

in the news

INSIDE

Ralph Bakshi's latest brainchild, *Wizards*, an animated look into the far-distant future, held great promise but many aspects were disappointing.

p6

Spring is here with or without the cooperation of the weather. The best evidence is baseball's annual spring training program, which is just getting under way. Foul Shots explores this year's version of the event.

p8

UPDATE

Frank Press, Head of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, is currently awaiting final security clearance on his appointment as Science Adviser to President Carter. Press, who is spending four days a week in Washington preparing for the job, told *The Tech* that, when and if the position is offered to him he "would accept it."

LOCAL

Representative Lois Pines (D-Newton) is gaining support in her efforts to pass a bill through the Massachusetts Legislature limiting the admissibility of evidence in rape trials which concerns the victim's past sexual history and other potentially humiliating facts. *The Boston Globe* said yesterday.

NATION

Nearly 5,000 University of Hawaii students participated Saturday in a march on the Hawaii State Capitol in protest of a proposed 13 per cent budget cut for the university.

With the end of the Vietnam conflict, anti-war feelings have subsided and Army ROTC enrollment is up again, says Major General Charles C. Rogers, deputy chief of staff for ROTC. Enrollment figures, which dropped from 177,000 to 33,000 during the Vietnam era, have risen to 55,000 this year and are expected to continue climbing.

The National Safety Council has released statistics showing that the rate of travel accidents in 1976 — 34 people killed per billion miles of travel — was the lowest in recorded history. The drastic reduction in deaths has been attributed to the 55 mph speed limit.

Life insurance agents deceptive

By Bob Wasserman

Life insurance salesmen have employed unethical methods and misrepresentation in their efforts to sell policies to graduating seniors.

Complaints have been received by the office of the Dean for Student Affairs, primarily from members of the class of 1977.

Lisa Broderick, secretary to Dean for Student Affairs Carola Eisenberg, receives most of the

complaints from students concerning life insurance. She said the main complaint is about telephone harassment; some companies call four or five times. The agents tell a student that they received his name from a "friend," but either they refuse to give the name or use one without any authorization.

Several students have complained about claims from companies that they were the sole in-

surance agency authorized to operate on campus. According to Broderick, an agent was asked to leave Lobby 7 by Campus Patrol last fall after a number of complaints of soliciting.

Dean Kenneth C. Browning '66 asserted it was "simply not true" that any one company was solely authorized. Browning noted that soliciting is prohibited on campus, and that this rule is especially enforced in dormitories.

MIT Insurance Officer Kimball Valentine said he doubts any one life insurance company is solely authorized by MIT or has ever been. He recalled, however, that twenty years ago certain companies were sanctioned by the Institute. These companies offered policies with dividends set payable to MIT, as gifts from graduates. The Alumni Association or a graduating class sponsored these plans, Valentine added, and policies from several companies were always offered concurrently.

Robert J. Holden, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, has dealt with the life insurance problem extensively in the past year. Holden said a college student's senior year is the time to begin thinking about the future, and insurance agents take advantage of this fact.

Holden said "life insurance is sold, not bought," which explains the apparent aggressiveness of the salesmen. He concluded that although there are complaints every year about these practices, it is hard to evaluate the general ethics of insurance salesmen due to a "lack of positive feedback" re-

ceived from students.

According to an investigation by Consumer's Union, "the last thing most college students need is life insurance." This report was issued in the March 1977 issue of *Consumer Reports*. An analysis of several companies and their policies aimed at college students concluded that these policies were too small, too costly, and generally the wrong type for the college graduate.

Consumer Reports stated that insurance companies stress smaller, whole-life policies, which bring higher profits to the companies, rather than term policies which bring higher premiums to the buyer and leave him more insured.

The magazine further recommends term and whole-life policies offered in the general market to the college student over these special college plans.

Browning suggested that an open forum on insurance, presenting unbiased information on life insurance policies for graduating seniors, be initiated by the Undergraduate Association or the Senior Class. He also suggested that a pamphlet investigating life insurance be published.

Valentine said a lesson could be learned by seniors in regard to the selling of life insurance: overzealous buying and selling practices are a "fact of life" and the graduate will encounter these practices many times in his life. Valentine concluded that life insurance is vital and universal in today's world, and he hoped these complaints "don't sour people away from life insurance."



Chuck Iwoni

Insurance Officer Kimball Valentine reports that no company is solely authorized to sell life insurance on campus. Several companies falsely claimed this privilege when they tried to sell insurance to seniors, according to the Dean's Office.

