



The fraternity rush began with Friday's picnic & continued through the weekend. (Photo by Mary Ann Helferty.)

Rush Week running smoothly

By Eric Sherman

Despite the new Massachusetts drinking age, this year's rush is going well according to most rush organizers.

IFC president Barbi Hill '80 said that she was satisfied with rush and was not aware of any major problems. When asked about problems with the new drinking age, she replied that the fraternities were "trying not to antagonize anyone that [freshmen drinking] would bother."

Bob Matteo '80, IFC rush chairman, said that it is a little too early to tell how rush is progressing, but that there have been no major problems so far. On drinking, Matteo said that drinking still exists, but that it hasn't been emphasized as much as in previous years. He went on to say "Generally, if a freshman preferred to drink alcohol, he was not denied."

DormCon president Dean Phillips '80 concurred with Matteo's sentiments. He said that things are running smoothly and that

although freshmen could still obtain alcoholic beverages, alcohol was "not pushed as much as last year." When asked about rush violations, Phillips there had been no major problems.

The R/O center reported that as of Sunday afternoon, 1048 freshmen had arrived and checked in. Of the freshmen that have arrived, 207 are women. This means that the number of women in the class of '83 is lower than had been hoped for.

About two percent of the freshmen had not visited any fraternities by Sunday. The greatest number of fraternities visited by one person was 11. The greatest number of total visits made by one person was 24.

Zeta Psi, a new fraternity at MIT, has been given special rush privileges for this year such as being able to extend bids early. As of Sunday afternoon, they had two freshmen accept bids. Matteo said that this is not necessarily a bad sign, since freshmen could be expected to delay accepting one bid to see whether they receive

bids from other fraternities.

In general, said Matteo, it is too early to decide how a particular fraternity's rush is progressing until freshmen begin to accept bids on Monday.

An unexpected turn to this year's rush has been the reaction of Bexley. Instead of following the traditional anti-rush, Bexley has posted the Institute and invited freshmen to drop by.

According to Steve Bradley, desk captain, Bexley is holding neither a rush or an anti-rush. "Some people we're being friendly to and some people we're still not being friendly to," said Bradley. "[We're] looking for people who feel they belong here."

One problem that Bexley had was a lack of entry keys. Because of an error on the part of the locksmith, Bexley did not have enough entry keys to fit the new locks that had been installed over the summer. Bexley had requested that no freshmen be temporarily

(Please turn to page 2)

Academic Orientation improved

By Kent Pitman

Changes to the "form and substance" of tomorrow's freshman academic orientation have been planned in response to comments from members of the MIT community that the old program was not proving effective.

In previous years "the freshmen did not feel that they were getting any significant usefulness out of... core orientation," R/O Coordinator Eric Sklar '81 explained.

According to Sklar, core orientation has in recent years consisted of talks which went into considerable detail about information which freshmen could just as easily look up in the Freshman Handbook.

Today's program will offer less in the way of redundant specifics about the core options and more of a general nature. It will center upon "comments on requirements and why they are," said Sklar.

In a memorandum written late last month Associate Dean Alan J. Lazarus, Director of the Undergraduate Academic Sup-

port Office, summarized the feelings of a group of concerned students and faculty who had just met to discuss the problem.

Among the agreements reached by the group were the shortening of the orientation lectures to a one-hour session, and the introduction of a set of informal discussion sessions immediately afterward.

The purpose of these discussion sessions will be to provide a more comfortable atmosphere for students to ask questions.

Sklar noted that one problem with the way things had formerly been done was that question/answer time was offered in Kresge — MIT's largest auditorium — as part of the main orientation lecture program. This caused awkwardness for those not used to talking in front of large groups and needlessly wasted the time of many who might not be interested in a given question. By offering the question/answer time on a more informal basis in smaller groups, the planners of this event are hoping to better serve people's needs.

Also in the past, many students have spent their time in the Academic Midway which follows asking questions about core placement. "It is hoped that [the question/answer session] will allow the Academic Midway to be more of a time for exploration of courses and schools," Lazarus commented.

Sklar pointed out that one reason the academic orientation has not been well attended in the past was that upperclassmen remember how it was for them and give it very poor reviews. Because of the format change, however, he expressed his hope that tomorrow's activities would have a much higher attendance.

Because of the last-minute nature of these changes, the rooms chosen for these discussions are not very close to Kresge. Lazarus said in his memo that plans for a more careful reorganization should be undertaken for next year's incoming class — involving better coordination of facilities and perhaps some even more major modifications to the orientation's format.



TCA begins a two-day blood drive today in the Student Center. (Photo by Steven Solnick.)

TCA holding blood drive

By Jay Glass

The Technology Community Association (TCA) will begin their series of sponsored MIT-Red Cross blood drives today. The R/O drive will last through tomorrow, with the blood donation goal for the two-day drive set by TCA at 400 pints.

The location for the drive is the fourth floor of the Student Center in front of the TCA office. Nurses and tables will be available today from 9:45am-3:30pm, and tomorrow from 11:45am-5pm.

A definite need for fresh blood now exists in the Boston area, after the accident-fraught Labor Day weekend.

No reservations are necessary, as donors will be allotted donation

times and tables strictly on a first come, first serve basis.

