes on the air and in who is trained and hired. Approximately 28 percent of NETV's owners belong to minority groups.

Fredkin refused to comment to the *Boston Globe* on job security for the 280 persons presently employed at Channel 7 until he holds further talks with RKO General.

Court and FCC appeals by Atlantic Television Corp., another Boston business group seeking to become an applicant, are still pending. Fredkin, however, did not see this as a major concern, and hopes to start operations this summer or early next fall.

Affairs periodically observes and advised the operation of the ODSA. The Committee last visited the Institute in October, 1978.

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By SUSAN V. HANDS

Staff Writer

Getting the right eyeglasses isn't as simple as many consumers think. Eyeglass manufacturing is imprecise, but you don't have to settle for less than the perfect pair.

The Herald American took a doctor's prescription for nearsightedness and astigmatism and ordered identical glasses from eight Boston-area opticians. When the doctor, George Garcia of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, checked the glasses he found:

- No two pairs were the same.
- Only one pair matched the prescription perfectly, although four others fell within acceptable tolerances.

- One pair was flagrantly wrong: two others were wrong enough to affect vision slightly.

In the Herald American's sample of eight pairs, five were acceptable to Dr. Garcia, **although only one matched the prescription perfectly.** The two pairs that were slightly wrong had no discernible effect on the wearer's vision. The same was true for the rejected glasses, although Garcia said these would hamper the vision eventually.

The cheapest glasses, made by apprentices at The Optique, were also the furthest off. **Yet the second-cheapest pair, made by technicians in the central lab of the Community Opticians chain, were the only perfect match.**

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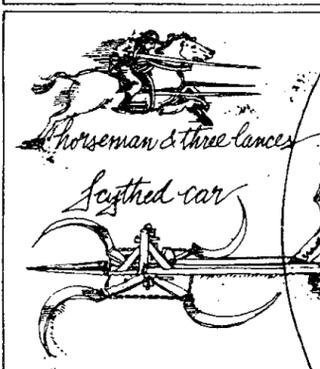
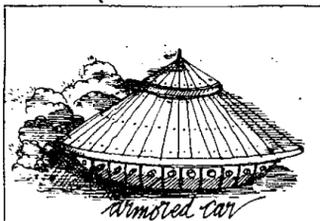
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