Update

Second Asinari murder suspect captured

By Glenn Brownstein

A nationwide manhunt for a primary suspect in the murder of an MIT junior two years ago ended Friday with the arrest of John Blodgett in Houston by FBI agents.

Blodgett, 25, formerly of Methuen, Mass., is one of two men indicted by a Suffolk County Grand Jury in March, 1975, for the brutal slaying of John A. Asinari '76, a 20-year old pre-medical student.

The other suspect, Robert Shaughnessey, 22, of South

Boston, committed suicide by hanging himself in Charles Street Jail on Nov. 11, 1975.

Asinari died early on the morning of March 22, 1975, of injuries received when he and a companion, Robert Moses '75, were attacked by four men with whom they were riding. Moses, while seriously injured, recovered from the assault.

According to an account Moses gave police while recovering, he and Asinari were trying to hitchhike across Harvard Bridge late Friday night, March

21, and were picked up by four men driving a gray sedan.

The students were taken on a ride through Everett, Chelsea, and the South End, during which they were robbed of their wallets, shot, and stabbed. When the vehicle finally stopped in South Boston, Asinari opened the door and pushed Moses out, struggling after him.

One of the men in the car chased Asinari and struck him over the head with a tire iron, the fatal blow according to medical examiners. Moses was saved by South Boston residents, who called police upon hearing the students' cries for help.

Suffolk District Attorney Garrett Byrne, who learned of Blod-

gett's arrest Friday, said that Blodgett was arraigned as a fugitive in Houston yesterday. The district attorney's office is now seeking return of the suspect to Boston. *The Boston Globe* reported Saturday.

According to Byrne, Blodgett was arrested two weeks ago by Houston police on a concealed weapon charge, and then released from custody pending examination of the suspect's fingerprints by the FBI.

Upon learning of the flight warrant outstanding from Massachusetts, FBI agents placed Blodgett in custody Friday.

Blodgett had reportedly disappeared from his Methuen home the day after the Asinari slaying.

Five Writing instructors send faculty a statement

By David B. Koretz

Five members of the Writing Program staff who claim to have been fired by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences have drawn up a position paper stating their case.

The eight-page document, written by Sanford K-ye, Joseph Brown, and three instructors, will be distributed to 1,200 members of the Institute's faculty and staff this week.

Besides detailing the chronology of events leading up to the present situation, the paper provides a background history of the Writing Program and outlines a proposal for the Program's future.

The authors of the paper contend that the *ad hoc* faculty eval-

uation committee, which was appointed by Harold J. Hanham, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, ignored, in structure and in practice, the favorable report of the Sivin Committee which evaluated the Writing Program last spring.

The writers of the document, besides Kaye and Brown, are Daniel Dehainut, Seth Racusen, and Stephen Reuys. Kaye told *The Tech* that the faculty members should receive the document before the end of the week.

Excerpts from the statement of position being mailed to all members of the faculty can be found on page 5.

Thomas Hill dead

By Mark James

Professor of Management Thomas M. Hill died Friday in the MIT infirmary. He was 62.

Hill was a member of the Alfred P. Sloan School of Management faculty for 35 years, and had been Associate Dean.

He was born in Bucksport, Maine, and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Maine. Hill did his graduate studies at Harvard University, and completed additional work at Stanford University.

After serving in the Armed Forces during World War II, Hill was a visiting professor in economics at Leeds University in

England, and was instrumental in founding the Indian Institute of Management in Calcutta.

The Winchester resident was co-author of a textbook, *Accounting — A Management Approach*.

Hill has taught 15.501 — Financial and Management Accounting — to undergraduates and the graduate course 15.516, Management Accounting and Control Systems.

Hill is survived by his wife Hil-dreth, a son, Thomas M. Jr., of Boston; a daughter, Joanna, now living in Winchester; and a brother, Marion F. Hill, of Bucksport, Maine.

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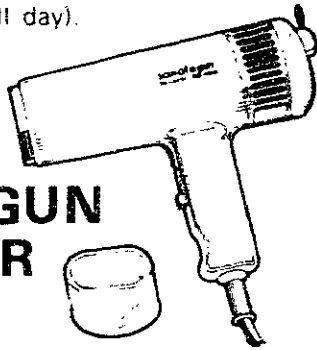
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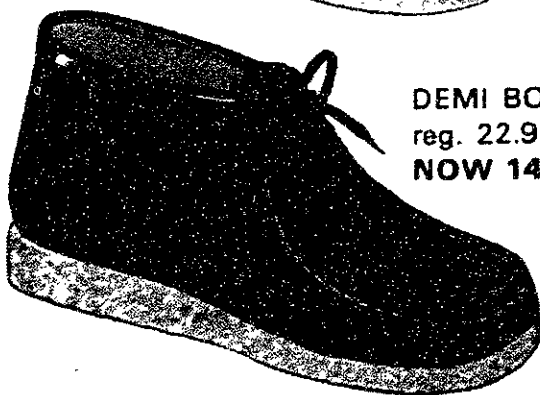
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Games

More cold

By David Potter

Next year's weather patterns will not be a repeat of those this past year, according to the predictions of Professor Emeritus of Meteorology Hurd C. Willett.