Last year's R/O blood drive yielded about 320 pints, but some improvement is expected this year due to increased publicity.

TCA's next blood drive this season will be their 10-day fall blood drive, currently planned for late October.

In the five blood drives held by TCA at MIT during the year, the MIT community typically donates about one percent of the blood collected in the Massachusetts-Maine Red Cross region, even though the MIT community comprises only about two-tenths of one percent of the regional population.

inside

Led Zeppelin explores different styles of music on their new album, *In Through The Out Door*. Page 6.

Think you can't dance to punk rock? Then you've never seen the B-52's in concert. Page 7.



The freshman picnic kicked off R/O Activities Friday afternoon. For more pictures of the picnic, see page 3. (Photo by Mary Ann Helferty.)

Frosh treated to parties

By Gordon R. Haff

Ed note: Gordon Haff is experiencing his fifth R/O Week. He filed these observations with The Tech.

The big weekend is finally over. Although many frats are still trying to fill their slots and although the dorm assignment process is not yet complete, the pace of rush as a whole is slowing down.

The striking thing about Rush weeks is not any differences but rather the similarities from year to year. Even with Ed King's drinking bill which some thought would drastically affect R/O week, Rush still goes on the same as ever. Certain dorms and frats even held their parties on the same nights as previous years. Without even looking at a *Daily Confusion*, I still had a good idea of what was going on where and when.

To be part of the first weekend of Rush either as a freshman or an upperclassman is a truly unique experience. There are almost as many parties during that weekend as during all the rest of the year combined. The parties range from small, sedate affairs to raucous, expensive blasts.

Over the frats, the days are spent on picnics, amusement part trips, tours of Boston indeed just about anything imaginable. Thousands of dollars are spent entertaining the freshmen during this weekend although many of the upperclassmen take full advantage of the parties as well.

What is the reaction of the typical freshman to this? That's hard to answer because there are as many different reactions to the weekend as there are freshmen. Some freshmen have been partying to their heart's content and feel that they are having the time of their lives. Others seem to be overwhelmed with the entire thing; there are so many living groups and so much going on that they don't know where to start. Still others are just tired of the entire thing. The constant moving and talking at both the dorms and the frats has tired them out and made them a bit sick of the weekend.

I wandered around the frats and dorms this year as I have in the past and the parties were much the same as always. Rush week sets the scene for some of the biggest and best frat parties of the year.

Down Beacon Street and Bay State Road, bands blared their music out onto the street and almost every frat had a party on Friday or Saturday night. Some even had parties on both nights.

The dorms had their share of activity as well. During the day barbecues and football games were used to entice freshmen to visit. At night Amherst Alley and Ames Street rocked with their share of parties.

The dormitory parties were generally set on a less lavish scale than were the frats; however, enthusiastic upperclassmen were ready to make up the difference. Indeed some of the parties seemed

Drinking law not hurting Rush Week

(Continued from page 1)

assigned while there were no entry keys, but on the request of Dean Sherwood, they housed some freshmen who, for a period of about one day, could not be sure of re-entry into the building.

Another more serious problem that Bexley has had has been rumors being spread of their treatment of freshmen. Bexley called the R/O Center on Friday with a complaint that freshmen were being told "horror stories" Bexley's treatment of freshmen.

to be more for the benefit of the upperclassmen than for the freshmen.

