Society changing faster today than ever before

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scared that they'll take our jobs, scared that the whole idea of inti-

cacy and home use of tech-
nology is being sacrificed for the development of technology for

its own sake.

We consciously try not to ad-
imit our fears: we laugh when

minister shuttles go awry and

complains when the company

computer louses up our bill. We

joke about noting the Russi-

an subsconscious plays havoc

with this (or, suddenly al-

though it's nothing new) the
golden days of yesteryear look

so much better than the present,

and we chase after them with a

vengeance.

We turn to things like religion

and strict morality in school

becomes acceptable again. Reagan isn't the first person to try to

suggest these things in the past
twenty years, but now people are

willing to accept it.

Time magazine did two cover

stories, one on the end of the sec-

ond revolution and the other on

the return to civilization, thank you

Miss Manners. Conservative

measures have sprung into action

across the nation. In my home

county there's an anti-smoking

law, extremely strict driving laws,

seat belt laws, gun laws, drinking

laws and an anti-pornography

bill in the running. Abortion is

on the verge of being outlawed.

Disagrees with review

To the Editor:

I did not see a performance of the play, Pride and Prejudice, but

as an admirer of Jane Austen I must object to Scott Lichtman's

review of the adaptation of Pride and Prejudice.

In a remark attributed to a re-

signing member of the Under-

graduate Association Council,

Jungwirth talks about "the self-

help, the amount a student must

earn during the academic year.

Be it hereby proclaimed to one

and all that the amount a student

who wants to

must earn during the

year must earn during the

academic year.

To MIT, a student who wants to

not work (if that's a prob-

lem)--there are loan funds to

help amount.

 patriarchs

have suddenly reached epidemic

proportions and tough anti-drug

laws come into being. Note that

these things are not necessarily

wrong by themselves, just that

collectively they form a very

strong pattern.

An extremely conservative ad-

ministration won re-election on

the basis of a conceived image; it

hasn't done anything to slow the

pace of change either. And still,

after all this, we grow more

afraid.

The great civilizations of histo-

ry didn't fall to conquerors who

have fallen when they've reached

their maximum levels of adaptability.

Have we reached this level? Are

we so afraid? I believe not; we've
come too far.

There is a way around the

problems: we must learn to in-

tegrate the new with the old, to let

go of a society where lifetime ca-

reer decisions are made in high

school and everything is known

beforehand. We must yearn for

the uncertainty in our lives, to

view the future as challenging

rather than as occasion.

The change we're experiencing

will ace stop, or even slow down, be-

cause we're beginning to believe

the other cheek. We must get the

change under control by wanting

it to occur and thriving on the results; otherwise it will

overwhelm us, drown us in the

flood of progress. The choice is

ours; so far, we've made the

right one.

Second, calling Jane Austen's

portrayal of the Bennets and

their friends "cynical" is simply

not accurate. It is rather the ab-

sence of criticism that gives so

much of Jane Austen's work its

quiet power. Cynicism implies

disdain and the kind of sweeping

contempt which precludes me-

ticulous and curious observation

- the very opposite of the subtle

humor, precision, and the deeply

compassionate spirit that perme-

ates Pride and Prejudice.

William Wilson

Deputy of Psychology

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