Although there will again be colder than usual weather in middle latitudes, regional patterns will be different, Willett said, probably resulting in colder temperatures for the West and less severe snowfall in the Ohio Valley and Midwest.

He bases this prediction on the current cooling trend and the tendency of winter weather patterns to repeat after three years.

Willett has forecast a 20-year period of colder weather beginning in 1980.

A major cause of cooler weather has been a shift in wind patterns, according to Willett. The westerly winds normally cross North America from west to east, but during this winter they split into branches that brought warm air northward to Alaska and forced cold, Arctic air southeastward to the central and eastern United States.

This north-south shift in wind direction was also largely responsible for the drought which parched western Europe this past summer, Willett noted.

He stated that "if one quarter of the money now spent on devel-



Next year's winter may not be any milder than this one, according to Professor of Meteorology Hurd C. Willett, but different areas may be the hardest hit.

oping the theoretical forecast were spent on studying past climate, significant advances could be made."

Accurate weather records have been kept in North America since 1900, but significant amounts of data are available for the 19th century. Willett said that he would like to see weather data from the period around 1790, because it appears that we are entering an 80-year sunspot cycle similar to the one which began in that

decade.

Willett remarked that he did not think aerosol propellants will cause a serious enough depletion in the ozone layer to cause climatic change.

(The state of Oregon has recently imposed a ban on the use of aerosol sprays using fluoro carbon propellants due to the alleged danger of these compounds to the ozone layer.)

Willett asserted that there are large fluctuations in ozone levels in response to solar wind and that the effect of fluorocarbons would be small in comparison.

He added that the compounds would only have an effect if they built up in the upper atmosphere, a phenomenon that has not been demonstrated to occur.

Feld: stop new arms

By Thomas J. Spisak

Because the US has a five year lead in weapons development, this country should take the lead in nuclear disarmament by adopting a unilateral moratorium on new arms deployment, according to Physics Professor Bernard Feld.

"Without restraint on the deployment of new weapons systems, the arms race will get out of hand," Feld told an MIT audience Thursday. He was speaking on "Arms Control and National Security."

Feld maintained that national security would not be threatened by the proposed unilateral moratorium. "The introduction of new systems requires testing; testing which can be monitored by unilateral means," he said.

The need to control the arms race is clear, Feld asserted. "The superpowers have arsenals of about an order of magnitude greater destructiveness than what was considered Mutually Assured Destruction a decade ago."

"Both sides are tending towards more destructiveness," he added.

Feld attacked three "gaps" as being the inventions of hardline analysts: spending, technology and shelters.

He acknowledged that the Soviets were spending more rubles on defense than the US was spending dollars. "But if you look at the black market exchange rates rather than the official Soviet exchange rates, the United States may be outspending the Russians."

Feld said the "technology gap" stemmed from the perception that Soviet scientists were about as capable as American ones. According to Feld, the argument continues that "since we see no evidence that the results of this parity are being applied to the civilian sector of Russian society, the Russians must be ahead" in defense.

"The fact is the average difference between the time the Americans introduce a weapons system and the time the Russians introduce it is 4.6 years in favor of the US," he noted.

Some observers have claimed that the Soviets have a superior civil defense program, the "shelter gap." They note that there are many generals involved in the program.

Feld addressed this argument

by pointing out that "of the 50 Soviet generals in their civil defense effort, 45 are retired World War II generals," who are probably not actively involved in military planning.

"Soviet civil defense manuals read the same as American programs of the early '60's. I don't think the shelter gap is much of a threat."

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IMPORTANT — Members seeking nomination as student directors by petition are urged to obtain a sample form of petition and a more detailed statement of the requirements governing petitions from the cashier in any Coop store

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PROCEDURE FOR MAKING ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS FOR STUDENT DIRECTORS

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 2, of the Society's By-Laws, as amended, additional nominations for student directors may be made by petition signed by at least one hundred (100) student members and filed with the Clerk (by leaving the petition at the General Manager's office in the Harvard Square Store) not later than 5 p.m., March 23, 1977. A signature will be invalid unless the student designates his membership number and school and he is currently enrolled as a degree candidate in that school.