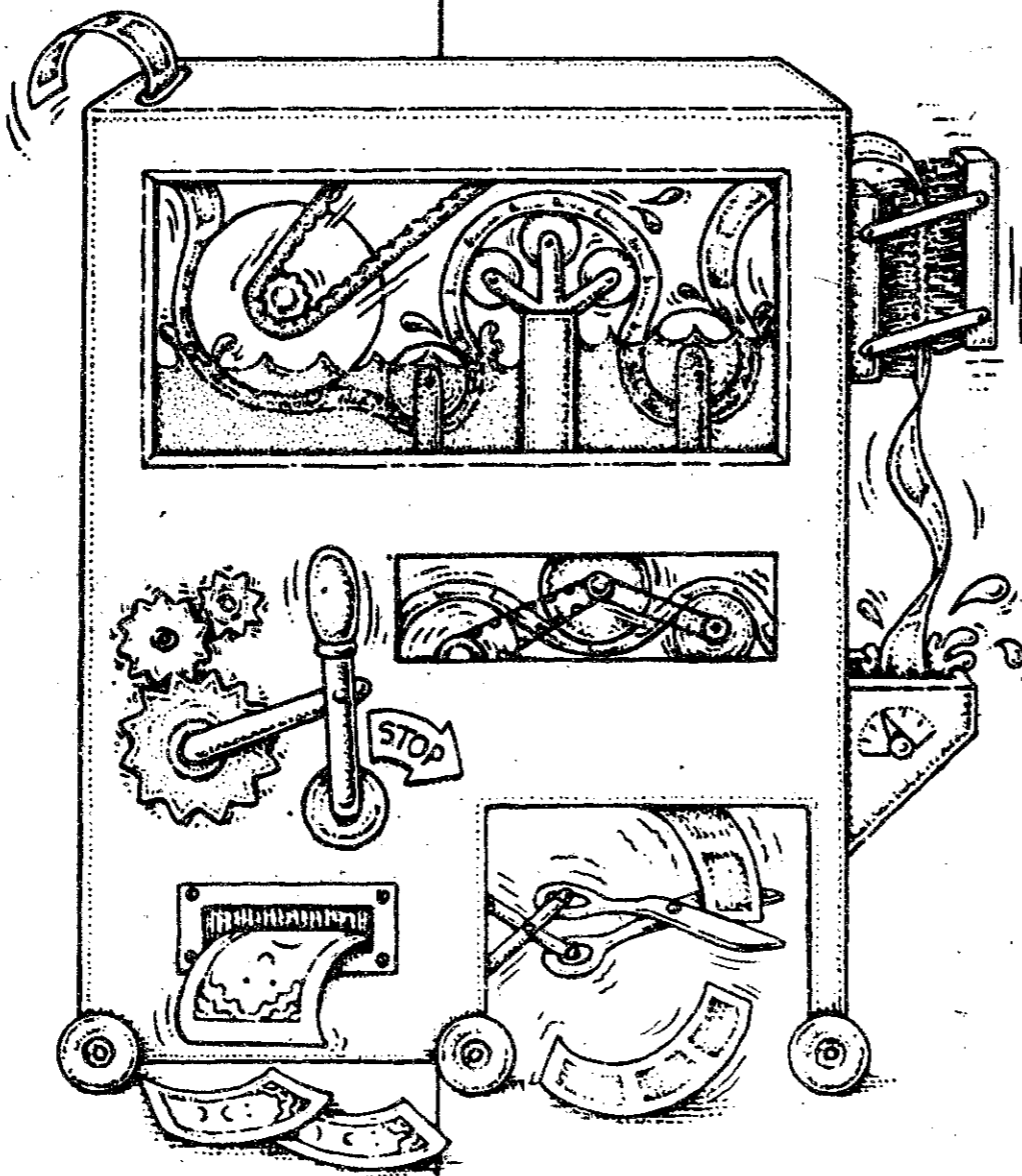
Although R/O Week means a lot of hard work, particularly at the frats, many people here feel that R/O is the best time of the year. There is nothing else which is quite like R/O and indeed the biggest barrier to it is getting through and not collapsing from exhaustion. It is a time of decision-making, but it is also a time to have fun and a lot of it. I guess that's what makes R/O memorable.

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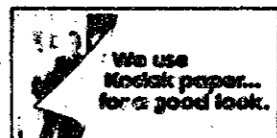
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opinion

Tom Curtis

Join an activity to help people

At Friday's freshman picnic, opening speaker Peter Richardson '48, the Director of Admissions, urged the Class of '83 to "care for others." Before his words get lost in the shuffle of R/O week, freshmen — and upperclassmen — should consider them carefully. How should you care for others in your time at MIT?

Activities want and need help

One way is through activities. You may not realize it, but the MIT community is served by one of the most extensive collections of student activities. Movie groups, theater groups, service groups, a yearbook, and this newspaper are all provided to the MIT Community at a very low rate because they are subsidized by students who donate their time to make them run.

And for them to continue to run, they need your help. Some organizations are on the verge of extinction because they don't have the staff to go on doing their job. In the last few years, MIT has lost a newspaper, a magazine, and a political action group. All these groups disappeared mostly because of a lack of staff, not because of a lack of work.

Even groups which are not facing imminent death are short on staff. Many groups have important positions open, but nobody to fill them. Certainly, no group is going to turn you down if you volunteer.

It is very important that everyone volunteer his time to *some* group. Keeping the activities in service is a cooperative effort. If you do your part for one activity, I'll do my part for another activity and we'll both be better off; we'll get the benefits of each other's contributions, and we'll also get the benefits of knowing that we've done something for other people.

Develop skills, acquire a hobby

The benefits you can derive from involvement in activities are numerous. You get to sharpen your abilities to deal with other people. You may also get to develop some administrative skills.

In some cases, you get to develop skills which are specific to a particular activity. If you work as a business manager, you learn accounting skills; if you work as a reporter for *The Tech*, you can learn to write.

You don't need to pick your activities solely on the basis of what will help you in a future job, however. You may want to pick an activity which can be more like a hobby. This way your activities can become a relief from your classroom activity.

You don't need to choose your activities on the basis of what you did in high school. One purpose of an MIT education is to broaden your horizons. As far as activities go, you can do this by trying something you have never done. MIT organizations usually do not assume any prior experience. I had never had any journalism experience before I joined *The Tech*.

An important year for political activity

There is one special reason to join governmental and political organizations. Over the past few years, the MIT administration has proposed several policy changes, many of which would have been detrimental to students. Without a concerted effort on the part of many students, we would now have more restrictive drop date policies, more stringent grading policies, and far less shareholder responsibility on the part of MIT, the relatively free MIT environment would not be so free. You can thank the students for this current state of affairs, and you owe it to future classes to maintain or improve the quality of life at MIT.

This year promises to be an important one for political activity. The recently released Dining Committee draft report contains a proposal for compulsory commons meal plan for residents of certain dormitories which would take effect with the Class of 1984. This proposal has already sparked quite a bit of controversy. There is also the ongoing issue of MIT's investments in companies that do business with South Africa. Furthermore, there are always issues popping up that nobody ever expected.