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A journalist copes with his emotions

By William Lasser

"He was 33." That was how *The Tech*, and for that matter *Thursday*, in typical journalistic parlance, summed up the life and tragic death of Jeffrey L. Pressman last week.

Newspapers use the formula for almost every obituary and death notice. But there is something quite different about "He was 33." We are used to "He was 86," or "He was 71." It is always so remote to us, in our early twenties or late teens.

In the newspaper business, one deals constantly with tragedy — fires, murders, suicides are constant reminders of our mortality. Fortunately, *The Tech* does not deal with these difficult issues every day, as do large metropolitan dailies. But they occur often enough that those of us who deal with death on even an irregular basis learn to steel ourselves against it, ignore it, treat it as an abstraction with no real effect.

I knew Jeff Pressman well, as his student, as his advisee. I owe him a lot, and his death had an effect. I had dealt with death before as a journalist, and I did not let it bother me then. How could I have been so insensitive?

I attended the memorial service held Thursday in Kresge. There never was any question but that I would go. It was something I simply had to do, and I instinctively put on a conservative jacket and tie, out of respect for his memory. It was strange, for he had never seen me dressed that way when he was alive.

I do not know why people attend funerals and memorial services, or why they were conceived to begin with. But they have been with us since civilization began. I do not know why I went Thursday. I did not go for Jeff Pressman; nothing could be done for him. I did not go to console his family, for I do not know them. Seven of his friends — colleagues and students — spoke, but I did not go to speak.

I went, I suppose, for myself, drawn there because I needed a chance to sit and think about him, a place where I could be comfortable in feeling emotions that I was otherwise afraid to feel. I had to be with people who felt as I did, and listen to people who said what I wanted to hear, and what I would have said.

It was difficult to work on the paper Thursday evening, watching the Pressman story being written, reading it ostensibly as an editor, but unable really to concentrate on it enough to do

anything to it. Then, as editor, I had to approve the headline. "Is it OK with you?" someone asked. I looked. "Pressman dead at 33." No, it wasn't OK. But I couldn't fix what was wrong with it.

Facts are facts, the lifeblood of a newspaper. Journalists deal too often in facts, but, like our society, too rarely in emotions. We can write what we know, we can write what we think, but we cannot write what we feel. Men in our society are ridiculed if they express emotions. They can not show that they care. Neither can reporters.

One of his eulogists said that he always left a meeting with Jeff Pressman feeling better than when he had come in. That is a far more appropriate statement than any that could be made in a news story. I could not agree more. I felt better when I left the memorial service than before I arrived.

here and now

The Tech

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Tuesday, March 8, 1977

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feedback

New music deserves thought

To the Editor:

The article entitled "New music unappreciated" is full of carelessness and lacks real insight into contemporary or traditional music. Roger Kolb could have simply said, "I don't like contemporary music" but then he

romantic composers have left us, and he is discontent. It should concern him equally that the beginning of Beethoven's *Eroica* will evoke laughter from a Vietnamese rice farmer before it evokes heroic visions or that in isolation any traditional western melody seems

Kolb never even brings up the issue of sonic control via the computer. He denies both innovation and craft and in its place puts sentimentality. He seems to feel that emotion excludes intelligence. In his case he may be right.

In his grand finale he describes how a band of BBC broadcasters trick their audience into listening seriously to a musical hoax: "carefully pieced" "random tape sounds" devoid of "the slightest trace of musical intelligibility." He does not identify what "random tape sounds" are. Any sounds carefully spliced to eliminate any trace of "musical intelligibility" introduce a great deal of structure. The human being is quite capable of perceiving a variety of structures and 20th century music has given the listener the license to do so. Any structured sonic event, even a hoax, can be given serious consideration. An example of this phenomenon is my gullibility in responding to Roger Kolb's almost totally vacuous article.

Any structured sonic event, even a hoax, can be given serious consideration.

wouldn't have had a voice in *The Tech*. Simply, he is not of this world... not at all sensitive to what has happened in world culture for the last 100 years. That is, he works from a conception of art untouched by the ideas of science, literature, technology and the influx of ideas from the non-western world.

I know no one who is prepared to speak so freely for the entire academic community of music as he does by saying that serial music is the dominating process by which modern music is made. And even if this were true, the arrangements of the tones of the chromatic scale is one of a diverse range of elements that can operate with various degrees of interdependence to make the total music. Identifying serial composers as a "school" is like identifying electrical engineering as a "school": convenient for administrative purposes but saying nothing about the diversity and substance it contains.

He finds it convenient to write-off the 20th century as a musical mistake and fails to differentiate between the 12-tone writing of Berg, Webern, Boulez, Babbitt, and Stravinsky, who he has carelessly classified as simply neo-classical; as well as the non-serial musics of Cage, Tudor, Feldman, Reich, Riley, Carter, Kagel, Berio, Xenakis, Ligeti, Pendericki, Stockhausen... to name a diversified few.

When he speaks of the "screwball theory derby" I might assume, although it is never clear in his article, that he is contrasting the diversity of approaches to composition that exist today with the lesser number of compositional approaches the classical or

impooverished in comparison to certain oriental varieties. He misses the significance of melody in traditional western music.

An example in reference to his abhorrence of technology in music. The technology of the piano renders harpsichord transcriptions anemic, two dimensional in contrast to the more evolved timbral and dynamic ranges of which the piano is capable. Nevertheless nothing compares to music for harpsichord played on a harpsichord. We enjoy it within its own conditions. And so it is with electronic music. Roger

Eating out: Coble's law

To the Editor:

Libby Cone's letter objecting to restaurants selling human (female) flesh along with the bovine variety, shows how little even Tech undergrads appreciate Coble's Law of Restaurants, i.e. $Q \cdot A = \text{const.}$

Where Q = quality of restaurant and A = attractiveness of waitresses.

Although Coble did not state the physical basis of this remarkable equation, at least two come to mind: The most obvious basis is that decorative waitresses are hired to entice customers (male) into eating at restaurants which they would otherwise avoid. A second, and possibly more plausible basis, is that because tips are bad in poor restaurants, waitresses in such establishments soon seek better positions, and are replaced by younger women.

If the Newbury Steak House is indeed peddling cheese cake, they are selling beef cake right along side, because males also serve food. I am also informed by a

woman who dines there fairly often that one waiter in particular is "nice looking."

Ms. Cone's suggestion that many ladies of the night are ex-waitresses, suggests a very interesting UROP project, wherein some enterprising undergraduate would determine the past employment history of the demimondaines of LaGrange Street. As a companion project, another student could travel around Boston asking unhappy-looking waitresses if they were considering a career in prostitution.

Kenneth C. Russell
Associate Professor
of Materials Science
March 2, 1977

The Tech welcomes Letters to the Editor. Correspondence should be typed, triple-spaced, and not exceed 200 words. Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication, though the name of the author will be withheld on request.

excerpts from the statement of position

Joseph Brown
Daniel DeHainaut
Sanford Kaye
Seth Racusen
Stephen Reuys

(See story, page 1)

history

Another contribution to the general education of MIT students has been the Writing Program for undergraduates. The Program appeals to many students, ranging from those who feel the need to improve their communication skills to a significant number of students who have a deep and continuing interest in writing.

— The Report of the President and Chancellor, 1975-76

In July, 1974, a group of students and teachers in the Literature Section of the Humanities Department began the MIT Pilot Writing Program to integrate writing instruction into the undergraduate curriculum. To that end, the Program has:

1. provided writing instruction for 2,000 students;
2. created a Course XXI Writing Major and a Humanities Concentration in Writing — there are now nearly a hundred Concentrators and several Majors;

3. introduced ten new courses, including two Humanities Distribution subjects and several interdisciplinary subjects;

4. introduced undergraduate Teaching Assistants into the Humanities Department;

5. established educational links with other departments and programs ... and with other universities.

... Evaluation of the Pilot Writing Program began in the spring of 1975. The Committee to Evaluate the Pilot Writing Program [chaired by Professor Nathan Sivin] included professional writers,

teachers of writing and literature, educational psychologists, a member of the Visiting Committee to the Humanities, and administrators of experimental programs.

The Evaluation Committee undertook an extensive examination of the goals of the Pilot Program, the performance of the staff in achieving those goals, and the Program's effect on the educational environment at MIT.

In June, 1976, after more than a year of work and at a reported cost of \$20,000, the Evaluation Committee issued an 83 page report with extensive supporting material. The Report "strongly supports the directions and achievements of the Writing Program's pilot endeavor."

the present crisis

Both Deans explained that while the Report has been "received" by the Humanities Administration, no action will be taken on any of the Committee's proposals until next fall. Blackmer and Hanham did explain that extensive plans have been completed for what is expected to be a "transitional year" for the Writing Program beginning next fall.

— The Tech, July 30, 1976, p. 2

The largely positive conclusions of the Report called for a substantial commitment by MIT to a permanent program in writing, with a major emphasis on student-centered teaching. The events of the past term do not reflect this sort of commitment.