So I urge you to follow through on Richardson's advice by getting involved. Make sure you stop by the Activities Midway Thursday evening. I hope to see you there.

The Tech

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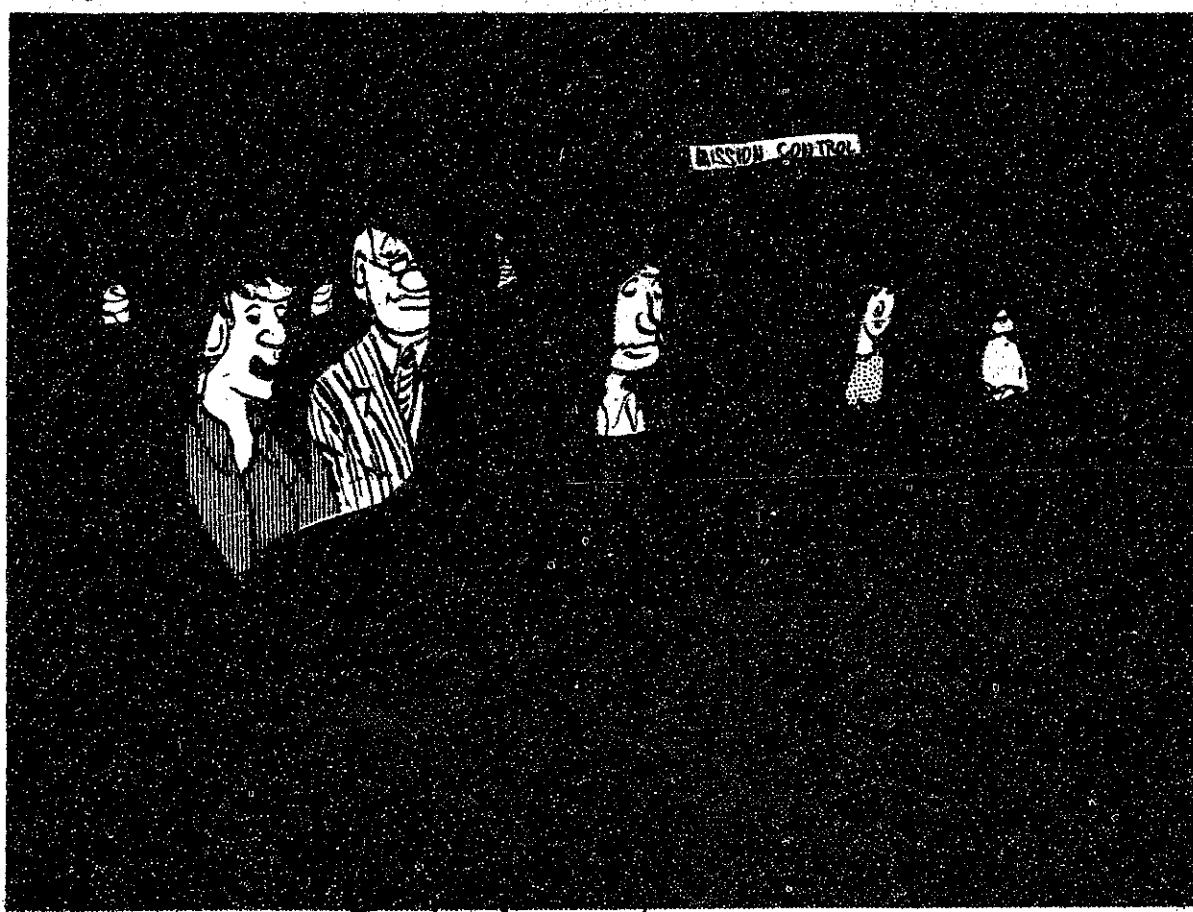
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"Yes, Saturn does appear to have two more rings. Also, a pearl necklace, gold earrings and a silver bracelet."



Steven Solnick

Housing guesses and praise

Today, a variety of thoughts which made a pit stop in my brain this weekend on their way to sure oblivion:

* * * *

To show that columnists don't always have to say bad things about people: congratulations to the Admissions Office! No, not about what a great freshman class they've given us (I'll reserve judgment on that for a while), but rather on their mathematics. There are now 1048 freshmen (sorry, freshmen) on campus. Assuming that not all of the 27 no-show frosh arrive eventually, the final class size should land awfully close to the target 1050.

What's with these no-shows anyway? Did they just oversleep?

* * * *

Among information available to freshmen this week was the "Undergraduate Association Social Calendar — Fall 1979." Now this is a new one on me. But if the new UA Social Committee adheres to it, it looks like a busy term.

According to this calendar, the campus can look forward to: two live band parties, a Casino night, the biannual Skuffle dance, Homecoming Weekend, a revised and enlarged Class Day, two more late winter parties, and possibly a disco night. That seems to me like more campus-wide action than we've had in the two years I've been here. Not counting Strat's Rats of course.

Let's hope this new wave of activity will be better attended than the old Rats. The new drinking law frees up a lot of money once spent on booze. If the UA's ambitious plans can bring the student body together more often, it will be money well spent.

Another entry in the pat-on-the-back category goes to the R/O Committee and Deans' office for deciding to preassign freshmen to temporary housing. In the past, temporary assignments were made when freshmen arrived on campus. The new system is fairer to late arrivals and much easier on the dorm staffs. It's also one less decision that has to be made during R/O week by the already over-burdened freshmen.