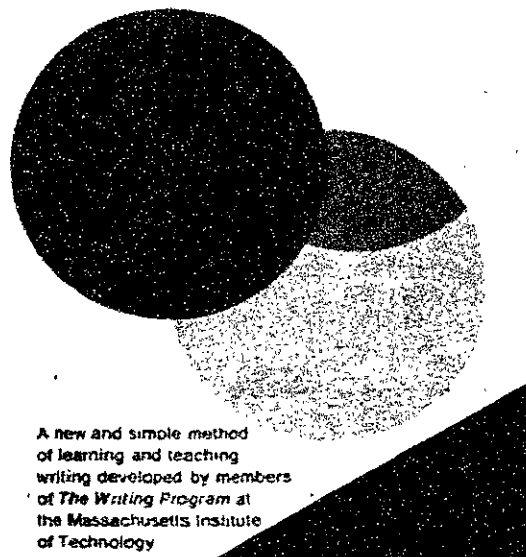
1. *Circulation and Discussion of the Report.* In May, 1976, Dean Harold J. Hanham announced at a public forum that "we should try and produce a sensible climate in which to hold a serious discussion (of the Report) in the fall." Institute-wide circulation of the Report, a necessary and logical first step toward creating a sensible climate, has still not taken place.

3. *Evaluation of Current Staff.* The Report recommended that the Steering Committee supervise the evaluation of all current staff on the basis of the Committee's recommended criteria and the Dean's new "Guidelines for Appointment and Promotion of Instructors, Lecturers and Senior Lecturers." Instead, the Dean appointed Dean Blackmer to chair an *ad hoc* committee to evaluate only four of the staff members, without providing the Program with the *ad hoc* committee's mandate or its criteria for evaluation.

In November, 1976, after the four staff members met for the only time with the *ad hoc* committee, one of them wrote an eight page memorandum to the committee questioning their procedures. The committee declined to discuss her memorandum. Two others could not elicit from the committee, the Dean, or the acting Director of the Program (who was a member of the committee and who served as liaison between the committee and the Program) either a clear statement of the positions for which they were to be evaluated, or of the criteria on which they were to be judged. They initiated discussions with Dean

Free Writing! A Group Approach

J. BROWNE et al.



A new and simple method of learning and teaching writing developed by members of The Writing Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Hanham in an attempt to arrive at a more sensible evaluation process. In the middle of these negotiations, they were fired. Five other members of the Program, having up to three years of service to the Institute, were also terminated without evaluation.

4. *Writing and Experience.* The Evaluation Committee recommended that "Writing and Experience" (a subject which served 450 students in 1975/76) be reinstated as a Humanities Distribution subject. In an unprecedented procedure, the Committee on Distribution received, at the request of Humanities Department Chairperson Bruce Mazlish, adversary testimony from members of the Literature Section who had no direct knowledge of the subject. Reinstatement of distribution credit was subsequently denied.

pedagogy

The student writing that most MIT faculty see is exposition so they are most immediately aware of deficiencies in exposition. But if all that students needed were illustrative models of good prose explanations of rhetorical strategies, and vigorous editorial services, there would have been no reason to give this committee its mandate.

— The Report, p. 36

Much evidence has been gathered at MIT and other universities about the weaknesses of the "expository," "remedial," or "bonehead English" approach to the teaching of writing. This approach, which drills mechanics and organization, too often ignores the student's own thought processes and limits "creative" writing to a preselected few.

In gathering qualitative and quantitative data to measure the effectiveness of different approaches to the teaching of

writing, the Evaluation Committee compared Writing Program students with students in the Harvard Expository Program. ... Donald Byker, the head of Harvard's Expository Writing Program, who conducted the surveys for the Committee, reported that "Harvard's program does much less with student reading of papers and with student response to each other's writing. We definitely will seek to build more of these features into our program."

toward a solution

That the Writing Program has survived and grown in a bleak time and in an unlikely environment is not to be taken lightly. It suggests grassroots strength that no "ideal" program designed by a task force and imposed administratively could have developed.

— The Report, p. 53

... We propose the following actions to restore reason and integrity to the process of determining the future of writing at MIT:

1. An Institute-wide discussion of the committee Report and the fundamental issues regarding the future of writing at MIT, with the participation of students, staff and administrators;

2. The creation of a Steering Committee of tenured faculty "qualified by proven concern for the quality of student writing and by a sympathetic

understanding of the Writing Program's mission" to guide the future of the Writing Program and to oversee the evaluation of present staff;

3. A fair evaluation of the present staff in line with their performance as student-centered teachers and educational innovators, within the context of the Report;

4. The development by the staff in consultation with the Steering Committee, students, and the administration, of a structure to house student-centered teaching of writing.