One sidelight of this new procedure has been its interaction with McCormick Hall. The preassignment strategy there, according to a variety of people in-

volved in the process, was to assign as many women as possible to rooms outside of McCormick. In fact, only 13 freshmen were preassigned to McCormick.

The motivation, reportedly, was to encourage women to explore a wider range of housing options. This encouragement is partly to help the living groups which are newly coed this year, and partly to alleviate overcrowding in McCormick. That dorm received a large number of transfers from elsewhere in the dorm system and faces a tight housing squeeze this year.

* * * *

Now what you've all been waiting for. While we're on the subject of housing, I think its time to pull out the crystal ball with the First Annual Housing Lottery Predictions. Written at a still early juncture (Sunday) and based purely on personal discussions with freshmen and R/O workers, I'm going to be bold — and foolish — and guess what will be fact by the time you read this.

First, it seems that the Class of '83 is more conservative than in

previous years. As a result, I would guess that despite their best efforts, McCormick will still be somewhat heavily over-subscribed, while Desmond House (New House) will fill easily with women. Consequently, coed groups, particularly on the eastern part of the campus, may have some problems attracting women. Also as another side of this conservatism emerges, I feel requests for voluntary overcrowding may be down over previous years.

Meanwhile, the frat rush, although somewhat low key this year, is not too badly off. The fraternity system goal this year is 417. In spite of a reluctance on the part of some freshmen to visit Boston frats — many even spent the weekend sightseeing — The list of frats in trouble numbered only six on Sunday. Still, I feel the fraternity rush will continue longer this year than in the past, with the goal of 417 being attained more slowly.

Vague though they deliberately are, those are my guesses. If I'm close on the trends, I may even lay odds next year.

feedback

MIT overreacts to Grogo

To the Editor:

Once again the MIT administration has rescued us from rationality. In the grand tradition of the *thursday* sex guide scandal and Jews for Jesus vs. MIT Hillel, they have made a big molehill out of a little molehill: once again we have a Grogo incident. It seems traditional that, when faced with a possible instance of its collective posterior being unclothed, the administration will chose the always ill-considered massive overkill response.

Two years ago, when people were upset because a gorilla from Uganda might be taken as a degrading metaphor for a black person, the administration made it possible for the situation to get completely out of hand. An adversary situation was established early, with otherwise respected members of the MIT community bringing charges of racism to the Committee On Discipline regarding an innocently conceived hack picture. The ad-

ministration seemingly was more concerned about its image than anything else, since it entertained ludicrous proposals such as the summary expulsion of the entire TCA, found a scapegoat, and readied the machinery to stomp him. Fortunately, someone in the administration called a halt to the circus when the level of campus tension became apparent.

Properly, it should have been noted that some people were upset by the possible interpretation of the Grogo picture, and an apology would have been forthcoming. In subsequent years, precautions such as making sure that gorillas didn't too closely resemble actual freshmen would have been taken.

This year, due partly to a misunderstanding within the picturebook committee, Grogo appeared once again in the freshman picturebook. This time, however, the address was Technique, MIT, not Kampala, Uganda. Thus, the

(Please turn to page 5)

feedback

Another Grogo incident hits MIT

(Continued from page 4)

picture was not inherently offensive; since the address was accurate, the picture was no different from the nine other hack pictures in this year's picturebook, and it could have been accepted by much of the MIT community on the same basis as the picture of Grogo on the last page of this year's *Technique*.

However, the administration saw things a bit differently. Goaded by the memory of the last time Grogo appeared, they demanded that the TCA delete the picture. Although the demand was phrased as a request, such a bleak picture was painted of the consequences of disobedience that the TCA had no choice but to comply. The people who were offended the last time would not care about the address, and would become so enraged that they would be completely impervious to rationation. Disciplinary action would naturally be taken, and there could be no defense against the charges that were sure to be made. Further consequences along these lines were left to the imaginations of the TCA members.

The administration was completely within its rights in exercising control over the contents of the picturebook, since MIT is a private institution. However, exercising such control in an academic environment is generally reserved for emergency situations. This is the reason the administration requested rather than ordered action by TCA, and the reason for regarding such requests as "censorship" insofar as they actually appear to be orders.

Several methods of dealing with the picture were discarded: a printed apology or disclaimer, an opaque mask, and ink. Anything which left the picture unconcealed was rejected; even though the ink soaked through the page and destroyed Maurice B. Hendon's picture, it was still possible to take out the offending picture and legend. The glued-on mask could easily be removed from the glazed paper of the picturebook, though over 800 copies were so asked before the rejection came through. Fortunately, a request that all the books be destroyed and new ones be printed was precluded; the problem was solved with scissors and razor blades.

The notch on page 16 of the picturebook drew more widespread attention than the picture would have. Even more attention would have been drawn if the picturebook had been held up until after Labor Day to be printed. Furthermore, the people who feel insulted by the picture are probably unaware of the angled address, and thus will probably be at least as hurt as they were last time, when no hurt necessary or intended. Although the gesture of censorship has been made, the only way likely to be appeased by that gesture is the administration itself. In order to forestall the possibility of blame being laid on the administration for something for which it had no actual control (in fact, the committee offered to print a statement of possibility in the picturebook preclude this), the administration made a scapegoat of the shaman picturebook committee. Since the TCA members involved were quite contrite, having desired whatsoever to reexperience the events of two years ago, and since they gave evidence of good faith by readily acceding to the administration's requests, disciplinary action is much less likely to be taken than it otherwise might be. However, I

doubt that forgiveness will be so easily forthcoming from the people who were hurt the last time.

The tendency toward hysteria by the administration is alarming, to say the least. Clearly, rationality is at a premium when dealing with highly sensitive issues, like racism and censorship. Hopefully, this latest incident will be distinguished by the carefully reasoned handling that any such situation deserves, but which has been notably lacking to date.

Perhaps it will be possible for Grogo to be seen, not as a hateful symbol of racist oppression, but as the beloved mascot of MIT's yearbook.

In this letter, only my own opinions have been expressed. Although I participated in the preparation of this year's picturebook by writing the formatting program and otherwise assisting, I am neither a member of TCA nor its spokesman.

J. Spencer Love

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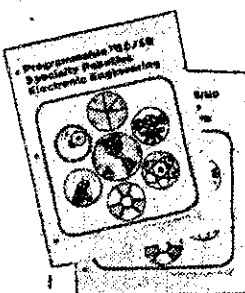
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New Zep arrives through the front door

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The tape ended. I stopped the cassette deck, and saw its twin recording level meters gazing at me through their yellow lights. I stared back at them, tentatively punched the rewind lever, sat back on the floor and waited, sorting out my feelings about Zeppelin's ninth album. And they were mixed or more precisely, undecided.

In Through The Out Door is different. On it, Led Zeppelin experiments with many musical styles: country, fifties rock, blues, contemporary rock, and reggae (no disco, thank God — the thought of Robert Plant slugging out disco is inconceivable).

One difference is clear from the start. There are a lot more keyboards on this album than on any of its predecessors. The credits can partially explain this, for keyboardist/bassist John Paul Jones had a hand in writing six of the seven numbers — there are even two tracks for which he wrote all of the music. It has been ten years since a Led Zeppelin song (not including instrumentals) was not at least partially written by Jimmy Page. And as much as I enjoy intricate guitar work, I have to admit that the interactions between Page and Jones throughout the album were more interesting than quadruple guitar overdubs.

A 'click' interrupted my musings. The deck had finished its task and was patiently waiting for my next command. I hit 'play.'

On another listen, I noticed another difference between this album and the others. In the past, Plant's voice tended to sound the same throughout an album. Here his voice was more versatile, changing from rough rocker to sweet serenader. The songs certainly benefit from his ability to match his vocal style to fit the mood of the piece.

In fact, I barely recognized his voice on the opener, "In the Evening." The track starts impressively, with Page and his violin bow and John Bonham and his kettle drums, a combination which sent my level meters into a frenzy. The intro's near eastern influences meld into Zeppelin's familiar bluesy rock. Plant's throaty vocals blend nicely with the catchy hook and Page is also in good form with a nice solo break. A nice tune, but nothing spectacular.

The next cut, "Southbound Suarez," is one of the songs written by Jones. A strong rocker, it hangs on his infectious arrangement and the interactions between guitar and piano. However, it seemed to take a while for Plant to really get into the song.

Starting with a laid-back reggae rhythm, "Fool in the Rain" deals with a guy standing on a street corner waiting for his lover. After a while, he becomes disillusioned, and decides to leave

— he can't wait any longer. It starts to rain as he goes, and then he realizes that he's been waiting on the wrong corner for her all that time. Plant shines during this piece with his smooth vocals. The initial part seems to drag on, but when the tempo changes radically, the melody becomes captivating. I was glad to hear Page playing acoustic guitar, for its lack on *Presence* was

blues and back to rock with considerable style. My only complaint about this song is that the vocals tend to get lost in the mix, but considering the Zeppelin's slick production I suspect this might have been intentional.

Entitled "All of My Love," the next track has, like "Fool in the Rain" received a good amount of airplay. It is a love song that shows Plant at or

the other styles and also how they approached the interpretation of those styles.

The emergence of John Paul Jones as a major writing talent in Led Zeppelin had been long overdue, if *In Through The Out Door* is any indication. Nevertheless, Jimmy Page still influences every note the band plays.