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Wizards falls short of expectations

By Stephen R. Wilk

Wizards, written, produced and directed by Ralph Bakshi; released by Twentieth Century-Fox.

Ralph Bakshi's *Wizards* is set in a world common to comic book art. It's a world of sword-swinging heroes, ill-clad maidens, sorcerers, elves, fairies and Nameless Beasts. Set two million years after an all-consuming nuclear holocaust, *Wizards* is concerned with the battle between the grotesque beings of the radiation-scarred land of Scorch and the elves of the pastoral Montaga.

Fighting on the side of the elves is Avatar (Bob Holt), a diminutive, cigar chomping wizard with a Brooklyn accent. The inhabitants of Scorch have been defeated before, but now they are being lead by Avatar's evil brother, Blackwolf (Steve Cravers). Blackwolf is using unearthed remnants of forbidden war technology and Nazi propaganda to aid him, and the minions of Scorch are able to crush the Montaga armies. The only hope for the Good Guys is for Avatar to journey to Scorch, accompanied by Weehawk (Rich-

ard Romanus), an elf; Elinor (Jesse Wells), a fairy; and Peace (David Proval), one of Blackwolf's robots, now reformed, and there break Blackwolf's power.

This premise holds great potential for a fantasy epic. In fact, it seems to have been taken from that *magnum opus* of fantasy epics, Tolkein's *The Lord of the Rings*. *Wizards*, however, fails to live up to its possibilities.

The most strident feature is its uncomfortable blend of the cutesy and the horrible. The image presented by the bedtime story narration and the Kewpie doll fairies clashes with that of the blood-and-guts battle scenes and Nazi regalia. Further, Bakshi's world has not been clearly delineated. What are the limitations on the wizards' powers? Why is an old movie projector so important to Blackwolf's strength? The characters are inconsistent and vague, and many of the incidents confusing.

Blackwolf's wife, for instance, is introduced only to be knocked off. One gets the impression that we are not supposed to think about what's going on, but just look

at the pretty pictures. Bakshi has a flair for visual imagery. The steeds used by the combatants look like a hybrid of horse and ostrich.

The President of Montaga looks like a clown, and some of Scorch's soldiers have heads made of gas masks. Bakshi's nature is at its most biting when he shows two priests engaging in a ceremony calculated to insult anyone. The bearded figures murmur, bow in rhythm, hit each other, do a song and dance, and wheel each other around on a crucifix while their parishioners are massacred.

But although the animation is of excellent quality, large portions of the film are given to high-contrast prints of scenes of charging vikings and knights from old motion pictures, sometimes doctored to give the figures the appearances of gargoyles. One is soon bored of this repetition. Finally, the length of *Wizards* is a short ninety minutes.

Wizards is ultimately aimed at a specific audience — the adherents of Robert E. Howard, Frank Frazetta, and "adult fantasy." Anyone else is liable to find it all rather silly.

A jazz concert featuring four groups from three Boston universities will be held at 8:30pm on Friday, March 11 in Kresge Auditorium. The groups involved are the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble, the MIT Concert Jazz Band, the Harvard Jazz Ensemble, and the University of Lowell Studio Orchestra. The concert is open to the public. Free tickets will be distributed at MIT in Lobby 10 from Monday, March 7 through Friday, March 11.

Israeli conductor Dalia Atlas will direct the MIT Symphony Orchestra in concerts to be given at Wellesley on March 10 and at MIT on March 12. The MIT concert in Kresge will begin at 8:30pm. Free tickets will be distributed in Lobby 10 the week of the concert; tickets at the door will cost \$1.00.

The MIT Choral Society, under the direction of John Oliver, will sing Bruckner's Mass in F minor at a 7:30pm concert on Sunday, March 13 in Sacred Heart Church (47 Sixth St.) in East Cambridge. Tickets for the concert, available at the door or by calling x3-2906, cost \$4 (\$2 for students with ID's).

The MIT Community Players' March meeting will feature selections from *Brecht on Brecht*. The program will include material from the plays, poetry, and letters of Bertolt Brecht. The meeting will be on Friday, March 11, at 8pm in the Mezzanine Lounge of the Student Center.

Pianist Lydia Orias will be in concert at the Community Music Center of Boston in a program of Skryabin, Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, Anderson, Haydn and Liszt on Thursday, March 10, at 8pm. The concert, free to all, will be held at the Community Music Center, 48 Warren Avenue in Boston.

Soprano Linda Terry and pianist Victor Rosenbaum will be performing works by Schubert, Vebern and Mozart on Thursday, March 17, at 8pm. The concert is being held at the Community Music Center, 48 Warren Ave. in Boston. All concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, please call 482-7494.