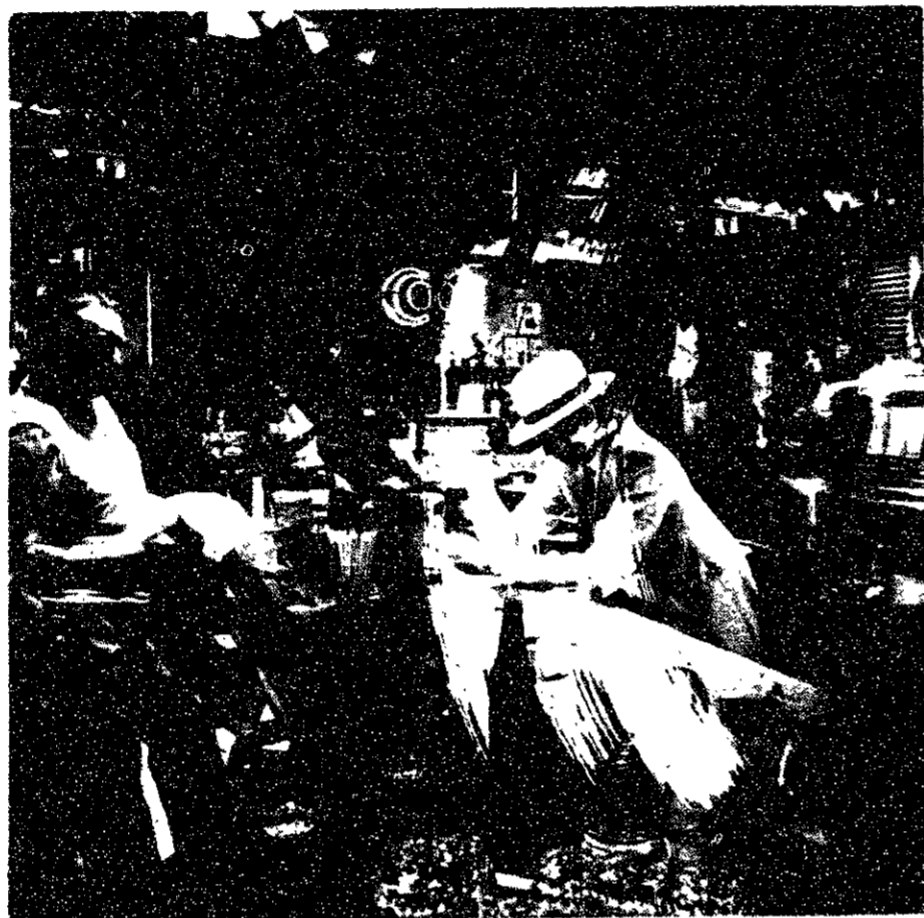
I don't think this album will go over particularly well with those Zeppelin fans whose rock tastes center among Aerosmith, Van Halen, and Ted Nugent. The record is too different from those "metal" bands to appeal to them. Conversely, I think that people with broader musical preferences will probably like it very much for the same reason.

Hipgnosis has come through with another great album cover. The covers for *Houses of the Holy*, *Presence*, and *The Song Remains The Same* were also done by Hipgnosis, but this one may prove to be the most spec-

tacular. There are six (or seven, depending on who you listen to) different covers for the album. The album comes wrapped in a brown paper bag stamped with the song titles and copyright info. The covers inside the bag all show a bar room scene of a man sitting alone at the counter, burning a 'Dear John' note with a lighter as the few people left there look on. The pictures are in black & white, tinted brown to look filmed; except where there is a swipe across the man. The inside of that area is in color. There is one cover for each of the people around the man, showing their view of the note-burning scene. One cover is the piano player's view, another is the man with the coat's view, and so on. The front cover from the "B" album is illustrated with this review.

The more I listen to *In Through The Out Door* the more I feel that it was well worth the wait.

— Kathryn Gropp



one of the things I didn't like about that album. The acoustic guitar adds depth to this piece, as it has to many of their older works.

The last song on the side, "Hot Dog" owes something to Jerry Lee Lewis. Its story is a classic somebody-done-somebody-wrong; the lyrics are funny and the country rock is well-executed. Zep pulls this change of pace off easily, producing a thoroughly entertaining cut.

The second side begins with the ambitious "Carouselambra." For sheer musical quality, this track is the best on the album. It winds through many melodic and temporal changes, with lots of interaction between guitar and keyboard. As in "Fool" the slow section nearly goes on for too long, and again they switch tempo just in time. The song travels from rock to

near his lyric best. The imagery is moving, and the tune mellow. Once again, Jones holds the melody with the keyboards (and synthesizer) with Page adding the embellishments on acoustic and electric guitars. Lovely. This is the other tune which Jones exclusively wrote.

"I'm Gonna Crawl" is a blues number that closes the album. It has a very strange synthesizer intro which sounds suspiciously like an orchestra, but the cut is otherwise unmemorable.

After several sessions with my tape deck, I doubted that they were going to tackle Beethoven next, although I was pleased to hear Led Zeppelin try different types of music — instead of "sticking with what sells," as other major bands have. It was fascinating to see how they mixed their blues origins with

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arts

B-52's blitz Philadelphia & the airwaves



The B-52's on Warner Brothers Records BSK-3355.

The B-52's with the Bloodless Pharaohs at The Hot Club, Philadelphia, August 28.

After gaining popularity among new-wavers on the strength of a single ("Rock Lobster" b/w "52 Girls"), the B-52's are clearly on their way to stardom with the release of their first album. Perhaps the best of the artistic (read as "beyond the musical capabilities of the Ramones") new wave groups around, they have produced a genuinely exciting record.

Their music, on the first listen, is clearly out of the ordinary. Driving, precise keyboards by Kate Pierson run through the songs. Fred Schneider's vocals have a rough, thin sound, like Bob Weir with a chest cold. Vocals on some tracks by Cindy Wilson are also a standout; her sharp voice is an interesting contrast to Schneider's. The other musicians in the band are also technically adept.