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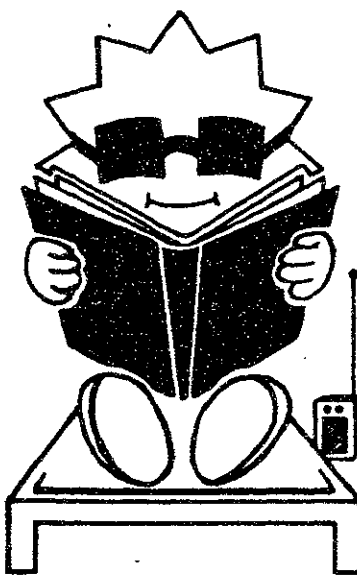
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sports

Foul Shots

Rites of spring training begin

By Glenn Brownstein

"Yankees 'cheapskates,' bat-boy claims"... "The Yankees have climbed to the top of the Hate and Ugliness Poll"... a Yankee managing partner sells his share of the team in objection to Reggie Jackson's signing, remarking that "it will be interesting to see how the three biggest egotists in baseball — Billy Martin, Reggie Jackson, and George Steinbrenner — get along."

Yes, everybody, it's time for spring training, the annual ritual that concentrates the 26 major league baseball teams — don't forget the Seattle Mariners and the Toronto Blue Jays — into three states (Florida, Arizona, and California) and provides us with the momentum to begin another year of rooting for our favorite squad.

Just as 1975 was the "can the A's make it four in a row" year (they couldn't), and 1976 was the "will the Reds repeat" year (they did), 1977 is "hate the Yankees" year, as professional baseball's most classless club builds up a negative rooting interest unmatched since the Casey Stengel era.

If one chooses to believe Battlin' Billy Martin, the pilot of this diamond "monolith," the Yanks will win the pennant by 20 games and then roll over the Reds in four straight — and we all remember what a shoo-in the Red Sox were supposed to be last year.

The free agent draft has significantly redivided talent among the teams. California, with the addition of Bobby Grich, Don Baylor, and Doyle Alexander, is the American League West favorite, not Kansas City. And don't expect to see the Orioles near the top in the East — their losses due to trades and free agents should be too much to bear.

On the home front, the issues are money and talent: should Luis Tiant get a renegotiated contract based on his outstanding performance (money), and who will play left field for the Red Sox, Carl Yastrzemski or Jim Rice (talent)?

The Boston Herald American ran a front-page color picture of batting practice in Winter Haven, the Sox' home base during March and early April. The weekend weather reminded us of spring, only a couple of weeks away. The itch to play and watch baseball is back; it's time to turn off the "hot stove" and get involved in the real thing again.

Opening day at venerable, cozy Fenway Park is just one month away — Thursday, April 7 against the youthful, improving Cleveland Indians. The box office at 4 Yawkey Way (changed last week from Jersey Street to honor the Red Sox' late owner) is open, and tickets are going quickly.

If you can't wait that long,

WMEX Radio will broadcast Boston's first Grapefruit League game tomorrow against Detroit at 1:30pm, and the first spring training telecast will be on Saturday, March 26.

In another week or so, barring a new touch of winter, the Briggs playing fields will be dry, and

hundreds of 1M participants can get a jump on the season, slated to begin the weekend after spring vacation. It's time to air out the gloves, stretch out the caps, dig out the balls, and get back on the field for a little pepper game or two. I, for one, can't wait. Play ball!

Fencers score upset

By Brian Wibecan

The junior varsity fencing team scored an amazing upset by handily defeating Concord-Carlisle their first home loss in five years, 14-13, Wednesday at Concord.

This was the first time the JV has defeated Concord since fencing between the two teams began twelve years ago. The win brings the final JV record to 3-3, the best since 1965.

It was a long and suspenseful meet with 27 consecutive bouts fenced on one strip. Concord, at one point ahead by five bouts, continued their streak into the third round, ending the sabre competition with the score 12-9. The MIT foil squad then cap-

tured all three of their third round bouts, while the first epee bout was dropped, leaving the score 13-12 in Concord's favor. Freshman John Rodrigues dealt Concord's top epeeist his only loss that evening, keeping the meet alive, and allowing Brian Wibecan '79 to secure the victory by winning the final bout.

The sabre squad, up against the quick Concord personnel, was only able to take two bouts — one each by Dave Karp '78 and Bill Zajac '79. The foilsmen, led by freshman Geoff Pingree's sweep of three, provided most of the momentum by taking seven. They were supported by the epee squad who won five.



Bob Castle blocks an enemy spike in volleyball action during the MIT Invitational Meet last Saturday

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