The album opens with "Planet Claire." Some lyrics from this song illustrate the B-52's style:

*She came from Planet Claire
I knew she came from there
She drove a Plymouth Satellite
Faster than the speed of light.
Planet Claire has pink air
All the trees are red
No one ever dies there
No one has a head.*

The song is made more interesting by some marvelous keyboard work by Kate Pierson, which gives it a spacey sound.

The second song is "52 Girls." This is a real rocker, which consists mainly of uncommon girls' names, and the repeated question "Can you name, name, name/-Name them today?" Like some other B-52's work, it parodies similar tunes of the 1960's.

"Dance this Mess Around" seems very strange, but it's one of the best songs on the album. It has a confused, lengthy structure, but remains interesting as it parodies parties and people. "Rock Lobster" closes the side out with a look at a beach party in typical B-52's style.

Side two starts with "Lava," which overflows with sexual imagery. "There's a Moon in the Sky (Called the Moon)" is another visit to space. "Hero Worship" displays Cindy Wilson's voice beautifully, as Fred Schneider moves to keyboards. "6060-842" is the story of a person who reads a scrawl in a lavatory promising "6060-842"/And I'm ready for

crowd of about 250 shoehorned itself into the tiny club.

The Bloodless Pharaohs, a local Philadelphia band, opened with an hour-long set of their exceptionally boring punk-jazz. My relief at seeing the Pharaohs leave the stage was soon replaced by restlessness as I stood in a crowd in front of the stage for over an hour waiting for the B-52's.

They finally arrived, and it was worth the wait. The band opened with "Planet Claire," and immediately had the shoulder-to-shoulder audience pogoing and crashing into each other. The band played beautifully from the beginning to an ecstatic crowd.

The B-52's capabilities as a great dance band were clear as they ripped into "52 Girls," the best rocker on the album. The crowd danced madly, causing the temperature and humidity in the

club to start rising noticeably. The band had captured the audience totally at this point, and they continued with a fine version of "6060-842."

The next song was an old B-52's number which doesn't appear on the album. "The Devil's in my Car" is a very funny tune about dealing with a balky ("There's static on the radio!" shrieks Schneider) automobile.

The band continued with "Lava" and an exciting version of "Hero Worship." By this time, the heat and humidity were making the club almost unbearable. The audience continued to devour the performance, in spite of humidity so high that condensation on the ceiling provided a steady downpour of artificial rain.

Next up were "There's a Moon in the Sky" and "Dance This

Mess Around." The latter is lots of fun in concert, as you can see the members of the band acting out their roles in the song, including Fred Schneider performing "all sixteen dances" (the Camel Walk, the Hippo-Crit, the Aqua Velva, and the others.)

Next, the band started into "Rock Lobster," but stopped after a few measures when Ricky Wilson broke a string on his guitar. He got another, differently-tuned guitar and the band closed the show with "Private Idaho," a rare tune which does not appear on the album.

The exhausted audience stepped out into the cool Philadelphia morning. The B-52's had done a fine job under battlefield conditions.

— Jon von Zelowitz

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sports

Golf to open fall season

By Bob Host

The intercollegiate sports season at MIT begins Sept. 13 when the golf team faces St. Anselm's at Brae Burn Country Club. In addition to golf, eleven other sports stage fall campaigns. The baseball team begins its fall

over those two schools. The field hockey team starts its season on Sept. 24 against Pine Manor Junior College at home, in a 4pm start.

Harold 'Hatch' Brown's sailors will attempt to match last year's performance, which earned them

Harvard last year, the first time the MIT booters accomplished that feat since 1962. Ten returning lettermen should ease the burden to some degree, however.

The men's tennis team, under the direction of Ed Crocker, has a limited fall schedule, which begins with a home match against Clark on Sept. 18. Their female counterparts start Sept. 20 at Brandeis, one of only two away matches during the team's ten match fall season.

On Sept. 26, the volleyball team begins at Salem State in a 7pm game. This year the team will host the GBCAA on Oct. 20. Finally the water polo team, which finished third in New England last year behind Brown and Yale — losing to Yale in the New England after five sudden death periods — has a chance for revenge when it opens at home against Brown on Sept. 22. The next weekend is the all-day MIT invitational, and another MIT tournament is scheduled for later in the season.

foul shots

season with the Waltham Invitational with Bentley, Babson, and Massachusetts Bay Community College on Sept. 17 and 18.

As noted in Friday's *Tech*, the football team faces Norwalk Community College at Steinbrenner Stadium on September 22 in its opener.

Cross-country coach Chris Lane's charges will attempt to better last year's 6-2 record when they take on WPI and RPI on Sept. 22. Last year, the team took the Engineer's Cup with victories

a tenth place ranking in national sailing magazines. The long season begins on Sept. 15 with the Boston University Invitational and a two-day affair in the Penobscot Bay Open at Maine Maritime. The women's sailing team starts the same day with the Single-Handed Championship.

Walt Alessi's soccer team has its first contest against Clark University on Sept. 19 at home. However, with the loss of 11 seniors, eight of them starters, Alessi will have a vastly different team than the one that defeated

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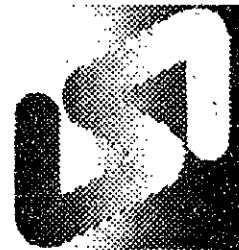
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